




# THE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES INDUSTRY SERIES

19 March 2024

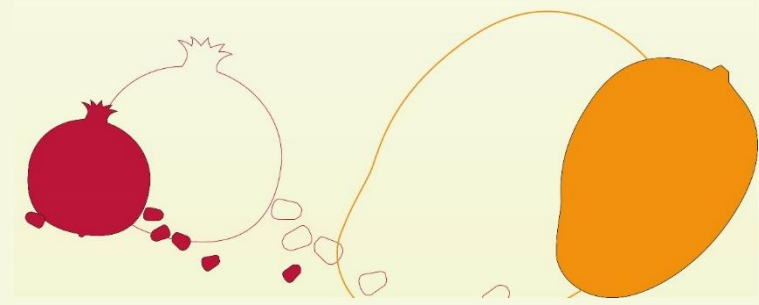


## Session 6

### Food Fraud Prevention, Monitoring, and Controls



FRUIT AND VEGETABLES SCHEME





# « Ten years after Horsegate »

An EU perspective.



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Directorate Health and Food Safety - Unit G5 – Food hygiene, feed and fraud



# Legal framework

Contents

I Legislative acts

REGULATIONS

- Regulation(EC) No [178/2002](#) (the General Food Law).
- Regulation (EC) No [767/2009](#) (the Feed Law).
- Regulation (EU) [2017/625](#) (Official Controls Regulation).
- Regulation (EU) [1169/2011](#) (Food Information to Consumers).
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) [2019/1715](#) (IMSOC).
- + sectorial legislation.

(<sup>1</sup>) Text with EEA relevance

# Principles and Legislation



## Operators

“Ensuring compliance”

Food and feed business operators shall ensure that foods or feeds satisfy the requirements of food law which are relevant to their activities and shall verify that such requirements are met.



## Competent authorities

“Assuring adequate and effective controls”

Member States shall enforce food law, and monitor and verify that the requirements are fulfilled by food and feed business operators at all stages of production, processing and distribution.



## Commission

“Guarding the Treaties”

Ensuring that the EU legislation is properly enforced.

“External representation”



# Action scope

Animal welfare



Feed



Plants



Plants protection products



Organics



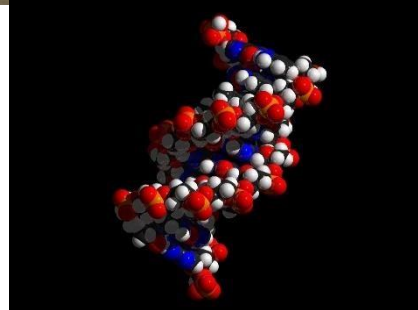
Animal health



Food



GMOs



PDOs, PGIs, TSGs



# EU (Agri) Food Fraud Network



**Administrative authorities**  
OCR Competent Authorities  
and Delegated Bodies



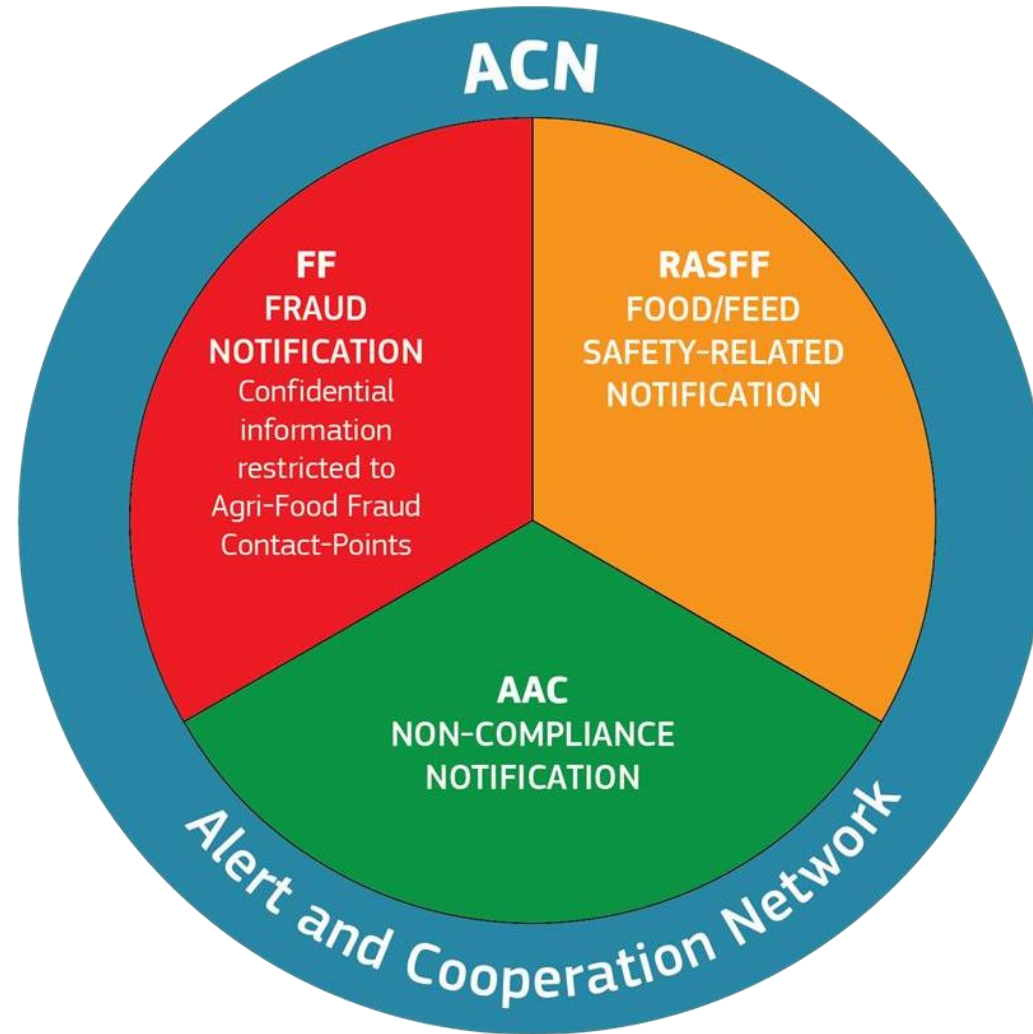
**Judicial authorities**



**Law enforcement authorities**  
Police and customs services



# Alert and Cooperation Network (ACN)





# Alert and Cooperation Network Overview 2023

RASFF notifications

4695

AAC notifications

3166

Agri-FF notifications

758

PH notifications

128

RASFF - food/feed safety-related notifications.

AAC - non compliance notifications without public health risk involved.

Agri-FF - non compliance notifications with suspicion of fraud.

PH - notifications on interceptions of consignments of plants and plant products being traded/moved between Member States.

ACN - Alert and Cooperation Network.

Date of extraction: 10 January 2024.

Number of AAC notifications by non-compliance type

Non-compliance type	Notifications
Non-compliant composition	1148
Faulty labelling or claims	1010
Lacking or improper documentation or controls	411
Faulty processing or storage conditions	238
Other	154
Foreign bodies / physical danger	89
Accidental or environmental contamination	82
Fraud investigation	33
Foodborne outbreak investigation	1

Top 10 ACN notifying countries



Number of Agri-FF notifications by Fraud category



RASFF notifications by classification



Top 10 recurrent RASFF notifications by hazard, product category and origin

Hazard	Product category	Origin	Notifications
Pesticide residues	Fruits and vegetables	Türkiye	168
Salmonella	Poultry and poultry products	Poland	153
Migration	Food contact materials	China	92
Aflatoxins	Nuts, nut products and seeds	United States	85
Pesticide residues	Fruits and vegetables	Egypt	84
Pesticide residues	Herbs and spices	India	51
Pesticide residues	Cereals and bakery products	India	48
Salmonella	Nuts, nut products and seeds	Nigeria	38
Vibrio spp.	Crustaceans and crustacean products	Ecuador	36
Pesticide residues	Cereals and bakery products	Pakistan	34





Violation of  
EU rules



Deception of  
customers



Economic  
gain

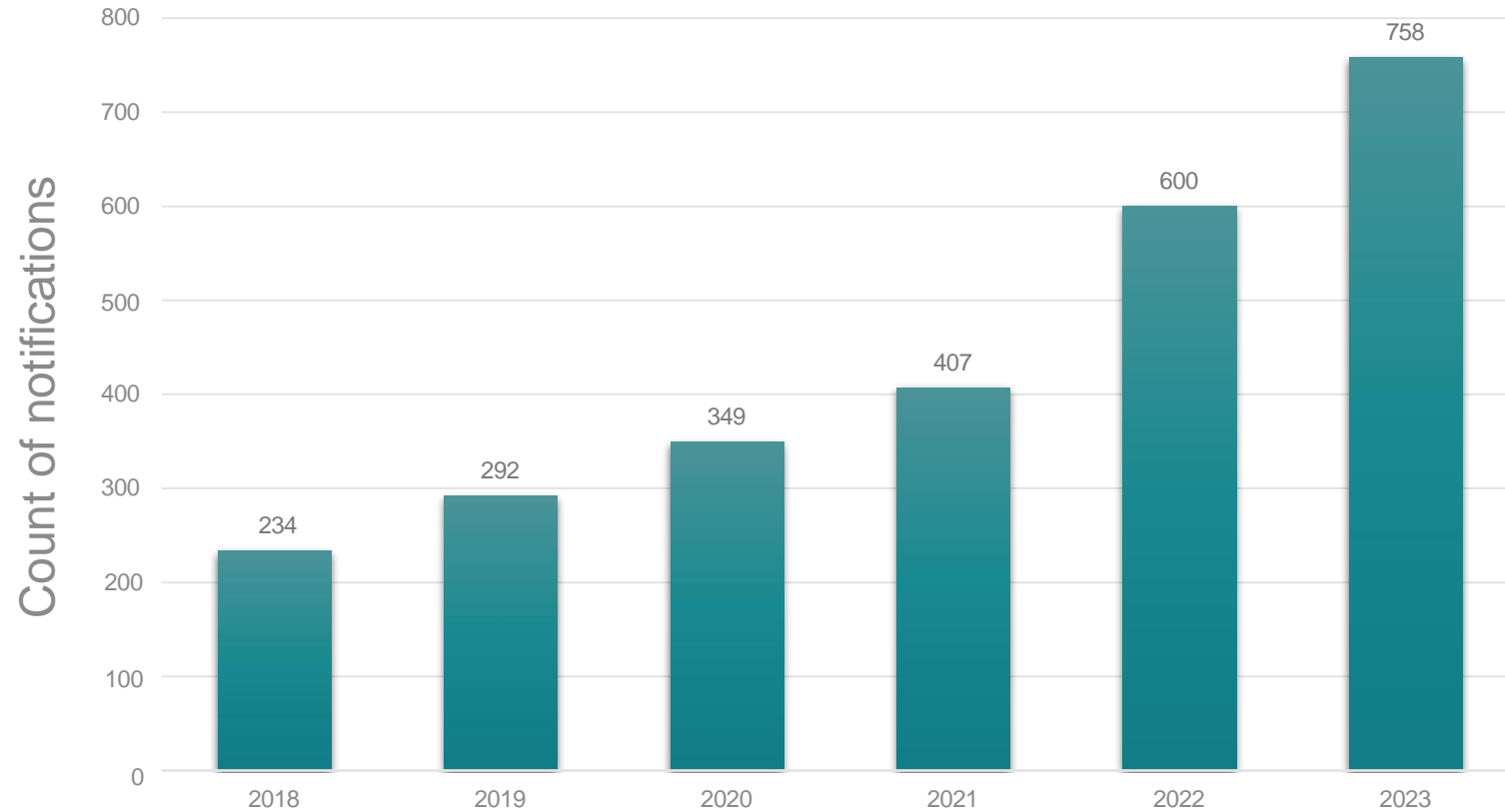


Intention

## EU (Agri) Food Fraud criteria

**Suspicion of intentional actions taken by businesses or individuals for the purpose of deceiving purchasers and gaining an undue advantage therefrom, in violation of the rules referred to in Article 1(2) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625.**

# Agri-Food Fraud notifications in iRASFF (2018-2023)





# Monthly Report of Fraud Suspicions

Non-compliances with fraud suspicions identified in iRasff

(based on categories set by the European Committee for Standardisation - CEN)

## Main objectives:

- > Vulnerability assessment for companies
- > Targeted control for competent authorities

### 3. OTHER NON-COMPLIANCES (implicit claim violations)

CLASSIFICATION	PRODUCT CATEGORY	COMMODITY	ISSUE	ORIGIN	NOTIFIED BY
Diversion	Animal by-products	chicken carcasses	unauthorised consignee	Italy	Italy
		sow udders	traceability (identification marks defects)	Belgium	Belgium
	Eggs and egg products	eggs	traceability (identification marks defects)	Czechia	Greece
		eggs	traceability (identification marks defects)*	Ukraine	Hungary
		eggs	traceability (identification marks defects)*	Ukraine	Hungary
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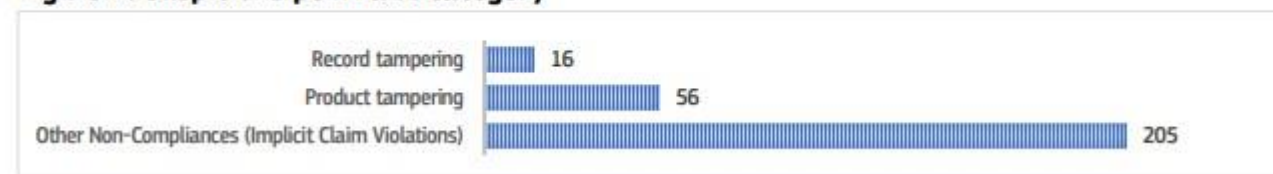
### 1. PRODUCT TAMPERING

CLASSIFICATION	PRODUCT CATEGORY	COMMODITY	ISSUE	ORIGIN	NOTIFIED BY
Adulteration (ingredient addition)	Fish and fish products	fish fillets ( <i>Pangasius</i> )	water addition	Netherlands	Germany
Adulteration (ingredient dilution)	Honey and royal jelly	honey	pollen and sugars profiles	China	Belgium
		honey	sugars addition	China	Germany

### 2. RECORD TAMPERING

CLASSIFICATION	PRODUCT CATEGORY	COMMODITY	ISSUE	ORIGIN	NOTIFIED BY
EU protected designation	Alcoholic beverages	spirit drinks	misleading denomination "Hierbas de Mallorca"	Germany	Spain
		liquor	misleading denomination "Irish Cream"	Spain	Ireland
		wine	misleading denomination "Prosecco"	Czechia	Italy
		wine	misleading denomination "Prosecco"	Germany	Netherlands
		wine	misleading denomination "Prosecco"	Romania	Italy
		wine	misleading denomination "Prosecco"	Slovakia	Italy
	Milk and milk products	cheese	misleading denomination "Grana Padano"	Spain	Italy

Figure 2: Suspicions per fraud category





# Pesticides: Snapshot

January  
2024

725 notifications in iRASFF > 227 suspicions of fraud >

Pesticides: 129 suspicion of fraud (100 with origin from Non Member Countries).

## TOP 5 PESTICIDES

- 1 Chlorpyrifos 17
- 2 Fenbutatin oxide 7
- 3 Chlorpyrifos-methyl 7
- 4 Fenvalerate 6
- 5 Buprofezin 5

Türkiye  
42

Egypt  
16

## TOP 5 ORIGIN COUNTRIES

India  
9

Vietnam  
5

Colombia  
5

## TOP 5 COMMODITIES

Lemons  
12

Peppers 9

Oranges 9

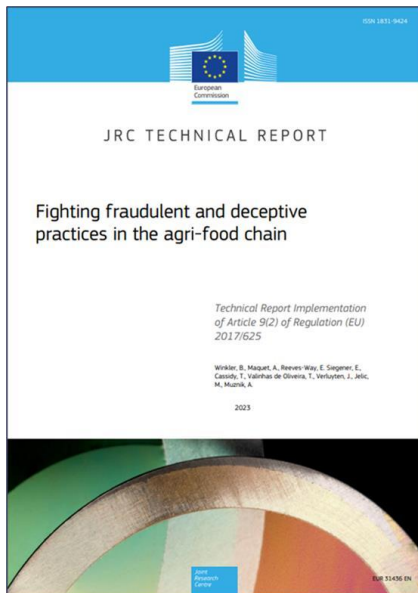
Pomegranates 8

Mandarins 8

# Regular risk-based controls and enforcement



- Appropriate frequencies to identify possible intentional violations of the agri-food chain rules perpetrated through fraudulent or deceptive practices.
- Proactive, innovative (“think outside the box”) and targeted approach.



- [JRC technical report](#): Good practices examples for the implementation of Art. 9.2 of the OCR with key elements of control arrangements (cooperation, risk-based planning, performance of controls, follow-up and investigations, training and skills, awareness raising ...).

# Knowledge Centre for Food Fraud & Quality

Creates formalised science/policy interface in support of initiatives for safe-guarding the quality of agri-food products and protecting the integrity of the food chain.

Ensures knowledge sharing among different Commission departments, scientists and competent authorities in EU countries through a Community of Practice.

Coordinates market surveillance activities.

Operates early warning and information system for food fraud

[https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/food-fraud-quality/about\\_en#what\\_we\\_do](https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/food-fraud-quality/about_en#what_we_do)



# EU coordinated actions



Horse meat (2013-2014)



Herbs and Spices (2019-2021)



Online offered food (2017) and  
COVID-19 food supplements (2020-2021)



“Bamboo-zling” (2021-2022)



Honey (2015-2017) and “From the Hives” (2021-2022)



Illegal trade of cats and dogs (2022-2023)



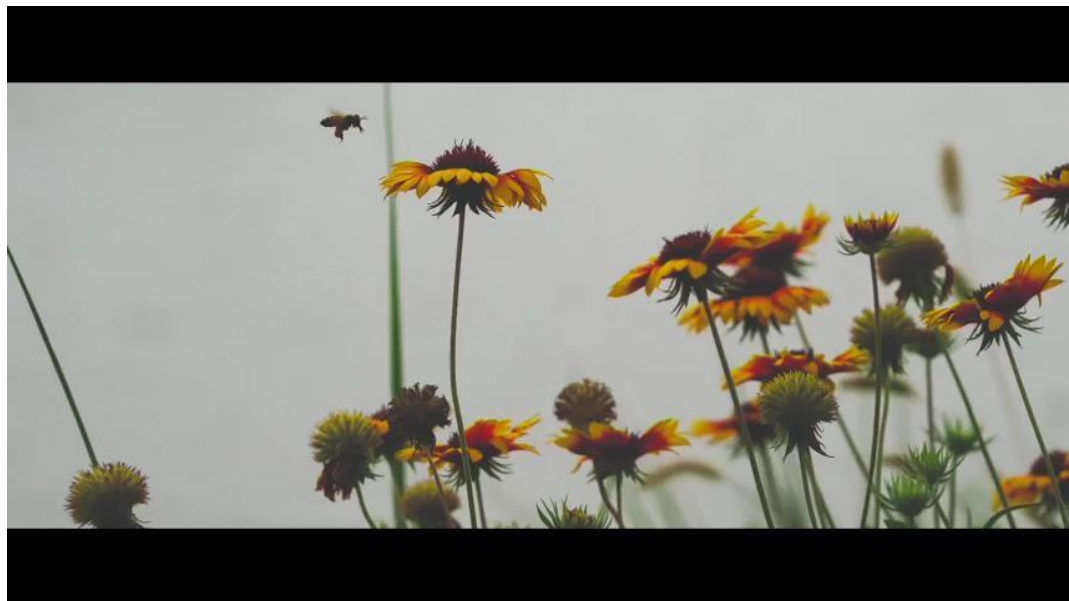
Fish substitution (2015) and seafood short-weighting (2024)

- EUROPOL: fake and substandard food and beverages (Opson), illegal pesticides (Silver axe)
- DG HOME: EMPACT (European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats): illegal pesticides, glass eels, pet trade.



European  
Commission

# (No) sugar for my honey



<https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/video/I-239321>

Learn more

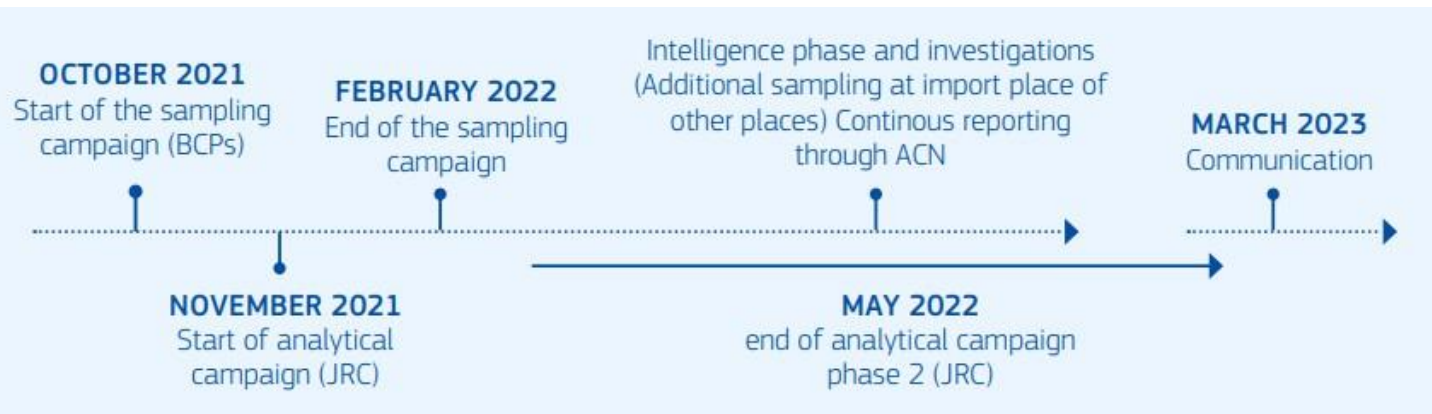


- [https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/eb8aadd0e2a463a-bd3d-d7ba63375b78\\_en?filename=official-controls\\_food-fraud\\_2021-2\\_honey\\_report\\_euca.pdf](https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/eb8aadd0e2a463a-bd3d-d7ba63375b78_en?filename=official-controls_food-fraud_2021-2_honey_report_euca.pdf)
- <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC130227>





# “From the Hives” in operation



- 16 Member States (BE, BG, CZ, DK, FI, FR, DE, GR, HU, IE, IT, LT, PL, RO, ES, SE), NO and CH volunteered.
- 320 samples randomly selected.
- Frequency of sampling: 15%





## “From the Hives” results

- 146/320 samples were “suspicious” of adulteration (46%).
- 70/123 exporters with at least one “suspicious” result.
- 63/95 importers concerned by at least one “suspicious” result.
- 44/63 operators investigated (to date).
- Deliberate purchase of adulterated honey.
- Identification of EU sugar syrup manufacturers selling syrups to honey producers.
- Document forgeries (origin, quality, organic...).
- 9 operators sanctioned (to date), hundreds of tons rejected at EU borders and few recalls.

# International outreach

- Guidance on the Prevention and Control of Food Fraud Electronic
- Working Group created in 2016: (lead USA, EU, UK, China and Iran).
- Global, harmonized, consensus-based definition of FF.
- (Types of fraud).
- Focus on FF prevention and FF vulnerability assessments (rather than only reaction).
- Food Fraud virtual workshop/webinar: 8 February 2023
- CCFICS26 (Australia) May 2023 (Step 3)



# Ten years after horsegate...

***“The response from industry and government to defend the nation against fraudsters and indeed organised crime in the food sector has been enormously beneficial and makes life far more difficult for criminals.”*** Chris Elliot

- We are now paying more attention to food fraud.
- We are much more aware of its potential to hurt consumers and brands.
- There are more tools and technologies available to detect and deter food fraud.
- But fraud vulnerabilities are evolving and the threats are changing.
- So the countermeasures and control systems need to evolve constantly...

**Fighting Agri-Food Fraud is a chess match, not a one-time fix.**



# Keep in touch



[SANTE-FOOD-FRAUD@ec.europa.eu](mailto:SANTE-FOOD-FRAUD@ec.europa.eu)



[https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food-fraud\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food-fraud_en)



## THE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES INDUSTRY SERIES

# Thank you



FRUIT AND VEGETABLES SCHEME



*The OECD-COLEAD Fruits and Vegetables Industry Series focuses on market access conditions and opportunities for the fruit and vegetable sector, especially for fruit and vegetables producers and exporters from ACP-countries. This activity is supported by the Fit For Market Plus programme, implemented by COLEAD within the Framework of Development Cooperation between the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and the European Union.*