

March 2023

# Monthly Summary of Articles on Food Fraud and Adulteration

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*Disclaimer: The presentation of articles reflects their media coverage. In any case, it does not reflect the frequency of food fraud in a particular country and/or concerning a specific food product. The European Commission does not take any responsibility for the validity of the information extracted from the media channels scanned. The views expressed shall not be regarded as stating an official position of the European Commission.*

## Food Fraud Cases

In 2021, the European Commission organised the EU coordinated action called “From the Hives” to assess the prevalence on the market of imported honey adulterated with sugars. Almost half (46%) of the 320 samples were suspicious of not complying with the provisions of the “Honey Directive”.

[JRC 1](#) [JRC 2](#) [DG SANTE](#) [OLAF](#) [Video](#) [Rtbf](#) [Le Figaro](#) [La Nacion](#)  
[Huffington post](#) [Opovo](#) [Euronews](#) [De Peru](#) [Euractiv](#) [Food Monitor](#)  
[Europa press](#) [Foodwatch](#) [Ansa](#) [Forbes](#) [Telegraph](#) [Food Ingredients First](#)  
[The Irish Examiner](#) [Food Navigator](#) [Food Safety Africa](#) [Nouvelles du monde](#)  
[Agence Europe](#) [L’Avenir](#) [Rtl](#) [Dvenik](#) [Plavakamerica](#) [Notre](#)  
[Planete](#) [Reussir](#) [Capital](#) [Radio France](#) [Terre.net](#) [Fulda Info](#) [Guestsel](#)  
[Agar pressportal](#) [Near bees](#) [Tages schau](#) [Greek Reporter](#) [Liberal](#)  
[Agrifood Today](#) [L’Essentiel](#) [Veridica](#) [La Voz de Galicia](#) [Deia](#) [La](#)  
[Vanguardia](#) [Agro Informacion](#) [La Razon](#) [Report](#) [Folha](#) [The Japan](#)  
[Times](#) [Haberler](#) [The Guardian](#) [UK Daily News](#) [Barrons](#) [Il Fatto](#)  
[Quotidiano](#) [Revista Alimentaria](#)



EU



Honey and royal jelly



Adulteration/ Product tampering

The authorities seized 20 tons of contraband refined wheat flour (maida).

[PakObserver](#)



Pakistan



Cereals and bakery products



Grey market

The authorities seized 9 tons of meat products without any label and (in some cases) expired.

[Ansa](#) [News Novara](#) [Novara Today](#) [L’Adige](#) [Espansione TV](#) [Giornale di](#)  
[Brescia](#) [Notizie Tiscali](#) [Zoom24](#) [VareseNoi](#) [Euronews](#)  
[Informazione online](#)



Italy



Meat and meat products (other than poultry)  
Poultry meat and poultry meat products



Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

The authorities seized 382 tons of wheat seeds without their Intellectual Property Right certification (total value of 300 000 Euros) and without paying the companies holding the rights for those plant varieties.

[Agenparl](#) [Tuscia Web](#) [Giornale di Sicilia](#) [Il Metropolitan](#) [Quotidiano di Puglia](#)  
[Meridiana Notizie](#) [Quotidiano di Puglia](#) [Resto al Sud](#) [News Sicilia](#) [Ital press](#) [Il Fatto Nisseno](#) [Notizie Tiscali](#) [L'Eco del Sud](#) [QdS](#) [Blog Sicilia](#) [Vivi Enna](#) [Italia a Tavola](#) [Grandangolo Agrigento](#) [TeleNicosia](#) [Quotidiano di Gela](#) [Itaca Notizie](#) [Tempo Stretto](#) [La Ragione](#) [Adnkronos](#)  
[Alto Adige](#)



The authorities seized in total 12 905 litres of milk contaminated with polluted water, urea formalin and other hazardous ingredients.

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



The authorities seized 112 tons of contraband sugar.

[Dawn](#)



The authorities seized 1 776 bottles of contraband liquor.

[The Hindu](#)



The authorities seized 3 600 bottles of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL).

[The Hindu](#)



The authorities seized 2 400 litres of contraband liquor.

[Urdu Point](#)



The authorities seized 1 ton of smuggled pork.

[Eadt](#)

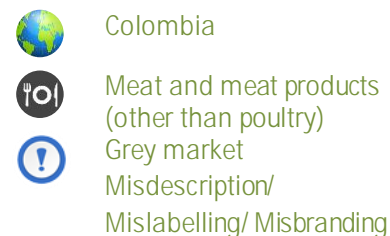


The authorities seized 3 tons of contraband fish.

[Le Mauricien](#)

The authorities seized almost 1 ton of horse meat (total value of almost 1 000 Euros) slaughtered illegally and ready to be sold as beef.

[Breaking latest](#)



The authorities seized in total 94.4 tons of contraband rice or rice meant for the public distribution system (PDS).

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



India



Cereals and bakery products



Grey market

The authorities seized 266.4 tons of contraband parboiled rice.

[Guardian](#)



Nigeria



Cereals and bakery products



Grey market

In January and February, the authorities seized 337 tons of contraband rice.

[Tvc News](#)

One person died after consuming alcohol adulterated with methanol.

[Infobae](#) [Tele Amazonas](#) [Ecuavisa](#) [Opinion](#) [el Comercio](#)



Ecuador



Alcoholic beverages



Adulteration/ Product tampering

The authorities discovered a major fraud in the meat sector. A supermarket chain sold beef from South America and Europe mislabelled as “best British beef”.

[BBC](#) [BBC](#) [The Guardian](#) [Fwi](#) [Daily Mail](#) [The Sun](#) [Dunmow Broadcast](#) [The Courier](#) [Belfast Telegraph](#) [The Impartial Reporter](#) [Press and Journal](#) [York Press](#) [South Wales Argus](#) [Irish Farmer Journal](#) [Your local guardian](#) [News & Star](#) [Oxford Mail](#) [Glasgow Times](#) [The Standard](#) [Great Yarmouth Mercury](#) [Eastern Daily Press](#) [Evening Standard](#) [KentOnline](#) [East Anglian Daily Times](#) [Daily Echo](#) [HertsAd](#) [Independent](#) [Express](#) [Agriland](#) [iNews Farmers Weekly](#) [Wales Online](#) [Hull Daily Mail](#) [DevonLive](#) [Agriland](#) [Somerset Live](#) [Oxford Mail](#) [York Press](#) [Mirror](#) [Your local guardian](#) [The Northern Echo](#) [Farming UK](#) [The Argus](#) [Andover Advertiser](#) [Salisbury Journal](#) [Glasgow Times](#) [Telegraph & Argus](#) [CornwallLive](#) [Evening Standard](#) [Just Food](#) [South Wales Argus](#) [The Sun](#) [EuroWeekly News](#) [Fwi](#) [Daily Mail](#) [Mirror](#) [Just Food](#) [Mirror](#) [Impartial](#) [Reporter Farmers Journal](#) [Hertford Shire Mercury](#) [Nottingham Post](#) [Farming UK](#) [Agriland](#) [Food Manufacture](#) [The Sun](#) [News&Star](#) [Fwi](#) [Just food](#) [Fwi](#) [Fwi](#) [Derbyshire Live](#) [Derby Telegraph](#) [BBC News](#) [Just Food](#) [The Star](#) [Derby Telegraph](#) [Just food](#)



United Kingdom



Meat and meat products (other than poultry)



Misdescription/ Mislabelling/ Misbranding

The Food Standard Agency (FSA) reported that a rogue supplier sold foreign rotting pork, falsely labelled as British, for two decades.

[BBC](#) [BBC](#) [The Guardian](#) [The Guardian](#) [Fwi](#) [Noti Ulti](#) [Belfast Telegraph](#) [Your local Guardian](#) [Independent](#) [York Press](#) [The Courier](#) [The Impartial Reporter](#) [News & Star](#) [Edp](#) [Glasgow Times](#) [Daily Echo](#) [KentOnline](#) [Oxford Mail](#) [South Wales Argus](#) [HertsAd](#) [East Anglian Daily Times](#) [Evening News24](#) [Dunmow Broadcast](#) [The Standard](#) [The Argus](#) [Great Yarmouth](#) [Mercury](#) [Connaught Telegraph](#) [Offaly Independent](#) [Meath Chronicle](#) [Breaking News](#) [Nouvelle du monde](#) [The Sun](#) [Noti Ulti](#) [Express](#) [Independent](#) [Mirror](#) [Independent](#) [Agrarheute](#) [Metro](#) [Standard](#) [Just food](#) [Telegraph](#) [Affidia Journal](#) [Mirror](#) [First post](#) [Nouvelles du monde](#) [Itv](#) [Daily Mail](#) [Chronicle Live](#) [Securing Industry](#)

The authorities seized 28 tons of contraband flour from Argentina (total value of 14 200 Euros).

[El Pais](#)



Bolivia



Cereals and bakery products



Grey market

The authorities seized in total 3.6 tons of seafood (including red tuna) illegally fished.

[News Sicilia](#) [QdS](#) [Agrigento Oggi](#) [Giornale di Sicilia](#) [Blog Sicilia](#)  
[Palermo Today](#) [Il Fatto Nisseno](#) [Giornale di Sicilia](#)

The authorities seized in total 6 650 sea urchins without traceability documentation.

[AmbienteAmbienti](#) [Lecce Sette](#) [Unione Sarda](#) [Ansa](#) [Sardinia Post](#)  
[Cagliari Pad](#)

The authorities discovered a factory producing dry milk and food cereals for kids counterfeiting the labels from famous brands. The authorities also seized 1 ton of dry milk and 500 kg of tea leaves.

[Urdu Point](#)

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (Mapa) carried out a campaign to analyse adulteration in honey samples collected in retail stores. 14% of 99 samples presented adulteration by C-4 sugars, and 31.5% of 109 samples were non-compliant for levels of hydroxymethylfurfural and amylase.

[Gov.br](#) [Progresso](#) [Revista Negocio Rural](#) [Correio do povo](#)

The authorities seized 87.7 tons of ghee and vegetable oils from an illegal warehouse.

[Urdu Point](#)

The authorities seized 85 000 litres (from 13 brands) of mixture of vegetable oils and lampante mislabelled as virgin olive oil.

[El Mundo](#) [Teller Report](#) [Diario de Mallorca](#) [La Nueva Espana](#) [El dia](#)  
[Levante](#) [Diario de Ibiza](#) [Epe](#) [el Periodico](#) [el Periodico Mediterraneo](#)  
[Europa press](#) [Gente digital](#) [el Periodico Extremadura](#) [20 minutos](#) [Hoy](#) [Radio](#)  
[Interior](#) [Region digital](#) [Diario Siglo XXI](#) [Bolsa Mania](#) [el Confidencial Digital](#)  
[Radio Interior](#) [el Diario](#) [Europa press](#) [Diario Veterinario](#) [Gente digital](#) [Diario](#)  
[Siglo XXI](#) [Bolsamania](#) [Region digital](#) [el Periodico Extremadura](#) [el](#)  
[Confidencial digital](#) [La Voz del Sur](#) [Interempresas](#) [Sur in English](#) [65ymas](#) [Ideal](#)  
[Diario Sur](#) [Sevilla ABC](#) [La voz digital](#) [Euro Weekly News](#) [Publico](#)  
[Agroportal](#) [el Espanol](#) [el Mundo](#) [el Periodico Extremadura](#) [Teller Report](#) [el](#)  
[Diario Jn](#) [Diario de Avisos Cuatro](#) [Diario Sur](#) [el Correo](#) [La voz de](#)  
[Galicia](#) [La Voz de Asturias](#) [Canale Extremadura](#) [el Periodico](#) [20 minutos](#) [Diario](#)  
[de Sevilla](#) [Huelva Informacion](#) [el dia de Cordoba](#) [Diario de Jerez](#)  
[Granada hoy](#) [Europasur](#) [Diario de Almeria](#) [Burgos conecta](#) [el periodico de](#)  
[Extremadura](#)

The authorities seized:

- 8.5 tons of fresh and frozen octopus without traceability documentation
- 4 200 packages of food supplements (total value of 16 800 Euros) because of the presence of unauthorised iron oxide

[Food Safety News](#)



Italy



Bivalve molluscs and products thereof  
Cephalopods and products thereof  
Crustaceans and products thereof  
Fish and fish products  
Gastropods  
Other food products/ mixed



Grey market



Pakistan



Food



Counterfeit



Brazil



Honey and royal jelly



Adulteration/ Product tampering



Pakistan



Fats and oils  
Other food products/ mixed



Grey market



Spain



Fats and oils



Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/ Misbranding



Portugal



Cephalopods and products thereof  
Dietetic foods, food supplements, fortified foods

The authorities seized 90 000 contraband eggs from Serbia.

[N1Info](#)

The authorities closed an illegal factory producing carbonated drinks with fake labels from popular brands. Drinks were produced with unauthorised and unsafe chemicals.

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

The authorities seized almost 1.2 tons of contraband canned chicken meat from Malaysia.

[SFA](#)   [The Straits Times](#)

The authorities uncovered a liquor production plant adulterating alcoholic beverages with alcohol not meant for human consumption and containing unsafe chemicals (isopropyl alcohol and methyl ethyl ketone) while counterfeiting labels from famous brands.

[Il Mattino](#)   [Il Roma](#)   [2anews](#)   [Agi](#)

The authorities seized 24.5 tons of contraband glutinous rice flour from Thailand.

[Bernama](#)   [The Sun Daily](#)

The authorities closed three companies adulterating a processed local rice breed with unauthorised artificial scent and flavouring (pyrazine and pyrrole) mislabelling it as Thai Jasmine rice.

























[Bangkok Post](#)   [Pattaya Mail](#)   [Chiangrai Times](#)
























The authorities seized 780 tons of smuggled sugar (total value of 1.44 million Euros).

[News Info](#)   [Manila Standard](#)   [Manila Times](#)

The authorities seized contraband seafood and poultry meat (total value of 2 million Euros).

[Manila Bulletin](#)   [News](#)   [Newsinfo](#)   [GMA Network](#)   [Manila Times](#)   [Phil](#)  
[Star](#)   [Manila Times](#)   [Manila Standard](#)   [Bworld online](#)   [Seafood Source](#)

-  Adulteration/ Product tampering  
Grey market
-  Kosovo
-  Eggs and egg products
-  Grey market
-  Pakistan
-  Non-alcoholic beverages
-  Adulteration/ Product tampering  
Counterfeit
-  Singapore
-  Poultry meat and poultry meat products
-  Grey market
-  Italy
-  Alcoholic beverages
-  Adulteration/ Product tampering  
Counterfeit
-  Malaysia
-  Cereals and bakery products
-  Grey market
-  China
-  Cereals and bakery products
-  Adulteration/ Product tampering  
Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/ Misbranding
-  Philippines
-  Other food products/  
mixed
-  Grey market
-  Philippines
-  Cephalopods and products thereof  
Crustaceans and products

<p>The authorities seized 9 288 bottles of contraband wine (total value of almost 370 000 Euros).  <a href="#">Los Andes</a>   <a href="#">Diario Uno</a>   <a href="#">Mdzol</a>   <a href="#">el Dia online</a>   <a href="#">Info campo</a>   <a href="#">Tn</a>  <a href="#">AgroCampana</a>   <a href="#">Misiones online</a>   <a href="#">Punto biz</a>   <a href="#">Canal26</a></p>	<p>thereof  Fish and fish products  Meat and meat products  (other than poultry)  Poultry meat and poultry  meat products  Grey market</p> 
<p>In another operation, the authorities seized 2 800 bottles of contraband wine (total value of 69 300 Euros).  <a href="#">Los Andes</a></p>	<p>Argentina  Wine  Grey market</p>   
<p>The authorities seized 3.5 tons of dairy products without traceability documentation.  <a href="#">Ansa</a>   <a href="#">Carabinieri</a>   <a href="#">Il Metropolitano</a>   <a href="#">Stretto Web</a>   <a href="#">Strilli</a>   <a href="#">La Nuova Calabria</a>  <a href="#">Zoom24 Calabria7</a>   <a href="#">Reggio Today</a>   <a href="#">Gazzetta del Sud</a>   <a href="#">Il Reggino</a>   <a href="#">Il</a>  <a href="#">Dispaccio</a>   <a href="#">Qui Cosenza</a>   <a href="#">Cn24TV</a>   <a href="#">Tempo Stretto</a>   <a href="#">City Now</a>   <a href="#">Il</a>  <a href="#">Meridio Calabria</a>   <a href="#">Diretta News</a>   <a href="#">Nuova Cosenza</a>   <a href="#">Qui Cosenza</a>   <a href="#">Gazzetta del Sud</a></p>	<p>Italy  Milk and milk products  Grey market</p>   
<p>The authorities seized 7 500 litres of milk suspected of being adulterated with water.  <a href="#">Gzh</a>   <a href="#">Band</a></p>	<p>Brazil  Milk and milk products  Adulteration/ Product  tampering</p>   
<p>The authorities seized 16 824 litres of alcoholic liquors with false import declarations.  <a href="#">New Age Bd</a></p>	<p>Bangladesh  Alcoholic beverages  Grey market</p>   
<p>The authorities seized 1 158 bottles of wine with counterfeit labels from a famous brand.  <a href="#">Policia</a>   <a href="#">El dia de Cordoba</a>   <a href="#">Gente digital</a>   <a href="#">Tele Prensa</a>   <a href="#">Noticiasde</a>   <a href="#">el</a>  <a href="#">Debate</a>   <a href="#">Sevilla ABC</a>   <a href="#">La voz digital</a>   <a href="#">Diario Cordoba</a>   <a href="#">Cope</a>   <a href="#">Heraldo diario de Soria</a>  <a href="#">Andalucia informacion</a>   <a href="#">The Olive Press</a>   <a href="#">el Norte de Castilla</a>   <a href="#">La nocion</a>   <a href="#">Europapress</a>  <a href="#">Gente digital</a>   <a href="#">el Espanol</a>   <a href="#">Noticias o minuto</a>   <a href="#">Madrid press</a>   <a href="#">Rue20</a>  <a href="#">Agrodiario</a></p>	<p>Spain  Wine  Counterfeit</p>   
<p>The authorities seized 10 854 bottles of counterfeit sparkling wine (total value of almost 26 000 Euros).  <a href="#">Tsf</a>   <a href="#">Correio da manha canada</a>   <a href="#">Diario de Noticias</a>   <a href="#">Omirante</a>   <a href="#">Diario</a>  <a href="#">de Coimbra</a>   <a href="#">Centro TV</a>   <a href="#">Publico</a>   <a href="#">CM Journal</a>   <a href="#">Observador</a></p>	<p>Portugal  Wine  Counterfeit</p>   
<p>The authorities seized 16 tons of contraband rice (total value of 20 900 Euros).  <a href="#">24</a>   <a href="#">Akipress</a></p>	<p>Kyrgyzstan  Cereals and bakery  products  Grey market</p>   
<p>The authorities seized 8.1 tons of expired honey ready to be smuggled and sold in the markets.  <a href="#">The Nation</a>   <a href="#">Tribune</a></p>	<p>Pakistan  Honey and royal jelly  Grey market</p>   

## Other interesting articles

### Food Fraud Annual Report 2021 to 2022

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) published the Food Fraud Annual Report 2021 - 2022. The commodities most targeted for authenticity testing were honey, meats, fish, olive oils, spices, and other expensive oils.

[Canada.ca](#)      [Food Safety Africa](#)      [Farms](#)      [Affidia journal](#)



Canada



Food

### UK DEFRA Review of Food Fraud Drivers and Mitigation Tools

The UK Department for the Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) published a report addressing the implementation of a food fraud prevention strategy for the United Kingdom.

[DEFRA](#)      [Food Fraud Think Tank](#)



United Kingdom



Food

### Food fraud guidance

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) has published a guidance document covering the uniform interpretation and application of rules on official controls targeting fraudulent or deceptive practices in the agri-food chain.

[JRC](#)      [Affidia Journal](#)



EU



Food

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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