

CALL FOR PAPERS

There is a growing awareness of the need for vegetables in the human diet due to an increased understanding of the benefits of healthy foods, for example, in disease prevention. Vegetables in the diet provide a lower proportion of carbohydrates, fats, and oils and a higher proportion of dietary fiber, vitamins, minerals, and other bioactive compounds.

The quality of foods of plant origin, like vegetables, depends on many factors occurring in the entire production chain—from the field or the greenhouse where the plants are developed to the supermarket where the produce is displayed and the preparation of dishes once in the kitchen. The quality of vegetables is a combination of different parameters including their nutritive value, appearance, texture, and flavor which determine the value for the consumer, largely determined by the organoleptic properties assessed by different methods. Due to the growing awareness of the impact of nutrition on health, the modern consumer also pays attention to the safety and health-promoting properties of food. Plants are rich sources of many secondary metabolites with a wide range of biological activities connected to the prohealth properties of the vegetables upon consumption. Understanding the various roles played by the preharvest factors (like fertilization, cultivar selection or treatments such as elicitation) is crucial to encourage of the consumption of high quality safe and healthy vegetables.

This special issue encourages the submission of original research articles focusing on preharvest factors influencing the quality of vegetables. Review articles which describe the current state of the knowledge about preharvest treatment of vegetables and its relation to the safety and health-promoting properties of food are also encouraged.

Potential topics include but are not limited to the following:

- ▶ Enhancement of the production of bioactive compounds through preharvest treatment of vegetables
- ▶ Enhancement of the prohealth quality of vegetables through preharvest treatments: bioaccessibility, bioavailability, metabolism, and potential for biological activity of vegetables
- ▶ Effects of preharvest treatments on nutritional and organoleptic quality of vegetables: from seed to food

Authors can submit their manuscripts through the Manuscript Tracking System at <https://mts.hindawi.com/submit/journals/jfq/prepot/>.

Papers are published upon acceptance, regardless of the Special Issue publication date.

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