

August 2022

Monthly Summary of Articles on Food Fraud and Adulteration

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



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 Directorate General for Competition, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Prevention (DGCCRF) published the 2020 survey on olive oil quality. DGCCRF carried out 206 inspections at 177 establishments, analysing in total 97 samples. More than a third of the establishments checked had anomalies, mostly concerning the absence or inadequacy of labelling information, substitution of olive oil with other vegetable oils, or wrong geographical origins. Almost half of the 97 samples taken were non-compliant in terms of organoleptic characteristics.

[Economie.gouv.fr](http://economie.gouv.fr) [Teller Report](#) [Rtl](#) [Capital](#) [L'Union](#) [L'Est](#)
[éclair](#) [Global Foodmate](#) [Il Salvagente](#) [Teatro naturale](#)



France



Fats and oils



Adulteration/ Product tampering
Misdescription/
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

The Department of National Consumer Rights Protection (DNCRP) fined a factory for producing molasses adulterated with semolina, sugar, colours and other ingredients without even respecting the basic hygiene rules.

[Bss News](#)



Bangladesh



Other food products/
mixed



Adulteration/ Product tampering

The authorities seized 4.5 tons of fruits and vegetables (tomatoes, zucchini, peppers and apricots) with labels faking the origin of the products as "Made in France" (a fraud called "francisisation").

[Bfmtv](#) [France bleu](#) [France3](#) [20minutes](#) [La Roche sur Yon](#)
[TF1Info](#) [Ouest France](#)



France



Fruits and vegetables



Misdescription/
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

The authorities seized 4 tons of contraband tomatoes from Argentina.

[Cronica](#)



Paraguay



Fruits and vegetables



Grey market

The Singapore Food Agency (SFA) seized 6 tons of prawns illegally imported from Malaysia and China.

[The Straits Times](#) [Tnp](#)



Singapore



Crustaceans and products thereof



Grey market

Between the beginning of April and the end of July, the authorities seized 14 812 litres of smuggled liquor.

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



India



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

The authorities seized in total 4 275 bottles of illegal or spurious liquor.

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

In July, the Punjab Department seized 15 131 bottles of Punjab Medium Liquor (PML), 7 917 bottles of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL), 2 596 bottles of beer, 3 795 bottles of Ready to Drink (RTD) liquor and 5 895 litres of illicit liquor.

[Outlook India](#)

The authorities seized 800 tons of frozen horse mackerel (total value of 1.18 million Euros) suspected of being fished in areas where catching is not allowed.

[Informante](#)



Angola



Fish and fish products



Grey market

The authorities seized almost 272 tons of contraband rice and wheat meant for public distribution.

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



India



Cereals and bakery products



Grey market

The authorities seized 1 200 bottles of contraband wine and alcohol (total value of 54 900 Euros).

[The Thaiger](#)



Thailand



Alcoholic beverages
Wine



Grey market

The authorities seized 7 200 cans of contraband beer.

[Caracol](#)



Malaysia



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

The Sabah Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM) seized 9 000 boxes of contraband liquor (total value of 330 000 Euros).

[Bernama](#) [The Sun daily](#)

The Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM) seized almost 28 250 litres of contraband liquor (total value of almost 758 000 Euros).

[The Sun daily](#) [Bernama](#) [Malaymail](#)

Sabah Zone Customs seized 34 867 litres of contraband liquor (total value of almost 315 000 Euros).

[Bernama](#) [The Sun Daily](#)

The Royal Malaysian Customs Department seized 113 699 litres of contraband alcohol (total value of more than 1 million Euros).

[The Sun Daily](#)

At least 12 people died after consuming adulterated alcohol in the Indian state of Bihar. More than 15 people have also lost their eyesight.

[Hindustan Times](#)
[China.org](#)

[Hindustan Times](#)
[Scroll](#) [Scroll](#)

[India Today](#)
[Times of India](#) [News CN](#)



India



Alcoholic beverages



Adulteration/ Product
tampering
Grey market

The authorities of Panama and Costa Rica seized 1 152 bottles of contraband tonic wine (considered a sexual stimulant) and 48 bottles of liquor.

[Panama America](#)

[Dia a dia](#)



Panama



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

The Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs (KPDNHEP) seized 460 kg of bottled cooking oil and almost 1.2 tons of coarse grain sugar (total value of 1550 Euros) illegally sold.

[The Sun Daily](#)

[Prn](#)

[The Star](#)



Malaysia



Fats and oils
Other food products/
mixed



Grey market

The authorities seized 30 tons of contraband corn (total value of 6 100 Euros).

[Diario26](#)



Uruguay



Cereals and bakery
products



Grey market

The authorities dismantled a criminal organisation that remarketed expired branded food items after changing the expiry dates.

[The News](#)



Pakistan



Food



Misdescription/
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

The authorities seized 1 ton of seafood without any traceability documentation.

[Ansa](#)

[Calabria7](#)

[Zoom24](#)

[Info oggi](#)



Italy



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



Grey market

The authorities seized in total 2.9 tons of food without any traceability documentation.

[Salerno Today](#)
[Notizie](#)

[Agenzia Nova](#)
[Grandangolo Agrigento](#)

[Radio Luna](#)
[Giornale L'Ora](#)
[Giornale L'Ora](#)

[Il Faro online](#)
[Latina Today](#)
[Ansa](#)

[Latina quotidiano](#)

[Tp24](#)

[Giornale L'Ora](#)

[Ansa](#)

[Agrigento Notizie](#)

[Sicilia Oggi Notizie](#)

[Agrigento Notizie](#)

[Palermo Today](#)

[Giornale di Pantelleria](#)

[La Sicilia](#)

[Giornale di Sicilia](#)

[Meridio News](#)

[Sicilia24h](#)

[Sicilia Reporter](#)



Italy



Food



Grey market

The authorities seized 500 tons of contraband wheat.



Pakistan

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

 Cereals and bakery products
 Grey market

The authorities seized 17 tons of fake jaggery adulterated by mixing sugar, chemicals and non-food grade colours.

[The News](#) [The News](#)

 Pakistan
 Other food products/ mixed
 Adulteration/ Product tampering

The authorities seized 50 tons of rice with wrong expiration dates and weights.

[Jornal de Angola](#) [Jornal de Angola](#) [Jornal de Angola](#) [Angola online](#)

 Angola
 Cereals and bakery product
 Misdescription/ Mislabelling/ Misbranding

The authorities seized 4 000 litres of milk adulterated with chemicals (e.g. sulfates and phosphates).

[Latestly](#) [ANI News](#) [Ndtv](#) [Business Standard](#)

 India
 Milk and milk products
 Adulteration/ Product tampering

The authorities seized 700 kg of illegal dog meat.

[Khmer Times Kh](#)

 Cambodia
 Meat and meat products (other than poultry)
 Grey market

The authorities seized 620 tons of contraband transgenic soybean and transgenic corn (total value of almost 870 000 Euros).

[Abi](#) [Pagina Siete](#) [Erbol](#) [El Pais](#) [Opinion](#) [Los Tiempos](#)
[Economia](#) [El diario](#)

 Bolivia
 Cereals and bakery products
Fruits and vegetables
 Grey market

Bureau of Customs officials seized 7 021 tons of sugar suspected of being smuggled from Thailand (total value of almost 810 000 Euros).

[Phil Star](#) [GMA Network](#) [Manila Metro](#)
[FleetMon](#) [Manila Bulletin](#) [Manila Metro](#) [Tribune](#)
[Sunstar](#) [Manila Times](#) [Maritime Bulletin](#) [Abs Cbn](#)
[Standards](#) [Tribune](#) [Tribune](#) [Tribune](#) [Manila](#)

 Philippines
 Cereals and bakery products
Other food products/ mixed
 Grey market

The Bureau of Customs seized 3 300 tons of rice and 650 tons of sugar smuggled from Vietnam and Thailand (total value of more than 4.1 million Euros).

[Manila Bulletin](#)

The authorities seized 3 000 tons of sugar smuggled from Thailand.

[SunStar](#)

The authorities seized almost 80 tons of beef, which is illegal to be consumed since 2015.

[Mid-day](#)

 India
 Meat and meat products (other than poultry)

The Nigeria Customs Service seized 18.15 tons of contraband parboiled rice.

[Punch ng](#)

[Daily Post Ng](#)

[Premium Times Ng](#)

[allAfrica](#)



Grey market



Nigeria



Cereals and bakery products



Grey market

From January to July 2022, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) personnel seized almost 1.2 tons of meat products illegally passing through the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).

[Philstar](#)

[Manila Standard](#)



Philippines



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



Grey market

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority (KP FS&HFA) seized 5 tons of fake tea leaves produced by mixing bran, husk, jaggery and non-food grade colours.

[Urdu Point](#)

[Urdu Point](#)

[The Nation](#)



Pakistan



Cocoa and cocoa preparations, coffee and tea



Adulteration/ Product tampering

Indian researchers have analysed the presence of Rhodamine B in sauces collected from different street food joints. Rhodamine B is a cheap and unsafe red dye, thus being illegal to be used in food preparations. 2/10 samples of tomato sauce, 8/10 samples of chilli sauce and 7/10 samples of szechuan sauce showed the presence of Rhodamine B.

[Mutanges](#)



India



Soups, broths, sauces and condiments



Adulteration/ Product tampering

The Royal Malaysian Customs Department seized 27.86 tons of contraband meat (total value of 156 000 Euros).

[The Sun Daily](#)



Malaysia



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



Grey market

The authorities recovered 15 tons of stolen cheese (total value of 100 000 Euros).

[Fanpage](#)

[Caserta web](#)



Italy



Milk and milk products



Grey market

The authorities closed 4 factories for adulterating fruit juices with other raw materials and with prohibited additives. In total the authorities seized 46 000 litres of concentrated juice and 78 000 litres of whole orange juice.

[O documento](#)



Brazil



Non-alcoholic beverages



Adulteration/ Product tampering

The authorities seized tons of cheese smuggled from Nicaragua.

[RepreteI](#)



Costa Rica



Milk and milk products



Grey market

The authorities seized 1.27 tons of tea bags illegally sold without license.



India

Mid-day

At least 17 people died after consuming gin adulterated with methanol.

[Noticias o minuto](#)

[Jornal de Angola](#)

The authorities seized more than 5 200 bottles of contraband bottles of wine (total value of 165 500 Euros).

[Misiones online](#)

The authorities seized 5.5 tons of soy ready to be illegally exported to Brazil.

[Misiones online](#)

Researchers tested for antibiotics in urine from beef cattle whose meat was supposed to be labelled as “raised without antibiotics” (RWA). By using rapid immunoassay to detect 17 antibiotics on 699 animals, the authors found that 15% of analysed cattle actually tested positive for at least one antibiotic.

[Science](#)

[Farm Forward](#)

[Affidia Journal](#)

The authorities seized 4.5 tons of tomatoes smuggled from Argentina.

[Megacadena](#)

The authorities seized 1000 tins of subsidized powder milk and 400 cans of subsidized oil ready to be smuggled outside the country.

[Arab Times](#)

The authorities seized 10 tons of poor quality olive oil adulterated with other materials (up to 50% of their volume).

[Le360](#)

The National Administration of Medicines, Food and Medical Technology (Anmat) warned consumers about the counterfeiting of a famous brand of olive oil. Selling has consequently been banned.

[Argentina.gob](#)

[La Nacion](#)

[Infobae](#)

[Revista chacra](#)

[Agrofy](#)

[News](#)

[el Diario Nuevo Dia](#)

[Mdzol](#)

[el Litoral](#)

[Diario Uno](#)

[ambito](#)

[La noticia1](#)

[Los Andes](#)

[Noticias bariloche](#)

The authorities seized almost 19 tons of contraband catfish.



Cocoa and cocoa preparations, coffee and tea



Grey market



Uganda



Alcoholic beverages



Adulteration/ Product tampering



Argentina



Wine



Grey market



Argentina



Fruits and vegetables



Grey market



USA



Live animals
Meat and meat products (other than poultry)



Misdescription/
Mislabelling/ Misbranding



Paraguay



Fruits and vegetables



Grey market



Kuwait



Fats and oils
Milk and milk products



Grey market



Morocco



Fats and oils



Adulteration/ Product tampering



Argentina



Fats and oils



Counterfeit



USA

[Public now](#)

The authorities destroyed 9.6 tons of tea leaves imported from Vietnam but mislabelled as from Taiwan.

[Taiwan news](#)



Fish and fish products



Grey market



Taiwan



Cocoa and cocoa preparations, coffee and tea



Misdescription/
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

Other interesting articles

Preventing sea urchin fraud

Researchers from China have utilised stable isotope ratios to identify the origin of sea urchins.

[Securing Industry](#)



China



Other food products/
mixed

The ten most common adulterated food

An online magazine discusses the food frauds affecting popular products in the food chain.

[Economia circular verde](#)



World



Food

The Food Fraud Monthly Report is drafted by the JRC Geel Unit F.4 “*Fraud Detection and Prevention*” with the support of the JRC Ispra Unit I.3 “*Text and Data Mining*”.

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Joint Research Centre



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