

# Monthly Summary of Articles on Food Fraud

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## Food Fraud Cases

Fifty restaurants in Rome have been accused of using vegetable oils adulterated with beta-carotene and chlorophyll to look like olive oil. Customers were deceived in thinking restaurants were using authentic olive oil.

[Roma Today minuto](#)   [Roma Puls24](#)   [Vrt](#)   [Teatro naturale Il Giornale](#)   [Dissapore Italia chiama Italia](#)   [Noticias o Noticias o](#)



Italy



Fats and oils



Adulteration/ Product tampering

The authorities seized 31.55 tons of contraband rice.

[The Star](#)



Kenya



Cereals and bakery products



Grey market

The authorities seized 50 tons of spices and condiments not suitable for human consumption and adulterated with waste from canning factories, corn seeds, subsidized oil and colourings.

[Webdo](#)



Tunisia



Herbs and spices  
Soups, broths, sauces and condiments



Adulteration/ Product tampering

The authorities seized 24 000 bottles of smuggled alcoholic beverages.

[Punch Ng](#)



Nigeria



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

The authorities seized 32.5 tons of contraband milk powder.

[Food Safety Africa](#) [Togolais info](#)



Kenya



Milk and milk products



Grey market

The authorities seized in total 480.1 tons of smuggled parboiled rice.

[Daily Trust](#) [Punch Ng](#) [Guardian](#)



Nigeria



Cereals and bakery products



Grey market

Three people died after consuming illegal alcoholic beverages adulterated with methanol.

[Mes vaccins](#)



Iran



Alcoholic beverages



Adulteration/ Product tampering

Grey market

Four people died after consuming adulterated alcoholic beverages.

[Noticias uol](#)



Tunisia



Alcoholic beverages



Adulteration/ Product tampering

Between November and December 2023, the authorities seized 46 000 litres of olive oil mislabelled as of superior quality, or without documentation.

[Il Fatto Alimentare](#) [QdS](#) [Il giorno](#) [Giornale L'ora](#) [Wine News](#)  
[Firenze Today](#) [Breaking Latest News](#) [Green Me](#) [Fanpage](#) [Il Giornale](#)



Italy



Fats and oils



Adulteration/ Product tampering

Grey market

The authorities seized 7.5 tons of olives and 1 500 litres of olive oil without any traceability documentation.

[CivOnline](#)

The authorities seized 35 in total tons of rice meant for the Public Distribution System (PDS).

[Uni India](#) [Times of India](#) [The Hindu](#)



India



Cereals and bakery products



Grey market

In the "Operation Matsu" the authorities (Civil Guard and Carabinieri) dismantled a criminal organisation taking canned tuna from the Italian market, relabelling them in unsanitary conditions and reintroducing the fraudulent products into the market with a new label, health registration and expiration date. In many cases (33/40) olive oil was in reality sunflower oil or pomace oil. The authorities also seized 45 000 litres of olive oil and 120 000 cans of tuna. Most of the preserved cans seized were intended to supply small businesses and large food chains in Spain and Italy mainly during the Christmas holidays.

[Cadena ser](#) [Euroweekly News](#) [La Rioja](#) [GreenMe](#) [Il](#)



Spain/ Italy



Fish and fish products



Document forgery  
Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/  
Misbranding

An investigation by the Direction générale de la concurrence, de la consommation et de la répression des fraudes (DGCCRF), carried out in 2019, revealed an anomaly rate of 29.5% in the butter chain. In total, 129 establishments were inspected and 89 laboratory



France



Milk and milk products

analyses carried out. This gave rise to 30 warnings – mainly for excessively high water contents and non-compliant labelling – 7 injunctions (return to compliance) and 1 criminal report drawn up for destruction of seals.

[TF1Info](#) [Il Salvagente](#)

The authorities seized in total 355 500 litres of milk adulterated with formalin, powder, and/or water.

[Urdu Point](#) [App](#) [App](#) [The News](#) [Urdu Point](#) [App](#) [The Nation](#)  
[Urdu Point](#) [App](#)

The Czech Agriculture and Food Inspection Authority (SZPI) analysed 21 samples of olive oil, identifying a non-compliance rate of 67% (14 out of 21). Some samples were mislabelled as “extra-virgin olive oil”, stating a quality superior to the real one, or they presented deficiencies in the labelling.

[Food Safety News](#)

The authorities seized 5 tons of adulterated amchoor and 2.7 tons of adulterated chooran prepared without proper hygienic conditions.

[Urdu Point](#)

The authorities seized 40 tons of contraband corn.

[AgroCampana](#)

The authorities seized in total 17 600 bottles of contraband liquor.

[Deviscourse](#) [Indian Express](#) [The Hindu](#) [Uni India](#) [Uni India](#)



The authorities seized in total 35 tons of contraband sugar.

[Ani News](#) [Devdiscourse](#) [Ani News](#) [Myanmar News](#) [Cambodian Times](#)  
[Sri Lanka Source](#) [Nigeria Sun](#) [Long Beach Star](#) [Northern](#)  
[Ireland News](#) [Manila Metro](#) [Singapore Star](#)

The authorities seized 2 tons of pasta and sauces without traceability documentation.

[Giornale L'ora](#)



 Adulteration/ Product tampering  
Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/  
Misbranding

 Pakistan  
 Milk and milk products

 Adulteration/ Product tampering

 Czechia  
 Fats and oils

 Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/  
Misbranding




 Pakistan  
 Herbs and spices

 Adulteration/ Product tampering

 Argentina  
 Cereals and bakery products  
 Grey market

 India  
 Alcoholic beverages  
 Grey market

 India  
 Other food products/  
mixed  
 Grey market

 Italy  
 Cereals and bakery products  
Soups, broths, sauces  
and condiments  
 Grey market

The authorities seized 1780 litres of contraband alcohol from Luxembourg.

[L'essentiel](#)



France



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

The authorities seized 164.8 tons of contraband meat (beef and pork), for a total value of 507 000 Euros.

[The Star](#)



Malaysia



Meat and meat products  
(other than poultry)



Grey market

The authorities seized 5 300 litres of contraband liquor.

[El Tiempo](#)

[El Pais](#)



Colombia



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

The authorities seized 21 tons of fish smuggled from Russia.

[24.kg](#)



Kyrgyzstan



Fish and fish products



Grey market

The authorities seized 6 300 litres of expired and substandard oil used by food points.

[App](#)

[Urdu Point](#)

[Daily Times](#)

[The Nation](#)



Pakistan



Fats and oils



Adulteration/ Product  
tampering

Punjab Food Authority seized 10 000 litres of cooking oil made up of inedible poultry offal and bones.

[App](#)

The authorities of the French Guiana seized 1.5 tons of contraband fruits and vegetables from Brazil.

[France Guyane](#)



France



Fruits and vegetables



Grey market

Zambia Revenue Authority seized 2000 of smuggled alcoholic beverages (total value of 143 000 Euros).

[Daily Mail](#)



Zambia



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

The authorities seized 12 tons of substandard, expired and unhygienic meat and adulterated spices.

[Urdu Point](#)

[The News](#)



Pakistan



Meat and meat products  
(other than poultry)

Poultry meat and poultry  
meat products



Adulteration/ Product  
tampering

The authorities seized 3 000 litres of contraband cooking oils from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

[Chimp Reports](#)



Uganda



Fats and oils



Grey market

## Other interesting articles

### Overview of 42 years of food fraud cases

A peer-reviewed article presents an overview of the most recurrent food fraud-related adulterations from more than 15 500 records registered in more than forty years. Dairy, seafood, meat, herbs and spices are particularly prone to fraud.

[Journal of Food Protection](#)      [Food Authenticity Global](#)

### Food safety and fraud risks in the insect protein supply chain

A peer-reviewed scientific article analyses the vulnerabilities of edible insects by mapping the related supply chain. The main food safety concern was identified in the feed substrate, whereas novel processing techniques could trigger fraudulent activities.

[Science of Food](#)      [Food Authenticity](#)

The Food Fraud Monthly Report is drafted by the JRC Geel Unit F.4 “*Food Integrity*” with the support of the JRC Ispra Unit T.5 “*Text and Data Mining*”.

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