

# 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 whiting. 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



Fish and fish products



Mislabelling  
Replacement/ dilution/  
addition/ removal

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

[Urdu Point](#)



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 nitrites, 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](#)



Italy



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

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

[Consumatore](#)

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

[News Sicilia](#) [Catania Today](#)



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.

[Khmer Times](#)

[Phnom Penh Post](#)

[Khmer Times](#) [Xinhuanet](#)

[Sina](#)

[The Cambodian News](#)

[Urdu Point](#)

[The Cambodian Times](#)

[Khmer](#)

[Times](#) [Khmer Times](#) [Urdu Point](#)

[Khmer Times](#)

[The Star](#)



Cambodia



Alcoholic beverages



Unapproved treatment and/or process

Following the death of seven people, Cambodia's top consumer protection agency destroyed 27 756 bottles of dong quai wine adulterated with methanol.

[Khmer Times](#)

[The Phnom Penh Post](#)

[The Star](#)

The Pakistan authorities seized almost 2 tons of milk diluted with water.

[Urdu Point](#)



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](#)



Italy



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](#)

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.

[Cronache Salerno](#)

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](#)

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.

[Agroinformacion](#)

[Bladi.net](#)

[Yabiladi](#)

[Revista Alimentaria](#)

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

[The Hindu](#)

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

[Urdu Point](#)

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](#)

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](#)



Nuts, nut products and seeds



Mislabelling



Italy



Fruits and vegetables  
Soups, broths, sauces and condiments



Documents



Italy



Cocoa and cocoa preparations, coffee and tea



IPR – Intellectual property rights



Morocco



Fruits and vegetables



Mislabelling



India



Confectionery



Unapproved treatment and/or process



Pakistan



Non-alcoholic beverages



Unapproved treatment and/or process



France



Fats and oils



Mislabelling



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](#)



Canada



Food

### 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](#)



EU



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

### 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  
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### 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](#)

*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.*

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