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Rice Food Safety & Other Facts



Newsletter
 Nr. 37
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FOOD SAFETY

Rapid Alert System Notifications for Food

date	notification type	notified by	subject
08/04/2014	border rejection	ITALY	acephate (0.04 mg/kg - ppm) in parboiled basmati rice from India
08/04/2014	border rejection	ITALY	acephate (0.05 mg/kg - ppm) in parboiled basmati rice from India
08/04/2014	border rejection	ITALY	acephate (0.04 mg/kg - ppm) in parboiled basmati rice from India
14/05/2014	border rejection	ITALY	carbendazim (0.04 mg/kg - ppm) in parboiled basmati rice from India
23/05/2014	border rejection	UNITED KINGDOM	absence of health certificate(s) for rice crackers from Hong Kong
28/05/2014	alert	CZECH REPUBLIC	undeclared gluten (107 mg/kg - ppm) in rice and corn snack with cheddar flavour from the Czech Republic
03/06/2014	border rejection	ITALY	carbendazim (0.05 mg/kg - ppm) in parboiled basmati rice from Pakistan

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

- The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) published an infographic explaining the **difference between risk assessment and risk management**. According to EFSA, the risk assessor is responsible for evaluation of risks linked with the food chain, based on available research and information then provides scientific advice for decision making by the risk managers. In Europe, EFSA takes the role of risk assessor and the risk managers are the European Commission, Member State authorities, and the European Parliament. Thus, EFSA evaluates the safety of every GMO on a case-to-case basis and then the said risk managers decide whether or not to authorize release of each GMO. Download a copy of the infographic at www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press/news/140416.htm.

Source: www.efsa.europa.eu

GMO & BIOTECH

- The increased production of genetically modified crops around the globe has led to a higher number of incidents of **low levels of GMOs being detected in traded food and feed**. The incidents have led to trade disruptions between countries with shipments of grain, cereal and other crops being blocked by importing countries and destroyed or returned to the country of origin. There is no international agreement defining or quantifying "low level", therefore the interpretation varies from country to country. In many countries it is interpreted as any level at which detection is possible i.e. very low trace levels, while in other countries case-by-case decisions are taken on what level is acceptable. In the latter scenario, further exchange of data on the safety of the respective GMOs as well as their detection methods would be a prerequisite for future global harmonization. Several countries have requested FAO to facilitate international dialogue on the issue, so a technical Consultation was held last March at FAO headquarters in Rome. The conclusions of the consultation were that further capacity building to strengthen national food control systems is key to enabling developing countries to manage LLP (low level presence) or AP (adventitious presence) issues. Such capacity-building activities could include implementing good practices in agricultural production systems, improving laboratory capacity for GMO detection and identification, and scientific capacity to perform food safety assessments according to the Codex Alimentarius guidelines, as well as risk assessment for environmental impacts. This will further support equal opportunities for safe and controlled food and feed supplies for all countries.

Source: www.fao.org/news/en



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SCIENCE & RESEARCH

- A study published in the journal Nature, conducted by researchers from eight institutions in Australia, Israel, Japan, and the United States reports that as the atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels rise this century, some grains and legumes will become significantly less nutritious than they are today. The researchers looked at various varieties of wheat, **rice**, field peas, soybeans, maize, and sorghum grown in fields with atmospheric carbon dioxide levels like those expected in the middle of this century. Their experiments, revealed that zinc and iron went down significantly in wheat, rice, field peas, and soybeans. Wheat and **rice also saw notable declines in protein content at higher CO₂ levels**. Since field trials were performed in USA, more research is needed to determine how crops grown in tropical regions will respond to higher atmospheric CO₂. Differences between cultivars of a single crop suggest that breeding for decreased sensitivity to atmospheric CO₂ concentration could partly address these new challenges to global health.

Source: www.nature.com

LAWS, STANDARDS & AGREEMENTS

- **Regulation (EU) No 511/2014** of the European Parliament and of the Council on compliance measures for users from the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization in the Union. Its implementation will contribute to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components. The regulation will oblige users (such as the feed and food industry, the pharmaceutical and cosmetics industry and researchers) to exercise due diligence to ascertain that genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge which they utilize have been accessed in accordance with the applicable legal requirements, and that the benefits are fairly and equitably shared in accordance with mutually agreed terms.

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

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **2nd International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)**, November 19-21, 2014 – Rome, Italy. An inclusive inter-governmental meeting on nutrition jointly organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), the conference will review progress made towards improving nutrition since 1992 (when the 1st Conference was held), reflect on nutrition problems that remain, as well as on the new challenges and opportunities for improving nutrition presented by changes in the global economy, in food systems, by advances in science and technology, and identify policy options for improving nutrition.

Source: www.fao.org/about/meetings/icn2/en