Source: Provenance.

For example, in October 2016, US company Walmart teamed up with IBM and Tsinghua University in Beijing to track the movement of pork in China via a blockchain. The blockchain documents how the meat has flowed from producers to processors, distributors, grocers, and, finally, consumers. The origins and batch number of the product, the information on the plant and on processing methods, the expiration dates and details on retailing steps are all documented on the blockchain, making it possible to track potential contamination sources rapidly and to guarantee the origin of the products. According to Walmart, the use of blockchain has helped to reduce the time required to track tainted products from days to seconds, enabling more precise and rapid recalls, with a view to preserving consumer trust in the food industry (Higgins, 2017c). Walmart simultaneously ran a similar trial on mangoes.

The encouraging results of Walmart's pork and mango trials led other large food companies such as Unilever, Nestlé and Kroger to partner with IBM to explore how blockchain technology could be applied to their supply chains to improve the traceability of their products and help them cut down the time it takes to identify sources of contamination (Hackett, 2017). In June 2018, Walmart, Nestlé SA, and eight other companies formed a consortium powered by the IBM Food Trust blockchain platform that will leverage blockchain technology to track food across the globe (Giles, 2018). The Food Trust platform will connect growers, processors, wholesalers, distributors, manufacturers, retailers and other stakeholders through a permissioned ledger to enhance visibility and accountability along the supply chain and provide participants with a record of food origin details, processing data, and shipping details – among other elements. Traceability through Blockchain is, in fact, already happening. Walmart is using it on a day-to-day basis to track products over 25 product lines, from dairy products to processed foods and meat. As of August