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## Rice Food Safety & Other Facts



Newsletter  
 Nr. 41  
 February  
 2015

### FOOD SAFETY

#### Rapid Alert System Notifications for Food

date	notification type	notified by	subject
15/12/2014	border rejection	ITALY	carbendazim (0,08 mg/kg - ppm) in rice from India
02/12/2014	alert	GERMANY	aflatoxins (B1 = 2.60 µg/kg - ppb) in basmati rice from the United Kingdom
03/02/2015	border rejection	ITALY	unauthorised substance profenofos (0.027 mg/kg - ppm) in basmati 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)

- In the website [www.enterisi.it](http://www.enterisi.it) (area operatori) it is published the **2014 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 is similar (37 instead of 32) but the alert notifications were only 4 while border rejection notifications were 31. It is worth notice that 16 notifications concerned rice or basmati rice with pesticides residues, imported from India.

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

### ORGANIC FOOD, PDO, PGI

Two different organizations deal with the issue of **protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) for Geographical Indications (GIs)** and are responsible for international agreements: WTO (World Trade Organization) and WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization). WTO regulates GIs in the 1994 TRIPS Agreement. The TRIPS Agreement gives wines a high level of protection but leaves individual countries to draw up national GIs legislation for other agri-food products. WIPO implements the Lisbon Agreement of 1958 and gives GIs a high level of protection but involves a lower number of countries. Since US and EU have developed two different legislative approaches, IPR on GIs are a source of political and economic conflict among WTO countries. The US approach follows WTO and is based on existing trademarks and competition legislation, meanwhile EU legislation is partly based on the Lisbon Agreement and has a *sui generis* legislation, giving a high level of protection to agri-food GIs. The official halt to the Doha Round of multilateral negotiations within WTO has led several member countries to conclude bilateral and regional agreements. The EU has recently reached a bilateral Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with Canada. It has also started trade negotiations with the US for a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) which covers IPR and GIs. With the aim of gathering experiences and knowledge on the "GIs issue", EAAE (European Association of Agricultural Economists) announces that a seminar will discuss the topics mentioned above, next April in Parma.

Source: [www.145eaae2015.unipr.it](http://www.145eaae2015.unipr.it)

### OTHER NEWS

**Nielsen conducted an online survey of 30,000 consumers** from 60 countries to assess the healthy eating trends around the world. Results showed that consumers seek fresh, natural and minimally processed foods. Beneficial ingredients that help fight disease and promote good health were also deemed as important. It was also noted that the majority (80%) of the respondents said that they are willing to pay more for foods labelled as non-GMO. However, most of them also said that they do not necessarily trust food labels. Furthermore, 61 percent of those consumers said it was "very" or "moderately" important to buy products with a non-GMO label.

Source: [www.nielsen.com/us/en/insights/reports/2015/we-are-what-we-eat.html](http://www.nielsen.com/us/en/insights/reports/2015/we-are-what-we-eat.html)



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### SCIENCE & RESEARCH

**Agricultural gene banks** will cease from simply serving as storage of plant seeds, but will now be used to find traits that can be utilized to develop better crop varieties. The new initiative, called DivSeek aims to unlock the potential of crop diversity stored in gene banks around the world and make it available to all so that it can be used to improve productivity, sustainability and resilience of crops and agricultural systems. Gene banks, which store countless varieties of major and minor food crops, have long been viewed as important players in helping address food security. But developing a global framework for studying and sharing this genetic wealth has been a long-standing challenge, marked by perennial funding problems and, prior to the adoption of an international agreement, sometimes fierce debates over who owns and should benefit from banked seeds. DivSeek aims to accelerate the process by creating a unified front. The international consortium includes 69 public sector partners, notably 15 of the world's major crop research centers, known as the CGIAR Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers. It is also backed by the organization that administers the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), which established a global system for exchanging germplasm.

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

### LAWS, STANDARDS & AGREEMENTS

New legislation to allow EU member states to restrict or ban the cultivation of crops containing genetically modified organisms (GMOs) on their own territory, even if this is allowed at EU level, was passed by EU Parliament in mid-January. The **new rules would allow member states to ban GMOs** on environmental policy grounds other than the risks to health and the environment already assessed by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). Member states could also ban GMO crops on other grounds, such as town and country planning requirements, socio-economic impact, avoiding the unintended presence of GMOs in other products and farm policy objectives. Bans could also include groups of GMOs designated by crop or trait. Before a member state may adopt such measures, the legislation provides for a procedure enabling the GMO crop company to consent to such restrictions on its marketing authorization. However, if the company disagrees, the member state may impose a ban unilaterally. Member states should also ensure that GMO crops do not contaminate other products, and particular attention should be paid to preventing cross-border contamination with neighbouring countries, says the text. The new legislation will come into force in spring 2015.

Source: [www.europarl.europa.eu/news](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news)

### EVENTS & MEETINGS

**Anuga - Taste the future**, 10-14 October 2015 - Cologne (Germany). Innovation and trends are the driving force in the food & beverage sector. In hardly any other segment there are so many new innovations each and every year which add to the international diversity. Anuga sets and underlines the actual global trends: ten topics show what is currently in demand and where things are going. The Anuga is set to be the most important and largest trade fair in the world in 2015 once again: with a new key visual, a clear exhibition concept, an equally diverse and international spectrum of exhibitors and a high-quality and stimulating specialist supporting programme.

Source: [www.anuga.com](http://www.anuga.com)



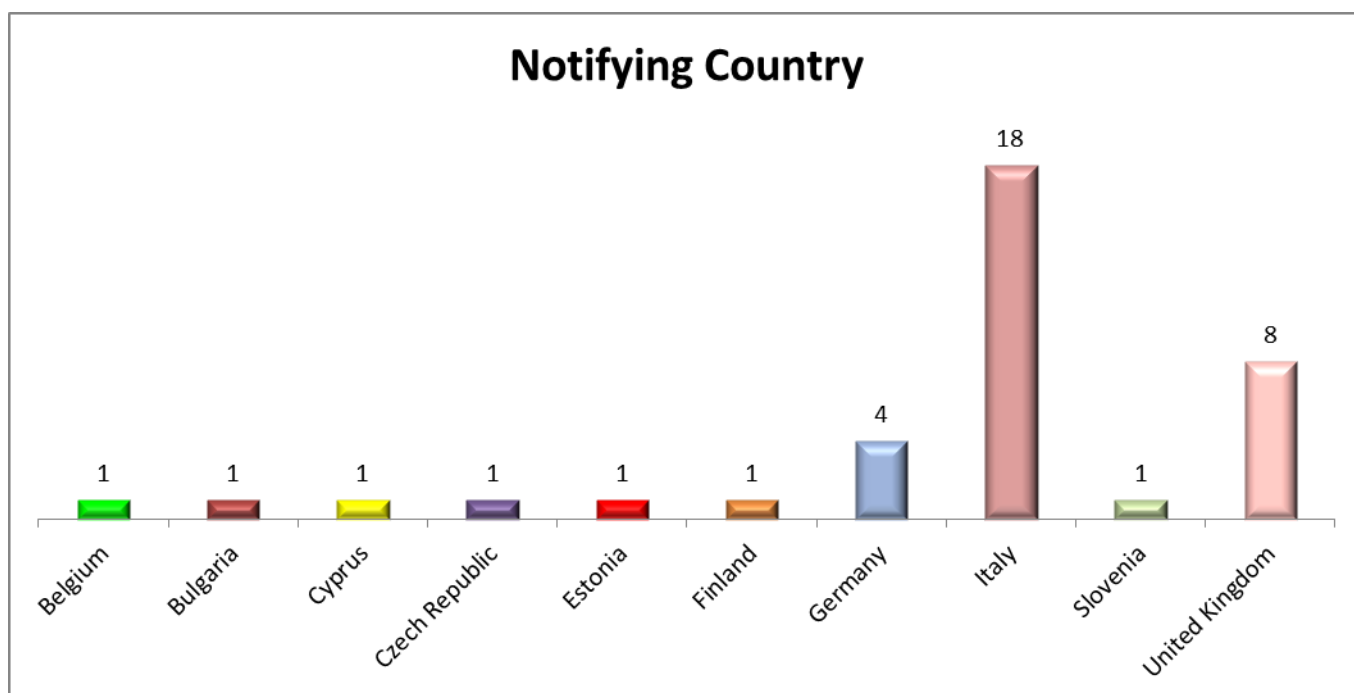
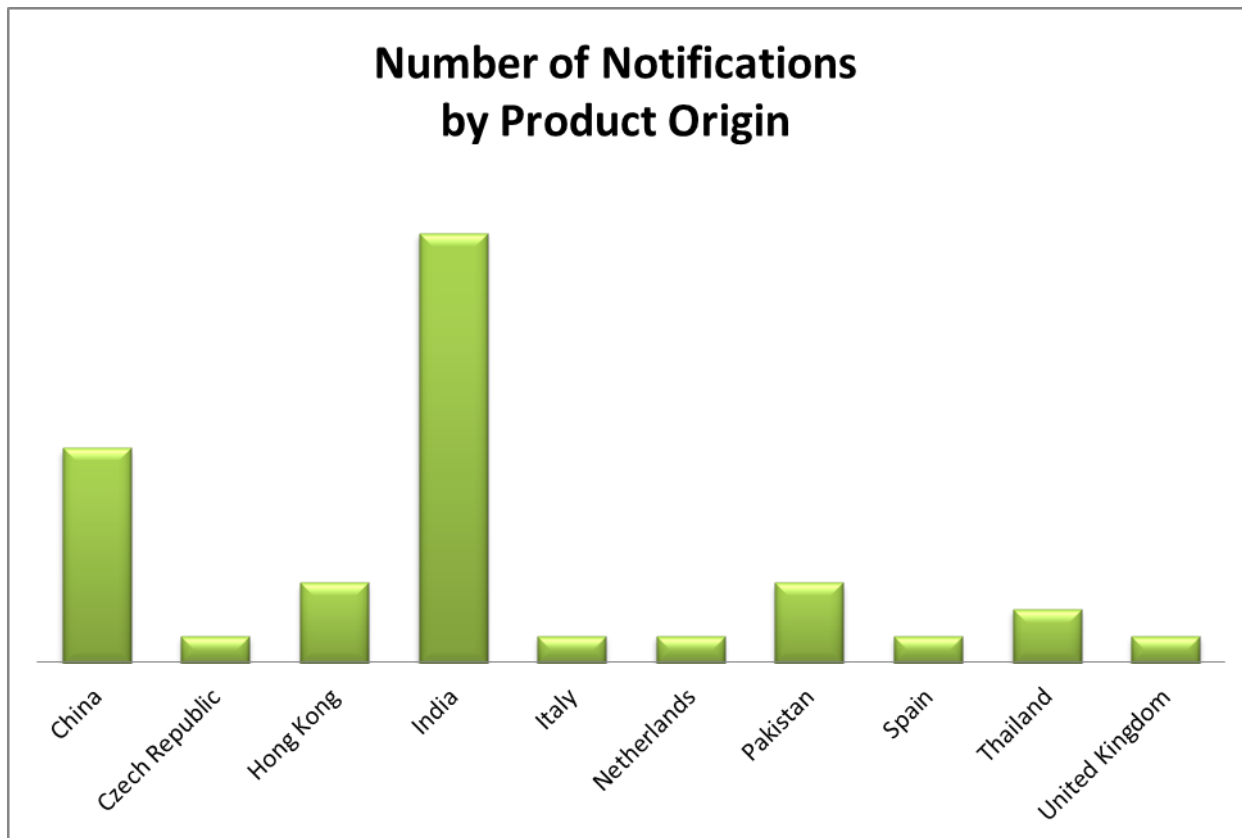
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### RASFF notifications, concerning rice and rice products. Year 2014





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