

November 2021

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.

Spotlight

First EU-wide survey about herbs and spices authenticity

The Commission published the results of the first coordinated control plan on the authenticity of herbs and spices launched by DG SANTE and carried out by twenty-one EU Member States, Switzerland and Norway, coordinated by the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

[EU Commission](#) [EU Science Hub](#) [Food Authenticity Network](#) [Il Salvagente](#)
[Financial Food](#) [Food Navigator](#) [Food Manufacture](#) Agence Europe [EN](#)
 – [FR](#) [GreenMe](#) [Agronews Castilla y Leon](#) [Great Italian Food Trade](#)
[Irish Examiner](#) [The Times](#) [Affidia Journal](#) [Mood](#) [Consumatore](#)



EU



Herbs and spices

Food Fraud Cases

The Pakistan officials discarded 4 900 litres of milk adulterated with water and unhealthy chemicals.

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



Pakistan



Milk and milk products



Replacement/ dilution/ addition/ removal
Unapproved treatment and/or process

In November, across the country the Italian authorities collectively seized almost 17.5 tons of seafood without traceability documentation, sometimes not even respecting the hygiene requirements.

[Corriere di Taranto](#) [Palermo Today](#) [Giornale di Sicilia](#) [Sicilia Oggi Notizie](#)
[Tp 24](#) [Sky Tg 24](#) [La Sicilia Web](#) [Nuova Venezia](#) [Alto Adige](#) [Giornale](#)
[Trentino](#) [Oggi Treviso](#) [Meteo Week](#) [La Tribuna di Treviso](#) [Treviso Today](#)
[Il Dolomiti](#) [Catania Today](#) [Live Sicilia](#) [News Sicilia](#) [Blog Sicilia](#)
[Sassari Notizie](#) [Olbia24](#) [La Nuova Sardegna](#) [BlogSicilia](#)
[Bari Today](#)



Italy



Bivalve molluscs and products thereof
Cephalopods and products thereof
Crustaceans and products thereof



Fish and fish products
Gastropods
Documents

The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) discarded 1 200 kg of spurious honey produced with harmful chemicals, sugar syrups, non-food graded colours and other prohibited ingredients.

[Urdu Point](#)

[The News](#)



Pakistan



Honey and royal jelly



Counterfeit

The Spanish Civil Guard arrested 22 people for the intended sale of 253 tons of food not fit for human consumption. The traceability documentation presented gaps and some shelf life dates were falsified.

[Food Safety News](#)



Spain



Food



Documents
Mislabelling
Unapproved treatment
and/or process

The Hong Kong Customs seized 14 000 contraband hairy crabs and 1 ton of smuggled chilled food (including meat and poultry), for a total value of 168 000 Euros.

[China Daily](#)



Hong Kong



Crustaceans and products
thereof
Food



Documents

The Colombian authorities seized 845 contraband bottles of liquor (e.g. rum, tequila, brandy) for a total value of 3 660 Euros.

[La Nacion](#)



Colombia



Alcoholic beverages



Documents

In a second operation, almost 600 litres of contraband liquor were seized as well.

[El Heraldo](#)



Italy



Alcoholic beverages



IPR – Intellectual property
rights

The Italian authorities arrested two people for illegally producing 2 000 litres of counterfeit liquors, bearing fake labels of two famous brands.

[Geos News](#)

[Antenna Sud](#)



Italy



Wine



Documents

The Italian authorities seized 1 055 000 litres of wine (total value of 1 million Euros) without the required traceability documentation, and not registered within the official databases.

[Agenzia Nova](#)

[Bari Today](#)

[Foggia Today](#)

[Stato Quotidiano](#)

The Indian authorities seized 7.6 tons of raw tea powder and 40 kg of adulterated tea powder.

[The Hindu](#)



India



Cocoa and cocoa
preparations, coffee and
tea



Unapproved treatment
and/or process

The Italian authorities seized 237 kg of coffee not respecting the traceability requirements.

[Geos News](#)

[GdS](#)

[Grandangolo](#)

[Stretto Web](#)

[QdS](#)

[Palermo Today](#)

[Meridio News](#)

[Blog Sicilia](#)

[Antenna Uno](#)

[Il Corriere di Sicilia](#)

[Eco di Sicilia](#)

[Live Sicilia](#)

[Seguo News](#)



Italy



Cocoa and cocoa
preparations, coffee and
tea

The Moroccan authorities seized almost 4 900 bottles of whiskey and 2 800 bottles of beer, arresting a person accused of smuggling and counterfeiting alcoholic beverages.

[Bladi](#)

In November, the Argentinean authorities collectively seized:

- 8 874 tons of corn (total value of more than 575 000 Euros) intended to be exported illegally to Uruguay
- 752 tons of soybeans planned to be exported illegally to Uruguay and smuggled to other countries
- 316 tons of grain ready to be smuggled to Brazil
- 200 bags of rice and 630 bags of sugar smuggled into Bolivia
- 112 tons of mixed oil and 29 tons of soybean oil

[Urgente 24](#) [Agrofy](#) [La Nacion](#) [Primera Edicion](#) [Pagina](#)
[12](#) [Correo del Sud](#) [El Litoral](#)

The national Gendarmerie seized 17.8 tons of contraband soft wheat flour.

[Le soir d'Algerie](#)

The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) seized 600 kg of red chillies adulterated with various dangerous impurities.

[Urdu Point](#)

The Civil Guard has seized 4 000 litres of olive oil of low quality, mislabelled as organic and/or extra virgin olive oil, in some cases even mixed with sunflower oil.

[Bullfrag](#) [Diario de Ibiza](#) [Noticias ao minuto](#)

The Nigerian authorities seized some contraband food products, including 47.2 tons of rice, 524 kg of vegetable oil and 669 cartons of foreign spaghetti and macaroni.

[Punch](#)

Hong Kong Customs seized 100 tons of suspected smuggled frozen meat (total estimated value of 573 000 euros).

[Info.gov.hk](#)



Documents



Morocco



Alcoholic beverages



Documents

IPR – Intellectual property rights



Argentina



Cereals and bakery products

Fats and oils

Fruits and vegetables

Other food products/ mixed



Documents



Algeria



Cereals and bakery products



Documents



Pakistan



Herbs and spices



Replacement/ dilution/ addition/ removal
Unapproved treatment and/or process



Spain



Fats and oils



Mislabelling
Replacement/ dilution/ addition/ removal



Nigeria



Cereals and bakery products

Fats and oils



Documents



Hong Kong



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

The Brazilian Federal Police, the Federal Public Ministry and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply, in the context of the Operation "Xaropel", discovered that a company fraudulently sold tens of tons of sugar syrup as honey.

[Gov.br](#) [Gov.br](#) [Odocumento](#) [Mpf](#) [Otempo](#)

In the context of Operation Hypo, the Brazilian authorities discovered a clandestine slaughterhouse where horsemeat was sold as ground beef meat (without invoices) to restaurants in the Caxias do Sul region. Apparently, 800 kg of horsemeat were distributed per week by the criminals.

[O Liberal](#) [Food Safety News](#) [ZeroUno TV](#) [CNN](#)

Five people have been arrested in Armenia for smuggling 3 200 bottles of liquor without authorisation and not compliant with the health requirements.

[Cronica del Quindio](#)

The Bogotá authorities seized 1 320 litres of alcoholic products (e.g. beers, sabajones, wines) with adulterated labels or packaging.

[RCN Radio](#)

The Colombian authorities discovered in Barranquilla a clandestine slaughterhouse where donkeys and horses were kept in poor conditions and illegally slaughtered.























[El Tiempo](#)

The Indian authorities have discovered three edible oil traders blending low-quality rice bran oil with unauthorised dyes and chemicals, labelling the product as mustard oil. 185 counterfeit mustard oil cans have been seized as well.

[The Times of India](#)

The Indian authorities seized 15 tons of rice smuggled during three operations in different places across the country.

[Times of India](#)

-  meat products
Documents
-  Brazil
-  Honey and royal jelly
-  Counterfeit
-  Brazil
-  Meat and meat products (other than poultry)
-  Mislabelling
Replacement/ dilution/ addition/ removal
-  Armenia
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-  Colombia
-  Alcoholic beverages
Wine
-  Mislabelling
-  Colombia
-  Meat and meat products (other than poultry)
-  Mislabelling
Replacement/ dilution/ addition/ removal
-  India
-  Fats and oils
-  Counterfeit
Unapproved treatment and/or process
-  India
-  Cereals and bakery products
-  Documents

Other interesting articles

Paper on food fraud in exports from South- East Asia Nations

An article analyses exports from South-East Asian countries affected by food fraud, over a period of 20 years.

[Plos One](#)



South-East Asia



Food

New FDA webpage on food fraud

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has updated the webpage dedicated to the Economically Motivated Adulteration (EMA).

[Food Safety Tech](#) [FDA](#)



USA



Food

UK Guidance on seafood

The Government of the United Kingdom has updated the Guidance document on how to trace, weigh and distribute fish products.

[Gov.uk](#)



UK



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

The European Commission's science and knowledge service

Joint Research Centre



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If you wish to receive a notification whenever any new Food Fraud Monthly Report is published on our [Knowledge Centre for Food Fraud and Quality \(KC-FFQ\)](#) website, please register here: [K4P Newsroom](#).

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