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## Food Fraud Cases

<p>The Italian authorities discovered an illegal plant producing adulterated wine and vinegar, and counterfeiting Geographical Indications. The agents seized 25 tons of sugar, 30 000 litres of sugar already dissolved in water, and almost 4 million litres of counterfeited wine. The organisation was managed by a criminal already known to the public authorities.</p> <p><a href="#">La Repubblica</a> <a href="#">Giornale di Sicilia</a> <a href="#">Agenparl</a> <a href="#">Eco di Sicilia</a>  <a href="#">Live Sicilia</a> <a href="#">Zazoom</a> <a href="#">Winemag</a> <a href="#">MeridioNews</a> <a href="#">Agricoltura</a>  <a href="#">Finanzen</a> <a href="#">ZeroUno TV</a> 01/12/2020</p>	  	<p>Italy</p> <p>Soups, broths, sauces and condiments Wine</p> <p>Intellectual property rights infringement Mislabelling Missing documents Unapproved treatment and/or process</p>
<p>According to the New Delhi-based Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), 10 out of 13 (77%) Indian brands sell honey adulterated with synthetic sugar syrups (corn, beetroot, rice, sugarcane) imported from China. The discovery followed a series of tests using Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) performed in Germany, as Indian laboratories were unable to detect the fraud.</p> <p><a href="#">CSE India</a> <a href="#">The Hindu</a> <a href="#">Down to Earth</a> <a href="#">Down to Earth</a> <a href="#">Financial Express</a>  <a href="#">Express</a> <a href="#">DTNext</a> <a href="#">DNA India</a> <a href="#">Hindustan Times</a> <a href="#">Business Standard</a>  <a href="#">Standard</a> <a href="#">Down to Earth</a> <a href="#">India Today</a> <a href="#">India.com</a> 02/12/2020  <a href="#">DTNext</a> <a href="#">Financial Express</a> <a href="#">Times of India</a> <a href="#">Mumbai Mirror</a> <a href="#">Indian Television</a>  <a href="#">India.com</a> <a href="#">Manorama Online</a> <a href="#">International Business Times</a>  <a href="#">The Health Site</a> <a href="#">World News Monitor</a> <a href="#">Financial Express</a> <a href="#">Times of India</a>  <a href="#">News18</a> <a href="#">FirstPost</a> <a href="#">Down to Earth</a> 03/12/2020  <a href="#">DNA India</a> <a href="#">Indian Television</a> <a href="#">News18</a> <a href="#">Down to Earth</a> <a href="#">Hindustan Times</a>  <a href="#">World News Monitor</a> 04/12/2020 <a href="#">The Hindu</a> 05/12/2020 <a href="#">News-24</a>  06/12/2020 <a href="#">Mint Lounge</a> 07/12/2020 <a href="#">Financial Express</a> <a href="#">Down to Earth</a>  08/12/2020 <a href="#">DT Next</a> 09/12/2020 <a href="#">Down to Earth</a> 09/12/2020 <a href="#">Financial Express</a>  10/12/2020 <a href="#">The Hindu</a> 12/12/2020 <a href="#">Money Control</a> 13/12/2020  <a href="#">Business Standard</a> 14/12/2020 <a href="#">Down to Earth</a> 15/12/2020 <a href="#">Telegraph India</a>  16/12/2020 <a href="#">Times of India</a> 17/12/2020 <a href="#">Down to Earth</a> 22/12/2020 <a href="#">Rediff</a>  26/12/2020 <a href="#">The Straits Times</a> 28/12/2020</p>	  	<p>India</p> <p>Honey and royal jelly</p> <p>Replacement/ dilution/ addition/ removal in product Unapproved treatment and/or process</p>







<p>The Cambodian authorities have closed 347 shops and 36 producers selling or counterfeiting rice wine with methanol, extremely dangerous for human health. Recently, 131 people became sick and 15 people died after drinking rice wine adulterated with a percentage of methanol ranging from 10% to 17%.</p> <p><a href="#">The Phnom Penh Post</a> 02/12/2020 <a href="#">The Phnom Penh Post</a> 04/12/2020</p>		Cambodia
		Alcoholic beverages
		Unapproved treatment and/or process
<p>The Punjab Food Authority seized almost 3 000 litres of milk adulterated with urea fertilizers and other chemicals.</p> <p><a href="#">Urdu Point</a> 05/12/2020</p>		Pakistan
		Milk and milk products
		Unapproved treatment and/or process
<p>The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) sealed a plant adulterating spices with harmful ingredients and chemicals in red chilli powder. Minimal hygienic conditions were not respected as well, thus threatening the consumers' health. The team destroyed more than 1 600 kg of fungus-infested chilli, 450 kg of sawdust, 400 kg of red chili powder, and 10 kg of colorants.</p> <p><a href="#">Urdu Point</a> 07/12/2020 <a href="#">The News</a> 08/12/2020</p>		Pakistan
		Herbs and spices
		Replacement/ dilution/ addition/ removal in product Unapproved treatment and/or process
<p>The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) closed three plants adulterating honey with sugars, glucose and harmful colorants. PFA also discarded 1 130 kg of fake honey, 1 500 kg of syrup and 450 kg of glucose.</p> <p><a href="#">Urdu Point</a> 07/12/2020</p>		Pakistan
		Honey and royal jelly
		Replacement/ dilution/ addition/ removal in product Unapproved treatment and/or process
<p>According to the Italian authorities, a criminal organisation sold 54 000 bottles of counterfeited wines (including bearing a Geographical Indication) between 2016 and 2018, for a final profit of one million euros. Fraudsters also added aromas, syrups and colorants not allowed for oenological use.</p> <p><a href="#">Il Messaggero</a> 11/12/2020</p>		Italy
		Wine
		Intellectual property rights infringement Mislabelling Unapproved treatment and/or process
<p>According to some researchers from the Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (DOST – PNRI), more than 80% of honey sold in groceries, souvenir shops and online platforms is severely adulterated (up to 95%) with C4 sugar syrups from sugar cane and corn. The researchers used the stable carbon isotope ratio analysis technique to perform their studies.</p> <p><a href="#">GMA</a> 12/12/2020 <a href="#">Manila Bulletin</a> <a href="#">ABS</a> 13/12/2020 <a href="#">MSN News</a> <a href="#">Inquirer</a> 14/12/2020 <a href="#">Tribune.net</a> 15/12/2020</p>		Philippines
		Honey and royal jelly
		Replacement/ dilution/ addition/ removal in product Mislabelling





<p>According to the NGO Oceana México, around one third of cod products actually contain other species of lower cost. In 66% of these cases cod is replaced with endangered species such as sharks or rays.</p> <p><a href="#">Zocalo</a> 15/12/2020  <a href="#">Milenio</a> 15/12/2020  <a href="#">Infobae</a> 15/12/2020</p>	  	<p>Mexico</p> <p>Fish and fish products</p> <p>Replacement/ dilution/ addition/ removal in product</p>
<p>The Italian authorities seized 22 tons of Tunisians pomegranates, mislabelled as produced in Italy.</p> <p><a href="#">Il Fatto Nisseno</a> 15/12/2020</p>	  	<p>Italy</p> <p>Fruits and vegetables</p> <p>Mislabelling</p>
<p>The Spanish authorities seized and destroyed more than 400 kg of expired fish, but mislabelled as fresh or lacking any traceability documentation. During Christmas there is usually a greater demand for fish and seafood.</p> <p><a href="#">Ideal</a> 15/12/2020</p>	  	<p>Spain</p> <p>Fish and fish products</p> <p>Mislabelling Missing documents</p>
<p>Within the context of the “Operation Fuco”, the Spanish authorities uncovered a criminal organisation selling fake whiskey under the name of a famous brand. The fraud may be potentially worth more than 800 000 euros. Fourteen people were either arrested or investigated.</p> <p><a href="#">Food Safety News</a>     <a href="#">Le Blogaa</a> 16/12/2020  <a href="#">Food and Wine</a> 18/12/2020  <a href="#">Securing Industry</a> 19/12/2020</p>	  	<p>Spain</p> <p>Alcoholic beverages</p> <p>Intellectual property rights infringement</p>
<p>The Indian authorities discovered a manufacturing plant producing fake spices (packaged with labels from local brands) by using donkey dung, hay (bhusa), synthetic colours and acid. The policemen seized 300 kg of counterfeited spices (coriander powder, red chilli powder, turmeric and spice mix).</p> <p><a href="#">Sambad English</a>     <a href="#">News18</a> 16/12/2020  <a href="#">Times of India</a> 17/12/2020  <a href="#">The Independent</a> 16/12/2020</p>	  	<p>India</p> <p>Herbs and spices</p> <p>Forgery Intellectual property rights infringement</p>
<p>The Italian authorities seized 1 400 litres of champagne and oil missing the necessary traceability documentation.</p> <p><a href="#">Il Fatto Alimentare</a> 15/12/2020  <a href="#">Le Blogaa</a> 16/12/2020</p>	  	<p>Italy</p> <p>Fats and oils Wine</p> <p>Intellectual property rights infringement Missing documents</p>
<p>A joint operation involving Europol, the Spanish Civil Guard and the French Gendarmerie uncovered a criminal organisation selling conventional pistachios as organic. The total profit is estimated to be 6 million euros.</p> <p><a href="#">Europol</a> 18/12/2020</p>	  	<p>Spain</p> <p>Nuts, nut products and seeds</p> <p>Mislabelling</p>

<p>The Italian authorities seized 5 400 kg of fish lacking the required traceability documentation.  <a href="#">La Sicilia</a> 17/12/2020</p>		Italy
		Fish and fish products
		Missing documents
<p>The Cambodian authorities destroyed 20 000 litres of adulterated rice wine with an official ceremony.  <a href="#">AKP Gov</a> 18/12/2020</p>		Cambodia
		Alcoholic beverages
		Unapproved treatment and/or process
<p>The Indian police discovered a plant producing fake ghee with animal fat, horns, hooves and bones. The ghee taste and smell were given in the end through aromas.  <a href="#">OpIndia</a> 18/12/2020  In another operation, Indian authorities closed a factory adulterating ghee with labels from known reputed brands.  <a href="#">Sambad English</a> 21/12/2020</p>		India
		Other food products/ mixed
		Forgery Intellectual property rights infringement
<p>At the beginning of December the Italian Coast Guard launched the operation “Frontiere Tracciabili” all over the national territory. The operation involved 3 000 people, who seized 80 tons of illegal seafood products, for a total value of 600 000 euros.  <a href="#">MeteoWeb EU</a> 22/12/2020  <a href="#">Foggia Today</a> 28/12/2020</p>		Italy
		Bivalve molluscs and products thereof Cephalopods and products thereof Crustaceans and products thereof Fish and fish products Gastropods
		Missing documents
<p>The Italian Coast Guard seized 7 tonnes of seafood products (mostly salmon) missing the required traceability documentation.  <a href="#">Il Secolo XIX</a> 23/12/2020</p>		Italy
		Bivalve molluscs and products thereof Cephalopods and products thereof Crustaceans and products thereof Fish and fish products Gastropods
		Missing documents
<p>The Italian authorities discovered an illegal plant producing processed ham products, seizing 600 kg of meat products failing to respect the traceability requirements.  <a href="#">Reggio TV</a> 29/12/2020</p>		Italy
		Meat and meat products (other than poultry)
		Missing documents

<p>The Kuwait Ministry of Commerce and Industry released a press statement announcing the seizure of 52 000 packets of food products imitating famous international brands.  <a href="#">Kuwait Times</a> 29/12/2020</p>		Kuwait
		Food
		Intellectual property rights infringement
<p>All over the Italian territory, the Carabinieri seized 80 tons of fruits and vegetables (valued 60 000 euros), 3.5 tons of seafood products (valued 81 000 euros), and small amounts of dairy products and chocolate. The legal traceability documents were missing, or expiry dates were falsified.  <a href="#">Italia a Tavola</a> 31/12/2020</p>		Italy
		Bivalve molluscs and products thereof Cephalopods and products thereof Cocoa and cocoa preparations, coffee and tea Crustaceans and products thereof Fish and fish products Fruits and vegetables Gastropods Milk and milk products
		Missing documents Mislabelling

## Other interesting articles

<p>07/12/2020 – Honey authenticity surveillance results from Canada</p>		Canada
<p>According to the 2019-2020 report from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), 87% of honey samples tested were not adulterated. The CFIA prevented 83 000 kg of adulterated honey from being sold in the Canadian market.  Government of Canada <a href="#">ENG</a> - <a href="#">FR</a> - <a href="#">Report</a>  <a href="#">Muskoka Newswire</a>  <a href="#">Journal de Montreal</a>  <a href="#">Canadian Insider</a>  <a href="#">Food Authenticity</a></p>		Honey and royal jelly
<p>09/12/2020 – NFCU annual update published</p>		UK
<p>Relevant food fraud cases emerging from the National Food Crime Unit (NFCU) annual update include: extension of use-by dates and origin falsification; counterfeited alcohol unfit for human consumption; products from illegally slaughtered animals; animal by-products illegally processed and dangerous for consumers' health; and traceability issues.  <a href="#">Food Safety News</a>  <a href="#">NFCU report</a></p>		Food
<p>21/12/2020 – The impact of Covid-19 on food frauds</p>		UK
<p>According to the latest Food Authenticity Network (FAN) Report, the Covid-19 pandemic may have potentially increased the vulnerability of the global food chains towards food frauds.</p>		Food

<a href="#">Food Authenticity</a>		
15/12/2020 – Food authenticity addressed in the BfR2GO publication		Germany
The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) has recently published the new BfR2GO issue, covering some topics related to food fraud as: a) a two-stage Delphi study on food adulteration; and b) chemical fingerprint methodologies improved by the research projects “FoodAuthent”, “FoodIntegrity” and “EU MEDIFIT”. <a href="#">BfR2GO, Issue 2/2020</a>		Food
23/12/2020 – Belgian authorities fighting false claims on food products		Belgium
Since March, the Belgian Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC) increasingly monitored false labels on foods and food supplements claiming fake effects against the Coronavirus disease, especially if sold online. FASFC: <a href="#">Belgian website</a> – <a href="#">Flemish website</a> <a href="#">RTBF</a>		Food

*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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