01/06/17 – Large quantities of untraceable fish and cheese seized in Sicily in several control operations
Several operations, mainly in the fish sector have been reported this month in Sicily.

(01/06/17) In Messina (Sicily, Italy), the Carabinieri seized one ton of cheese (ricotta among others) in the process of maturation. The product was lacking any labelling making it totally untraceable in the food chain.

Carabinieri.it
Gazzetta del Sud

(04/06/17) Later in the week, 2 tons of untraceable (mislabelled) fish were caught in Riposto.

Catania Today

(10/06/17) The Italian coast guards seized 250 kg of mislabelled fish in Mazara del Vallo. The products were lacking the mandatory health inspection, origin and traceability documentation. In total 3000 EUR in fines were imposed.

ANSA
La Sicilia

(16/06/17) The Italian coast guards seized 18 tons of frozen fish in the suburbs of Catania. The products were lacking mandatory labelling (origin and date of freezing) and consisted mainly of Albacore tuna (Thunnus alalunga) and tuna eggs.

La Sicilia

(24/06/17) In Roccella (Calabria), 90 kg of fish were seized by the coast guards for lack of origin labelling.

CN24 TV

03/06/17 – More than 10 tons of untraceable octopus caught in Andalusia since January
Between January and May 2017, the Fisheries Inspection Services of the Government of Andalusia have seized and removed from the market 10 458 kilograms of octopus caught illegally. The origin of the product could not be determined as the mandatory labelling was lacking.

Finanzas
05/06/17 - More than 70 000 bottles of counterfeited wine seized in Portugal
The Food and Economic Security Authority (ASEA) seized in Santarem (central Portugal) 71 501 bottles of wine and other material (boxes, corks, labels ...) worth 194 000 EUR, for counterfeiting, imitation and illegal use of a reputed brand of Portuguese wine.
TVI24
Jornal de Noticias

07/06/17 – Hyderabad, India, the centre of a massive crackdown on food adulteration
The local police of Hyderabad (South India) arrested 20 people for food adulteration. The food items seized were ginger, garlic, dry fruits, water, and sompu (fennel seeds) along with suspicious material (oxytocin injections and syringes). The highly debated infamous plastic rice was also mentioned in this operation.
Business Standard
Securing Industry

10/06/17 - In Portugal, a meat processing company must stop activities following malpractices
The Portuguese Food and Economic Security Agency (ASEA) has closed the activities of a meat processing company of Lamego (North) following the discovery of several fraudulent practices. Among them, the lack of veterinary controls for 35 tons of meat, lack of traceability for three other tons of product, and expired food relabelled with a new expiry date. The value of the 38 tons of meat seized is estimated to 61 000 EUR and a company official was arrested.
Dinheiro Vivo
http://www.asae.pt/ (Left menu Notícias > Comunicados de Imprensa 2017 > ASAE suspende atividade de grossista de carnes e apreende 38 toneladas de carne)

11/06/17 – Spice production unit raided near New Delhi: large quantities of adulterant found
Local officials from Ghaziabad raided two spice grinding units and discovered large amounts of adulterant. They notably seized 600 kg of "pili mitti" (yellow pigment) probably to be mixed with turmeric and 1600 kg of sawdust, also used to dilute expensive spices.
Hindustan Times

12/06/17 – Two cases of adulterated milk discovered in Pakistan
(12/06/17) The Food Department of Pakistan controlled a tanker full of milk and on-the-spot analysis revealed that it contained unauthorized chemicals (nature not revealed). Interrogations of the suspects concluded that three other tankers were also adulterated. The whole shipment of 65 000 litres was disposed in the nearby river and eight people were arrested.
The News

(21/06/17) Through several control operations in Pakistani cities, the Punjab Food Authority got rid of about 25 000 litres of substandard milk. The main infractions observed were the addition of potentially harmful chemicals and vegetable fat used as thickeners.
Pakistan Observer

25/06/17 – A manufacturing unit of dairy and fat products raided in India
The Indian Food and Drug Administration raided a manufacturing unit under the suspicion of food adulteration. The seized products were butter, vegetable oil, soybean oil and a large quantity of ghee (clarified butter), all of which being suspected to be adulterated. Although the case is still under investigation, the inspectors declared that the butter and ghee were adulterated with vegetable oil in the site.
The Indian Express
Other interesting articles

01/06/17 - Suspension of of plastic crystals being present in sugar in India

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India collected samples from a shop to proceed to analytical tests after a consumer complained that he found plastic crystals in the sugar he bought. The shop owner is ready to collaborate with the authorities on this case.

The Hindu
India.com

05/06/17 - Peruvian company selling a misdescribed condensed milk

A Peruvian company sold a condensed (evaporated) milk that is actually a blend of cow milk, soy and other ingredients in Latin America. According to this company, the products comply with the South American rules, and should be rebranded for exportation. A consumers association in Peru (ASPEC) however asked for a better description within its own country.

Panama America

08/06/17 - Review of the Parma ham fraud by Politico.eu

In February 2017 a case of fraud on the pig breed used to produce Parma and other PDO Italian hams was reported here (see February 2017 issue “Large scale operation to control Italian PDO cured ham”). The website Politico.eu reviewed the case in this article, giving details on the fraud mechanisms and exposing the stakes that could be jeopardized by such frauds in the highly profitable business of protected geographical indications.

Politico

09/06/17 - Mobile devices to detect food fraud outside the lab

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) launched a new project to detect fraud and contamination of food products through portable devices. It will be similar to the technology used by border police to detect illicit drugs and explosives. Portable devices will allow rapid response by health authorities at checkpoints and prevent the entry of contaminated products into the food supply chain.

IAEA.org
UN Multimedia

12/06/17 - An artificial tongue to fight counterfeited whiskey

Scientists from Heidelberg University (Germany) have developed a new method to assess the authenticity of whiskey. The technology is based on dyes that produce a unique signature based on the reaction with the different chemical components of the drink. The method is able to discriminate between brand, blend, age, taste, and country of origin.

Securing Industry

Link to the scientific article: Cell

14/06/17 – European Court of Justice rules that dairy products have to be of animal origin

The Verband Sozialer Wettbewerb (German association fighting unfair competition) brought an action at the ECJ against Tofutown, a company selling vegetarian organic product under names "Tofu Nut," "Vegetable Cheese" or "Veggie Cheese": The ECJ finally ruled that the terms "milk," "cream," "butter" and "cheese" will be restricted to describing animal products only (case C-422/16). The judgement is particularly welcomed by the dairy industry.

Deutsche Welle
Go News

Transcription of the ECJ judgement: http://curia.europa.eu

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June - JRC Food Fraud Monthly Report
14/06/17 – An audit of the European Commission reveals persistent failures in the Brazilian meat industry

An audit of the European Commission carried out in May showed persistent failures in Brazil’s regulatory oversight of the meat industry. “These deficiencies concerned both food safety standards as well as official certification practices”, said the Commissioner in charge. As a consequence, EU will strengthen controls and ban the import of horsemeat, a particularly vulnerable sector. Since the beginning of the scandal, EU importations of Brazilian meat dropped by 26%, recent reports say.

Bloomberg

18/06/17 – EU and China team up to fight food fraud

Estimated to 46 billion EUR per year, the food fraud business has raised the attention of EU and Chinese authorities. As a consequence, EU Horizon 2020 programme and Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) programme have awarded 10 million EUR towards a EU-China partnership involving key players in the food industry, research organisations and governments. The consortium will aim at improving food legislation, food inspection and increasing access to information across both continents.

Newstalk

Food Quality News

22/06/17 – USA ban the importation of Brazilian meat

Again another hard blow on the Brazilian meat sector: USA decided to ban the importation of meat from the country. It follows, not only the Carne Fraca scandal, but also the bad results obtained by Brazilian meat at safety controls. Since March, USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has inspected 100% of fresh meat from Brazil, and has rejected 11% of these products. The number is well above the 1% average rejection rate for meat imported from other countries.

USDA

Jornal do Comercio

22/06/17 – European laboratories roll-out a new saffron fraud method

Two European laboratories could detect a new and advanced method used to mimic saffron. The standard tests only hinted that the saffron powder tested was ‘not pure saffron’. However, a deeper investigation, with use of NMR and metabolic fingerprint, could help discovering that the powder did not contain saffron at all. It was in fact a mixture of harmless chemicals that, in a sophisticated manner, mimics exactly the UV-Vis spectrum of pure saffron.

Securing Industry

Link to the scientific article: Science Direct

30/06/17 – Confusion around rumours of plastic rice and eggs in Africa and Asia

This month, several articles in local journals warned about the potential presence of plastic rice on markets of Ghana, Nigeria, and India.

News Ghana

Radio Gold 905

However, official controls could not confirm the presence of the said plastic rice and eggs after laboratory analysis.

India Today

Buzz Ghana

Disclaimer: The selection 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 particular food product.

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