

Issue | July 2025



NEWS LETTER

Dear Safefood-Online users,

In July, the number of RASFF notifications increased by around 20% to 485. As usual, you will find the corresponding analyses under point 1.

Under "News on residues and contaminants" (point 2) we inform about the EFSA re-evaluation of the risks of styrene in food contact materials. The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) has published a communication on chlorinated paraffins.

The EU Commission proposes new maximum levels for ethephon, propamocarb and dimoxystrobin and increases with a new regulation the maximum residue limits for some pesticides.

News on the topics of food safety and food fraud can be found under point 3.

Topic of the month (point 4) is the OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2025-2034.

The European Commission is planning to ban 29 traditional names for meat and meat products for purely plant-based products. The [draft regulation](#) is part of the revision of Regulation (EU) 1308/2013 on the common organisation of the markets in agricultural products. The designations that will no longer be permitted for vegan products include, for example, beef, chicken, ribs, wings and breast.

The proposal has already triggered heated discussions. The European Vegetarian Union (EVU) does not believe that this proposal has anything to do with consumer protection and transparency.

Numerous data from several EU countries show that consumers are not confused by the use of "meat names" for plant-based products ([study by the European Consumers' Organisation, BEUC](#)).

We hope that also this issue of the Safefood-Online Newsletter is interesting for you and we are of course looking forward to your feedback.

Your Safefood-Online Team

1. RASFF-Notifications in Safefood-Online: July 2025

Compared to June, the number of new RASFF notifications slightly increased:

- **July 2025:** 485
- June 2025: 431
- May 2025: 392

The RASFF-notifications are divided as follows:

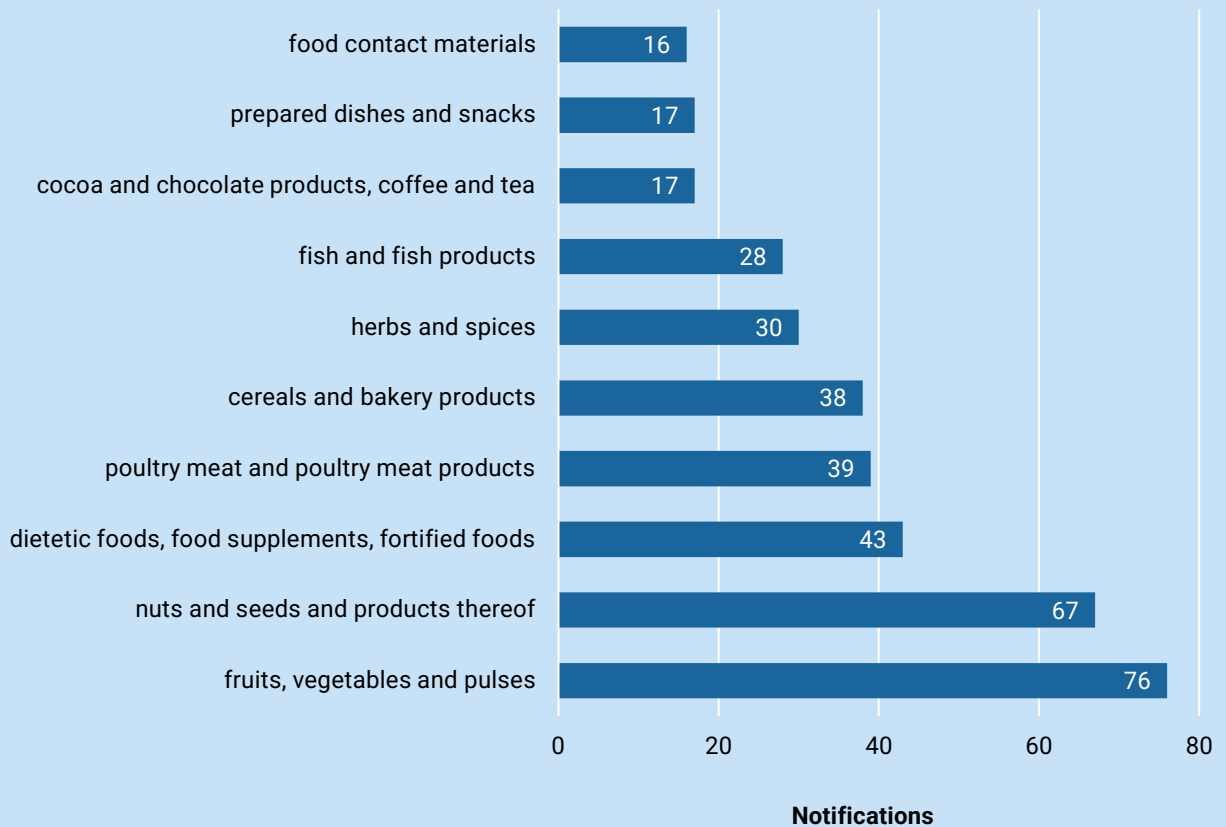
- Alert notifications: 147
- Border rejections: 118
- Information messages: 220



The product category fruit, vegetables and pulses is in first place in the evaluation by product category with 76 notifications. 45 notifications concerned pesticides. The product category nuts, seeds and products thereof is following in second place with 67 notifications. In this product category 37 notifications are due to mycotoxins. Dietary foods, food supplements and fortified foods are in third place with 43 notifications:

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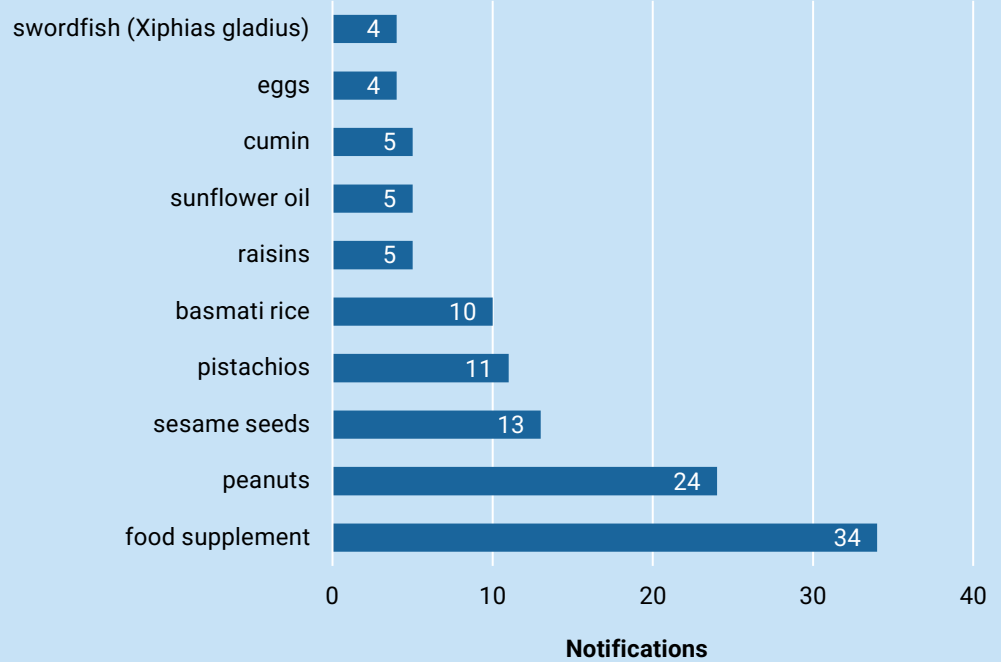
RASFF-Notifications July 2025: Top 10 product categories



In the evaluation by product, food supplements were in first place in July with 34 notifications. Peanuts and sesame seeds are following in second and third place with 24 and 13 notifications:

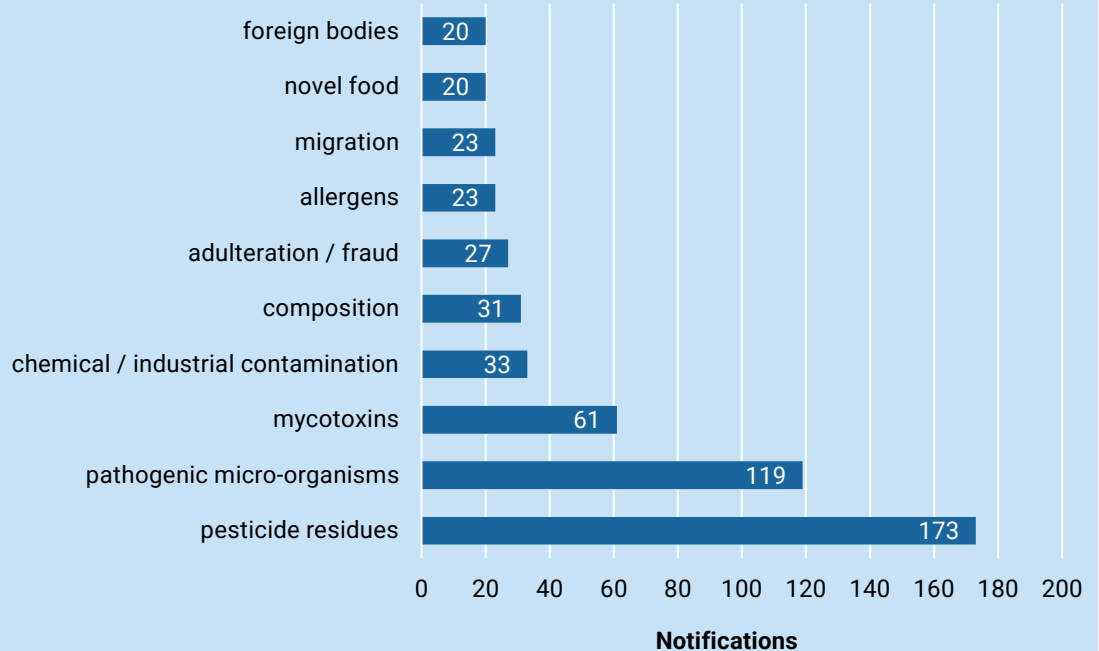
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RASFF-Notifications July 2025: Top 10 products



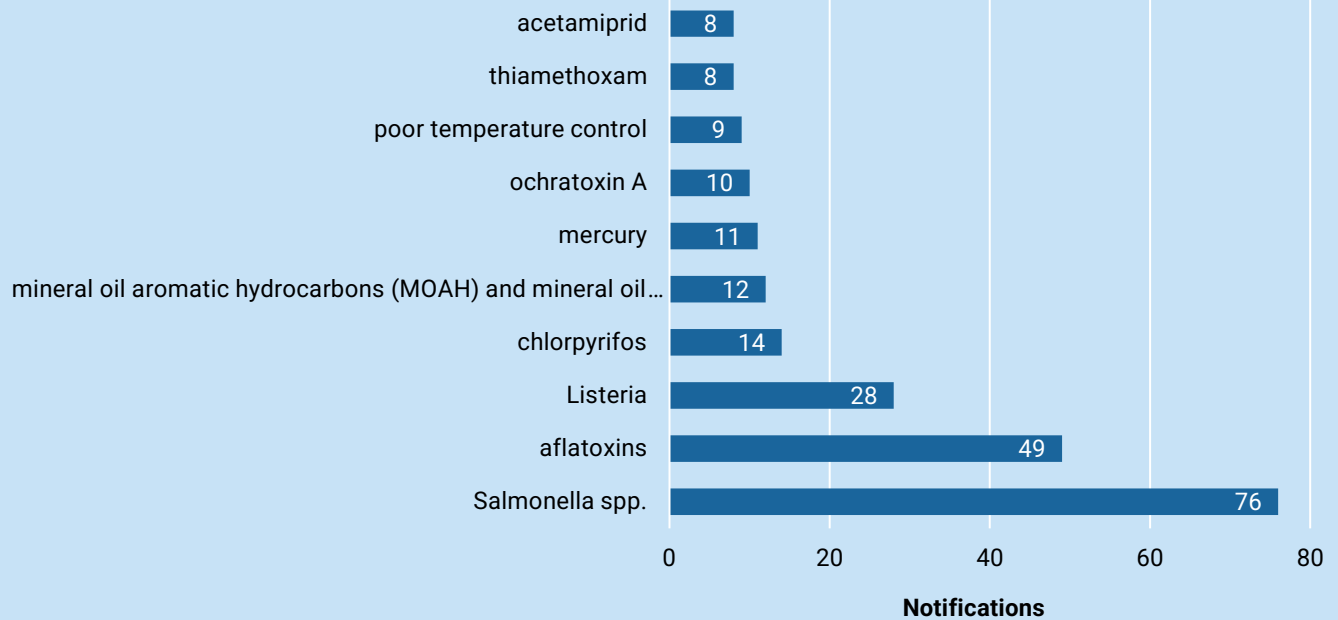
In the evaluation by hazard category, pesticides were in first place in July with 173 cases where the maximum residue limit was exceeded and/ or unauthorised pesticides were found notifications. 5 notifications regarding cumin had 35 cases. With 3 notifications, vine leaves and vine leaves in brine are not among the top 10 in the evaluation by product. Here we saw 22 cases of maximum residue limits being exceeded and/ or unauthorised pesticides being found. In second place are pathogenic micro-organisms with 119 notifications and in third place are mycotoxins with 61 notifications:

RASFF-Notifications July 2025: Top 10 hazard categories



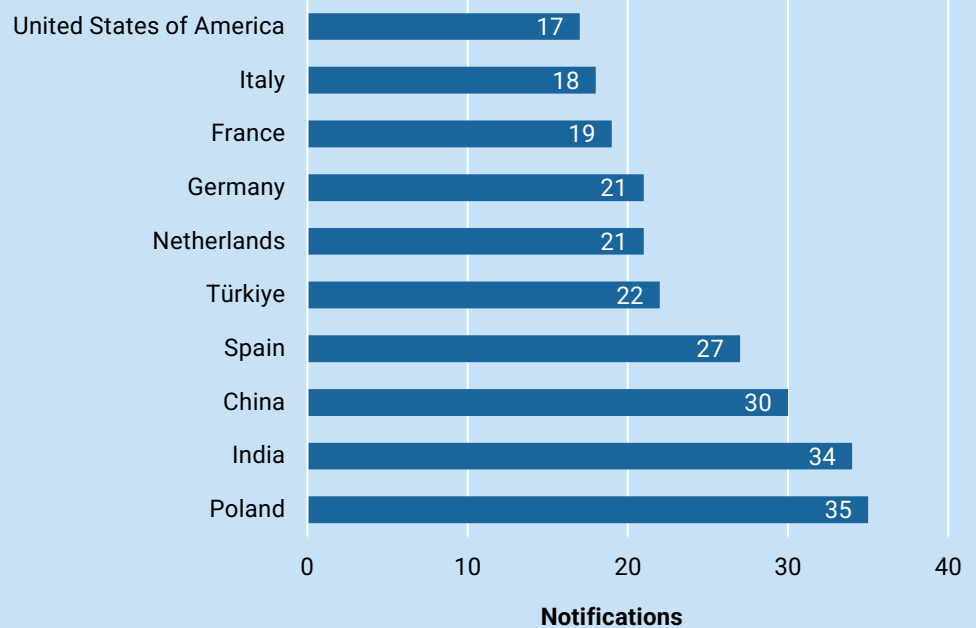
In terms of hazards, Salmonella are in first place with 76 notifications, followed by aflatoxins with 49 notifications. 24 notifications concerned peanuts and 10 notifications pistachios. Listeria are in third place with 28 notifications:

RASFF-Notifications July 2025: Top 10 hazards



Finally, the evaluation of the notifications according to the country of origin of the products:

RASFF Notifications July 2025: Top 10 countries of origin



Poland is in first place with 35 notifications, followed by India and China in second and third place with 34 and 30 notifications.

2. Update on pesticides and contaminants



EFSA: Re-assessment of the risks of styrene present in plastic food contact materials

EFSA has updated the **risk assessment of styrene** and has concluded that there are no health risks associated with the oral intake of styrene through transfer from food contact materials to food. The German BfR published a corresponding **communication** on 17 July 2025.

Chlorparaffins in food

On July 17, the German BfR published a **communication on chlorinated paraffins (CP)**. Based on the current state of knowledge there are no adverse health effects due to the low intake level. In view of the fact that the last **EFSA assessment** dates back to 2020 and a lot of new findings and data have been collected since then, the BfR suggests a re-evaluation. It should also be noted that both the BfR communication and the EFSA assessment refer to short- and medium-chain CPs. The analysis of long-chain CP (LCP) is relatively complex. There are therefore only a few test results and risk assessments. With regard to LCPs, the EFSA stated that "no data were submitted for LCCPs. Therefore, no robust exposure assessment and consequently no complete risk characterisation could be performed". A preliminary risk characterisation was carried out based only on the consumption of fish. The calculated exposure ranges indicate that there are no health concerns for this limited scenario.

The European Commission has submitted a **draft proposal** to reduce the maximum residue levels for carbendazim and thiophanate-methyl to the limit of determination (0.01mg/kg) for oranges, grapefruits, mangoes and papayas.

For further information, please refer to the linked draft proposal.

Proposal for new maximum residue levels for ethephon, propamocarb und dimoxystrobin

The European Commission has presented a **draft regulation** to reduce the maximum residue level for ethephon for a large number of foodstuffs. In particular for blueberries and nuts (with the exception of hazelnuts and walnuts), the maximum residue level is to be reduced to 0.01 mg/kg. The amendments are based on the **EFSA- risk assessment for ethephon** and **the review of the maximum residue limits (MRLs) for ethephon**. Changes to the maximum levels for propamocarb and dimoxystrobin are also proposed. The new limits are to apply from January 2026.

Regulation (EU) 2025/1305

With **Regulation (EU) 2025/1305**, the EU is increasing the maximum residue limits for the following pesticides from July 23, 2025:

- Azoxystrobin in melons and watermelons
- Hexythiazox in blackberries and raspberries
- Isoxaben in dried beans and peas
- Propamocarb in radishes and rocket/arugula
- Tefluthrin in certain roots and tubers

There have also been changes and corrections to:

- Amidosulfuron
- picloram

Further information on the new regulations can be found in the linked regulation text.



Food Safety

- 🕒 Re-evaluation of neotame (E 961) as food additive
- 🕒 The latest UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) annual data shows a significant rise in *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* infections in England compared to the previous year
- 🕒 Switzerland: Report on the monitoring of zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks
- 🕒 Finland records rise in recalls and outbreaks
- 🕒 A survey on consumer confidence in food safety in the Netherlands has revealed a more negative picture in 2025 compared to previous editions.
- 🕒 EFSA: Risk assessment of PFAS from non-commercially produced chicken eggs in the Netherlands: Results show that these eggs may contain high levels of PFASs
- 🕒 EFSA: Based on the available data, no safe exposure level can be established for estragole. The consumption of fennel seed preparations may pose a health risk, especially for infants and young children
- 🕒 The European Commission has authorised a new genetically modified soybean variety for use in food and animal feed. The authorisation is valid for 10 years
- 🕒 Microplastics in the brain? German BfR evaluates new study - so far, no evidence of health risks
- 🕒 Updated consumer risk assessment of fluoride in food and drinking water including the contribution from other sources of oral exposure
- 🕒 Tighter EU import conditions for Egyptian potatoes to prevent the introduction of *Ralstonia solanacearum* (bacterial wilt of potato)
- 🕒 European Union authorises the sale of roasted baru nuts (*Dipteryx alata*) on the EU market as Novel Food. Baru nuts are a traditional foodstuff in Brazil
- 🕒 One person has died in a *Listeria* outbreak linked to ready meals in the Republic of Ireland
- 🕒 Monitoring programme for pharmaceuticals, illegal substances, contaminants and microbiology in aquatic products imported to Norway from third countries
- 🕒 US: Bird flu? Don't worry, we fired the scientists!

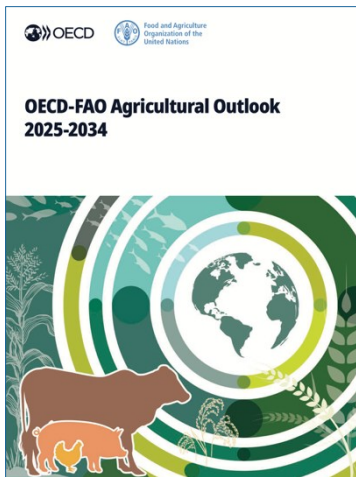


- 🕒 The extent of substitution in seafood commerce in Peru
- 🕒 Global insights into food fraud from location-based analysis: food adulteration in Turkey
- 🕒 Food fraud is getting easier, but the tools to catch it are getting smarter. From AI-powered sensors to smart packaging, technology is reshaping how adulteration and mislabelling are detected

Food Fraud

- 🕒 Detection of adulteration in chilli powder
- 🕒 Increase in food fraud due to supply chain disruptions and economic pressures
- 🕒 Quantitative analysis based on image processing combined with machine learning and deep learning to determine the adulteration in nutmeg powder
- 🕒 Olive oil fraud: Experts discuss climate, supply chain and counterfeiting challenges
- 🕒 EU Agri-Food Fraud Suspicions May 2025
- 🕒 R Unscrupulous traders in Bangladesh artificially increase the weight of shrimps by injecting foreign substances, which harms the economy and jeopardises the health of consumers
- 🕒 Cod sold in some European supermarkets is often mislabelled, according to a new study. Samples of cod sold in Germany, Spain, France and the United Kingdom show that around 30 per cent of it comes from a different area.
- 🕒 Poland: The European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) arrests six suspects as part of an investigation into members of a religious group suspected of fraudulently selling food for refugees and poor people

OECD/ FAO Agricultural Outlook 2025-2034



Source: OECD/ FAO

On July 15, 2025, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) presented the **joint report on the development of agricultural markets 2025-2034**.

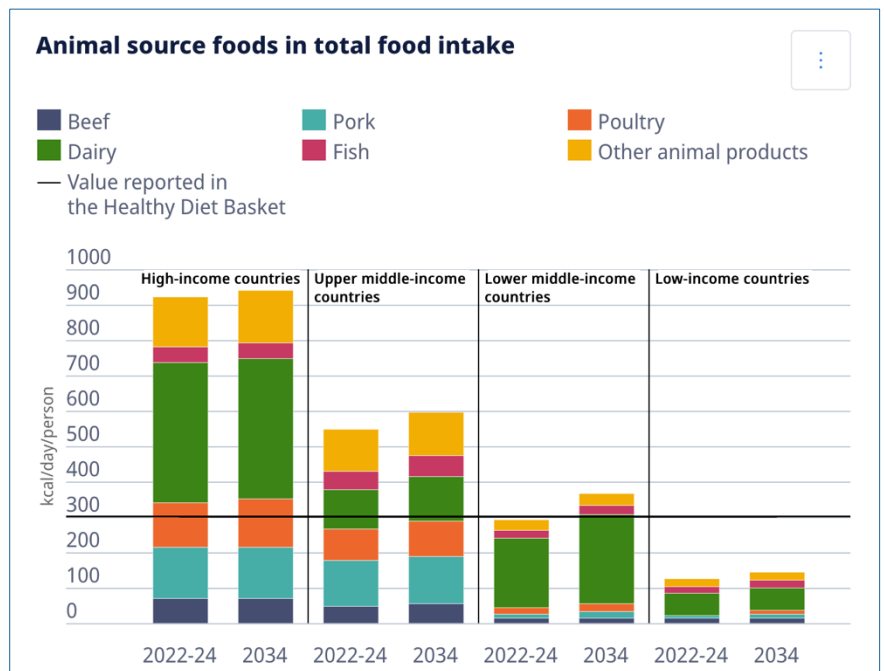
The key messages of the report are:

- **Rising incomes:** In middle-income countries, the consumption of animal products will increase by 6% by 2034. In lower middle-income countries, an increase to 25% is predicted. In low-income countries, however, it will remain very low (143 kcal per day)
- **Production:** Agricultural and fish production grows by 14%, mainly due to productivity increases, but this leads to a 6% increase in greenhouse gas emissions
- **Scenario analysis:** Malnutrition could be eliminated and emissions reduced by 7% if productivity were to increase by 15% and low-emission technologies were used
- **Trade:** Based on nutritional value, 22% of all calories will be traded internationally by 2034; multilateral cooperation is crucial for food security
- **Prices and pressure on farmers:** Falling agricultural prices put pressure on small farmers in particular; efficiency, use of technology and better access to markets and knowledge are necessary to secure income.

Further development:

- **Cereal production:** Global production will grow by 1.1 % annually until 2034, mainly due to higher yields (+0.9 %/year); the area under cultivation will only grow slightly (+0.14 %/year)
- **Use of grain:** 40% is consumed directly by humans, 33% is used as animal feed, the rest goes to biofuels and industry
- **Biofuels:** Demand is growing by 0.9% per year, especially in Brazil, India and Indonesia
- **Sub-Saharan Africa:** huge productivity potential; cattle herds three times as large as in North America, but only 1/10 of the output per animal

- Consumption: India and Southeast Asia drive 39% of global growth (compared to 32% previously); China's share falls from 32% to 13%
- Consumption in rich countries: Fats and sweeteners are consumed less per capita due to changing preferences, policies and health awareness.



Source: OECD/ FAO

Feedback

Please forward your suggestions, questions and requests regarding this newsletter directly to:
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