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A study on adulteration in cereals and bakery products from Poland including a review of definitions

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14 **Abstract**

15 The aim of the study was to critique the food adulteration trends associated with cereals and
16 bakery products from Poland. The methodological approach was to firstly review existing
17 literature to define and outline the challenge of food adulteration and the degree of
18 harmonisation, or not, of definitions, and then to analyse local and European data on the
19 prevalence of food adulteration and mislabelling in the cereals and bakery sector more
20 generally, and specifically in Poland. Analysis of general RASFF notifications of cereal and
21 bakery products linked to Poland (n=177) revealed that most non-compliances were due to
22 mycotoxins, undeclared allergens and undeclared genetically modified materials. Key notable
23 trends included an increase in incorrect allergen labelling with only two incidents directly
24 associated with adulteration firstly with melamine and also suspicion of deliberate
25 contamination of milk powder with rodenticide. Data from IJHARS share similar trends where
26 most reported irregularities associated with cereal and bakery products were related to
27 mislabelling. The definition of adulterated foodstuffs in Poland concentrates on mislabelling
28 particularly regarding product composition rather than being differentiated by the motivation

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