www.enterisi.it
info@enterisi.it
tel. 02.8855111
fax 02.30131088
P. IVA 03036460156

Rice Food
Safety & Other Facts

Newsletter Nr. 39 October 2014

FOOD SAFETY

Rapid Alert System Notifications for Food

date	notification type	notified by	subject
27/08/2014	border rejection	BELGIUM	unauthorised genetically modified (Cry1Ab) rice vermicelli from China

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

- The EU Commission is investigating the impact of the **traffic light nutrition labelling scheme** used in the UK on free movement of food products within the EU internal market. Such scheme is intended to simplify the nutritional value information displayed on the pack, but it seems to be misunderstood by the consumers. A study carried out in the UK showed that, while three-quarters of consumers said they understood the traffic light food labelling system, the majority answered four out of five questions incorrectly.

Source: www.ansa.it

ORGANIC FOOD, PDO, PGI

The IFOAM **Organic World Congress 2014** will be held in Istanbul, Turkey from October 13 to 15. The IFOAM Organic World Congress is organized every 3 years in a different country. The aim of the congress and surrounding activities (pre-conference, IFOAM General Assembly, side-events and organic exhibition) is to share experiences, innovations, knowledge about the organic world with a special attention on the organizing country. The Congress provides an extraordinary momentum and inspiration for all stakeholders from around the world that are proud to be part. It is *THE* leading event for the development of the organic sector worldwide. The congress will bring together more than 2,500 stakeholders worldwide around the theme "Building Organic Bridges".

Source: www.owc2014.org

SCIENCE & RESEARCH

- With the help of modern genetic technology and the resources of the International Rice GeneBank, which contains more than 112,000 different types of rice, a team of U.S. evolutionary biologists have been able to look back in time and ask whether the same mutations underlay the emergence of the same traits in both **cultivated and weedy rice**. The answers are interesting in their own right but also have practical importance because modern agriculture is radically changing the selection pressures acting on rice. Worldwide, most of the cultivated rice is Asian rice, *Oryza sativa* which was bred from its wild progenitor *Oryza rufipogon* in southern Asia within the past 10,000 years. There was a second domestication event about 3,500 years ago when African cultivated rice (*O. glaberrima*) was bred from the African wild species *O. barthii* in the Niger River delta. When a plant is domesticated, it acquires a suite of traits, called the domestication syndrome, that made it easier to grow as a crop. In rice, the syndrome includes loss of shattering, increase in seed size, and loss of dormancy. The researchers have shown that different mutations of the same genes underlie these traits of both Asian and African cultivated rice. Like domestication, de-domestication, or evolution from the crop species of weedy species that have many wild-like traits, also seems to have happened twice. Moreover, the weeds re-evolved for example the wild ability of shattering by some, as yet unknown, pathway different from the one followed for domestication. The most important part of this story is that the genetic histories of the crops and the weeds are closely

intertwined. This means the weedy forms can draw on both ancestral genes and crop genes as they respond to the selection pressures of modern agriculture.

Source: //pages.wustl.edu/olsen/research/nsf-weedy-rice-project

- With funding from U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) and U.K.'s Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), four projects carried out in USA and UK, are studying the possibilities to reduce the need for artificial fertilizers by enabling **crops to fix their own nitrogen**. Plants need nitrogen to grow, and by 2015, more than 190.4 million tons of it will be needed to supply the world's food. Most farms rely on great quantities of industrially-produced, nitrogen-rich fertilizer to ensure crop yields. Artificial fertilizers are costly and are produced using vast amounts of fossil fuel. They also generate environmental problems from degrading soil to runoff into rivers where they pollute fresh waters and coastal zones. As a result, crops need an alternative from which they can gather needed nitrogen. According to researchers, there is plenty of environmentally-safe nitrogen in the atmosphere, but it is unusable. Atmospheric nitrogen needs to be 'fixed', meaning it needs to be converted into a form that plants can use. These projects could offer technological stepping stones to do just that: to breed plants able to fix atmospheric nitrogen.

Source: www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=128878

LAWS, STANDARDS & AGREEMENTS

- **REGULATION (EU) No 652/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down provisions for the management of expenditure relating to the food chain, animal health and animal welfare, and relating to plant health and plant reproductive material.** Union law provides for requirements regarding food and food safety and feed and feed safety, at all stages of production. The general objective of Union law in those areas is to contribute to a high level of health for humans, animals and plants along the food chain, a high level of protection and information for consumers and a high level of protection of the environment. The pursuit of that general objective requires appropriate financial resource, fixed by means of this Regulation.

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

- The **Nagoya Protocol** on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization will enter into force on 12 October 2014 following its ratification by 51 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol will provide greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources, creating a framework that promotes the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge while strengthening the opportunities for fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their use. Hence, the Protocol will create new incentives to conserve biodiversity, sustainably use its components, and further enhance the contribution of biodiversity to sustainable development and human well-being.

Source: www.cbd.int

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **Conference Working out ABS**, November 24-25, 2014 – Paris, France. The conference will offer interactive panel discussions and workshops on how to implement the new **Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS) Regulation n. 511/2014**, that the EU adopted following the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization. Pressure is on for any company or organization accessing and utilizing genetic resources to comply with the recently adopted EU Regulation. Sectors include pharmaceutical, biotech, agricultural, cosmetics, fragrances, food and beverage, nutritional supplements, industrial enzymes, etc.

Source: www. iccevents.org.