

EXPLORING FOOD FRAUD IN THE

Coffee Industry

Common types of food fraud in the coffee industry

LACK OF TRACEABILITY

The lack of reliable information and records regarding the origin, processing, and journey can lead to challenges in ensuring sustainability, quality, and ethical sourcing practices.

MISLABELLING OF ORIGIN

Fraudulent coffee producers mislabel the origin of their coffee, claiming it comes from renowned coffee-growing regions to command higher prices.

SPECIES SUBSTITUTION

The substitution of premium Arabica coffee beans with cheaper Robusta beans. This misleads consumers who seek the distinct flavors and qualities of Arabica coffee.

UNETHICAL LABOR PRACTICES

This often involves exploitative labour practices, including the use of child labour, human rights violations, and unfair wages for coffee farm workers.

International coffee industry fraud news

- 1 Researchers from the Quadram Institute have estimated that anywhere from 5-20% of all "100% Arabica" coffee will in fact, be fraudulent.
- 2 Adulteration is more extreme in powdered instant coffee, where substances found have included chicory, cereals, caramel, parchment, starch, malt, and figs.
- 3 Research used to inform the policy of the EUDR found that coffee accounted for 7.01% of EU-driven deforestation.
- 4 More than 15 tons of coffee with uncompliant packaging, high moisture content, or wrong labels, with some products also containing corn mixed with coffee, were seized from Brazil in 2022.

REFERENCES

1. SGS. Detecting and preventing coffee fraud. 2021 (<https://shorturl.at/kouGW>)
2. Lux Tags. Four foods you are eating that are probably fake! (<https://shorturl.at/gEHN6>)
3. Pendrill, F., Persson, F. & Kastner, T. (2020) DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.4250632
4. European Commission. Monthly summary of articles on food fraud and adulteration (<https://shorturl.at/moyAB>)

EUDR

The European Union's Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) mandates evidence-based origin verification measures for forestry-related supply chains, including the coffee supply chain. Source Certain's scientific technology provides origin verification that assists companies in complying with the new law.

SCIENTIFIC PROVENANCE VERIFICATION

Source Certain's provenance science verifies the origin of products via scientific analysis of physical product samples to mitigate these risks.

Scientific provenance verification can identify discrete coffee plantations to help identify instances of substitution within certified supply chains.

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