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Rice Food Safety & Other Facts



Newsletter
 Nr. 40
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FOOD SAFETY

Rapid Alert System Notifications for Food

date	notification type	notified by	subject
03/11/2014	border rejection	ITALY	profenofos (0.11 mg/kg - ppm) in basmati rice from Pakistan
04/11/2014	border rejection	ITALY	carbendazim (0.06 mg/kg - ppm) in basmati rice from India
12/11/2014	border rejection	ITALY	carbendazim (0.05 mg/kg - ppm) in basmati parboiled rice from India
12/11/2014	information for follow-up	UNITED KINGDOM	rice from Italy infested with mites
21/11/2014	alert	GERMANY	high content of aluminium (18; 162; 616; 734; 7041 mg/kg - ppm) in rice noodle sticks from Thailand
28/11/2014	border rejection	ITALY	unsuitable organoleptic characteristics of rice from Thailand
01/12/2014	border rejection	ITALY	carbendazim (0.05 mg/kg - ppm) in rice from India
02/12/2014	border rejection	ITALY	carbendazim (0.05 mg/kg - ppm) in rice from India
04/12/2014	border rejection	ITALY	carbendazim (0.10 mg/kg - ppm) in rice from India

Source: [//ec.europa.eu/food/food/rapidalert/rasff_portal_database_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/rapidalert/rasff_portal_database_en.htm)

SCIENCE & RESEARCH

- Scientists from the University of Arkansas examined a protein that acts as a "switch" to activate genes that can enhance the photosynthesis activity of rice plants. The researchers discovered that the protein, known as higher yield rice (HYR), could enable the plants to survive stress, thrive and increase productivity. Plants under stress shut down photosynthesis to stop producing reactive oxygen, which is damaging to them. This is where the HYR regulator protein comes in by keeping the whole photosynthesis machinery active and maintaining productivity. The research showed that HYR increases photosynthesis, which increases sugars, increases biomass and finally leads to more grain yield among normal rice cultivars. Before this research there was consensus among scientists that increasing photosynthesis capacity would probably increase productivity and yield. However no one had proven it until the above mentioned researchers demonstrated grain yield increases as high as 29.7 percent by using the HYR regulator.

Source: [//newswire.uark.edu/articles/25952](http://newswire.uark.edu/articles/25952)

ORGANIC FOOD, PDO, PGI

- During the **18th IFOAM Organic World Congress** a specific workshop on "Organic market data collection and publication procedures: the Code of Practice of the OrganicDataNetwork" took place. The aim of the workshop was to present the Code of Practice for the initiation and maintenance of good organic market data collection and publication procedures (OrMaCode). The Code of Practice consists of a list of principles and related indicators covering the different key areas of collection, processing, storage and publication of organic market data. Though there has been a significant growth of the surface and the organic market in the majority of countries surveyed (39 in total), the information available is still fragmentary: for example, while the data on the organic farm surface is available in all countries, not all ones have data concerning the value of retail sales, as well as details of imports and exports, total and by product. At European level, the transparency and reliability of the organic market are necessary aspects for the development of the sector, which businesses, farmers and governments cannot ignore.

Source: www.organicdatanetwork.net



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- The EU Commission recently presented 4 new Infographics on Organics which are available in 23 EU official languages and can be downloaded on the internet. The series of Infographics explains: what the organic EU logo guarantees, the organic area and production in the EU, EU organic farming and the world market, the support for organic producers in Europe.

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/downloads/infographics/index_en.htm

OTHER NEWS

- The importance of nutrition for health is confirmed by the new studies carried out on a daily basis. Recent studies have shown that the agri-food business is one of the most responsible sectors for greenhouse gas emissions and water consumption. In this context, people's awareness of the fact that the foods that nutritionists recommend we should eat more frequently are also those that have a lower environmental impact is not so widespread. This is why in 2009 the Barilla Center for Food and Nutrition presented the food and environmental Double Pyramid model. At the beginning of December, during the 6th International Forum on Food and Nutrition, once again the double pyramid was presented in an updated version bearing in mind the latest research results. The environmental pyramid was created as the inverted image of the classic food pyramid, thus communicating the inverse relationship between nutritionally recommended foods and their environmental impact. The message is that food represents the second most important factor of global sustainability (following the energy industry): it is therefore a priority for all concerned in the food production chain to reduce its environmental impact since whoever does not take part in finding a solution is part of the problem.

Source: www.barillacfn.com

At the opening, in Rome of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), organized by the FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO), over 170 Countries made a number of concrete commitments and adopted a series of recommendations on policies and investments aimed at ensuring that all people have access to healthier and more sustainable diets. The Rome Declaration on Nutrition and a Framework for Action were adopted, which set out recommendations for policies and programmes to address nutrition across multiple sectors. The Rome Declaration on Nutrition enshrines the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, and commits governments to preventing malnutrition in all its forms, including hunger, micronutrient deficiencies and obesity. While the prevalence of hunger has fallen by 21 percent since 1990-92, over 800 million people in the world still go hungry. Over two billion people are affected by micronutrient deficiencies, or "hidden hunger", due to inadequate vitamins or minerals. Meanwhile, the burden of obesity is growing rapidly, with around half a billion people now obese, and three times as many overweight. The Framework for Action recognizes that governments have the primary role and responsibility for addressing nutrition issues and challenges, in dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders-including civil society, the private sector and affected communities. Building on the Declaration's commitments, goals and targets, the Framework sets out 60 recommended actions that governments may incorporate into their national nutrition, health, agriculture, education, development and investment plans and consider when negotiating international agreements to achieve better nutrition for all. Countries recommended that the UN General Assembly endorse the Rome Declaration and Framework for Action and consider declaring a Decade of Action on Nutrition for 2016-2025.

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