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Rice Food Safety & Other Facts



Newsletter
 Nr. 32
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FOOD SAFETY

Rapid Alert System Notifications for Food

date	Notification type	notified by	subject
05/09/2012	information for follow-up	GERMANY	unauthorised genetically modified (Bt63) rice vermicelli from China, via the Netherlands
06/09/2012	information for attention	ITALY	rice from Thailand infested with insects
06/09/2012	alert	GERMANY	high content of lead (0.49 mg/kg - ppm) in rice from Italy
06/09/2012	border rejection	ITALY	triazophos (0.11 mg/kg - ppm) in paraboiled basmati rice from India
10/10/2012	border rejection	ITALY	unauthorised genetically modified (presence tNOS) rice from China
12/10/2012	border rejection	ITALY	high content of aluminium (73 mg/kg - ppm) in rice stick from China
19/10/2012	border rejection	ITALY	unauthorised genetically modified (P35S) rice stick from China, via Hong Kong
06/11/2012	border rejection	BELGIUM	unauthorised genetically modified (presence of p35S, CryIA(b)) chili rice crackers from China
09/11/2012	border rejection	ITALY	absence of health certificate(s) for rice vermicelli from China
13/11/2012	alert	NORWAY	presence of soya (detected) in rice crackers from the Netherlands

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/rapidalert/rasff_portal_database_en.htm

- The scope and depth of EFSA's scientific activities are summarized in the special issue (October) of the **EFSA Journal** which marks the **10th anniversary** of the organization. It highlights the "farm to fork" approach articulated in the General Food Law, which recognizes that Europe needs an integrated approach to food safety, engaging all the actors in the food chain, and making optimal use of scientific expertise.

Source: www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal

- The European Commission requested that the EFSA Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms deliver a scientific opinion related to **risk assessment of cisgenic and intragenic plants**. The EFSA GMO Panel considers that the *Guidance for risk assessment of food and feed from genetically modified plants* and the *Guidance on the environmental risk assessment of genetically modified plants* are applicable for the evaluation of food and feed products derived from cisgenic and intragenic plants and for performing an environmental risk assessment and do not need to be developed further.

Source: www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/doc/2561.pdf

LAWS, STANDARDS & AGREEMENTS

- **Commission Regulation (EU) No 788/2012** concerning a coordinated multiannual control programme of the Union for 2013, 2014 and 2015 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, concerning 4 pesticide residues (bromide ion, clomequat, etefon, mepiquat).

- **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 508/2012** amending Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 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>



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SCIENCE & RESEARCH

- The plant of rice has a "yield barrier" because of the nature of its photosynthetic process (C3 pathway). IRRI and its partners members of the C4 rice research consortium are seeking to create "**C4 rice**" – rice with a built-in fuel injector to better convert sunlight into grain, potentially resulting in up to 50% higher production all while using less water and nutrients. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), and IRRI have funded the C4 rice project's second phase for \$14million over 3 years. The C4 rice project was first funded by BMGF and IRRI in 2009. The UK government has joined the second phase of the project and provided additional funding. Other donors are the European Union's "3 to 4" project (the project Plant Photosynthetic Efficiency: from C3 to C4 system) and the CGIAR Canada Linkage Fund through a collaboration between IRRI and the University of Toronto.

Source: <http://irri.org>

- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has collected and tested **rice for total arsenic** for about 20 years. On last September, the FDA released the first analytical results of nearly 200 samples of rice and rice products tested for both total and inorganic arsenic. Samples included various brands of rice and rice products, such as infant rice cereal, breakfast cereal, rice cakes and rice beverages. FDA scientists tested the samples for total arsenic, inorganic arsenic, and two forms of organic arsenic that may have toxic effects. In looking at the research, there is an absence of the necessary scientific data that shows a causal relationship between those who consume higher levels of rice and rice products and the type of illnesses usually associated with arsenic. Based on the available data and scientific literature the FDA is not recommending changes by consumers regarding their consumption of rice and rice products. The advice for consumers is to eat a balanced diet including a wide variety of grains, not only for good nutrition but also to minimize any potential consequences from consuming any one particular food.

Source: www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/FoodContaminantsAdulteration/Metals

OTHER NEWS

Immediate action to promote sustainable diets and food biodiversity so as to improve the health of humans and of the planet is urged in a book recently published by **FAO** and **Bioversity International**. While over 900 million people in the world suffer from hunger, even more – about 1.5 billion – are overweight or obese, and an estimated two billion suffer from micronutrient malnutrition including vitamin A, iron, or iodine deficiency. The problem of feeding the world's growing population has so far been seen largely in terms of providing sufficient quantities of food. But the pace of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, coupled with emerging health issues related to diet, make it urgent to address the quality of agriculture and food systems. The book argues that modern diets and food production methods play a significant role in shrinking plant and animal genetic diversity, with 17,291 species out of 47,677 described as threatened with extinction. There is an urgent need to change the paradigm of agricultural production in order to integrate the dimension of nutritional quality in the decisions as to what to produce and where.

Source: www.fao.org

EVENTS & MEETINGS

European Federation of Food Science and Technology (EFFOST) Annual Meeting, November 20-23, Montpellier - France. This conference will focus on connecting the integrated (broad) and the specialized (focused) views on food to promote health, food security and sustainability for all.

Source: www.effostconference.com/index.html