

EIO Exports of US Rice to EU Halted

About once a month, I send out an e-mailing about environmental issues. If you are interested in receiving them, write "Send Mail" and hit reply. There are a number of severe problems in genetic engineering. Some of the organizations copied above can furnish more details. The following has been shortened from its original form.

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Now Foods

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World's Largest Rice Company Halts All Imports from USA Bayer's illegal GE rice continues to inflict damage on US rice industry

AMSTERDAM - September 29 - In yet another blow to the US rice industry, the world's largest rice processing company, Ebro Puleva,(1) which controls 30% of the EU rice market, has confirmed to Greenpeace International that it has stopped all imports of rice from the USA to the EU due to the threat of contamination by genetically engineered (GE) rice.

The move follows a summer of scandals, with illegal GE contamination found in rice products all over Europe. As a result of Bayer's recklessness, the global food industry is facing massive costs associated with this contamination, including testing costs, product recalls, brand damage, import bans and cancelled imports and contracts.

Ebro Puleva has also indicated that it will not consider purchasing from the US until the situation is under control. Instead, the company will purchase rice from other countries, with the exception of China, which continues to have problems with GE contamination of its rice.

In January this year, Bayer's illegal GE LL601 rice was detected in rice intended for export from the US. This variety has not been approved for human consumption anywhere in the world. It has only been grown in field trials that ended in 2001, and yet in September 2006, testing commissioned by Greenpeace and then by various European government agencies showed a broad variety of products on supermarket shelves in Europe had been contaminated by Bayer's illegal GE rice.

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