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## Rice Food Safety & Other Facts



Newsletter  
Nr. 38  
August  
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### FOOD SAFETY

#### Rapid Alert System Notifications for Food

date	notification type	notified by	subject
25/06/2014	border rejection	ITALY	carbendazim (0.03 mg/kg - ppm) in basmati rice from Pakistan
25/06/2014	border rejection	SLOVENIA	unauthorised genetically modified rice cakes from China
03/07/2014	information for follow-up	ESTONIA	piperonylbutoxide (2.52; 2.152 mg/kg - ppm) in round rice from Spain
22/07/2014	border rejection	GERMANY	unauthorised genetically modified rice flour from China

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

- More than 100 scientific experts attended EFSA's international workshop on RNAi (ribonucleic acid interference) in genetically modified (GM) plants in Brussels. The event last June provided a unique forum for specialists from four continents to pool knowledge and provide insights on the biology of RNAi, current and future applications of RNAi-based GM plants, and issues specific to their risk assessment. The risk assessment aspects specific to RNAi-based plants were examined focusing on molecular characterisation; food/feed safety assessment; and environmental risk assessment.

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

### GMO & BIOTECH

- According to the report of a researcher of Indiana University - who compiled and compared the GMO labeling philosophies and laws in the US, EU, and South Korea - the current **GMO labeling regulation** that accepts too many labeling exceptions needs to be revised in order to improve the effectiveness of the GMO labeling system and to support the consumers' right to know. With the development of GMOs, GMO trade has also increased. The different attitudes on GMOs among the countries all over the world, have the potential to create international trade conflicts. In order to mediate the conflicts, reasonable labeling and liability systems need to be established to prevent potential GMO risks. The Biosafety Protocol regarding the transboundary movement of GMOs exists to resolve such tensions, but it fails to sufficiently solve the problems and provide clear regulations concerning GMO labeling and liability systems. A successful GMO labeling and liability system should emphasize the precautionary principle and use a cooperative approach that considers all views on GMOs.

Source: [//goo.gl/pDZVWy](http://goo.gl/pDZVWy)

### ORGANIC FOOD, PDO, PGI

The Italian **consumption of organic products** continues to grow, confirming the positive trend in the first five months of this year with a jump in value by 17.3% compared to the same period in 2013. The most significant increase concerns the consumption of pasta, **rice**, pastry. Italy is leader in Europe for number of operators (52,383, 5.4% more than 2012) and cultivated area (1,317,177 hectares, 12.8% more than the previous year).

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



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### LAWS, STANDARDS & AGREEMENTS

- Last July the EU Council adopted its first-reading position on a **draft directive** granting to member states more flexibility to decide whether or not they wish **to cultivate genetically modified organisms** (GMOs) on their territory. The text agreed includes in particular the following elements: the link between the first (EU level application of EU level authorisation) and the second phase (national application in every member state where cultivation is planned); a non-exhaustive list of possible grounds that can be used by member states to restrict or prohibit the authorisations was introduced, including, notably, environmental reasons, socioeconomic reasons, land use and town planning, agricultural policy objectives and public policy issues etc.

*Source: [www.consilium.europa.eu/press](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/press)*

### OTHER NEWS

OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) and (FAO) have recently released **the Agricultural Outlook, 2014-2023**. The commodity, policy and country expertise of both organisations provide an annual assessment of prospects for the coming decade of national, regional and global agricultural commodity markets. Concerning 2014, demand for agricultural products is expected to remain firm although expanding at slower rates compared with the past decade. Cereals are still at the core of human diets, but growing incomes, urbanization and changes in eating habits contribute to the transition of diets that are higher in protein, fats and sugar. In the next decade, livestock and biofuel production are projected to grow at higher rates than crop production. This changing structure of global agricultural production prompts a relative shift toward coarse grains and oilseeds to meet demands for food, feed and biofuel, away from staple food crops like wheat and **rice**. Crop prices are expected to drop for one or two more years, before stabilizing at levels that remain above the pre-2008 period, but significantly below recent peaks. Meat, dairy and fish prices are expected to rise. In real terms, however, prices for both crops and animal products are projected to decline over the medium term. The expected stock-to-use ratios for cereals improve significantly, which should ease concerns about their price volatility.

*Source: [www.oecd-ilibrary.org/agriculture-and-food/oecd-fao-agricultural-outlook-2014\\_agr\\_outlook-2014-en](http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/agriculture-and-food/oecd-fao-agricultural-outlook-2014_agr_outlook-2014-en)*

### EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **8<sup>th</sup> European Organic Congress**, September 10-12, 2014 – Bari, Italy. The congress will offer to the 250 participants the opportunity to share their view on how the new rural development programmes can stimulate greater delivery of public goods and green job creation, how the European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture (EIP-AGRI) will put eco-functional intensification at the heart of the EU productivity and sustainability objectives, how organic and agroecological approaches can contribute to its development.

*Source: [//organic-congress-ifoameu.org](http://organic-congress-ifoameu.org)*

- **2<sup>nd</sup> European Biotech Week**, October 6-12, 2014 - Germany, Italy, United Kingdom, and Switzerland. The European Biotech Week celebrates biotechnology, an innovative and vibrant sector launched by the discovery of the DNA molecule back in 1953. Biotech National Associations, in collaboration with companies, academic and government institutions, science museums and the media, will organize events across Europe, including: science cafes for students, company site visits, seminars for journalists and MPs, even jewellery making and theatrical performances about biotechnology and DNA! Take a look at the "Events" section of the website cited below, to find out what events happened where in Europe and Italy.

*Source: [www.biotechweek.org](http://www.biotechweek.org).*