

# **CSE/DTE present an investigation into the mother of all food frauds based on laboratory tests in India and abroad**

CSE's latest investigation is bigger than our exposé on pesticides in Colas; bigger than our study on antibiotics in honey; bigger and far more devastating for our health

## **IT'S ALSO ABOUT WHAT AND WHO WE TRUST**

It's also about the deceit and criminal intent of the adulteration business, promoted by companies from our neighbouring country and superpower

## **IT'S ABOUT HEALTH. PEOPLE AND THE PLANET**

# HONEY WE CONSUME IS ADULTERATED

- Almost all honey we consume is adulterated with sugar syrup, advanced lab test find

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- Out of 13 brands tested, only 3 passed the test for adulteration

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- Out of the 22 samples tested, only 5 passed the test for adulteration

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- 77 per cent of the honey tested was found adulterated/ with the addition of sugar syrup



# **BAD FOR OUR HEALTH; COVID-19 WILL BE MADE WORSE**

■ Bad for our health;  
COVID-19 will be made  
worse

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■ Honey is sugar but  
special and full of  
nature's goodness

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■ We are consuming  
more honey to build  
immunity  
against  
the COVID-19  
infection

■ But overweight people  
are more at risk to  
COVID-19

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■ So consuming honey  
that is sugar will make  
us more vulnerable;  
more ill



# SYRUP IS DESIGNED TO PASS INDIAN STANDARDS

- Laboratory in India does not find adulteration by sugar syrup in big brands

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- Most of the smaller brands fail the laboratory tests for Indian standards

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- Adulterated with C4 sugar (cane sugar) in most cases or C3 sugar (rice sugar)

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- But when all samples are sent to a top laboratory in Germany, the picture changes

- Many passed samples fail on Trace Marker for Rice (TMR), an indicator for rice syrup adulteration

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- Almost all samples fail on NMR—advanced test to detect modified sugar syrup



# NEARLY ALL THE TOP BRANDS FAILED IN ADVANCED NMR TESTS

Dabur

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Patanjali

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Apis-Himalaya

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Baidyanath

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Zandu

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Hitkari





# SMALLER BRANDS ALSO FAILED

Dadev

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Indigenous

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Hi Honey

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Societe Naturelle



In the case of Dadev and Hi Honey adulteration was more basic—caught in Indian tests

# ONLY 3 BRANDS WERE FOUND TO BE NOT ADULTERATED USING ADVANCED NMR

Saffola

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Markfed Sohna

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Nature's nectar  
(one of the two samples)



# INDIAN STANDARDS FOR HONEY PURITY CANNOT 'CATCH' ADULTERATION

■ Chinese companies advertise that they have sugar syrup that can bypass Indian tests

■ We tracked down this all-pass sugar syrup from China and India

■ We spiked honey with sugar and it passed the test

■ Then we sent honey of 13 brands for advanced tests to Germany

■ Same samples that passed in India failed adulteration tests in Germany



#### Product Details :-

Offered By	Wuhu Deli Foods Co.,Ltd
Product Added On	Mar 09, 2016
Last Updated On	Mar 11, 2016

#### Product Description :-

We are engaged in manufacturing and supplying excellent quality High Fructose Syrup in Wuhu, Anhui Province, China.

High fructose rice syrup passed C3 C4 C13

Fructose syrup 42 Brix 71%

Fructose syrup 55% Brix 75%

Packaging & Shipping

Packages of High fructose rice syrup passed C3 C4 C13 for sale :

Retail Package: 1kg, 2.5kg, 5kg etc

Bulk Package: 25kg, 75kg, 290kg, 1.4mt tote etc

Popular package is 290kg/plastic drum or Iron drum, 80drums



# THE BUSINESS OF ADULTERATION IS DEVIIOUS AND CHANGING

- Honey is the most adulterated food in the world

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- The business of adulteration has constantly evolved to beat the laboratory tests

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- Honey fraud is a big concern across the world

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- In India, the government knows (but is not telling) that something is seriously wrong

- Standards for honey purity have been revised again and again

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- Government has mandated NMR tests for honey that will be exported



# CHINESE COMPANIES ARE IN THE LEAD

■ FSSAI directive on import of golden syrup, invert sugar syrup and rice syrup used for adulteration is a dead end

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■ Chinese trade portals like Alibaba advertise fructose syrup that can bypass tests

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■ Same Chinese companies that advertise this fructose syrup that can beat C3 and C4 tests also export to India



# HOW WE BROKE HONEYGATE?

■ We sent emails to Chinese companies soliciting syrups that could pass tests in India

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■ These are the same Chinese companies that export fructose syrup to India

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■ Replies received that syrups are available and can be sent to India

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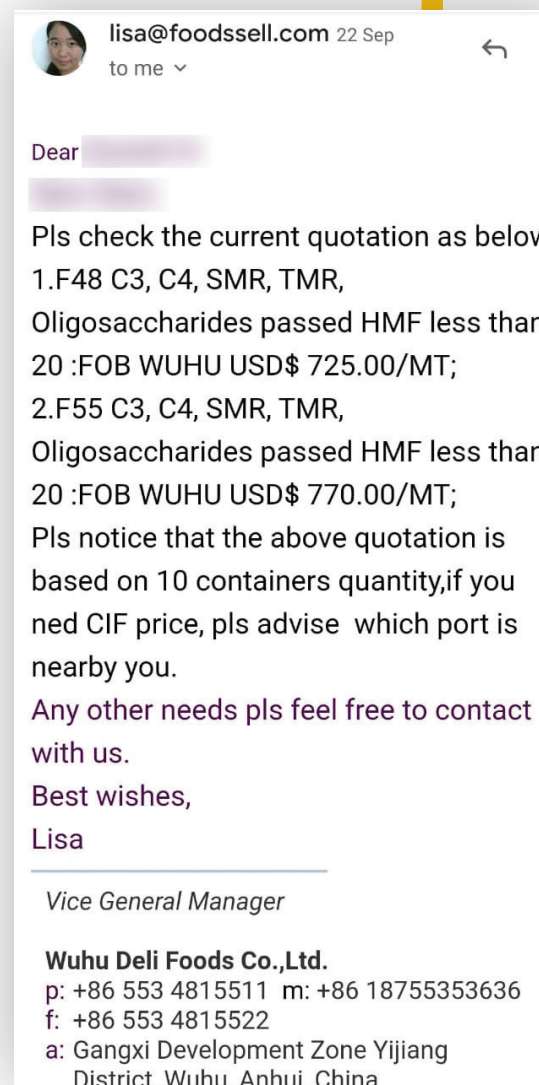
■ Chinese companies inform us that even if 50-80 per cent of the honey is adulterated with syrup, it would pass all stipulated tests

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■ Chinese company export syrup as paint pigment

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■ Company routes sample through Hong Kong to bypass custom clearance



# CHINESE TECHNOLOGY NOW IN INDIA

■ We track down a factory that manufactures syrup to adulterate honey in Jaspur, Uttarakhand

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■ We learn that the code word is “all pass” syrup

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■ We make contact and procure a sample of this “all pass” syrup

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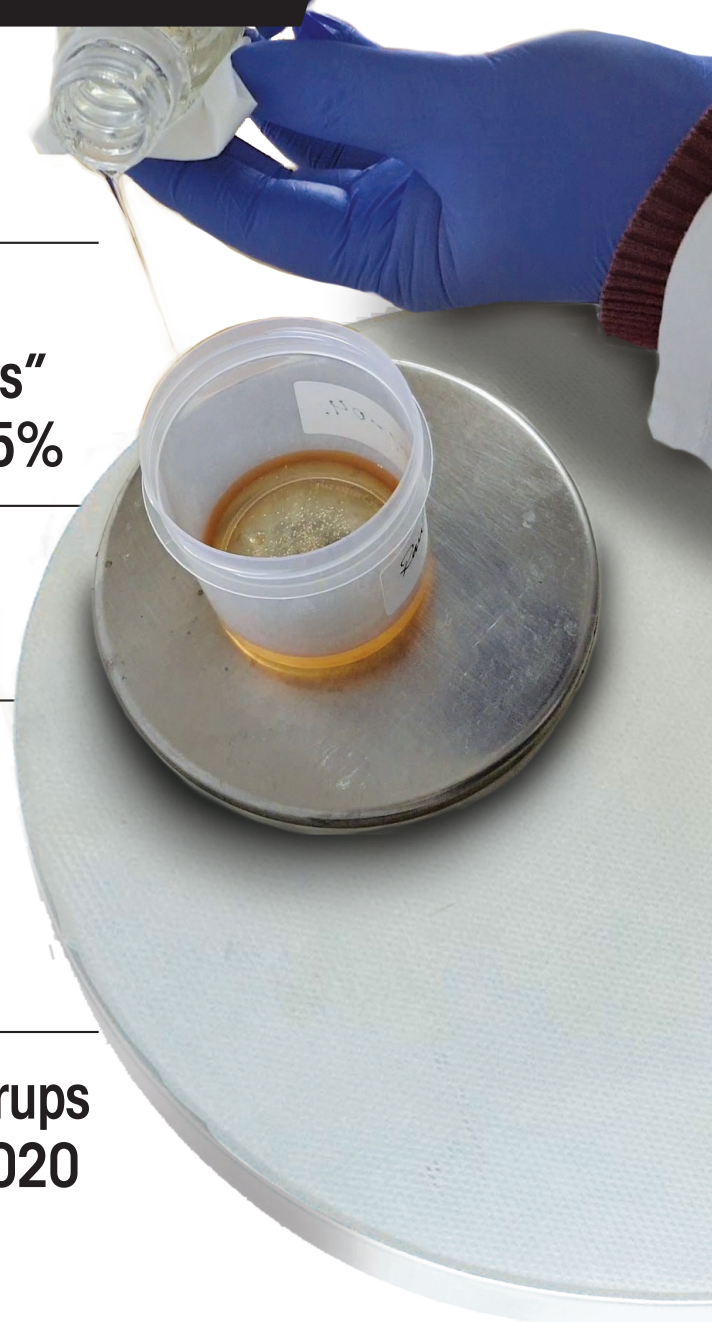
■ It will pass all stipulated tests for honey purity says the owner





# WE SPIKED HONEY WITH CHINESE AND INDIAN ALL-PASS SYRUPS

- We adulterated samples of pure honey
- Mixed raw honey with Chinese and Indian “all pass” syrups at 25%, 50% and 75%
- Sent samples to laboratory
- Adulterated samples with 25% and 50% sugar syrup passed the test of purity
- We confirm that sugar syrups exist that can bypass the 2020 FSSAI standard for honey



# BEES ARE CRITICAL FOR HEALTH OF FOOD SYSTEM

- Because of adulteration, beekeepers are going out of business

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- Farmers are losing livelihoods

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- Without beekeepers there will be decline in bees

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- Bees provide crucial service as pollinators

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- Without bees we lose productivity of food; we lose life



# WE ASK FROM GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY AND YOU, THE CONSUMER

- It is time we outwitted the business of adulteration

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- Need to stop import of syrups and honey from China

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- Need to strengthen enforcement in India through public testing so companies are held responsible. Cannot play with our health

- Every honey company must be required to be

able to trace back the origins of the honey— from the beekeeper to the hive

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- We, the consumers must be able to tell adulteration by the taste, the smell and the colour. Our health is in our hands

