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## Rice Food Safety & Other Facts



Newsletter  
 Nr. 35  
 February  
 2014

### FOOD SAFETY

#### Rapid Alert System Notifications for Food

date	notification type	notified by	subject
04/12/2013	alert	SWEDEN	undeclared almond in parboiled rice from Denmark
05/12/2013	border rejection	UNITED KINGDOM	absence of health certificate(s) for chicken and chive rice crackers declared as wheat crackers from China
27/12/2013	border rejection	ITALY	basmati rice from India infested with insects
24/01/2014	border rejection	UNITED KINGDOM	absence of health certificate(s) for coconut crackers (containing sticky rice flour 18%) from China
03/02/2014	border rejection	ITALY	carbendazim (0.04 mg/kg - ppm) in basmati rice from India
13/02/2014	border rejection	FINLAND	live insects ( <i>Oryzaephilus surinamensis</i> ) in basmati rice from India

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) (area operatori) it is published the **2013 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 decreased (32 instead of 63) but the alert notifications were only 5 while border rejection notifications were 21. It is worth notice that 16 notifications concerned rice or rice preparations imported from China.

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

### ORGANIC FOOD

- In the website [www.inea.it](http://www.inea.it) has recently been published the volume **BIOREPORT 2013** that provides an overview of the Italian organic sector, both by analyzing the available economic data and by investigating some of its important aspects through targeted surveys. It aims to draw a cognitive picture of the state of the Italian organic sector, systematically providing all existing information and data and using qualitative research to examine relevant aspects not monitored by official sources. It consists of three basic parts: overall data on organic farming, policies for organic farming, organisation and characteristics of the sector.

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

### SCIENCE & RESEARCH

- Scientists from Japan and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) have discovered a **rice gene, SPIKELET NUMBER (SPIKE)**, from a tropical *japonica* rice landrace, that enhances the grain productivity increasing spikelet number, leaf size, root system, and the number of vascular bundles, indicating the enhancement of source size and translocation capacity as well as sink size. Expression analysis revealed that the gene was expressed in all cell types: panicles, leaves, roots, and culms supporting the pleiotropic effects on plant architecture, without any negative effect on grain appearance.

Source: [//www.pnas.org/content/early/2013/11/27/1310790110.abstract](http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2013/11/27/1310790110.abstract)



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### OTHER NEWS

- The Netherlands is No. 1 in the world for having the most plentiful, nutritious, healthy and affordable diet, beating France and Switzerland into second place. Oxfam's **"Good Enough to Eat" index** compares 125 countries where full data is available to create a snapshot of the different challenges people face in getting food. The new index looks at whether people have enough to eat, food quality, affordability, and dietary health. Oxfam is an international confederation of 17 organizations working together in more than 90 countries to end poverty and hunger.

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

- International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) investigated on the role of agricultural technologies in addressing hunger using comprehensive process-based modeling. The results was published in a report titled **Food Security in a World of Natural Resource Scarcity: The Role of Agricultural Technologies**. The study involved evaluation of yield and food impact through 2050 of a broad range of agricultural technologies under varying assumptions of climate change for the three key staple crops: maize, **rice**, and wheat. Results of the study showed that adoption of agricultural technologies including drought tolerance, heat tolerance, and nitrogen use efficiency can substantially increase food production, reduce food prices, and improve food security under climate change. The greatest yield benefits were found to be in Africa South of Sahara, South Asia, and areas of Latin America. When multiple technologies are combined, food prices can be reduced by almost 50 percent leading to 12 percent decrease in the number of malnourished children and 40 percent reduction in number of people at risk of hunger.

Source: [www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/oc76.pdf](http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/oc76.pdf)

### EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **4th Annual International Conference on Advances in Biotechnology**, March 10-11, 2014 - Dubai. This multi-disciplinary conference aims to provide a challenging forum and vibrant opportunity for researchers and industry practitioners to share their original research results and practical development experiences on specific new challenges and emerging issues.

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

- **4th International Rice Congress (IRC)**, October 27-31, 2014 - Bangkok, Thailand. The IRC 2014 theme is "Rice for the World", reflecting IRC as the largest regular conference and exhibition of the global rice scientific research community and industry. Focusing on the world's latest advances in rice research and technologies, IRC 2014 is the only major global event that brings together all aspects of the international rice industry that feeds half the world. About 2,000 rice scientists and rice industry players from all over the world are expected to participate. IRC 2014 will feature other inter-related events as: 29th International Rice Research Conference, incorporating the **5th Temperate Rice Conference**, IRRI Global Rice Market and Trade Outlook Conference and International Rice Industry Exhibition.

Source: <http://oryza.com/events/2014-4th-international-rice-congress-irc2014>



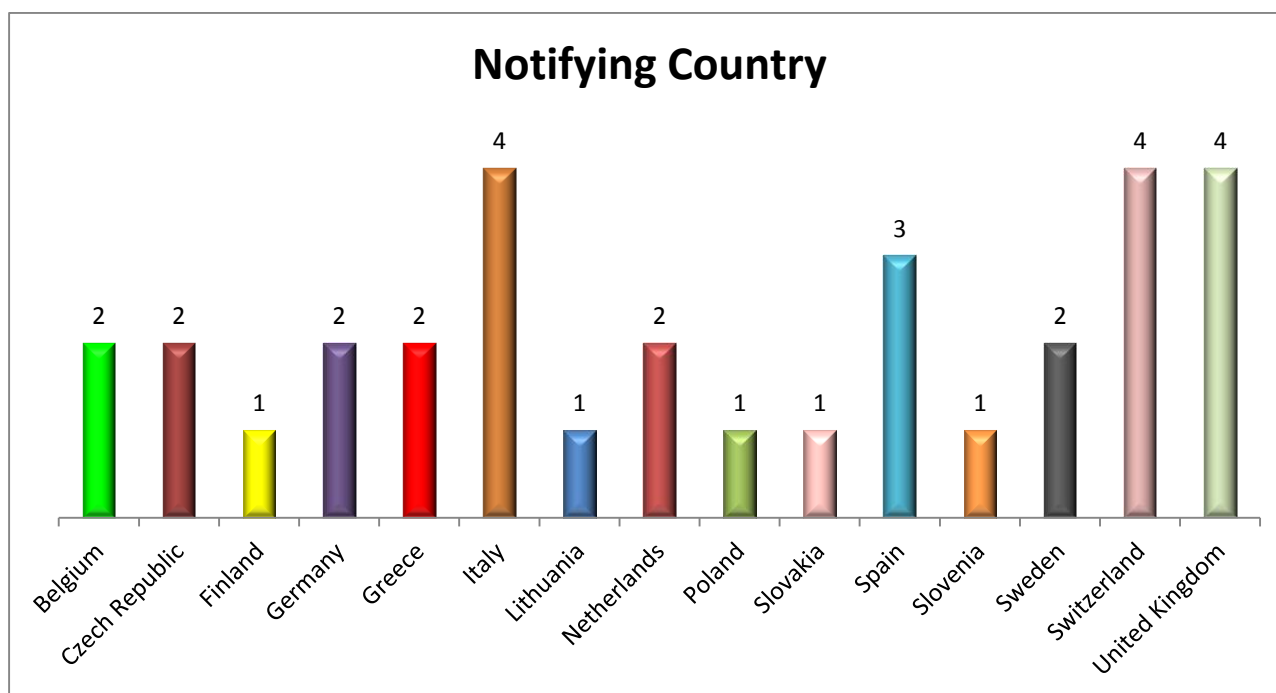
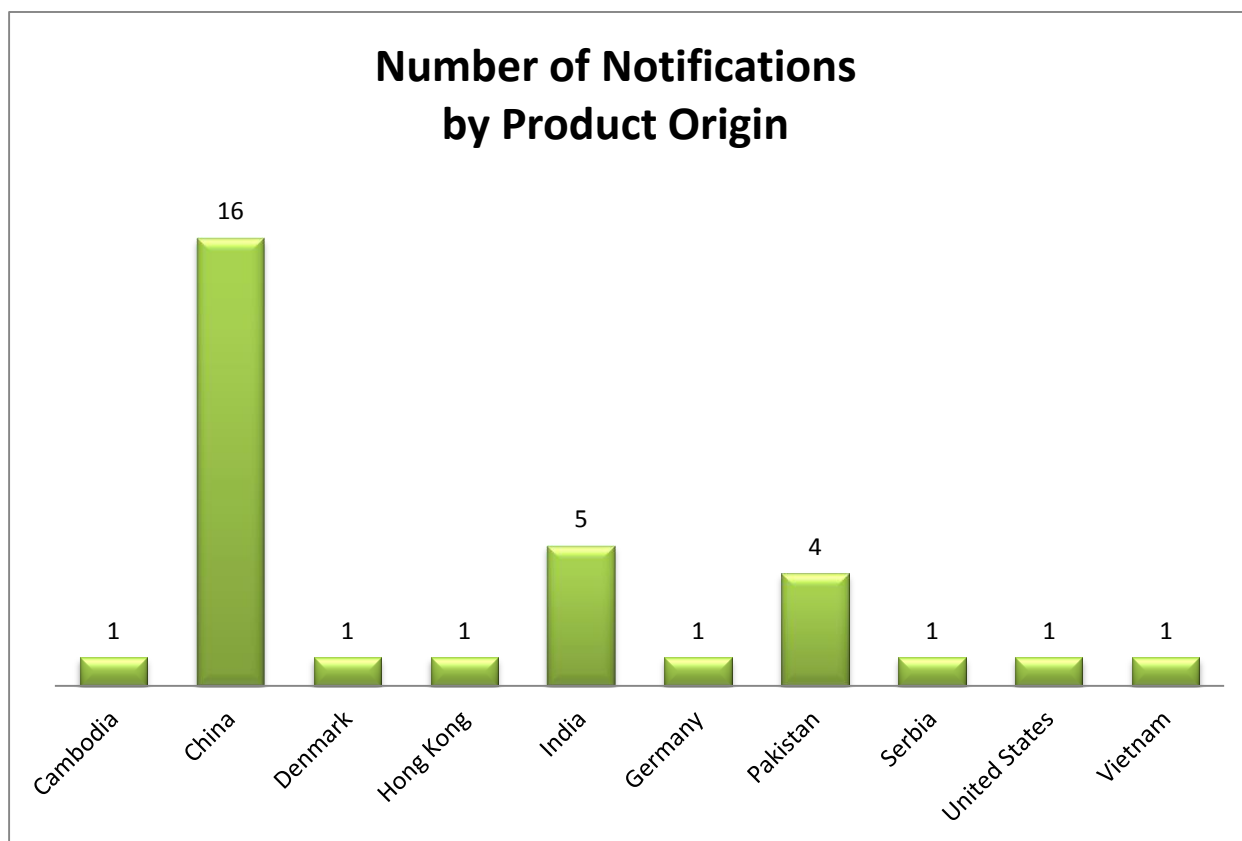
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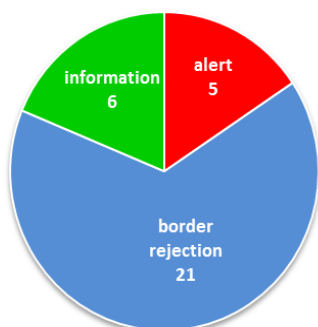
### RASFF notifications, concerning rice and rice products. Year 2013



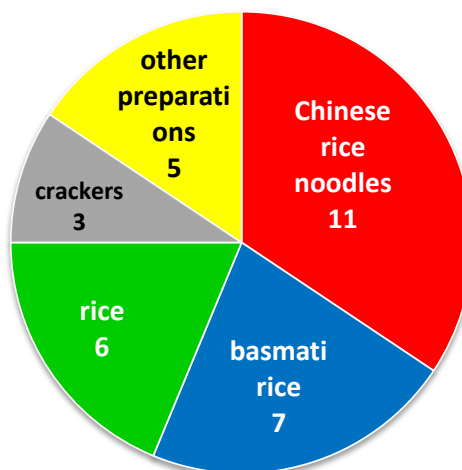


### RASFF notifications, concerning rice and rice products. Year 2013

#### Notification type



#### Product



#### Kind of risk

