

December 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.

Food Fraud Cases

The Italian authorities seized in total 21 tons of food and 20 000 litres of wine with no traceability documentation, with false/non-compliant labels, or counterfeit Geographical Indications (GIs).

[Il valore italiano](#) [Il Piacenza](#) [Stretto web](#) [Giornale L'ora](#)
[Torino oggi](#) [Agricoltura](#) [Gazzetta del Sud](#)
[L'opinionista](#) [Il dispaccio](#) [Reggio Today](#) [Qui](#)
[Cosenza](#) [Live sicilia](#) [Modena Today](#) [Cronache Salerno](#)
[Sardegna Live](#) [Salerno Today](#) [il Lametino](#) [Italia a tavola](#)
[Unione sarda](#) [Il Reggino](#) [Il Giornale di Salerno](#) [Zoom24](#)
[Verona sera](#) [Gazzetta del Sud](#) [La notizia](#) [Il denaro](#)
[Ravenna Today](#) [Ansa](#)



Italy



Food
Wine



Documents
IPR – Intellectual property rights
Mislabelling

The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) discarded 502 kg of honey adulterated with substandard sugar, glucose, rose petals, non-food graded colours and hazardous chemicals.

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



Pakistan



Honey and royal jelly



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

The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) discarded in total 23 000 litres of milk adulterated with thickening chemicals.

[Urdu Point](#) [Urdu Point](#) [Urdu Point](#) [Urdu Point](#) [Urdu Point](#)



Pakistan



Milk and milk products



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

The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) discarded in total 15 400 litres of milk adulterated with water and detergents.

[Urdu Point](#) [Urdu Point](#) [Urdu Point](#)

The Customs Investigation Operational Coordination (COIA) and the Combat of Smuggling (UIC) forces seized 2 tons of contraband beef meat. The products were transported without maintaining the cold chain, thus not respecting the adequate sanitary rules.

[Ultima Hora](#) [Paraguay.com](#)

In another operation, the National Customs Directorate seized 15.5 tons of contraband beef smuggled into Paraguay from Argentina.

[Megacadena](#) [abc](#) [Paraguay.com](#) [La Nacion](#) [Hoy.com](#) [Ultima Hora](#)

The local authorities seized 1 080 units of contraband alcoholic products (e.g. beer, rum, whiskey, vodka and brandy).

[La Nacion](#)

The Nigerian Navy seized 13.25 tons of contraband parboiled rice.

[Sun News Online](#) [Punching](#) [Premium Times Ng](#)

The Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSa) found that all samples collected from unpackaged soybean or palm oil were not compliant with the requirements laid down by the legislation (food safety, hygiene, packaging and labelling). In addition, palm oil (cheaper) and soybean oil were mixed without informing consumers, sometimes being rancid as well.

[Tbs News](#)

The Italian authorities seized 5 tons of seafood products (total value of 300 000 Euros) either without traceability documentation or expired since 2 years.

[Politiche Agricole](#) [Asknews](#) [Agricoltura](#) [Agricolae](#)

In the context of *Operation Atlantide*, the Italian Coast Guard seized 170 tons of illicit seafood products all over the Italian territory.

[ANSA](#) [L'Adige](#) [SkyTg24](#) [Giornale di Sicilia](#) [QdS](#)
[adnkronos](#) [Itaca Notizie](#) [Rai News](#) [Sbircia la notizia](#)
[Msn](#) [Il Fatto Quotidiano](#) [Ansa Med \(ITA – ENG\)](#) [Meteo](#)
[Week](#) [Rai](#) [Il faro online](#) [Sky Tg 24](#) [Tuscia](#)
[Web](#) [Corriere della Sera](#) [Stato Quotidiano](#) [La Gazzetta di Lucca](#)
[news](#) [Nove Firenze](#) [Il giunco](#) [Il faro online](#) [Go](#)
[Lucca in diretta](#) [Maremma News](#) [Umbria24](#)
[Greenme](#) [Corriere fiorentino](#) [Stamp Toscana](#) [Stretto web](#)
[Cn24TV](#) [Quotidiano dell'Umbria](#) [Gazzetta del Sud](#)
[Il Reggino](#) [Lacnews24](#) [Zoom24](#) [ANSA](#) [Tempo stretto](#)
[Live Sicilia](#) [Blog Sicilia](#) [Go news](#) [La Sicilia](#)
[Giornale di Sicilia](#) [Ragusa News](#) [Nuova Venezia](#) [Reggio Today](#)
[La Nazione](#) [Genova Today](#) [La Stampa](#) [Seguo](#)
[news](#) [Ansa](#) [Abruzzo web](#) [Reggio TV](#) [Sicilia reporter](#)
[Agrigento oggi](#) [Città della Spezia](#) [La Sicilia](#)
[Sicilia24h](#) [Positano news](#) [Napoli village](#) [Primo](#)
[numero](#) [Tirreno geolocal](#) [Gazzetta del Sud](#) [Zoom24](#) [Qui](#)
[Cosenza](#) [La denuncia](#) [Ansa](#) [Sardiniapost](#)



Paraguay



Meat and meat products
(other than poultry)



Documents



Costa Rica



Alcoholic beverages



Documents



Nigeria



Cereals and bakery
products



Documents



Bangladesh



Fats and oils



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



Italy



Bivalve molluscs and
products thereof

Cephalopods and
products thereof

Crustaceans and products
thereof

Fish and fish products

Gastropods

Documents

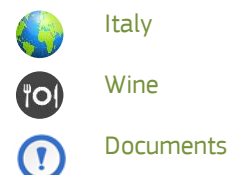


Documents

[L'informatore navale](#) [SardegnaLive](#) [VesuvioLive](#)
[Giornale di Sicilia](#) [Il fatto nisseno](#) [Live sicilia](#)
[NewSicilia](#) [Blog Sicilia](#) [Ragusa News](#) [QdS](#) [La](#)
[Nuova Sardegna](#) [Il Centro](#) [Cagliari pad](#) [RTM News](#)
[Riviera oggi](#) [Ansa](#) [Agrigento Notizie](#) [Sicilia TV](#)
[Agrigento Oggi](#) [Sicilia on press](#) [Il Centro](#) [Il Centro](#)
[Agrigento Oggi](#) [Agrigento Notizie](#) [Sicilia TV](#) [Agrigento Oggi](#)
[La Stampa](#) [La nuova Ferrara](#) [Quotidiano di Gela](#) [Cronache](#)
[maceratesi](#) [Riviera oggi](#) [Ansa](#) [Seguonews](#) [Corriere Adriatico](#)

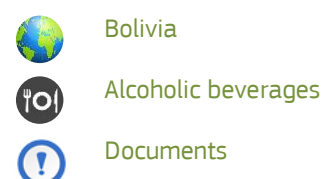
The Italian authorities seized 220 000 litres of wine (total value of 300 000 Euros) without any documentation. The origin was uncertain as well.

[Politiche Agricole](#) [AskaneWS](#) [Agricoltura](#) [Stato Quotidiano](#)
[Agricolae](#)



The Bolivian authorities seized 1 827 contraband packages of alcoholic beverages (total value of 18 000 Euros).

[Pagina Siete](#)



The Colombian authorities seized 20 tons of adulterated liquors produced with alcohol, essences and colorants, ultimately resembling whiskey, vodka, brandy, rum and beer.

[RCN Radio](#) [Infobae](#)



The Bureau of Customs (BOC) Port of Subic seized refined sugar valued almost 300 000 Euros.

[Sun Star](#) [Phil Star](#)



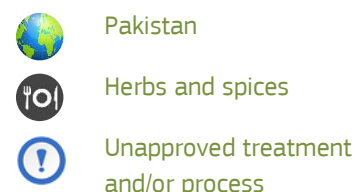
The Federal Administration of Public Revenues (AFIP) seized 622 tons of corn, 488 tons of wheat, 501 tons of barley and 26 tons of oat smuggled into Argentina.

[Ambito](#)



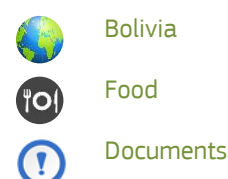
The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety Authority (FSA) seized huge quantities of substandard spices, as the two factories were using illegal dyes not suitable for human consumption.

[Urdu Point](#)



The National Service of Agricultural Health and Food Safety (Senasag) seized 3.5 tons of food without sanitary documentation, including beer, wine, ciders, panettones, canned goods, cheese, fruits, fish and animal feed.

[Senasag](#) [Bolivia en tus Manos](#)



The Turkish authorities launched the nationwide (81 provinces) "Operation Poison" in response



to the death of around 65 people from alcohol poisoning. More than 31 000 litres of smuggled and adulterated liquors have been seized so far.

[China.org](#) [Famagusta](#) [Mena FN](#) [Notimerica](#) [Europa press](#)
[Teleprenta](#) [La Nacion](#) [Journal de Montreal](#) [Le Figaro](#) [Le](#)
[Matin](#) [Noticias o minuto](#) [Ziarul de iasi](#) [Sapo](#) [Sol Sapo](#)
[Stirile Pro TV](#) [Gazeta de Sud](#) [Can Can](#) [Ziare](#) [Tpa](#)
[El Manana](#) [Berliner](#) [Realitatea](#) [Cuget Liber](#) [Ziua constanta](#)
[G4 media](#) [DCnews](#) [Publika](#) [Spotmedia](#) [Gandul](#) [Ezv](#)
[Stiripesurse](#) [Monitorulcj](#) [Libertatea](#) [Agerpres](#) [Ziare](#)
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[La republica](#) [Repretel](#) [Xeu](#) [Armenews](#)



Alcoholic beverages



Documents
Unapproved treatment and/or process

The Indian authorities seized 2 150 bottles of imported smuggled Scotch whisky without holograms and beers, illegally stored by two suspects.

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



India



Alcoholic beverages

In another operation, the authorities discovered two illegal manufacturing units storing many liquor bottles with counterfeit labels.

[The Hindu](#)



Documents
IPR – Intellectual property rights

In a third operation, the police arrested a criminal who was smuggling 1 080 bottles of contraband booze in a luxury bus.

[Times of India](#)

The Indian authorities also seized 5 000 litres of foreign liquor contraband into the country.

[The Economic Times](#)

The Mozambican authorities seized 6 tons of dry fish and shrimp illegally caught after the closing of the fishing season.

[Club of Mozambique](#)



Mozambique



Crustaceans and products thereof

Fish and fish products



Documents

The Italian authorities seized 550 kg of eggplants and olives in oil with no sanitary documentation.

[Il cirotano](#) [Ansa](#) [Il Metropolitano](#) [Qui Cosenza](#) [Il Quotidiano](#)
[del Sud](#) [Calabria Reportage](#) [Calabria 7](#)



Italy



Fruits and vegetables



Documents

The Argentinean authorities seized 14 tons of smuggled sugar.

[Hoy](#)



Argentina



Other food products/
mixed



Documents

The Indian authorities have discovered a factory producing fake ghee with palm oil, vegetable cooking oil, colouring and flavouring agents, ultimately labelled with the name of a famous ghee brand. The authorities seized 1 ton of ghee, 500 kg of palm oil and 500 kg of vegetable cooking oil.

[The Hindu](#)



India



Milk and milk products



Counterfeit
IPR – Intellectual property rights

The Brazilian government suspended the sale of 24 brands of olive oil (more than 150 000



Brazil

bottles), following the discovery of three clandestine factories mixing vegetable oils of unknown origins.

[Gov.br](#) [G1 globo](#) [Bem Paraná](#) [Diário do Nordeste](#) [Opovo](#)
[Gazeta de Povo](#) [Economia](#) [Diário induscom](#)



Fats and oils



Documents
 Replacement/ dilution/
 addition/ removal

The Romanian authorities seized 5 000 litres of alcoholic beverages illegally produced.

[Curierul](#)



Romania



Alcoholic beverages



Documents

The Egyptian authorities seized 37 tons of cheese and raw materials unfit for human consumption. In this operation, they also discovered a factory producing cheese by adding white paste wall paint (to give a whiter colour), unknown milk and spoiled salt. Obviously, this was a serious threat to consumer health.

[Archyde](#)



Egypt



Milk and milk products



Unapproved treatment
 and/or process

The Brazilian Police seized 3 000 bottles of smuggled wine (total value of almost 310 000 euros).

[G1 Globo](#)



Brazil



Wine



Documents

The South African police has destroyed 20 000 litres of contraband alcoholic beverages, and is expecting to destroy additional 50 000 litres as well.

[Times Live](#)



South Africa



Alcoholic beverages



Documents

The Indian authorities have seized 5 tons of jaggery and almost 11.5 tons of sugar from three jaggery factories. Jaggery was adulterated with added sugar, which is not permitted.

[Times of India](#)



India



Other food products/
 mixed



Replacement/ dilution/
 addition/ removal

The authorities seized 900 bottles of counterfeit liquor and 4 800 false stamps from different brands.

[El Tiempo](#)



Colombia



Alcoholic beverages



IPR – Intellectual property
 rights

Oceana Mexico, in its latest report “*Gato X Liebre: Edición Especial Tiburon*”, states that 30% of cod products sold in the Mexican capital are in reality made from different fish species.

[Oceana Report](#) [La silla rota](#) [Perspectivas](#)



Mexico



Fish and fish products



Mislabelling
 Replacement/ dilution/
 addition/ removal

The Ministry of Finance has arrested four persons accused of commercial bribery. The criminals were selling expired meat products and pastry theoretically intended for destruction. The authorities seized 1.1 tons of expired meat products and 1.1 tons of expired pastries.

[Agenda.ge](#)



Georgia



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

The Hong Kong Customs seized 3.6 tons of smuggled sea cucumbers, for a total value of almost 2 million Euros.

[The Standard](#)

In another operation, the authorities seized 32 tonnes of suspected smuggled frozen meat, for a total value of 560 000 Euros.

[Info.gov](#)

[Foreign affairs](#)

[The Standard](#)

The authorities arrested a farmer for mixing country liquor with aerated drinks and fruit beer essence. The police seized 1 100 litres of country liquor and 1 400 bottles of aerated drinks and other beverages. The farmer was then selling such products with stickers from cold drinks, so that no one may suspect they contain liquor.

[Times of India](#)



Documents



Hong Kong



Meat and meat products
(other than poultry)

Poultry meat and poultry
meat products

Other food products/
mixed



Documents



India



Alcoholic beverages



Replacement/ dilution/
addition/ removal

Unapproved treatment
and/or process

IPR – Intellectual property
rights

Other interesting articles

Ecuador fights against smuggling

The Government of Ecuador will place an electronic device on around 3.8 million bovines in order to fight smuggling and theft affecting milk and meat products.

[Infobae](#)

[Agrofy](#)

Beverages adulterated in Colombia

According to the Euromonitor International study “*Illegal alcoholic beverages market in Colombia*”, around 20% of beverages consumed are illegal, and more than 20% of such market is illicit.

[HSB Noticias](#)

Call to end illegal fishing

More than 100 scientists signed a letter to the US Congress, asking for actions to tackle illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

[GlobeNewsWire](#)

[Earth](#)

Report on food and fibre fraud

A Deakin University report discusses the impact of frauds in the Australian food and fibres sectors. Adulteration, concealment, counterfeiting, dilution, mislabelling and substitution are the six most common fraudulent practices.

[AgriFutures
online](#)

[Report](#)

[Mirage News](#)

[The National Tribune](#)

[Mail](#)



Ecuador



Meat and meat products
(other than poultry)



Colombia



Alcoholic beverages

Non-alcoholic beverages



USA



Bivalve molluscs and
products thereof

Cephalopods and
products thereof

Crustaceans and products
thereof

Fish and fish products

Gastropods



Australia



Food

Amendments to better fight food fraud

In Switzerland, the National Council approved two motions for better information sharing and for introducing higher penalties against food fraudsters.

[Corriere del Ticino](#)



Switzerland



Food

Food Safety and Standards Act approved

The Indian Government has repealed the previous Food Safety laws and related Regulations by gathering them into a new dedicated Food Safety and Standards Act.

[Fnb News](#)



India



Food

Operation IKATERE from Interpol

INTERPOL released a summary of the global Operation IKATERE (June-October 2021) covering fisheries crime, human trafficking and the smuggling of drugs and explosives.

[INTERPOL](#)



World



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

Tips against food fraud risks

An official from the National Food Crime Unit (NFCU) shares some tips for the industry to protect themselves against food frauds.

[New Food Magazine](#)



UK



Food

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