

Special Issue

Advanced Microencapsulation in Food Science

Message from the Guest Editors

Micro-encapsulation is an emerging technology that has been widely used in the food industry over the past decade along with strong scientific advances on the topic. This technique aims to protect or ensure targeted release of food-grade molecules by inclusion in an edible matrix sizing a few tens of nanometers to a few hundred micrometers. The applications in food industry are numerous and mainly target the protection of sensitive and reactive molecules (flavours, polyunsaturated oils, pigments, enzymes, etc.), or the delivery of bioactive compounds such as micronutrients or living cells into food or in the digestive tract. Several technologies have been designed at the laboratory scale or are now used at an industrial scale: spray drying, freeze-drying, spray chilling, extrusion, fluidized-bed coating, emulsion, coacervation, liposomal entrapment and inclusion complexation. The development of new applications in micro-encapsulation and associated innovative technologies must take into account new challenges such as the demand for more natural and clean-label food products, as well as the development of clean processes, less costly in energy and resources.

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