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Rice Food Safety & Other Facts

Newsletter
Nr. 48
April
2016

FOOD SAFETY

Rapid Alert System Notifications for Food

date	notification type	notified by	subject
16/02/2016	information for attention	SWITZERLAND	high content of aluminium (14 mg/kg - ppm) in rice noodles from India
16/02/2016	information for attention	SWITZERLAND	high content of aluminium (32; 49 mg/kg - ppm) in rice noodles from Vietnam
10/03/2016	information for follow-up	GERMANY	unauthorised genetically modified (cry1Ab, cryIAc) long grain rice from Lithuania
10/03/2016	border rejection	ITALY	unauthorised substances acephate (0.03 mg/kg - ppm) and carbendazim (0.08 mg/kg - ppm) in basmati rice from India
15/03/2016	alert	SWEDEN	metal fragments in rice packaged in Germany
15/03/2016	information for attention	SWITZERLAND	high content of aluminium (110 mg/kg - ppm) in rice noodles from South Korea
18/03/2016	information for follow-up	DENMARK	rat droppings in basmati rice from Germany

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

GMO & BIOTECH

A report released by **Information Technology and Innovation Foundation** (ITIF) wants to document how anti-GMO rules and policies could work to perpetuate underdevelopment and poverty in developing economies. Over the past three decades, a number of campaign groups have pressed successfully for restrictions or bans on the growth or import of crops and foods improved through biotechnology. Most recently, in October 2015, 19 European countries announced bans on growing GM crops, despite strong opposition from the scientific community. These restrictions are said to lower farmers' productivity and raise food prices—not just in the countries where the campaigns originate, but in nations that avoid GMO crops so they can export to countries with policies banning or limiting GMOs. Opponents of agricultural biotechnology initially argued that GMOs would benefit only industrialized nations, and would push farmers from developing nations out of the market. On the contrary, according to ITIF, experience and data show that crops improved through biotechnology provide significant benefits for farmers, and restrictions on biotech crops slow the growth of agricultural productivity. This is said to be particularly acute in low-income nations where farmers have less ability to mechanize production and where biotech-improved seeds could offer a low-priced way to boost yields and rural incomes.

Source: [//itif.org/publications](http://itif.org/publications)

ORGANIC FOOD, PDO, PGI

In late March the **National Organic Strategic Plan** has been released by Italian Ministry of Agriculture. The plan includes a series of objectives targeted for the growth of the sector, both in terms of surface devoted to organic agriculture and market improvement, to be achieved by 2020 through a set of specific actions. Starting from the particular stage of development of organic farming in Italy, which takes advantage of the exponential increase (+ 20% in the last year) in domestic consumption, the strategic guidelines have been defined to give an exact address to the development of the sector so as to better coordinate support policies and at the same time give



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concrete answers to the needs of operators. Four are the principles on which the plan is founded: coordination of development initiatives, consumer protection, simplification and research.

Source: www.sinab.it

OTHER NEWS

The **2016 Global Food Policy Report**, the flagship publication of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) has been released on March 31, 2016. The report provides an in-depth look at major food policy developments and events in the past year, and examines key challenges and opportunities for the coming year. The report points out that today's global food system has major weaknesses: nearly 800 million people are left hungry, one-third of the human race is malnourished, over half of some crops never make it to the table, and the planet is ravaged from environmentally unfriendly agricultural practices. It also states that as the global population is expected to soar exponentially in the coming years, various ways must be examined to feed more people efficiently and sustainably, while combatting climate change. The 2016 report takes a look at the latest research on opportunities and challenges the world will face in achieving multiple sustainable development goals. The report includes chapters on climate change and smallholder farmers, sustainable diets, food loss and waste, and water management. The full report is available for download at the address displayed here below.

Source: www.ifpri.org/publication/2016-global-food-policy-report

SCIENCE & RESEARCH

The measuring of crop plants and their response to a changing environment is at the heart of **EMPHASIS - European Multi-Environment Plant Phenomics and Simulation Infrastructure** - a new large-scale European project that is part of the new ESFRI roadmap, in which the member states of the ESFRI Forum (European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures) coordinate research strategies in Europe. What happens inside plants as they respond to environmental stimuli? How does the outward appearance, the phenotype, change in response to temperature and water availability? How does the local environment affect the growth of plants and which characteristics must breeders take into account in future varieties to increase yield and decrease water and nutrient requirements? The project EMPHASIS aims to create an integrated, European network of unique infrastructures for plant phenotyping and breeding. Crops that are important for food security and the bio-economy are the focus of EMPHASIS. One goal is to speed up and improve the breeding of new varieties. After a preparatory phase funded by the EU, EMPHASIS will be implemented in 2018 and will be fully operational in 2020.

Source: [Crop Biotech Update](#)

EVENTS & MEETINGS

18th Cibus International Food Exhibition - 9-12th May - Parma, Italy. An unprecedented number of the largest Italian food companies have signed up for the exhibition, the world's most famous Italian food fair, a showcase uniting the traditional sectors and new trends within the food and beverage industry. Food companies recognize Cibus as a platform that reflects the current market, with its demand for both innovation and authentic tradition.

Source: www.cibus.it