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## Rice Food Safety & Other Facts

Newsletter  
Nr. 49  
June  
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### FOOD SAFETY

#### Rapid Alert System Notifications for Food:

- No notification concerning rice and rice products since last 18<sup>th</sup> March.

Source: [//ec.europa.eu/food/food/rapidalert/rasff\\_portal\\_database\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/rapidalert/rasff_portal_database_en.htm)

- On June 21<sup>st</sup>, Ispettorato centrale della tutela della qualità e repressione frodi dei prodotti agroalimentari - **the Central Inspectorate protecting the quality of food products (ICQRF)**, celebrates 30 years of activity. Established in 1986, ICQRF is now one of the Authority that carries out the highest number of anti-fraud controls in the world, ensuring the supervision of certified quality productions and the protection of the true Made in Italy food. More than 37 thousand checks and about 10 thousand laboratory analyzes are carried out every year. The most significant results in the protection of Italian high quality agricultural and food products is the activity abroad and on the web. Since 2014, when ICQRF was designated as *ex officio* Italian authority for PDO/PGI products, 1,045 interventions were carried out and most of them concerned the three largest in the world web platforms, Alibaba, eBay and Amazon. More than 75% of the procedures have been already successfully closed.

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

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### OTHER NEWS

United Nations Portal **Law and Environment Ontology (LEO)** is a tool recently released which aims to provide an agreed to semantic standard for any institution or organization that collects and manages data, information and knowledge in the field of Environmental Law and Governance. The development of a semantic Ontology for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and International Environmental Law was identified as a priority for MEA Secretariats and UNEP at the first meeting of the MEA Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) Initiative. Members to the MEA IKM Initiative agreed on the need for a 'controlled vocabulary' to allow for easier searching, locating and retrieving of MEA information such as decisions by MEA governing bodies and meeting documents, reports and national plans. Generous financial support from the European Union provided for the review and enhancement of the draft InforMEA glossary through a Multi-Stakeholder process. The IKM Initiative also reached out to organizations involved in the development of thesauri, such as the European Environment Agency's GEMET, the ECOLEX and the FAOlex glossary.

Source: [//leo.informea.org](http://leo.informea.org)

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### SCIENCE & RESEARCH

- **Climate change impact on agriculture is underestimated:** a new study from Brown and Tufts universities (USA) suggests that researchers have been overlooking how two key human responses to climate — how much land people choose to farm, and the number of crops they plant — will impact food production in the future. Studies of how climate change might affect agriculture generally look only at crop yields — the amount of product harvested from a given unit of land. But



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climate change may also influence how much land people choose to farm and the number of crops they plant each growing season. A new study takes all of these variables into account, and suggests researchers may be underestimating the total effect of climate change on the world's food supply. The study focused on the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso, where double cropping—the planting of two successive crops in the same field in the same growing season—is common. If the weather is bad, farmers may alter their decision to plant a second crop and may also react to decreasing yields by putting less land area into production because it's simply not profitable. The researchers gathered imagery of the Mato Grosso region from NASA's MODIS satellite, which monitors land cover and land use all over the world. The study showed that temperature increases of 1 degree Celsius were associated with substantial decreases in both total crop area and double cropping. In fact, those decreases accounted for 70 percent of the overall loss in production found in the study. Only the remaining 30 percent was attributable to crop yield. Taken together, the results suggest that traditional studies "may be underestimating the magnitude of the link between climate and agricultural production. That is especially true in places like Brazil, where agricultural subsidies are scarce compared with places like the U.S., where this line of research might be to repeat to see if increased subsidies or insurance help to guard against these kinds of shocks.

- Another study from Leeds University presents a different approach to climate change impact on agriculture with focus on **crop breeding that is not keeping pace with climate change**: crop yields will fall within the next decade due to climate change unless immediate action is taken to speed up the introduction of new and improved varieties. The research focusses on maize in Africa but the underlying processes affect crops across the tropics. Investment in agricultural research to develop and disseminate new seed technologies is one of the best investments to make for climate adaptation. Climate funds could be used to help the world's farmers stay several steps ahead of climate change, with major benefits for global food security.

*Source: Crop Biotech Update*

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### EVENTS & MEETINGS

**SANA, International exhibition of organic and natural products, 9-12 Sept 2016** – Bologna, Italy. Four days devoted to the market for certified organic products, from organic food, to health, to organic and natural cosmetics. SANA is the only specialized event in the organic sector in Italy. To meet the higher demand of spaces, the layout will be completely renewed with an exhibition area of 50,000 square meters, an increase of 50% compared to last year.

*Source: [www.sana.it](http://www.sana.it)*

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