

# Monthly Summary of Articles on Food Fraud and Adulteration

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



## Food Fraud Cases

The Italian authorities seized 2 000 cans (900 kilograms) of beans missing the proper traceability documentation.

[Il giornale di Salerno](#) 03/11/2020



Italy



Fruits and vegetables



Missing documents

The Italian authorities seized 10 tons of honey and 25 000 litres of olive oil lacking the required traceability documentation, and 33 000 litres of wine produced without any authorisation.

[Salute Gov](#) 05/11/2020



Italy



Fats and oils

Honey and royal jelly

Wine



Missing documents

The Indian authorities discovered a criminal network artificially ripening 1.2 tons of bananas by spraying ethephon. In another operation, 2.1 tons of adulterated jaggery (a traditional cane sugar) were seized because it was adulterated. The authorities also seized additional products used for adulteration such as 600 kg of white sugar, 20 kg of super phosphate, 25 kg of potash, and 25 kg of sodium bicarbonate.

[The Hindu](#) 05/11/2020



India



Fruits and vegetables

Other food products/  
mixed



Unapproved treatment  
and/or process

The police has dismantled a criminal organisation producing and selling fake spices mostly to hotels. Labels were counterfeited as well.

[Standard Media](#) 08/11/2020



Kenya



Herbs and spices



Forgery

Mislabelling

The Indian authorities discovered a criminal network producing chili and turmeric powder adulterated by mixing chemicals and harmful products. The authorities seized a total amount of 2 500 kg of chili powder, 4 600 kg of turmeric powder, 200 kg of coriander powder, and 112 kg of cumin powder.

[Odisha TV](#) 11/11/2020

[The New Indian Express](#) 14/11/2020

[Sambad](#) 14/11/2020



India



Herbs and spices



Forgery

Unapproved treatment  
and/or process

The Cuban Consumer Protection Police (Decon) seized 3 800 bottles of olive oil fraudulently mislabelled as extra virgin olive oil.

[A Gazeta](#) 12/11/2020



Cuba



Fats and oils



Mislabelling

The Indian authorities discovered 553 kg of khowa (a typical Indian dairy product) and milk powder adulterated with harmful chemicals.

[Times of India](#) 13/11/2020



India



Milk and milk products



Unapproved treatment and/or process

The Italian Coast Guard seized 7 tons of mackerels expired in 2015.

[La Gazzetta del Mezzogiorno](#) 13/11/2020



Italy



Fish and fish products



Unapproved treatment and/or process

The Pakistan authorities seized 2 000 litres of adulterated milk.

[Urdu Point](#) 13/11/2020

[Nation](#) 16/11/2020

In a second operation, 5 000 litres of milk were destroyed because they were mixed with water.

[Urdu Point](#) 21/11/2020

In a third operation, the Punjab Food Authority (PFA) destroyed almost 80 000 litres of milk contaminated with urea or adulterated with water.

[Urdu Point](#) 28/11/2020



Pakistan



Milk and milk products



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

The Italian authorities seized 1 800 smuggled bottles of alcoholic products (rum and vodka) and beers, together with 9 tons of cereals, rice, maize, spices, potatoes, legumes and vegetables in low hygienic conditions (even expired or rotten) and destined to the black market (probably to ethnic restaurants) all over the national territory. Food was mislabelled as “Produced in Peru” as well.

[Il giornale confidenziale](#) 16/11/2020

[Zazoom](#) 16/11/2020

[Winemag](#) 16/11/2020

[Il Messaggero](#) 16/11/2020

[Corriere di Como](#) 16/11/2020

[Fanpage](#) 16/11/2020

[Il Giorno](#) 17/11/2020



Italy



Alcoholic beverages

Cereals and bakery products

Herbs and spices

Fruits and vegetables



Missing documents

Mislabelling

The Jordan Food and Drug Administration (JFDA) seized 13 tons of dairy products produced from milk powder, but mislabelled as produced from fresh milk.

[Petra Gov](#) 16/11/2020



Jordan



Milk and milk products



Mislabelling

The Consumer Protection Police (Decon) discovered a criminal organisation, involving nine companies, selling soybean oil as extra virgin olive oil. In the operation, more than 3 000 bottles were seized.

[Gov Br Jornal do Comercio](#) 17/11/2020

[Agrodigital](#) [A Gazeta](#) 19/11/2020

[G1 Globo](#) 20/11/2020 [A Gazeta](#) 23/11/2020



Brazil



Fats and oils



Forgery

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety Authority seized 800 kg of tea packs adulterated with non-authorized food colours and other ingredients.

[Urdu Point](#) 18/11/2020

In another operation, the Pakistan authorities seized additional 4 200 kg of adulterated tea bags.

[Urdu Point](#) 19/11/2020

The Brazilian authorities seized 60 tons of products in two supermarkets in São Benedito, because the real weight of the content was less than claimed on the package label, deceiving consumers.

[G1 Globo](#) 20/11/2020

Following some analyses carried out with Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) in Germany, it seems that 10 out of 13 (77%) honey samples on UK supermarkets are adulterated with cheap sugar syrups made from rice and corn.

[Daily Mail](#) 21/11/2020

[News 24](#) 22/11/2020

[The Courier UK](#) 24/11/2020

[The Press and Journal](#) 24/11/2020

The Italian authorities, seized 4 250 kg of mussels, lacking any traceability documentation, at the border between Italy and Slovenia.

[Il Friuli](#) 22/11/2020

A recent paper published on *Scientific Reports* highlights that 33% of Peruvian seafood is mislabelled because of economic reasons or lack of terminology knowledge, and 30% of samples contained threatened and protected species.

[Scientific Reports](#) 23/11/2020

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety Authority seized 1 600 kg of gur (a traditional non-centrifugal cane sugar) produced with substandard sugars and colours.

[Urdu Point](#) 23/11/2020

-  Pakistan
-  Non-alcoholic beverages
-  Unapproved treatment and/or process
-  Brazil
-  Food
-  Mislabelling
-  UK
-  Honey and royal jelly
-  Unapproved treatment and/or process
- Replacement/ dilution/ addition/ removal in product
-  Italy
-  Bivalve molluscs and products thereof
-  Missing documents
-  Peru
-  Bivalve molluscs and products thereof
- Cephalopods and products thereof
- Crustaceans and products thereof
- Fish and fish products
- Gastropods
-  Mislabelling
-  Pakistan
-  Other food products/ mixed
-  Unapproved treatment and/or process

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety Authority seized: 1 200 kg of unhealthy cherries, adulterated with non-food colours and other hazardous preservative chemicals; 350 kg of substandard spices; 1 000 kg of substandard ghee; and 2 00 litres of adulterated milk.

[Pakistan Today](#) 20/11/2020

According to the 2019 Food Monitoring Report from Germany, 13% of oregano samples were adulterated with olive leaves, and 20% contained plant-based foreign components (e.g. wood parts).

[IDW Online](#) 24/11/2020

[BVL](#) 24/11/2020

[Frucht Portal](#) 26/11/2020

The Indian police discovered a plant manufacturing hundreds of kilograms of fake protein powder, mislabelled as produced by top USA or EU companies. The supplements contained e.g. steroids, testosterone and androsterone, which are globally banned.

[Mumbai Mirror](#) 24/11/2020



Pakistan



Fruits and vegetables  
Herbs and spices  
Milk and milk products



Unapproved treatment  
and/or process



Germany



Herbs and spices



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



India



Dietetic foods, food  
supplements, fortified  
foods



Unapproved treatment  
and/or process  
Mislabelling

## Other interesting articles

04/11/2020 – JRC food fraud activities presented on Euronews ‘Futuris’

Euronews reported on the activities of the JRC Unit in charge of food fraud in the context of fraud in the spices sector.

[Euronews](#) [EN](#) - [FR](#) - [ES](#) - [DE](#) - [IT](#) - [PT](#)



EU



Herbs and spices

08/11/2020 – National campaign against olive oil adulteration

Various Jordan authorities have launched the annual campaign, called this year “Check Your Oil Before it Enters Your Home”, to inform citizens about olive oil adulteration.

[The Jordan Times](#)

[Zawya](#)



Jordan



Fats and oils

### 11/11/2020 – Criminal activities in the fisheries sector, according to Nature

The scientific journal Nature has analysed and summarised the current state of knowledge on organised crime (e.g. fraud, drug trafficking and forced labour) in the fisheries sector.

[Nature](#)



World



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

### 11/11/2020 – Sand added to fish meal in Kenya

According to the FeedTechKenya consortium (comprising Kenyan and Dutch partners), middlemen from Lake Victoria to Nairobi adulterate fish meal by adding sand up to 50% of the original weight.

[Agroberichten Buitenland](#)



Kenya



Compound feeds

### 16/11/2020 – Seafood mislabelling negatively impacts on marine sustainability, PNAS says

A recent article on the journal PNAS highlights that seafood mislabelling in USA has strong impact on marine populations. For example, 60% of mislabelling cases affect wild caught products. The authors close the article by providing opportunities and suggestions to tackle seafood frauds.

[PNAS](#)

[EurekaAlert!](#)

[Qnewshub](#)

[Technology Networks](#)



USA



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

### 22/11/2020 – 2019 report on food controls in Catalonia

The Catalanian authorities published their 2019 report as regards official controls on food quality and food fraud. Examples of food frauds include mislabelling, adulteration and unapproved processes.

[Food Safety News](#)



Spain



Food

### 27/11/2020 – A documentary investigates frauds in origin labelling

A Spanish journalist investigates the frauds in origin labelling of beans produced in Morocco, but mislabelled as Spanish ones.

[La Sexta](#)



Spain



Fruits and vegetables

*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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