



## **CONCLUSIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL RICE FORUM VALENCIA**

The cultivation of rice in the European Union is facing many future challenges that the different agents of the sector must address and raise with the administrations:

### **Labeling:**

It is absolutely necessary that the European Commission approves a mandatory labeling, which distinguishes both the origin of the product and the method of production used, in all rice that is marketed in the Community markets, as has already been done in the dairy sector.

This measure would make it possible to differentiate and put in value, towards consumers, the specificity and origin of each of the rice varieties with absolute clarity.

### **Phytosanitary active ingredients:**

The growing limitations imposed by European legislation on the use of phytosanitary active ingredients make it difficult to fight against crop pests and diseases.

The authorities must carry out a general rethinking based on strictly scientific criteria before decreeing the suppression of products, in order to diminish the evident influence of strongly ideological visions.

It is essential to lighten the heavy bureaucratic burden and harmonize the laws of the different EU countries on the authorization of active substances.

It is urgent to regulate the market rules in this chapter to avoid differences in the cost of the same phytosanitary product in different EU countries. Also, the prices must be published to the market before January 31 of each year.

It is not acceptable for the European Union to allow the entry of rice from other latitudes treated with products that are banned in Europe.

### **Investigation**

Betting on the development of new and more productive varieties, which are adapted to the market demands and that are resistant to diseases, such as *Pyricularia oryzae*. In the development of these varieties, it is essential to have new genetic editing techniques, such as CRISPR, which are being used successfully in other producing countries.

In general, it seems necessary to create a favorable climate to boost research and innovation based on strictly scientific criteria.