

June 2021

Monthly Summary of Articles on Food Fraud and Adulteration

Retrieved mainly from the JRC tool Medisys (http://medisys.newsbrief.eu)



Food Fraud Cases

Spanish researchers investigated the impact of mislabelling and substitution of fish in Spain. Species included: anchovy, hake, tuna, blue withing. 7 out of 401 samples (1.9%) were mislabelled. The total proportion of mislabelling was 0% in blue whiting, 2.4% in anchovy, 4.17% in hake and 5.2% in tuna.

Scientific Reports



Spain

The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) seized 10 000 litres of milk adulterated with urea fertiliser and chemicals.

<u>Urdu Point</u>

Pakistan



Milk and milk products



Unapproved treatment and/or process

Between September and December 2020, the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (AFSCA) seized almost 80 tons of tuna fish. 92% of non-compliant products originated from Asia. Illegal unapproved treatments include treatment with carbon monoxide and injection of nitrates and nitrates, in order to preserve the appearance of freshness given by the red colour.

AFSCA Sud Info La Province DHNet Vilt GreenMe Food Safety News

Belgium



Fish and fish products



Unapproved treatment and/or process

The Italian authorities seized 4 tons of seafood lacking the required traceability documentation, and sometimes not properly stored.

La Nazione

In another operation, the authorities seized 4 additional tons of fish products not respecting the traceability requirements, especially red tuna.

Consumatore

News Sicilia

Other 2 tons of seafood with no documentation has been seized.

Catania Today



Italy



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



Documents

The Federal Highway Police (PRF) seized one ton of Brazilian nuts ready to be smuggled with fake documentation into Bolivia. G1 Globo



Brazil



Nuts, nut products and seeds

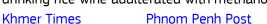


Documents

In the Pursat Province, 13 people died and other 80 have been hospitalised after drinking rice wine adulterated with methanol.



Cambodia



Times Khmer Times Urdu Point

Khmer Times Xinhuanet The Cambodian Times Khmer



Unapproved treatment and/or process

Alcoholic beverages

Following the death of seven people, Cambodia's top consumer protection agency

Khmer Times

Khmer Times

Sina

destroyed 27 756 bottles of dong quai wine adulterated with methanol. The Phnom Penh Post

The Cambodian News Urdu Point

The Star

The Star

The Pakistan authorities seized almost 2 tons of milk diluted with water. <u>Urdu Point</u>



Pakistan



Milk and milk products



Replacement/ dilution/ addition/ removal

Operation Lake, led by Europol between November 2020 and June 2021, led to the seizure of 1 million immature glass eels (387 kg) and 25 kg of adult eels from a threatened species, ready to be exported to the Asian market. The total value is estimated to be worthy 1.24 million euros. Fifty people have been arrested. Securing Industry



France, Spain, Portugal, United Kingdom



Fish and fish products



Documents

Researchers from Taiwan DNA-barcoded 121 samples from sushi restaurants, discovering a mislabelling rate of 17-36%. **Food Control**



Taiwan



Fish and fish products



Mislabelling Replacement/ dilution/ addition/ removal

At least 12 people got sick after consuming thawed yellowfin tuna in restaurants, probably contaminated with added water and nitrites/nitrates. Food Safety News



Italv



Fish and fish products



Unapproved treatment and/or process

The Brazilian authorities seized 3 tons of food products with a fake expiry date, potentially threatening consumer health. G1 Globo



Brazil



Food



Mislabelling

The Civil Guard dismantled a criminal organisation selling conventional sunflower and



Spain

rapeseed seeds mislabelled as "organic". Gente Digital

Cronache Salerno

The Hindu



Nuts, nut products and seeds



Mislabelling

The Italian authorities seized 270 tons of canned tomatoes and legumes (total value of 280 000 euros), with no traceability documentation and stored in poor hygiene conditions.



Italy



Fruits and vegetables Soups, broths, sauces and condiments



Documents

The Financial Guard seized 20 000 chocolate bars (total value of 50 000 euros) falsely labelled with the Geographical Indication "Modica Chocolate". La Sicilia Web Corriere di Ragusa



Italy



Cocoa and cocoa preparations, coffee and tea



IPR - Intellectual property rights

A Member of the European Parliament, together with an NGO, denounced that a significant proportion (7-14%) of Moroccan tomatoes are actually produced in the Western Sahara, thus falsifying their origin. <u>Agroinformacion</u>

<u>Yabiladi</u>

Bladi.net



Morocco

10

Fruits and vegetables



<u>Alimentaria</u>

Revista

Mislabelling

The Indian authorities seized more than 90 tons of sugar utilised to adulterate palm candies and jiggery (cane sugar product).



India



Confectionery



Unapproved treatment and/or process

The Pakistan authorities seized 10 000 litres of beverages, potentially adulterated with unhealthy hazardous chemicals. **Urdu Point**



Pakistan



Non-alcoholic beverages



Unapproved treatment and/or process

The consumer association *Que choisir* has analysed 26 bottles of extra virgin olive oil, but 16 of them (61.5%) were actually of lower quality. Que Choisir pointed to a decrease in olive oil authenticity year after year. Que Choisir



France



Fats and oils



Mislabelling

The Italian authorities seized 5 500 bottles of alcoholic beverages with fake labels and illegally produced. Labels from famous brands were falsified as well. Foggia Today Il Mattino di Foggia



Italy



Alcoholic beverages



Documents Mislabelling IPR - Intellectual

Other interesting articles

Food fraud report from Canada

The Arrell Food Institute has released a report focusing on food fraud taking place in Canada.

Arrell Food Institute Food Authenticity Network

View on illegal fishing from the European Parliament

The Chair of the Fisheries Committee of the European Parliament shared his view on illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Euractiv



Canada



Food



EU



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Scientific review on food fraud

A research journal has published an extensive scientific review on food fraud covering the EU approach, connections between fraud and safety issues, and the methodologies currently utilised to detect the phenomenon.

Trends in Food Science & Technology



World



Food

Seafood and blockchain

An online magazine discusses the involvement of the blockchain technology in the seafood chain.

The Guardian



World



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

Illegal pesticides withdrawn from the market

Europol coordinated the sixth edition of operation Silver Axe. The authorities of 35 countries seized 1 200 tons of counterfeit and illegal pesticides, with the help of the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the European Commission (DG SANTE), the European Crop Protection Association (ECPA) and CropLife Europe.

Europol



World



Other food products/ mixed

New UN report covering agri-food crimes

The new report from the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) devotes chapters on agri-food criminal organisations; on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing; and on trafficking in counterfeit and



World



Food

substandard pesticides.

UNICRI

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