

October 2019

Monthly Summary of Articles on Food Fraud and Adulteration

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



Food Fraud Cases

The Stanford University (USA), has found that lead chromate was added to Curcuma in seven out of the nine Curcuma producing districts in Bangladesh. Some samples contained more than 500 times the maximum lead amount allowed in US.

[nrc.nl](#): 02/10/19



Spices



Intentional distribution of contaminated products/Artificial enhancement

Brazilian authorities have suspended the commercialisation of 32 olive oil brands for undeclared dilution with soya oil and oils of unknown origin. The 32 brands add up to the other six brands that were banned earlier this year.

[G1](#): 02/10/19



Olive oil



Substitution

Indian authorities have seized more than 700 kg adulterated tea from a godown on Palakkad Road (India). Last week, another 440 kg tea powder were also seized.

[The Times of India](#): 03/10/19



Tea



Undetermined

Consumers from US have sued an ice cream producing company for selling ice cream labelled as vanilla ice cream that contained neither vanilla nor vanilla extract. The vanilla flavour was likely obtained from ingredients other than vanilla. According to consumers, the label should read "vanilla flavoured ice cream".

[The Buffalo News](#): 08/10/19



Ice-cream



Substitution/
mislabelling

An Italian multinational was selling eggs labelled "organic" that were in reality produced by hens kept in cages. According to European legislation, organic eggs must be produced by hens that spent at least one-third of their lives outdoors.

[greenMe](#): 11/10/19



Eggs



Mislabelling

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

[Askaneews](#): 14/10/19



Olive oil



Substitution

An Italian company specialised in e-commerce detection has found and removed more than ten thousand web sites that advertised among others, 'wine-kits' (powdered wine and berry derivatives) as Chianti wine. The number of websites selling fraudulent Chianti has decreased dramatically compared to last year.

[Controradio](#): 14/10/19



Wine



Substitution/
mislabeling

Indian authorities have dismantled a unit producing fraudulent milk not apt for human consumption. The owners of the factory transformed 5000 litres of milk into 15000 to 20000 litres by adding substances such as palm oil, detergent and other chemicals, which was then distributed in the area.

[Business Standards](#): 23/10/19



Milk



Intentional
distribution of
products
not fit for
consumption

Italian authorities have seized 400 kg of tomatoes labelled as Piennolo (an Italian PDO) that lacked the right certificates to prove their origin. Also, 1,650 bottles of tomato sauce were seized during the same operation.

[Fanpage](#): 25/10/19



Tomato



Counterfeit/
Origin masking/
Mislabelling

More than 160 tons of Polish mushrooms were sold in France as produced in France. It happened in the period November 2017-March 2018.

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



Mushrooms



Origin masking

Italian authorities have found more than 1500 bottles of wine labelled as Piediroso, Aglianico del Sannio and Greco that did not fulfil the labelling requirements.

[Fanpage](#): 25/10/19



Wine



Origin masking/
mislabelling

Argentinian authorities have withdrawn from the market an extra virgin olive oil for containing oils other than olive oil.

[Clarín](#): 31/10/19



Olive oil



Substitution/
mislabelling

Other interesting articles

07/10/2019 – The island of Gran Canaria records a dramatic fall in honey production

Due to adverse climate conditions, the production of honey in the Spanish island of Gran Canaria has fallen to 10 % of the average output. Extreme heat in the south of the island and irregular seasonal cycles in the north affected the ability of the bees to produce honey for their survival. The massive fires on the island destroyed 1000 hives. Also, fraud cases have been detected in which honey from the island was mixed with fructose syrup.

[Canarias7](#)



Spain



Honey

10/10/2019 – Traceability system for fresh vegetables implemented in Brazil

Since 8th August 2019, Brazilian law requests traceability of the origin of fresh vegetables. The legislation will be gradually implemented until August 2021.

[G1](#)



Brazil



Vegetables

15/10/2019 – It was not plastic rice!

Researchers at Queen's University Belfast have found that what was considered to be rice made of plastic is rice poorly stored for about ten years. The rice was then soaked in bleaching agents to kill the mould that grew on it; the soaking agents eliminated the shining characteristics of rice. Substituting rice with plastic was not logical as plastic is more expensive than rice.

[FSN](#)



18/10/2019 – Novel method to detect fraudulent manipulation of meat

The Universidad Federal de Minas Gerais has developed a method based on Infra-Red spectroscopy to detect any increase in the water retention capacity of meat from the addition of forbidden substances.

[EurocarneDigital](#)



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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