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## Rice Food Safety & Other Facts



Newsletter  
 Nr. 26

April  
 2011

### FOOD SAFETY

#### Rapid Alert System Notifications for Food

date	Notification type	notified by	subject
31/03/2011	information	AUSTRIA	foreign body (screw: 6 mm) in basmati rice from India, via Germany
28/03/2011	border rejection	ITALY	aflatoxins (B1 = 6.5 / B1 = 7.6 µg/kg - ppb) in red rice flour from Sri Lanka
05/04/2011	information	GERMANY	aflatoxins (B1 = 4.1; Tot. = 5.1 / B1 = 10.8; Tot. = 12.6 µg/kg - ppb) in red rice from Sri Lanka, via the United Kingdom
08/04/2011	information	GERMANY	aflatoxins (B1 = 3.2 µg/kg - ppb) in basmati rice from Pakistan
12/04/2011	alert	GERMANY	aflatoxins (B1 = 5.0; Tot. = 5.5 / B1 = 6.1; Tot. = 6.5 µg/kg - ppb) in red rice from Sri Lanka
13/04/2011	information	POLAND	unauthorised genetically modified (LL601 rice) rice fusilli from Vietnam
18/04/2011	border rejection	FINLAND	high content of aluminium (67 mg/kg dry matter) in rice noodles from Thailand
19/04/2011	information	DENMARK	unauthorised use of colour E 151 - Brilliant Black BN / Black PN in black rice from China, via Germany
19/04/2011	information	DENMARK	unauthorised use of colour E 151 - Brilliant Black BN / Black PN in glutinous rice from Thailand

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)

### GMO & BIOTECH

- ISAAA (International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications) presents an easy to use **database of Biotech/GM crop approvals** for various biotechnology stakeholders. It features the Biotech/GM crop events and traits that have been approved for commercialization and planting and/or for import for food and feed use with a short description of the crop and the trait. Entries in the database were sourced principally from Biotechnology Clearing House of approving countries and from country regulatory websites. The database can be accessed at <http://www.isaaa.org/gmapprovaldatabase/default.asp>

Source: *Crop Biotech Update*

- A European Commission report recently presented demonstrates the current limitations in assessing the socio-economic implications of cultivation of genetically modified (GM) crops in the EU. Specifically, the report, which is based on information principally provided by Member States, reveals that the existing information is often statistically limited and that it is frequently based on already preconceived ideas about GMO cultivation. In the report, the Commission also presents an analysis of the socio-economic dimensions of GMO cultivation as reported in the international scientific literature and in the conclusions of research projects funded under the European Framework Programme for Research.

Source: [http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biotechnology/reports\\_studies/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biotechnology/reports_studies/index_en.htm)



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- An improved molecular tool for precisely modifying DNA in living cells could allow researchers to better introduce genes for disease resistance in crops or develop safer gene therapies to treat human diseases. Technology co-developed by researchers at Iowa State University and the University of Minnesota now makes these kinds of advances possible. The technology, called **TAL effector nucleases**, removes the guesswork from DNA targeting, allowing researchers to make modifications at virtually any place in a genome. TAL effector nucleases are like scissors that find and cut specific DNA sequences. This specificity is important because most of the genome engineering techniques scientists have relied on to date — to introduce a new gene into a crop, for instance, or mutate a gene to study its function — have been random with respect to where the mutation takes place or the new gene goes in the genome. TAL effector nucleases, however, remove this randomness. Precise targeting could drastically reduce the time needed to develop a transgenic crop with improved traits, and would remove the potential for unexpected changes in the genome due to random insertion of a transgene. TAL effectors are a class of proteins that pathogenic bacteria inject into plant cells, where they attach to the host's DNA at specific locations and turn on genes within the plant that allow infection to take place. Seeking to understand how these proteins find their targets, researchers stumbled on what turned out to be a clear-cut coding mechanism that matches amino acid pairs in the protein with individual units in the DNA.

*Source: [www.seedquest.com](http://www.seedquest.com)*

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### OTHER NEWS

"We managed to make quality an essential point of our agricultural policy", declared the Italian Minister of agriculture, commenting the authorization for the immediate use of the sum of ten thousand euro, to distribute grants to small and medium-sized enterprises that produce quality agricultural products. Contributions, refunding up to 90% of the investments done - with a maximum of 400,000 euro, will be given to small and medium-sized enterprises concerned with agrifood and wine production.

*Source: [www.politicheagricole.it](http://www.politicheagricole.it)*

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### LAWS, STANDARDS & AGREEMENTS

Food labels should include mandatory nutritional information, inter alia on artificial trans fats and the country of provenance, said Environment Committee MEPs on 19<sup>th</sup> April. The committee amended draft EU legislation to ensure that labels are legible, do not mislead, and provide the information that consumers need to make choices. The draft legislation aims to modernize, simplify and clarify food labelling within the EU. It would change existing rules on information that is compulsory on all labels, such as: name, list of ingredients, "best before" or "use by" dates, specific conditions of use, and add a requirement to list key nutritional information. Once the legislation is adopted, food businesses will have three years to adapt to the rules and two more years to apply the rules on the nutritional declaration.

*Source: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/it/pressroom/content/20110418IPR18101/html>*

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