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## Rice Food Safety & Other Facts



Newsletter  
Nr. 34  
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### FOOD SAFETY

#### Rapid Alert System Notifications for Food

date	Notification type	notified by	subject
31/01/2013	border rejection	NETHERLANDS	unauthorised genetically modified (CryIAb/CryIAc) rice crackers from China
06/02/2013	border rejection	GREECE	aflatoxins (B1 = 3.9 µg/kg - ppb) in basmati rice from Pakistan

Source: [http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/rapidalert/rasff\\_portal\\_database\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/rapidalert/rasff_portal_database_en.htm)

- In the website [www.salute.gov.it](http://www.salute.gov.it) it is published the 2012 report of the notifications transmitted through the network RASFF. In comparison with the previous year, the total number of notifications lowered (3436 instead of 3721), more than 80% concerning food. It is worth notice that Italy was the first Member State for number of notifications sent to the Commission, meaning a significant control activity by national authorities. Detailed data concerning rice were published in the previous issue of the newsletter.

Source: [www.salute.gov.it](http://www.salute.gov.it)

### ORGANIC FOOD

41,500 trade visitors (2012: 40,315) from 129 countries were delighted with the usual high-quality, varied and innovative range of products from the 2,396 exhibitors at this year's edition of the exhibition BioFach, last February in Nuremberg, Germany. Italy, Austria, France and the Netherlands made it to the top 5 countries for visitors in addition to Germany. The international market still has growth to show and organic products produced some 63 billion US dollars at international level. The growing demand from consumers continues, but the market's potential is nowhere near exhausted.

Source: [www.biofach.de/en](http://www.biofach.de/en)

### SCIENCE & RESEARCH

- **The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and the multinational agricultural firm Syngenta will continue their partnership** as the two institutions have signed the second phase of Scientific Know-how and Exchange Program (SKEP II). SKEP II will build on the successes of the program's first phase and will include more marker development for rice breeding, crop health management research, and expanding into rice reproductive biology, plant architecture, and yield genes. In April 2010, IRRI and Syngenta launched SKEP I which focused on characterizing the genetic diversity of rice, marker-assisted breeding applications, and dealing with rice productivity constraints. During this phase, 24 genetic markers were developed for rice grain quality traits, and for resistance to diseases such as bacterial leaf blight and stresses such as flooding.

Source: <http://irri.org>



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### LAWS, STANDARDS & AGREEMENTS

- **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 125/2013** laying down detailed rules as regards the arrangements for **imports of organic products** from third countries. In the light of the experience gained with the implementation of the equivalence system it is necessary to clarify how the exchange of information concerning irregularities between the Commission, Member States and the competent authority of a recognized third country should be made. Furthermore, in order to improve the control of imported organic products, Member States should inform other Member States and the Commission of each import authorization within 15 days from the date of issuance of such authorization.

- **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 120/2013** entering a name in the register of protected geographical indications: "**Khao Hom Mali Thung Kula Rong-Hai**". This is the first registration concerning rice grown in a third country (Thailand). The protection is given to the whole name "Khao Hom Mali Thung Kula Rong-Hai" while it will be possible to freely use the non-geographical parts of the name 'Khao Hom Mali' which means "fragrant rice".

Source: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm>

### EVENTS & MEETINGS

**Interdrought-IV Conference**, 2-6 September 2013 – Crown Perth, Australia. The objective of Interdrought is to serve as a platform for presenting and debating key issues and strategies relevant for increasing the yield and stability of crops under drought conditions by genetic and crop management approaches. Great advances have been made in recent years in understanding the molecular basis of plant responses and plant tolerance to drought stress. However, there is a huge gap between the molecular level science and the interpretation and application of this knowledge at the whole plant level in the field. Thus, the main mission of Interdrought-IV is to explore the possibilities of scientific and technological applications to crop improvement and crop management under drought-prone farming by linking progress made at the molecular level to that at the whole plant and crop levels in the field. This conference will provide recommendations on the most effective approaches to achieve better crop productivity under drought conditions as well as the research needed to move forward in this direction.

Source: [www.interdrought4.com](http://www.interdrought4.com)