



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.08

Required Report - public distribution

**Date:** 10/13/2006

**GAIN Report Number:** EI6010

## Ireland

### Biotechnology

### Traces of LL601 rice found in packaged rice on store shelves

**2006**

**Approved by:**

Besa Kotati  
U.S. Embassy

**Prepared by:**

Michael Hanley

---

**Report Highlights:**

The Food Safety Authority of Ireland, on sampling rice on retail shelves, have found small traces of the GM rice LL601. Stores have withdrawn the product from sale.

---

Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
London [UK1]  
[EI]

The Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI), as the competent authority for GM foods, has been carrying out random sampling and testing of rice in the Irish retail sector in line with the Commission Decision 2006/601/EC. The FSAI notified the European Commission of unfavorable results with respect to an own-brand long grain rice sold by the retail group, Tesco, September 2006. Tesco voluntarily removed all batches of that product from sale in Ireland.

In a meeting with the FSAI, September 28, the Agricultural Minister Counselor learned that the quantity of direct imports of long grain rice from the U.S. was small, and that the majority of Irish imports from the U.S. were transshipped through other EU countries. The FSAI noted that it was continuing to sample rice from retail stores. The FSAI confirmed to the Office of Agricultural Affairs, October 11, it had identified a number of rice products in which GM rice LLRICE 601 was found to be present at low levels.

GM rice was detected at low levels in specific batches of three brands, Nice Price Long Grain Rice produced in the EU for Musgrave Group, Marks & Spencer American Easy Cook Rice product and St. Bernard Easy Cook Rice. Analytical certificates declaring the absence of GM rice LLRICE 601 were available for the St. Bernard and Marks & Spencer products. The FSAI has been in contact with the food companies affected, and all of the affected batches have been voluntarily removed from sale. Marks & Spencer have withdrawn all batches of the affected product along with all American rice products. The Musgrave group has removed all batches of the affected product from sale while Dunnes Stores has removed the specific batch of St. Bernard rice in which the GM rice was identified.

The FSAI continues to reiterate that is satisfied that the presence of low levels of GM rice LLRICE 601 on the market does not pose an imminent threat to consumer health. However as this GM rice is not authorized for food use in the EU, its presence is not tolerated on the market, even at low levels.