

Special Issue

Functional Foods and Natural Products: Bioactive Compounds and Beneficial Effects on Health

Message from the Guest Editors

In the last years, the intake of food products composed of artificial compounds/additives has motivated many discussions because of the potential adverse effects of these substances on consumer health. In this sense, functional foods and natural products are constituted of several compounds, and many of which have bioactive properties, such as antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, antitumoral, and numerous supplementary properties. Bioactive compounds are chemical components that have been described as containing vitamins, minerals, fibers, sugars, and phenolic compounds with potential health-beneficial activities, protecting against inflammatory chronic diseases such as diabetes, as well as cancers, ageing, and others. Therefore, these bioactive molecules can be used as food supplements or additives for many foods, protecting or promoting health.

Keywords

- natural products
- bioactive compounds
- water quality
- antioxidants
- anti-inflammatory
- antimicrobial
- anticytotoxic
- cell proliferation and apoptosis

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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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