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Rice Food Safety & Other Facts



Newsletter
Nr. 28

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FOOD SAFETY

Rapid Alert System Notifications for Food

date	Notification type	notified by	subject
25/08/2011	border rejection	UNITED KINGDOM	unauthorised genetically modified (BT 63) rice vermicelli from China, via Hong Kong
01/09/2011	information for follow-up	IRELAND	risotto rice from Italy, via the United Kingdom infested with insects (70 grain weevils (Linnaeus))
02/09/2011	information for follow-up	ITALY	jasmine flavoured rice from Thailand infested with insects
12/09/2011	alert	GREECE	unauthorised genetically modified (Ca MV 35S) rice noodles from China, via Italy
30/09/2011	border rejection	LITHUANIA	hexaconazole (0.05 mg/kg – ppm) in long grain parboiled rice from Vietnam

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

- In Efsa Journal issue of August the updated scientific opinion of the EFSA GMO Panel was published on **Post-Market Environmental Monitoring (PMEM) of Genetically Modified Plants (GMPs)**. For editing this opinion, the EFSA GMO Panel made use of the experience gained from its assessment of applications on GMPs for cultivation and considered different sources of information such as the PMEM reports on cultivated GMPs, relevant scientific literature and stakeholders comments. This scientific opinion aims to clarify the objectives, tasks, tools and requirements for PMEM.

Source: www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/doc/2316.pdf

- The **Comprehensive Food Consumption Database**, published in the Efsa website, is a source of information on food consumption across the EU. It contains data from a total of 32 different dietary surveys from 22 Member States. The database plays a key role in the evaluation of the risks related to possible hazards in food in the EU and allows estimates of consumers' exposure to such hazards, a fundamental step in EFSA's risk assessment work. The database will also be relevant in future for other fields of EFSA's work, such as the assessment of nutrient intakes of the EU population.

Source: www.efsa.europa.eu/en/datexfoodcdb/datexfooddb.htm



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SCIENCE & RESEARCH

- An international team led by Cornell University researchers recently conducted a study based on identifying genetic differences of more than 44,000 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) across 413 diverse *O. sativa* varieties from 82 countries. The researchers found that Asian rice is highly differentiated into five distinct subpopulations or ecotypes (indica, aus, temperate, aromatic and tropical japonica) that have different genetic structures, so diverse that they are almost like different species. Thirty-four traits related to size, shape, plant development and agronomic performance were determined and were analyzed as to which particular traits are associated with the SNPs. Understanding the SNPs that would confer specific traits would help breeders in predicting what crosses to make for yield, grain size, or drought tolerance.

Source: *Crop Biotech Update*

- More than three billion people in the developing world are iron-deficient and billions are at risk of zinc deficiency: in Southeast Asia alone, 57% of the population suffers from iron-deficiency anemia and 71% from zinc deficiency. IRRI is developing high-iron and high-zinc rice that combine high mineral content with grain quality and agronomic traits, such as high yield and pest and disease resistance. Ample genetic diversity in rice for grain zinc content exists and three lines of high-zinc rice have been developed, which are now in advanced yield trials in Bangladesh. IRRI is also looking into management practices that increase zinc uptake of the rice plants so that there is more zinc in the grain.

Source: www.irri.org

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- **5th International European Food and Feed Law Conference: Regulation of Innovations.** Berlin, 6-7 October 2011. The Conferences bring together experts in the area of European food and feed law from various European countries, international organizations and institutions on a regular basis. As such they are targeted at food lawyers working at European and national institutions, industry representatives, economists, academics and private legal practitioners.

Source: www.lexxion.de

- **Food Additives in the European Union. Regulatory and Scientific Developments and Perspectives.** Milan, 25 November 2011. The Conference, organized by NFI - Nutrition Foundation of Italy and the Italian Association of Fine Chemical and Specialty Products - AISPEC, aims at providing a qualified opportunity for examining the status of development of the Community legislation and the results of the work carried out by the European Institutions and EFSA in the sector of food additives, as well as to dedicate specific consideration to additives, such as some food colours and edulcorants, that have received recently particular attention.

Source: www.nutrition-foundation.it