

Special Issue

Functional Foods: Product Development, Technological Trends and Safety

Message from the Guest Editors

This Special Issue aims to focus on current trends in functional foods, such as the incorporation of bioactive compounds (probiotics, prebiotics, polyphenols, peptides) derived from natural sources or produced using advanced biotechnological methods.

Furthermore, there is a strong shift toward clean-label products, plant-based alternatives, and personalized nutrition. Technological innovations, including nanoencapsulation, 3D-food-printing, fermentation, and smart packaging are being used to enhance ingredient stability, improve bioavailability, and deliver targeted health benefits. Artificial intelligence and big data are also being used to tailor functional foods to individual dietary needs and preferences. Safety remains a priority, with rigorous testing required to ensure that new ingredients do not pose health risks. In summary, the development of functional foods requires a multidisciplinary approach combining food science, technology, and regulatory insight to create innovative, safe, and effective products that meet current consumer demands.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

20 November 2025



Applied Sciences

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.5
CiteScore 5.5



mdpi.com/si/242435

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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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