

# Monthly Summary of Articles on Food Fraud and Adulteration

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## Food Fraud Cases

Hong Kong customs officers seized almost 400 kg of cherries (total value of 8500 euros) counterfeited with the logo of a famous Tasmanian brand.

[Securing Industry](#) 06/02/2021

[Food Safety Tech](#) 16/02/2021

According to a scientific paper, about 20% of fish products sold in Taiwan are mislabelled. Most affected species include: snapper, cod and surimi. Such substitutions may constitute a health risk for consumers as well.

[Food navigator – Asia](#) 09/02/2021













[Scientific Reports](#) 15/12/2020

The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) discarded 4 000 litres of milk adulterated with water and detergents.

[Urdu Point](#) 11/02/2021

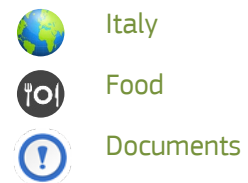
The “Mozzarella di Bufala Campana PDO” Consortium discovered hundreds of fake advertisements online related to their GI product, especially in the context of web marketplaces and e-commerce. According to the Consortium, one third of online advertisements are illegal, mostly in Italy but also in China and USA.

[Agenparl](#) 11/02/2021

-  China
-  Fruits and vegetables
-  Intellectual property rights infringement
-  Taiwan
-  Fish and fish products
-  Replacement/ dilution/ addition/ removal  
Mislabelling
-  Pakistan
-  Milk and milk products
-  Replacement/ dilution/ addition/ removal  
Unapproved treatment and/or process
-  World
-  Milk and milk products
-  IPR – Intellectual property rights

The Finance Guard of Venice seized 1 300 food products (e.g. chips, snacks, dried mushrooms, products typical of the Asian cuisine) lacking the required traceability documentation.

[Il Gazzettino](#) 12/02/2021



In India, only in January, thirty people have died after drinking liquors adulterated with toxic substances.

[The Daily Star](#) 13/02/2021



The Pakistan authorities seized 3 300 bags of fake tea manufactured from injurious chemicals.

[Urdu Point](#) 15/02/2021



The Italian Carabinieri seized 800 kg (1000 jars) of anchovies and sardines in oil. The criminals labelled the products with fake labels imitating another known brand.

[L'Ora](#) 18/02/2021



The Coast Guard seized 1 160 kg of seafood products lacking the required traceability documentation.

[Messina Today](#) 20/02/2021

[Il Giornale di Sicilia](#) 20/02/2021



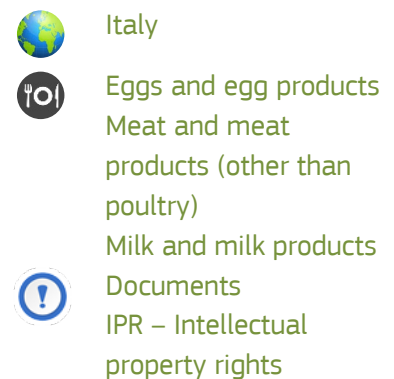
In another operation, the Italian authorities seized 800 sea urchins fished illegally.

[Il Paese Nuovo](#) 20/02/2021

The Italian authorities seized 5 tons of pig meat and 1 ton of cheese labelled as Geographical Indications, but in reality lacking any traceability documentation. The agents seized as well 37 400 eggs with no traceability information.

[Stretto Web](#) 22/02/2021

[Messina Today](#) 22/02/2021



Four persons have been arrested in USA, as they have been illegally smuggling catfish from Myanmar and Bangladesh for almost two years.

[Seafood Source](#) 22/02/2021



USA



Fish and fish products



Documents

According to a report from OceanaPeru and ProDelphinus, 67% of fish traded in Peru is mislabelled and fraudulently substituted with other less expensive species. Restaurants are especially affected by such fraud, as stated by the DNA analysis.

[La Republica](#) 24/02/2021

[Industrias Pesqueras](#) 24/02/2021



Peru



Fish and fish products



Mislabelling

Replacement/ dilution/  
addition/ removal

During the 2020/2021 olive oil season, the Jordan Food and Drug Administration (JFDA) seized 1 120 containers (equal to 17 900 litres) of adulterated olive oil.

[The Jordan Times](#) 27/02/2021



Jordan



Fats and oils



Unapproved treatment  
and/or process

## Other interesting articles

04/02/2021 – Covid-19 pandemic and food frauds difficult to link, article says

According to the Members of the UK Government Chemist team, the Food Authenticity Network (FAN) and Mérieux Nutrisciences, it is still difficult to establish clear connections between the Covid-19 pandemic and any impact in the likelihood of food fraud risks. However, it was concluded that there may be an overall increase in food fraud vulnerability.

[Gov UK](#) [IFST](#) [Food Focus](#) [Food Ingredients first](#)



World



Food

09/02/2021 – China: food frauds addressed by new governmental directives

Following a series of food safety incidents and counterfeit products, the Chinese authorities have issued new regulations in the food sector. Notably, 1 400 cases of counterfeit products were detected between May and November 2020, with a prominent role for online shopping.

[Food Navigator](#)



China



Food

18/02/2021 – Frauds in the US organic sector

An online magazine puts under the spotlight potential frauds involving the organic sector in USA.

[Genetic Literacy Project](#)



USA



Food

26/02/2021 – Frauds in the dairy sector in Pakistan

An online magazine analyses the common frauds targeting the dairy sector in Pakistan. For example, oxytocin used on cows may damage the animal and children health. Other contaminants include formaldehyde, ammonium sulphate, urea, surf (a detergent), and contaminated water.

[The Nation](#)



Pakistan



Milk and milk products

## 27/02/2021 – Life imprisonment for food adulterators



India

The governmental authorities of a state (Madhya Pradesh) in central India have approved a law punishing food adulterators with life imprisonment.



Food

[Lokmat](#)

[India Today](#)

## 27/02/2021 – Fight over the geographical indication for balsamic vinegar



Italy/ Slovenia

Slovenia has submitted an application to the EU for a national technical standard covering balsamic vinegars. The standard states that all wine vinegars mixed with grape must can be called “*balsamic vinegar*”. However, producers of the Italian GI “*Aceto balsamico di Modena*” argue that such proposal is threatening their traditional product.



Soups, broths, sauces and condiments

[HLN](#) [De Standaard](#) [Weekend](#) [Telegraaf](#) [La gazetta del Mezzogiorno](#)  
[Donaukurier](#) [Schwabische](#) [Yahoo](#) [Proplanta](#) [Corriere](#)  
[dell'Economia](#) [First Online](#) [MSN](#) [Stern](#) [Gazzetta di Reggio](#)  
[Nieuws Blad](#) [RGA](#) [RNZ](#) [Giebener Allgemeine](#) [Mittelbayerische](#)  
[Volksfreund](#) [Aachener-zeitung](#) [Arcor](#) [FNP](#)

*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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