

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Italy

**Post:** Rome

### **Agricultural News for Italy EU and World September 2011**

**Report Categories:**

Agriculture in the News

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**Report Highlights:**

Report contains agricultural news items of interest for Italy, the EU and the world for the month of September 2011.

**General Information:**  
**ITALIAN AGRICULTURAL NEWS**  
**SEPTEMBER 2011**

**Papal Honey Business**

Pope Benedict recently received a gift of 500,000 bees from Coldiretti, Italy's largest farmers association, to highlight the importance of protecting the environment. The eight bee hives will be kept on the Pontifical farm in Castelgandolfo, a lakeside Medieval village outside of Rome. The bees are expected to produce around 280 kilos of honey a year. Bees play a vital role in the planet's ecosystem and their disappearance would have disastrous consequences for health and the environment. One third of human food production depends on crops pollinated by insects, eighty percent of which are bees. The Pontifical farm already has 25 dairy cows, 300 hens and 60 cockerels, as well as an ancient olive grove producing three thousand liters of oil a year, an orchard of apricot and peach trees and a greenhouse of ornamental flowers.

*Vatican news service*

**Welcome to FAS Rome's New Interns from Italian Rome University LUISS**

**Alessandra De Luca** graduated from LUISS in 2007 with a Bachelors degree in Political Science and International Relations, and in 2010 with a Masters degree in Political Science. Previous job experience includes an internship with the European Parliament in Brussels.

**Valerio Gori** graduated from LUISS in 2009 with a Bachelors degree in Business Administration and Marketing, and he is currently completing his thesis as part of his Masters degree in International Marketing and Business at the Copenhagen Business School.

**THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**EU Court Determines - Honey Containing GM Pollen is a GM Product**

The European Court of Justice has ruled that honey produced through cross-pollination with a GM crop must be labeled as a GM product, and must be subject to EU GM authorization procedures before being marketed. The EU's top court ruled that a beekeeper in Bavaria, Germany, could not sell honey that had been contaminated by pollen from Monsanto's MON810 maize as it would need full approval under the EU's GMO rules. The decision could result in beekeepers claiming compensation from biotech companies, or from governments themselves. New EU GM co-existence guidelines were issued in July 2010, opening the door for member states to take tougher steps to avoid 'unintended uses' of GMOs. Monsanto MON 810 maize for cultivation was approved by the EU in 1998, (it is mainly grown in Spain, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Romania), and remains the only GM crop authorized for cultivation within the EU. The EU is the world's second largest producer of honey, with output of 200,000 tons a year, although imports account for around 40% of total consumption.

*Agra-net*

### **EU Courts Rule Against French GM Maize Ban**

The European Court of Justice has ruled that France failed to comply with procedural rules when banning the cultivation of Monsanto's GM maize variety Mon810, arguing that France was wrong to base its' ban on the so-called "safeguard clause" (which allows unilateral emergency bans to be put in place as a "protective" measure). To impose such a ban, member states must demonstrate a potentially "clear and serious risk to human health, animal health or the environment." In reaction to the ruling, France said its ban on MON810 maize remains valid but that it would review the legal basis for the embargo if necessary. Meanwhile, EuropaBio, the European association for bio-industries, hailed the ECJ's ruling as a "step towards choice in Europe", noting that Mon810 has been widely cultivated around the world for 15 years with "proven economic, agronomic and environmental benefits".

*Agra Press*

### **FAS Italy Regional REPORTING**

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IT1139 - Preview of the 2011 Italian Wine- Quality Up but Quantity Down

IT1140 - Italian People's Garden Promotes Healthy Eating Abroad

IT1141 - FAS Italy Stimulates Biotech Discussion with Leading Italians

IT1142 - FAS Rome Hosts International Food Defense Capacity Building Team

GR1110 – Greece Dairy Sector Report 2011

BK1111 - FAS Hosts Lunch for BIH SPS Government

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