

Monthly Summary of Articles on Food Fraud and Adulteration

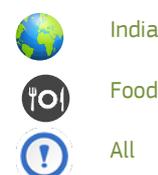
Retrieved mainly from the JRC tool Medisys (<http://medisys.newsbrief.eu>)



Food Fraud Cases

India is facing a rise in food fraud cases over the last two years, as at least ten states struggle to guarantee food security to their citizens. On average, more than 15% of collected samples did not match the legal safety and quality standards. For example, official analyses performed in the state of Kampur found 70% of mustard oil to be adulterated.

[Financial express](#) 02/06/20



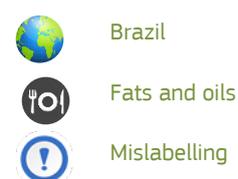
The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) destroyed 5200 litres of milk diluted with polluted water and contaminated with urea and harmful chemicals.

[The News](#) 03/06/20



The specialised Brazilian police squad dedicated to consumers protection (Decon) seized more than 1300 adulterated and mislabelled olive oil bottles.

[A Gazeta](#) 03/06/20



The Spanish Civil Guard seized almost 5 tonnes of Atlantic horse mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus* or common scad) lacking proper documentation as well as masking its origin. The total value was almost EUR 25 000.

[La Voz de Galizia](#) 03/06/20



Fourteen people died or were hospitalized after drinking rice wine possibly adulterated with toxic substances.

[Star Tribune](#) 10/06/20



The Halal Food Authority discarded 8000 litres of adulterated milk contaminated with polluted water and toxic chemicals.

[The News](#) 11/06/20



Pakistan



Milk and milk products



Unapproved treatment and/or process

Replacement/ dilution/ addition/ removal in product

72 tonnes of sugar, imported from India to Nepal, were seized as unfit for consumption. The original consumption date was also overwritten and falsified.

[The Himalayan Times](#) 11/06/20



Nepal



Other food products/mixed



Mislabelling

The Hong Kong Customs seized in one week illegal shark products (fins) estimated to belong to 38500 sharks and valued 950000 euros. Shark products trade is regulated under the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), as 99 shark species are classified as endangered or critically endangered.

[Seafood source](#) 12/06/20



China



Fish and fish products



Missing documents

The Carabinieri seized almost 2600 packs of pasta and drinks imported from China and lacking the necessary traceability documentation.

[Salute Gov](#) 19/06/20



Italy



Cereals and bakery products

Non-alcoholic beverages



Missing documents

The Central Port Authority of Palinuro performed many controls in the surrounding region, identifying several cases of fraud in the seafood sector, mostly involving lack of traceability documentation or storing conditions not compliant with the law.

[Il giornale di Salerno](#) 22/06/20



Italy



Fish and fish products



Missing documents

The Carabinieri closed an artisanal cheese factory producing illegal cheeses next to a sheep farm. The products were supposed to be sold directly to the consumers without any traceability documentation.

[CN24TV](#) 23/06/20

[Il Meridio](#) 23/06/20



Italy



Milk and milk products



Missing documents

The Pakistani authorities seized 2000 kg of gur (sweetener made from sugarcane) and 700 kg of sugar, adulterated with illegal chemicals, in the district of Peshawar. The owner of the factory was arrested together with seven workers.

[The News](#) 25/06/20



Pakistan



Other food products/mixed



Unapproved treatment and/or process

Other interesting articles

01/06/2020 – Report from Italy addressing the first 4 months of Codiv-19

According to a recent report from the Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (MIPAAF), there was no evidence of increased fraudulent activities following the Covid-19 pandemic. Almost 30 000 official controls were performed in four months along the food chain by the Italian authorities.

[MIPAAF website](#)



04/06/2020 – A new traceability system based on synthetic microbes

A team from the Harvard Medical School (USA) recently published an article where they describe the production of synthetic, resistant, nonviable microbial spores (*Bacillus subtilis* and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) with unique DNA sequences utilised as “bar codes”, to be sprayed on products of interest. Agriculture and food systems are clear target candidates for such a new traceability system.

[Science](#)



07/06/2020 - Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is a great threat to sustainable fisheries, FAO says

According to the FAO, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is among the greatest dangers to sustainable fishing in the future. The number of fish stocks subject to excessive fishing rose by more than 300% in the last 40 years, endangering the livelihood in many developing countries.

[FAO website](#)



09/06/2020 – Mislabelling and fraud in the seafood sector occurring somewhere between import and consumer sale in USA

A comparison between two different sets of data, i.e. from the governmental Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) and from the advocacy group Oceana, highlighted that, although now 85% of seafood products are properly labelled before reaching consumers, in 2013 almost 60% of seafood products sold by restaurants and grocery stores were mislabelled. SIMP focuses on 13 fish and fish products vulnerable to fraud: abalone, Atlantic cod, Atlantic blue crab, dolphinfish/mahi mahi, grouper, red king crab, pacific cod, red snapper, sea cucumber, sharks, shrimp, swordfish, and albacore, bigeye, skipjack, yellowfin, and Bluefin tuna.

[Mondaq](#)



14/06/2020 – BSI develops a new special label to tackle food fraud

The British Standards Institution (BSI) widened the scope of its Kitemark label to cover additional areas like food authenticity, production methods and provenance. Consumers will be able to check more detailed information through a QR code.

[Express · Cambridgeshire](#)

15/06/2020 – Blockchain, traceability and food companies

Many food companies are embracing the blockchain technology in order to improve traceability data and guarantee transparency towards consumers.

[Securing Industry](#)



17/06/2020 – Pakistan improves milk controls

Pakistan will increasingly monitor each vehicle carrying milk with the support of mobile milk testing laboratories.

[The Nation](#)



Pakistan



Milk and milk products

19/06/2020 – Fish substitution and zoonotic parasites: a review

According to a recent review, seafood substitution may not only include concerns such as toxins, allergens and other contaminants, but it may also increase the potential risk of spreading zoonotic seafood born parasites.

[Food Control](#)



World



Fish and fish products

22/06/2020 – 82% of US avocado oil mislabelled and adulterated

According to the University of California, 4 out of 5 avocado oil bottles sold in the USA are mislabelled or contain avocado oil blended with cheaper oils. The US market is not protected by enforceable standards for avocado oil.

[Olive Oil Times](#)



USA



Fats and oils

24/06/2020 – Food safety inspections result across Europe

Some European food safety authorities released their data about recent inspections for border checks in Netherland, Belgium, Switzerland and France. Around 20% of inspected vehicles were not compliant with hygiene rules. In France, more than 50% of official controls covering seafood products revealed non-compliances and suspicions of food fraud.

[Food Safety News](#)



World



Food

26/06/2020 – Traceability technology for wine developed in Australia

The South Australian government supported a local company in the development of a blockchain-based technology suite tailored to guarantee the desired traceability information on wine to consumers, helping to fight food fraud mostly in the Asian market.

[Food Ingredients First](#)



Australia



Wine

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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