

# Monthly Summary of Articles on Food Fraud and Adulteration

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## Food Fraud Cases

French authorities have investigated a case of fraudulent increase of the weight of chicken meat with water. The meat, which came from Denmark, was sold to associations that provided meat to people with low income. This type of fraud is not harmful to consumers' health but affects their budget.

[France 3-regions](#): 10/09/19



Meat

Dilution

About 40 % of meat sold as lamb in Burgos, Spain, is likely from other countries although the animals are slaughtered in Burgos, according to the association Asaja.

[Diario de Burgos](#): 12/09/19



Meat

Origin masking

According to European legislation, brandy can only be produced by distillation of wine. A Spanish company established in Georgia exported to France and Spain around 4 million litres of false brandy obtained from maize.

[El Mundo](#): 16/09/19



Brandy

Substitution

Spanish Guardia Civil have arrested a producer of Rueda PDO wine for marketing thousands of bottles with false labels.

[Agropopular](#): 16/09/19



Wine

Mislabelling

Italian authorities arrested two people for selling large amounts of seed oil as olive oil from Puglia.

[Askanews](#): 17/09/19



Olive oil

Substitution

A man has been taken to court for selling Dutch and Spanish tomatoes labelled as French. According to the accused, a client demanded French tomatoes, and because those were not easily available, they were replaced with tomatoes from different countries.

[Le Télégramme](#): 19/09/19



Tomatoes

Origin masking

Some producers of milk in Pakistan are selling milk adulterated with detergent, shampoo, urea, washing powder and formaldehyde. Formaldehyde is carcinogenic and used as a preservative. Pakistan is the fifth largest producer of milk in the world.

[The Nation](#): 19/09/19



Milk

Intentional  
distribution of  
products  
not fit for  
consumption

The executives of a USA based company selling meat to prison institutions pleaded guilty to the Federal Bureau of Prisons for selling meat adulterated in different ways. For example, cow hearts were sold as “ground beef”, which is prohibited. Illegal activities were carried out at night or during weekends to escape the controllers.

[Foreignaffairs: 25/09/19](#)



Meat



Substitution/  
Intentional  
distribution of  
products not fit for  
consumption

Indian authorities have arrested two people for selling sub-standard tea powder using the labels of well-known reputed brands.

[The Hindu: 25/09/19](#)



Tea



Counterfeit

## Other interesting articles

02/09/2019 – Traceability information mandatory for Argentinian honey

Due to adverse climatologic conditions, the production of honey in Italy has fallen by half in 2019. In many places, bees had only the pollen to produce honey for their nourishment.

[Teleambiente](#)



Italy



Honey

06/09/2019 – Camel milk: A new trend... but expensive!

To drink camel (*Camelus dromedarius*) milk has become fashionable. Camel milk is more similar to human milk than cow's milk because it also does not contain  $\beta$ -lactoglobulin. The alleged health effects for humans still need to be demonstrated. The effects of global warming has also increased the interest in this product since camels' typical habitats are arid regions. The EU already finances projects on camel milk, for instance, CAMELMILK. However, the potential downside of camel milk is that it is much more expensive than cow's milk.

[El Pais](#)



World



Milk

10/09/2019 – Request to carry out tight controls of wine

The Coordinadora de Organizaciones de Agricultores y Ganaderas has requested Spanish authorities to enforce tight controls on wine. Due to extreme climatologic conditions, the production of wine is estimated to decrease in France, Italy, Spain, Argentina, Chile and Australia this year, while quality of the wine is expected to be very good. Despite the decrease in production, the forecast prices remain the same as last year.

[Interempresas](#)



Spain



Wine

12/09/2019 – Floods in India reduce turmeric supply

The poor weather conditions that caused floods in some regions of India will result in an estimated 20 % drop in the production of turmeric. Given the expected decline in production, the price of this spice has already increased by 10 %. Turmeric is frequently adulterated with starch, cassava, chalk powder, cheap botanical ingredients and sometimes with synthetic dyes or lead chromate.

[Nutra Ingredients USA](#)



India



Spices

16/09/2019 – Rapid verification of egg production system

The University of Santiago de Compostela has developed a method allowing for the classification of eggs into the four categories acknowledged by the European Commission: organic, from eggs that live outside, from hens that grow in a closed place or from hens that grow in a cage. The method is based on the UV-Vis and near infrared (NIR) analysis of the lipids in the yolk.

[Ecoticias](#)



Spain



Eggs

23/08/2019 – Food fraud in the hands of organised crime networks



EU



Various

A report on the outcome of an assessment carried out by Europol, and the EU Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) observes that organised crime networks are increasingly controlling counterfeiting activities in the area of food and pharmacological products. The same criminal networks are also involved in other activities such as terrorism.

[Securing Industry](#)

*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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