

August 2023

# 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 authorities seized in total 1 500 litres and almost 3 000 bottles of liquor illegally produced.

[Semana](#) [El Pais](#) [el Colombiano](#) [Semana](#) [Infobae](#)



Colombia



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

The authorities destroyed 27.5 tons of fish (shad and pati) without any documentation.

[Argentina.gob](#)



Argentina



Fish and fish products



Grey market

Researchers have analysed the quality and accuracy of labels from 672 seafood products (hoki, prawns, sharks and rays, snapper, squid and cuttlefish, and tuna), uncovering a mislabelling rate of 11.8% through DNA barcoding.

[Scientific Reports](#) [The Guardian](#) [Western Advocate](#) [Port Stephens Examiner](#) [Illawarra Mercury](#) [Matiland Mercury](#) [Newcastle Herald](#)  
[Smart Company](#) [Abc](#)



Australia



Cephalopods and products thereof  
Crustaceans and products thereof  
Fish and fish products



Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/  
Misbranding

The authorities seized 4 500 litres of fake colonial wine made of ethyl alcohol and dyes, flavoured with grapes and other chemicals. The inspectors also found fake labels from famous brands.

[Gov.br](#) [Band](#) [Globo Rural](#)



Brazil



Wine



Adulteration/ Product  
tampering  
Counterfeit

A man has been accused of having illegally exported 3 000 tons of live crab to Japan, China and South Korea (total value of 24 700 Euros).

[Noti Ulti](#)



Russia



Crustaceans and products thereof



Grey market

The authorities seized 16 tonnes of illegally imported powder milk from Uganda, ready to be rebranded with labels from local brands.

[The Star](#)

[The Star](#)



Kenya



Milk and milk products



Counterfeit  
Grey market

The authorities seized 24 000 bottles of contraband liquor.

[Oman Observer](#)



Oman



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

Between January and August the authorities seized 90 tons of contraband sugar and 16.4 tons of contraband foreign parboiled rice.

[Concise](#)

[Daily Post](#)

[Politics Nigeria](#)



Nigeria



Cereals and bakery products  
Other food products/  
mixed



Grey market

The authorities seized 54 tons of flour, 28 tons of rice and 24 tons of oil without sanitary certifications.

[Los Tiempos](#)



Bolivia



Cereals and bakery products

Fats and oils



Grey market

The authorities seized 2.7 tons of contraband chickens.

[Noticias ahora](#)



Bolivia



Poultry meat and poultry meat products



Grey market

The authorities seized 10.3 tons of contraband pork.

[The Thaiger](#)



Thailand



Meat and meat products (other than poultry)



Grey market

The authorities seized in total 8 tons of smuggled sugar.

[New Age Bd](#)

[New Age Bd](#)



Bangladesh



Other food products/  
mixed



Grey market

The authorities seized 14 tons of meat and fish without legal labels or valid import documentation.

[Khmer Times](#)



Cambodia



Fish and fish products  
Meat and meat products  
(other than poultry)  
Grey market



The authorities seized in total 13.8 tons of contraband ration rice.

[The Hindu](#)

[The Hindu](#)

[Times of India](#)



India



Cereals and bakery  
products  
Grey market



Ten people died after consuming waragi (a local liquor) adulterated with methanol.

[Monitor](#)



Uganda



Alcoholic beverages



Adulteration/ Product  
tampering

The authorities closed a company and seized 34 tons of food with manipulated expiry dates and/or not suitable for human consumption.

[Sevilla](#)

[La Vanguardia](#)

[The leader](#)

[Euro Weekly News](#)



Spain



Food



Adulteration/ Product  
tampering  
Misdescription/  
Mislabelling/  
Misbranding

The authorities seized 18 800 litres of spurious drinks adulterated with hazardous chemicals, loose non-food grade colours, artificial sweeteners, unclean tap water, and other harmful ingredients.

[The Nation](#)



Pakistan



Non-alcoholic beverages



Adulteration/ Product  
tampering

The authorities seized several tons of meat illegally slaughtered in an unauthorised slaughterhouse.

[Urdu Point](#)



Pakistan



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



Four people died after consuming adulterated alcoholic beverages.

[Khmer Times](#)



Cambodia



Alcoholic beverages



Adulteration/ Product  
tampering

The authorities destroyed 8.8 tons of beef and seafood (crabs, shrimps and squids) without proper declarations or quality certifications; in some cases the products were not suitable for human consumption.

[Khmer Times](#)



Cambodia



Cephalopods and  
products thereof  
Crustaceans and

The authorities seized 25 tons of watermelon smuggled from Peru (total value of 42 300 Euros).

[El Morrocotudo](#)



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



Chile



Fruits and vegetables



Grey market

## Other interesting articles

### GFSI & food fraud: a ten-year review

An interesting article provides an overview of 10 years of food fraud prevention requirements under the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI).

[Trends in Food Science & Technology](#)

### New detection methodology for oregano by the JRC

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) has published a novel methodology combining digital PCR and metabarcoding by NGS to detect and quantify botanical impurities in commercial oregano.

[Foods](#)

### New online tool by FSS against food frauds

Food Standards Scotland (FSS) has launched its Food Crime Risk Profiling Tool which allows companies to assess their vulnerabilities to food crimes.

[Food Standards Scotland](#)

### The economics of a food fraud incident

A scientific article outlines the economics of four famous food fraud cases, highlighting the related drivers and costs.

[Food Control](#)

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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