

Monthly Summary of Articles on Food Fraud and Adulteration

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Food Fraud Cases



The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) has sealed 71 food companies for selling adulterated spices, pickles, preserved fruits, ketchup, cola drinks, tainted milk, spurious juices and local specialities.

[The News](#): 10/05/19

-  Various
-  Intentional distribution of products not fit for consumption

Italian authorities have seized three tons of counterfeited cheese. Among other types of fraud, cheese was labelled as a Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) product without fulfilling the requirements

[Avellino](#): 11/05/19

-  Cheese
-  Counterfeit



Australian authorities have investigated the likelihood that caged and fertilised eggs produced by hens from the meat sector were sold as free-range. Droughts in some parts of Australia triggered a rise in prices of grain and feed, which was not reflected in the price of the free-range eggs sold in some supermarkets.

[ABC](#): 12/05/19

-  Eggs
-  Mislabelling/Counterfeit



Italian authorities have seized 20 tons of food, mostly cereals and lentils due to origin masking. The labels indicated that the products were of Italian origin, but in reality, they were produced in China, Egypt and other countries. Some of the counterfeited products claimed to be valuable lentils from Altamura.

[YahooNotizie](#): 13/05/19

-  Vegetables
-  Mislabelling/Origin masking



Italian authorities have seized 3 tons of cheese after expiring for several months and, which was stored under adverse conditions. In a similar action, 600 kg of pesto sauce was found with falsified labels that indicated a wrong origin and quality. The pesto was manufactured with frozen ingredients.

[Ansa Cronaca](#): 18/05/19

-  Cheese and pesto
-  Intentional distribution of expired goods/Mislabelling



Italian authorities have seized 1800 hectolitres of wine for not having the minimum product standard required by law.

[Il Friuli](#): 22/05/19

-  Wine
-  Mislabelling

Canadian enterprise accused of selling broccoli produced in the USA, as Canadian broccoli.

[La Presse](#): 24/05/19

-  Vegetable
-  Origin masking

Pakistani authorities have seized more than two tons of black tea adulterated with colours and bark.

[The Express Tribune](#): 28/05/19



Tea



Adulteration

Italian authorities have seized 15000 litres of fake Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi following suspicions associated with its low market prices.

[Umbria24](#): 28/05/19



Wine



Counterfeit

Information gathered in collaboration with the EU Food Fraud Network

Italian Carabinieri, in collaboration with Europol and Eurojust, ran an operation named "Oro Giallo" to dismantle a network that produced and distributed adulterated and counterfeited olive oil in several European countries. Chemical substances such as chlorophyll, soya oil and beta-carotene were added to olive oil to obtain the right colour. The price of the original olive oil was about 1.20 €/litre, while the final price on the market was between 10 and 15 €.

[Foggia Today](#) : 13/05/19

[Giornale L'ora](#): 13/05/19

[Eurojust](#): 14/05/19



Olive oil



Artificial enhancement/
Counterfeit

Spanish Guardia Civil has dismantled a company that distributed counterfeited El Bierzo wine, a PDO wine from the Spanish province of León. Mostly low to medium quality wine, not only from Castilla-La Mancha but also from La Rioja and Galicia was sold under the PDO label El Bierzo. The wine was sold in France, Lithuania, Russia, China and Vietnam and maybe also in other countries such as USA, Brazil, México, Ecuador, Togo, Benin and Ivory Coast.

[El Pais](#): 20/05/2019

[Guardia Civil](#): 20/05/2019



Wine



Counterfeit

Official laboratory in Switzerland has developed a method to determine nitrite in tuna fish. Tuna fish is fraudulently added to tuna fish to maintain the red colour that would otherwise turn fast into brown. The method was used on 13 samples out of which about the half contained illegally added nitrite.

[Prime News](#): 28/05/2019

[Le Matin](#): 28/05/2019



Tuna fish



Artificial enhancement/
Counterfeit

Other interesting articles

11/05/2019 – Tracing Tomato Fraud

A smart phone application, based on block-chain technology, will allow the identification of the red oranges from Sicily bearing a Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) mark. The app will enable the accessing of information on the place and date of production and the type of conservation and distribution involved.

[Blog Sicilia](#)



Italy



Oranges

15/05/2019 – The volume of news on food fraud cases increased in 2018.

According to Coldiretti, an increase of 59% of news on food fraud was recorded in 2018. The sectors most profoundly affected were wine (a 75 % increase), meat (101 % increase) and canned food (78 % increase). Also striking was the increase in fraud-related news coverage in the sugar sector, scaling from zero to 36 news items.

[Vita](#)



Italy



All food

18/05/2019 – CNR develops a method to distinguish Italian from non-Italian buffalo milk.



Italy

The Italian CNR has developed a method for the selective classification of Italian buffalo milk that would separate it from those of other countries. The method can be applied to avoid fraud in the, buffalo mozzarella sector, an Italian PDO product.



Cheese

[Corriere nazionale](#)

23/05/2019 – IAEA introduces a project to identify food geographical origin.



World

IAEA has started a five-year project to identify the geographical origin of food commodities based on isotope ratios.



All food

[EE](#)

29/05/2019 – India launches a test kit to detect adulterants in fresh fish.



India

The Indian Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has presented a test kit to detect contaminants in fresh fish. The kit allows for the detection of added ammonia and formaldehyde to increase the shelf life of fish.



Fish

[Agriculture Times](#)

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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