

# Monthly Summary of Articles on Food Fraud

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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

The authorities seized in total 2 880 litres of milk adulterated with other substances (e.g. water and chemicals).

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



Pakistan



Milk and milk products



Adulteration/ Product tampering

The authorities seized 200 kg of turmeric and 150 kg of red chili powder adulterated with synthetic colours unhealthy for consumers.

[Economic Times](#)   [Times Now News](#)



India



Herbs and spices



Adulteration/ Product tampering  
Counterfeit

In another operation the authorities seized 15 tons of spices (powdered coriander, turmeric, amchur, and dry red chilli) adulterated with unsafe raw materials (e.g. wood dust, rotten leaves, chili heads, spoiled millet, oil and acid) and sold with fake labels from various brands.

[Ndtv](#)   [Indian Express](#)   [Business Standard](#)   [Ani News](#)   [Economic Times](#)  
[Times](#)   [Times of India](#)   [Times of India](#)   [Times Now News](#)   [Wio News](#)  
[Opovo](#)   [Menafn](#)   [Deccan Herald](#)

The authorities seized 19 tons of turmeric and chili spices adulterated with colours.

[Times of India](#)

The authorities seized 9 tons of imported watermelons mislabelled as from Italy, and 2 tons of artichokes and 1 500 litres of olive oil without traceability documentation.

[Ansa](#)   [Lecce prima](#)   [TRNews](#)   [Puglia Live](#)   [Lecce Sette](#)   [Agen\\_press](#)  
[La Gazzetta del Mezzogiorno](#)   [La Sentinella](#)   [Repubblica](#)   [La Provincia](#)  
[Pavese](#)   [Lecce Sette](#)   [Lecce Oggi](#)   [Ambiente Ambienti](#)   [Daily](#)  
[Advent](#)   [Taranto Buonasera](#)   [Bisceglie Live](#)   [Padania](#)   [Corriere](#)  
[Ortofrutticolo](#)   [My Fruits](#)



Italy



Fats and oils

Fruits and vegetables



Grey market  
Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/  
Misbranding

Researchers evaluated the level of mislabelling in products from seafood suppliers across Australia. By using sequence data from the cytochrome oxidase subunit one gene (COI) and the 12S mitochondrial RNA gene (12S), they discovered that 70% (64/91) of fish fillet samples were replaced with shark meat, including threatened species. Takeaways showed the highest mislabelling rate.

[Csiro](#) [Mirage News](#) [National Tribune](#) [EurekAlert](#) [Science](#) [Blog](#)  
[Eurasia Review](#) [9News](#) [Food Processing](#) [Technology](#)  
[Networks](#) [Nature World News](#) [The Guardian](#)

-  Australia
-  Fish and fish products
-  Adulteration/ Product tampering

The authorities seized in total 78.3 tons of smuggled rice meant for the Public Distribution System.

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

-  India
-  Cereals and bakery products
-  Grey market

The authorities seized 6.3 tons of meat (chicken, duck and mutton) illegally imported.

[Sfa](#)

-  Singapore
-  Meat and meat products (other than poultry)  
Poultry meat and poultry meat products
-  Grey market

The authorities seized 600 kg of wildflower honey mislabelled as acacia honey.

[Ansa](#) [Fano Informa](#) [L'altro giornale](#) [Il Resto del Carlino](#) [Vivere](#) [Ancona](#)  
[Vivere Civitanova](#) [Il Resto del Carlino](#)

-  Italy
-  Honey and royal jelly
-  Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/  
Misbranding

The authorities seized 1.6 tons of illegally imported fresh vegetables and processed food (e.g. bayam, bitter gourd, tomato, turnip and peeled onion).

[Sfa.gov](#) [Straits Times](#)

-  Singapore
-  Fruits and vegetables
-  Grey market

The authorities seized 7.6 tons of ground meat adulterated with sulphites. Sulphites donate an intense red colour, but can also cause a number of health problems including asthma, respiratory and digestive irritations, headaches and even anaphylaxis.

[El Pais](#)

-  Bolivia
-  Meat and meat products (other than poultry)  
Poultry meat and poultry meat products
-  Adulteration/ Product tampering

The authorities seized in total 2.2 tons of seafood without traceability documentation.

[Ansa](#) [La Sicilia Web](#) [Blog Sicilia](#) [Giornale di Sicilia](#) [Grandangolo](#)  
[Agrigento](#) [Palermo Today](#) [News Sicilia](#) [Efa News](#) [Pubblicità](#)  
[Italia](#)

-  Italy
-  Bivalve molluscs and products thereof  
Cephalopods and products thereof  
Crustaceans and products thereof  
Fish and fish products  
Gastropods

The authorities seized 14 tons of red tuna illegally fished or without traceability documentation.

[Ansa](#) [Siracusa post](#) [98zero](#) [News Sicilia](#)

The authorities seized 1 100 litres of carbonated drinks adulterated with loose colours, hazardous chemicals and contaminated water, threatening consumer health.

[Urdu Point](#)

The authorities seized in total 34.5 tons of frozen pork (total value of 222 140 Euros). The documents were forged by declaring “frozen mixed vegetables”.

[The Sun](#)

[The Sun](#)

The authorities seized 5 tons of contraband duck meat.

[Monumental](#)

The authorities seized 201 600 contraband eggs (total value of 2 650 Euros).

[Unitel](#)

The Food and Veterinary Service (PVD) has inspected more than 400 food outlets (e.g. shops, market stalls, street stalls and wholesalers) for fresh fruit, vegetables and berries trade. The inspectors found non-compliances in 36% of cases, especially regarding origin labelling and quality standards.

[Lsm](#)

[Fresh Plaza](#)

Within the framework of operation “Neblina 2024”, the Bolivarian National Armed Forces (FANB) seized almost 3 tons of contraband food from Colombia, allegedly intended to support illegal mining activities

[El Pais](#)

[La Patilla](#)

[Ultimas Noticias](#)

[Vtv](#)

[Radio Mundial](#)

[Primicia](#)

[Correo del Caroni](#)

[Noticiero Digital](#)

The authorities seized 3.3 tons of meat and eggs without traceability documentation.

[Monumental](#)



Grey market



Pakistan



Non-alcoholic beverages



Adulteration/ Product tampering



Malaysia



Meat and meat products (other than poultry)



Document forgery



Costa Rica



Poultry meat and poultry meat products



Grey market



Bolivia



Eggs and egg products



Grey market



Latvia



Fruits and vegetables



Adulteration/ Product tampering  
Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/  
Misbranding



Venezuela



Food



Grey market



Costa Rica



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



Grey market

The authorities seized 565 tons of contraband sugar.

[Abbtakk](#)

The authorities seized 5 600 cans of tuna with fake labels from a famous brand.

[El Universo](#) [Ecuador en vivo](#) [el Telegrafo](#) [el Diario](#)

The authorities seized 3 220 litres of contraband olive oil from Türkiye.

[Bta](#)

The authorities seized in total 22 000 cartons and 24 500 litres of contraband liquor.

[The Sun](#) [Malay Mail](#) [The Star](#)

The authorities seized 1 350 litres of smuggled alcohol (total value of 69 780 Euros).

[The Star](#)

The authorities seized 17.8 tons of seafood adulterated with water, salt and additives in order to increase the weight (total value of 115 000 Euros).

Almost 4.3 tons of sheep carcasses, frozen sheep meat, and frozen chicken (total value of 21 000 Euros) were seized as well because illegally slaughtered.

[Food Safety News](#)

The authorities seized 60 tons of illegally imported rice, beans, sugar and flour.

[Escambray](#)



Pakistan



Other food products/  
mixed



Grey market



Ecuador



Fish and fish products



Counterfeit



Bulgaria



Fats and oils



Grey market



Malaysia



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market



Portugal



Bivalve molluscs and  
products thereof  
Cephalopods and  
products thereof  
Crustaceans and  
products thereof  
Fish and fish products  
Gastropods  
Meat and meat products  
(other than poultry)  
Poultry meat and poultry  
meat products



Adulteration/ Product  
tampering  
Grey market



Cuba



Cereals and bakery  
products  
Fruits and vegetables  
Other food products/  
mixed



Grey market

The authorities seized 8.7 tons of contraband rice, 5.9 tons of contraband flour and 750 kg of contraband sugar.

[Sun News Online](#)

[Von.gov.ng](#)



Nigeria



Cereals and bakery products  
Other food products/  
mixed



Grey market

The authorities seized 645.75 tons of subsidized rice stored in an unlicensed warehouse (total value of 410 000 Euros).

[Free Malaysia Today](#)

[The Star](#)

[Malay Mail](#)



Malaysia



Cereals and bakery products



Grey market

Several beekeepers had reported the poor health of their bee colonies after using embossed wax sheets manufactured by a specific company. Analyses have notably revealed the presence of molecules (pesticides, hydrocarbons, fatty acids) that do not correspond to the normal contents of authentic beeswax or to those of waxes directly supplied by beekeepers.

[Economie.gouv.fr](#)



Austria



Honey and royal jelly



Adulteration/ Product tampering

The authorities seized 135 tons of contraband frozen meat such as pork, beef, chicken breast and chicken wings (total value of 410 000 Euros).

[The Straits Times](#)



Malaysia



Meat and meat products  
(other than poultry)

Poultry meat and poultry  
meat products



Grey market

The authorities seized 765 kg of contraband dried turtle meat, equivalent to around 1 000 turtles slaughtered.

[The Sun](#)

[The Star](#)



India



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

The authorities seized 1 ton of stolen powdered milk.

[T13](#)



Chile



Milk and milk products



Grey market

## Other interesting articles

### WTO publication on illicit trade and food fraud

The World Trade Organization (WTO) published its first report on illicit trade in food and food fraud. It includes contributions from participants in the WTO's Annual Agriculture Symposium, held on 11 and 12 December 2023, which explored this topic.

[WTO](#) [Globo Rural](#) [Food Safety](#) [Finanzas digital](#) [Food Safety News](#) [Foreign affairs](#)  
[Caribbean News Global](#)

### UK seafood supply chains: vulnerability assessment

A scientific article reports an in-depth examination of food fraud vulnerability relating to the UK and for seafood supply chains. The study aims to understand the food fraud vulnerability of post-harvest seafood supply chains in the UK and determine if there are differences according to commodity, supply chain node, business size and certification status.

[Science of food](#)

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