

Special Issue

Quality, Safety, and Bioactive and Functional Properties of Food Products

Message from the Guest Editors

Recent research has highlighted the potential benefits of functional foods and the bioactive compounds. These compounds contribute, on the one hand, to the sensory experience and unique characteristics of the food that contains them and, on the other hand, promote the physical well-being of consumers. Bioactive compounds can be components of food itself or metabolites produced by microorganisms present before, during, or after food processing. These compounds can contribute to maintaining gastrointestinal function, stimulate the immune system, regulate enzymatic activities, and serve as signaling agents. Some of the challenges associated with the study and development of functional foods include quality and safety parameters, as well as elucidation of the mechanisms by which bioactive compounds act, individually or in synergy with other compounds; description of the bioactive compounds present in potentially functional foods; development of new food products with the inclusion of agents with biological activity; and extraction, purification, characterization, and holistic utilization of bioactive compounds. **Keywords**

- secondary metabolites
- microbiome
- food technology
- biotechnology

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As the world of science becomes ever more specialized, researchers may lose themselves in the deep forest of the ever increasing number of subfields being created. This open access journal *Applied Sciences* has been started to link these subfields, so researchers can cut through the forest and see the surrounding, or quite distant fields and subfields to help develop his/her own research even further with the aid of this multi-dimensional network.

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