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## Rice Food Safety & Other Facts



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### FOOD SAFETY

#### Rapid Alert System

- Rejection at the Danish border of basmati rice from Pakistan infested with moulds and insects.
- Rejection at the EU border of basmati rice from Pakistan with aflatoxins exceeding maximum levels allowed:

<i>Border of</i>	<i>Aflatoxins levels</i>
Greece	B1 = 6.1; Tot. = 6.6 µg/kg - ppb
United Kingdom	B1 = 3.1; Tot. = 3.4 µg/kg - ppb
Germany	B1 = 9.9; Tot. = 10.7 µg/kg - ppb

- Rejection at the UK border of unauthorised genetically modified (BT63 rice) frozen sesame dumplings from China.
- A notification sent by Austria concerning unauthorised genetically modified (KeFeng6) rice noodles from China, via the Netherlands.

Source: [http://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

European Union Health Commissioner John Dalli has declared that the **European Commission will continue to approve GM crops amidst the current debate on national GMO bans**. He said that the Commission's proposals will permit France and others to pursue their existing "safeguard" bans on adoption of GM crops, in the same way that pro-GMO countries such as Spain and Portugal could move forward in increasing their commercial GMO acreage. Moreover the Commission will propose a technical solution to the EU's zero tolerance policy on traces of unapproved GMOs in animal feed imports to EU.

Source: *Crop Biotech Update*

### OTHER NEWS

FAO launched its second report on **The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**, a sequel to the first report with the same title published 12 years ago. It covers gene bank collection, effects of climate change and what is being done to protect biodiversity in food and agricultural crops. The report emphasized a few interesting findings including the loss of 75 percent crop diversity between 1900 and 2000 and predicts that as much as 22 percent of the wild relatives of important crops may disappear by 2055 because of changing climate. There has been an increase in number of gene banks which now total 1,750 worldwide with about 130 holding 10,000 accessions of agricultural crops. The report called for a broader and better use of genetic resources and biodiversity in food crops that stimulate conservation. New varieties should also be in the hands of farmers by devising adequate systems with public and private sector partnerships.

Source: [www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/core-themes/theme/seeds-pgr/sow/en](http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/core-themes/theme/seeds-pgr/sow/en)

### LAWS, STANDARDS & AGREEMENTS

In the OJ L269/2010 the **Commission Regulation (EU) No 915/2010** was published concerning a coordinated multiannual control programme of the Union for 2011, 2012 and 2013 to ensure compliance with maximum levels of and to assess the consumer exposure to pesticide residues in and on food of plant and animal origin. Pesticides should be monitored in many foodstuffs (including rice) that constitute the major components of the diet in the Community. At least 65 samples of rice have to be taken and analysed by Italy in 2011.

Source: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/it/index.htm>