



कृषि और प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य उत्पाद

निर्यात विकास प्राधिकरण

(वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

**Agricultural and Processed Food Products
Export Development Authority**

(Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India)

ADVISORY ON GM CONTAMINATION IN RICE

The European Commission vide Council Decision 2006/578/EC dated 23rd August, 2006 adopted emergency measures imposing restrictions on import of US long grain rice into the EU after the US authorities informed them that rice products contaminated with the genetically modified rice called 'LLRICE601', which have not been authorized for placing on the European Community market, had been found in rice samples taken on the US market from commercial long grain rice coming from the 2005 crop. As per the measures put in place, any shipment of long grain rice from the US must be laboratory tested and certified free from the unauthorized genetically modified organism (GMO) known as LLRICE601. Samples testing positive shall be notified through Rapid Alert System for food and feed. It is also learnt that GM contaminated rice from China has also been detected. This has aroused serious concern, apart from EU, in other markets as well and rice products are also coming under scrutiny for GM contamination.

While this is a serious matter of global concern, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has confirmed that no transgenic activity in Basmati has thus far been permitted and that a policy decision has been taken by GOI not to permit development of Genetically Modified Basmati. However, contained field trials on certain transgenic rice variety (other than Basmati) are conducted under stringent regulatory and controlled mechanisms. Importation of GM rice into India is also not permitted.

It is, therefore, clarified for the information of all concerned that all rice commercially traded in India is not genetically modified and is free of GM contamination.


(K.S. Money)
Chairman

Place : New Delhi

Dated : 9th October, 2006