



المبادرة العربية  
للدستور الغذائي



# Food Fraud Prevention and Mitigation in the Arab Region

E. Ahmed Eddouaicer

Standardization & Metrology Center

Arab Industrial Development, Standardization & Mining Organization

# INTRODUCTION



Food fraud involves the intentional alteration of food products in a way that compromises their quality or misleads consumers.



It poses a serious threat to human health and the national economy.



Fraudulent practices are prevalent in some Arab countries due to weak regulatory oversight or a lack of public awareness

# Types of Food Fraud



Adding harmful or unauthorized substances (such as synthetic dyes).



Tampering with production or expiry dates.



Substituting original ingredients with cheaper alternatives








Manipulating weight or volume.



Counterfeiting of trademarks

# Reasons for the spread of food fraud

-  ● Weak government oversight.
-  ● Absence of deterrent penalties.
-  ● Lack of consumer awareness.
-  ● The desire of some traders for quick profit.
-  ● The presence of unregulated informal markets.



# Impact for the spread of food fraud



## Health:

- Food poisoning.
- Chronic diseases (such as cancer or liver diseases).



## Economic:

- Loss of compliant companies.
- Decline in consumer confidence in local products.



## Social:

- Loss of trust between producer and consumer.
- Increasing gap between social classes.



# Dimensions of food fraud:



## ● The ethical dimension:

- Loss of conscience



## ● The social dimension:

- Destruction of trust and society.
- Threatening community stability.
- Eroding people's trust in markets and products.



## ● The economic dimension:

- Inflicting harm on the national economy.



## ● The health dimension:

- Health crises.



# Food Fraud Index 2025

Country	Rank	Index	Food fraud incidences	Population size	Food safety and regulatory compliance (0 — lowest, 100 — highest)	Corruption Perceptions Index (100 — low corruption, 0 — high corruption)	Food import scores (%)	Availability of latest technology (1 — lowest, 7 — best)	Global Knowledge Index (0 — lowest, 100 — highest)	GDP per capita (US\$)	Food price volatility (0.1 — low, 1.7 — high)	Food safety capacity (0 — lowest, 100 — highest)
Algeria	36	43,49	236	45 831 000	72,00	34	20	3,78	40,30	5364,00	0,7	80,00
Bahrain	62	29,30	20	1 552 000	100,00	53	14	5,56	48,10	29218,90	0,6	100,00
Egypt	10	58,36	1848	113 493 000	32,00	30	22	4,33	44,00	3457,50	0,7	80,00
Jordan	8	58,75	210	11 347 000	56,00	49	20	5,38	44,20	4455,50	0,9	40,00
Kuwait	38	42,15	118	4 793 000	72,00	46	17	4,93	52,40	33729,80	0,6	80,00
Morocco	52	33,33	134	37 524 000	92,00	37	14	5,07	42,80	3771,40	0,9	80,00
Oman	32	45,04	68	4 933 000	52,00	55	14	4,86	50,00	21549,80	0,7	80,00
Qatar	42	35,72	72	2 946 000	72,00	59	11	5,89	55,50	80195,90	1	80,00
Saudi Arabia	44	34,95	450	32 867 000	92,00	59	13	5,37	54,80	32094,00	0,8	80,00
Syria	6	65,30	212	23 015 000	16,00	12	21	4,1	28,50	1051,70	0,1	40,00
Tunisia	48	33,84	32	12 161 000	72,00	39	13	4,58	45,00	3977,70	0,5	80,00
UAE	95	18,34	76	10 445 000	80,00	68	5	6,14	60,90	49040,70	0,5	100,00
Yemen	1	82,73	764	38 794 000	16,00	13	39	2,71	28,60	477,40	0,8	40,00

Source: Wellness Pulse Foundation, specialized in health and nutrition.



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Yemen	1	764	38,794,000	16	13	28.6	477.4	40
Benin	5	13	13,934,000	16	45	32.5	1394.4	40
Syria	6	212	23,015,000	16	12	28.5	1051.7	40
Guinea	7	3	14,229,000	16	28	30.2	1541	40
Jordan	8	210	11,347,000	56	49	44.2	4455.5	40
Madagascar	9	3	30,813,000	16	26	31.7	506.2	40
Egypt	10	1848	113,493,000	32	30	44	3457.5	80
Pakistan	11	177	245,673,000	16	27	35	1365.3	40
Angola	12	4	36,187,000	16	32	28	2308.2	40
Rwanda	13	2	13,803,000	16	57	40.3	1010.3	40
DR Congo	14	8	104,063,000	8	20	26.3	627.5	20
Ethiopia	22	2	127,028,000	56	37	28.9	1272	40
Mozambique	23	13	33,141,000	32	25	30	623	80
Venezuela	24	14	28,251,000	52	10	36.7	15943.6	80
Oman	32	68	4,933,000	52	55	50	21549.8	80
Kenya	33	122	54,794,000	64	32	39.5	1952.3	60
Bangladesh	34	27	170,427,000	64	23	37.5	2551	60
Bolivia	35	5	12,159,000	68	28	46.3	3686.3	20
Algeria	36	236	45,831,000	72	34	40.3	5364	80
Nigeria	37	117	225,495,000	56	26	40.3	1596.6	40
Kuwait	38	118	4,793,000	72	46	52.4	33729.8	80
Guatemala	39	2	17,984,000	84	25	39.9	5762.8	60
Cambodia	40	41	17,315,000	64	21	38.2	2429.7	60
Panama	41	10	4,430,000	72	33	46.1	18686.4	80
Qatar	42	72	2,946,000	72	59	55.5	80195.9	80
Dominican Republic	43	5	11,283,000	72	36	43.9	10717.6	80
Saudi Arabia	44	450	32,867,000	92	59	54.8	32094	80
Tunisia	48	32	12,161,000	72	39	45	3977.7	80
Nicaragua	49	1	6,777,000	92	14	38.8	2612.9	80
Vietnam	50	41	100,029,000	72	40	46.8	4282.1	80
Portugal	51	134	10,431,000	92	57	61.2	27331.2	80
Morocco	52	134	37,524,000	92	37	42.8	3771.4	80
Philippines	53	72	114,411,000	72	33	46.7	3804.9	80
Thailand	57	52	71,716,000	52	34	49.9	7182	80
Zambia	58	5	20,430,000	72	39	38.1	1330.7	80
New Zeland	59	70	5,151,000	92	83	61.3	48280.8	80
Peru	60	10	33,656,000	92	31	47.2	7906.6	80
Bahrain	62	20	1,552,000	100	53	48.1	29218.9	100
Colombia	65	22	52,033,000	92	39	49.1	6947.4	80
Turkey	78	77	87,169,000	92	34	49.2	13105.7	80
UK	86	1471	68,443,000	100	71	65.8	49463.9	100
Netherlands	87	103	18,019,000	92	78	66.8	64572	80
Singapore	91	37	5,766,000	72	84	64.2	84734.3	80
Sweden	92	26	10,522,000	92	80	68.3	55516.8	80
Brazil	93	214	210,707,000	100	34	47.4	10294.9	100
Chile	94	49	19,603,000	100	63	53.4	17067.8	100
UAE	95	76	10,445,000	80	68	60.9	49040.7	100
Japan	100	73	124,671,000	100	71	63.3	33766.5	100



Food fraud in developing countries-particularly in Arab nations-stems from a range of interrelated factors, the most significant of which include:



Inadequate governmental oversight



Poverty and unemployment



Limited consumer awareness



Administrative corruption





Lack of deterrent legislation



Weak infrastructure



# Successful models from some Arab countries

-  ● United Arab Emirates:  
Using 'food barcode' to track products.
-  ● Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:  
'Tameni' app for checking product safety.
-  ● Arab Republic of Egypt:  
The role of national laboratories in food testing.
-  ● Kingdom of Morocco:  
Consumer Protection and Supply Control Authority.



# Strategies to Combat Food Fraud in Arab Countries

- 1 — Enhancing legislation and laws:  
Enacting strict laws to combat fraud and punish offenders.
- 2 — Updating monitoring and inspection devices: Using modern technology to detect fraud.
- 3 — Arab regional cooperation:  
Exchanging information between Arab countries about counterfeit products.
- 4 — Raising consumer awareness:  
Awareness campaigns through media and social media platforms.
- 5 — Encouraging trusted food industries:  
Supporting products with trusted brands and high standards.



A close-up photograph of a hand holding a brush, applying a thick layer of bright green paint to a red apple. The apple is the central focus, with several other green apples visible in the background, slightly out of focus. The scene is set against a plain white background. The entire image is framed by a teal border.

# Recommendations

1. Activating the role of civil society in reporting food fraud.
2. Increasing coordination between the ministries of health, commerce, and agriculture.
3. Investing in scientific research to detect modern methods of fraud.
4. Training inspectors and monitors regularly.

"The hadith places responsibility on every individual in their position, and food fraud is a serious breach of integrity, with multiple dimensions:"

"The religious dimension"



merchant



Food  
factory



Distributor  
&  
seller

وأختم عرض بالحديث النبوي:

قال رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ:

«كُلُّكُمْ رَاعٍ  
وَكُلُّكُمْ مَسْئُولٌ  
عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ»



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## Standardization & Metrology Center

🌐 [smc-aidsmo.org](http://smc-aidsmo.org)  
✉ [smc@aidmo.org](mailto:smc@aidmo.org)  
☎ +212 5 37 27 45  
📠 00  
+212 5 37 77 21  
88