

Special Issue

New Challenges in Foodborne Pathogen Detection in Fresh Produce

Message from the Guest Editors

Recently, the number of reported foodborne diseases linked to fresh produce has increased in several countries. Contaminated vegetables and fruits pose a significant health risk because they are often consumed raw or with minimal processing. Various pathogens can survive throughout the shelf life of vegetables, even under adverse conditions, e.g., sanitization, desiccation, low temperatures, frost protection, UV radiation, and long-distance transport. These conditions may induce a viable but non-culturable (VBNC) state in pathogens. The health impact of VBNC pathogens in fresh vegetables is not well known, mainly due to a lack of suitable detection methods to distinguish them from dead cells. This Special Issue aims to bridge gaps among microbial risk assessment, control strategies, academic research, and practical applications. Manuscripts addressing the following topics are welcome: rapid methods for detecting microorganisms or distinguishing VBNC cells from dead cells in fresh produce; and applications of such methods in studying pathogen survival during storage or evaluating industrial and domestic disinfection techniques to reduce microbial contamination.

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About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Foods (ISSN 2304-8158) is an open access and peer reviewed scientific journal that publishes original articles, critical reviews, case reports, and short communications on food science. Articles are released monthly online, with unlimited free access. Currently, *Foods* has been indexed by the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE - Web of Science), PubMed, and Scopus. Our aim is to encourage scientists, researchers, and other food professionals to publish their experimental and theoretical results as much detail as possible. We therefore invite you to be one of our authors, and in doing so share your important research findings with the global food science community.

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