



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

Rice Food Safety & Other Facts

Newsletter
Nr. 15

15th Sept 2009

FOOD SAFETY

Rapid Alert System

- Unauthorised genetically modified (Bt 63) rice noodles from China, with fraudulent health certificate, rejected at Spanish border.

Source: www.efsa.europa.eu

EFSA is building a **pan-European repository for food consumption information**, and hazardous or beneficial chemical/biological agents to be used for exposure assessment. The functionality of such a central repository relies to a large extent on the availability and implementation of a proper food classification and description system providing a common link to all the diverse datasets involved. The food classification and description systems in use in the MS vary from country to country and are characterised by different levels of detail. There is thus a need to harmonise or at least link the disparate information to a common system. A working group will shortly be formed with representatives of the MS to finalise the new tentative food classification and description system that will be used to match food consumption information with information on food composition, chemical and microbiological contaminants and residues. A system fit for all purposes is with high probability not feasible, but a good compromise with translations between systems, that can satisfy the needs of risk assessment, is a reasonable target.

Source: www.efsa.europa.eu

ORGANIC FOOD

IFOAM (Intl. Fed. Organic Agriculture Movements) is developing a position paper on the use of **organic seed and propagation materials in organic agriculture**. The IFOAM Basic Standards require that organic crops shall be grown from organically propagated seed, if available in appropriate varieties and quality. However what is an appropriate variety for a specific farm and crop is a complex question. The choice has to do not only with climate, soils, prevalent plant diseases and other local growing conditions, but equally much with intended use and market preferences, with management practices and technical equipment, and with the farmer's overall vision of how the ecological balance and biological diversity of the farm should be maintained and strengthened. The importance of organic seed propagation must also not be overestimated. The added value of organic propagation consists in the reduced environmental impact when the seed is grown. As the amounts of seed in most crops are small in relation to the harvest, that effect is limited. In terms of the overall environmental effect, the value of starting an organic crop with a genetically well suited seed is usually much higher than the value of starting it with organically propagated seed.

Source: www.ifoam.org

GMO & BIOTECH

The number of commercialised genetically modified (GM) crops in the world is foreseen to multiply by four from about 30 today to over 120 in 2015. This is the forecast presented in the report "**The global pipeline of new GM crops: implications of asynchronous approval for international trade**", recently published by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC). It compiles a list of new GM crops to be commercialised and analyses their possible impact on international trade. Their increasing number may cause trade disruptions due to their asynchronous approval (different countries do not approve GMOs at the same time). In the case of rice, where currently no commercial events are cultivated, the prediction is that by 2015 there will be 15.

Source: <http://agriflife.jrc.ec.europa.eu/pipeline.htm>



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

Rice Food Safety & Other Facts

Newsletter
Nr. 15

15th Sept 2009

SCIENCE & RESEARCH

Results of a study conducted by researchers from the Tufts University, Baylor College of Medicine and U.S. Department of Agriculture revealed that the **beta-carotene derived from Golden Rice** is effectively converted to vitamin A in humans. Five adult volunteers were given servings of 65 to 98 g of golden rice containing 1-1.5 mg beta-carotene for 36 days. The researchers then measured the amount of retinol, a form of vitamin A, in blood samples collected from the volunteers. They found that four units of beta-carotene from Golden Rice convert to one unit of vitamin A in humans. Golden Rice, which carries the beta-carotene biosynthesis genes from daffodil and from *Erwinia*, contains 35 micrograms of beta-carotene per gram.

Source: *Crop Biotech Update*

Scientists from Japan have pinpointed a **gene that helps rice plants resist the dreaded blast disease**. Having this gene in high yielding but disease susceptible varieties could help feed millions more people. According to FAO, diseases, insects and weeds are responsible for yield losses of up to 30 percent. The blast disease is one of the most serious and widespread diseases of rice. The pathogen is no easy target since it easily evolves resistance against the genes that provide resistance to the plant. What's more, rice cultivars equipped with these genes are usually inferior in terms of agronomic performance. The team of researchers found a non-race specific and incomplete resistance gene: instead of preventing infection, it limits the disease's spread. This type of resistance will not eliminate a particular fungus strain but just reduce the pace of growth of all strains in the field. This is important in preventing more aggressive strains from breaking-out. The scientists will introduce these genes into high-quality commercial cultivars and verify the durability of the resistance proven through cultivation in a large area.

Source: *Crop Biotech Update*

OTHER NEWS

The **Farming First website** developed by CropLife International in partnership with the International Fertiliser Association (IFA), the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) is now available for viewing at <http://www.farmingfirst.org>. Farming First is a joint policy platform that highlights six areas for action with regards to food security and the future of agriculture.

Source: www.farmingfirst.org

EVENTS & MEETINGS

4th International Conference on Coexistence between Genetically Modified (GM) and non-GM based Agricultural Supply Chains - Melbourne, Australia, November 10-12, 2009. The conference will discuss issues from production level to the market place and will address measures that are being planned for new GM crops including wheat, rice, sugar cane and pastures.

Source: www.gmcc-09.com

Cibus Tec 2009, Food Processing&Packaging Exhibition 2009 - Parma - October 27-30. For its 70th birthday the best food show in the world proposing technological solutions for food processing chains, is reaching new goals and undergoing full restoration. The 2009 edition presents innovatory thematic sectors, notwithstanding the main structure remains based on three sectors, one of which is Multitecno (packaging, labelling, hygiene, safety, traceability and identification technology).

Source: www.fiereparma.it