



www.enterisi.it  
 info@enterisi.it  
 tel. 02.8855111  
 fax 02.30131088  
 P. IVA 03036460156

## Rice Food Safety & Other Facts



Newsletter  
 Nr. 30

March  
 2012

### FOOD SAFETY

#### Rapid Alert System Notifications for Food

date	Notification type	notified by	subject
05/01/2012	information for attention	FRANCE	unauthorised genetically modified (Pubi-Cry event) long rice basmati from Pakistan
05/01/2012	information for attention	FRANCE	unauthorised genetically modified (Pubi-Cry event) long rice basmati from Pakistan
10/01/2012	information for attention	FRANCE	unauthorised genetically modified (Pubi-Cry event) long rice basmati from Pakistan
06/02/2012	information for attention	BELGIUM	aflatoxins (B1 = 7.8 µg/kg - ppb) in organic broken white rice from Pakistan
06/02/2012	border rejection	FRANCE	absence of health certificate(s) for rice crackers from China
08/02/2012	information for attention	MALTA	foreign body in parboiled long grain rice from Thailand
09/02/2012	alert	DENMARK	unauthorised genetically modified (Bt63) rice vermicelli from China, via Sweden
10/02/2012	alert	CZECH REPUBLIC	aflatoxins (B1 = 8; Tot. = 8.74 µg/kg - ppb) in basmati rice from Pakistan, via the Netherlands
13/02/2012	border rejection	ITALY	carbendazim (0.040 mg/kg - ppm) in parboiled basmati rice from India
16/02/2012	alert	GERMANY	unauthorised genetically modified (nos; CaMV35S) basmati rice from Pakistan
24/02/2012	information for attention	UNITED KINGDOM	aflatoxins (B1 = 4.3 µg/kg - ppb) in rice snack from India
28/02/2012	border rejection	UNITED KINGDOM	unauthorised novel food ingredient Trametes versicolor in rice balls from China
28/02/2012	border rejection	UNITED KINGDOM	unauthorised genetically modified rice vermicelli from Hong Kong
06/03/2012	border rejection	ITALY	carbendazim (0.054 mg/kg - ppm) in rice from India
08/03/2012	border rejection	BELGIUM	unauthorised genetically modified (p35S, tNOS, CryIA(b)) rice vermicelli from China
13/03/2012	border rejection	UNITED KINGDOM	unauthorised genetically modified (35S promoter sequence of CMV) rice crackers with seaweed from China
13/03/2012	border rejection	UNITED KINGDOM	unauthorised genetically modified (35S promoter sequence of CMV) prepared rice product from China

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.enterisi.it](http://www.enterisi.it) (*download* area) it is published the 2011 list of the notifications transmitted through the network RASFF, concerning rice and rice products. Herewith attached there are some graphs summarizing the same data. In comparison with the previous year, the total number of notifications lowered (54 instead of 75) and the alert notifications percentage decreased from 35 to 28%. It is worth notice that 11 out of 15 alert notifications concerned GM rice or rice preparations imported from China.

Source: [www.enterisi.it](http://www.enterisi.it)



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### GMO & BIOTECH

- According to the annual biotech crop report released by ISAAA (International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications), global adoption of biotech crop technology continues at unprecedented rates. During 2011, an additional 12 million hectares were planted representing an annual growth rate of 8 percent over 2010. 160 million hectares were planted by 16.7 million farmers in 29 countries, including 19 developing countries and 10 industrial countries. Such adoption represents a 94-fold increase in hectares planted since 1996, when GM crop commercialization started, making biotech crops the fastest adopted crop technology in recent history.

Source: [www.isaaa.org](http://www.isaaa.org)

### ORGANIC FOOD

- The publication 'The World of Organic Agriculture 2012' has recently been launched: statistics reveal growth in markets and stability in the areas of production. The market for organic products continues to grow, considerably in the USA and many European countries. 37 million hectares of agricultural area was certified organically in 2010. Australia and Argentina continue to have the highest percentage of organically managed land (12 million and 4.2 million hectares, respectively). The annual per capita consumption is highest in small Central and Northern European countries (Switzerland, 153 €; Denmark, 142 €; Luxembourg, 127 €; Austria, 118 €).

Source: [www.ifoam.org](http://www.ifoam.org)

### LAWS, STANDARDS & AGREEMENTS

- **Commission Regulation (EU) No 1129/2011** concerning a coordinated multiannual control programme of the Union for 2012, 2013 and 2014 to ensure compliance with maximum residue levels of pesticides and to assess the consumer exposure to pesticide residues in and on food of plant and animal origin. Sampling and analysis for rice have to be held in 2014.

- **Commission Regulation (EU) No 1267/2011** laying down detailed rules for implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 as regards the arrangements for imports of organic products from third countries.

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

### EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **6th European Organic Congress**, 17-18 April 2012, Copenhagen, Denmark. At a crucial point in time for the debate on the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the Congress "Smart change - towards a sustainable CAP" addresses the policy change needed to reach a greener, smarter, fairer future CAP, improve the availability of sustainably produced food for consumers and to ensure the credibility of certification for sustainable farm systems. It will be an opportunity for exchange and discussion for the organic community and will bring together high-level speakers from the EU Commission, the EU Parliament, the European organic movement and other civil society organizations, along with participants from across Europe.

Source: [www.ifoam.org](http://www.ifoam.org)

**Notifications of RASFF, concerning rice and rice products – year 2011**



