

Inaugural Editorial

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Food technology is undergoing a significant and rapid transformation driven by confluence of factors like innovations to existing technologies, emergence of novel food processing methods, evolving consumer preferences, and growing significance of sustainability. The development of novel, advanced and emerging preservation techniques such as cold plasma, ultrasound, 3D-6D printing, high pressure processing, pulsed electric field, electro-magnetic energy-based methods, modified atmosphere packaging is the outcome of continuous research and development to provide innovative solutions to the problems faced by the conventional methods of food preservation. In recent years, there is quite a focus on automation and digitization in food industry. There is increasing utility for robots in food preparation starting from harvesting stage to processing and downstream packaging. The emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) has also caught the interest of food technologist to use the AI based tools to analyze the data from machinery components for predictive maintenance of equipment, optimization of production, energy use, and detection of defects in raw as well as finished products. Similarly, in last two decades a complete overhaul and redesigning of supply chain management has occurred by integration of modern technology for enhanced adaptability and flexibility to cope up with the variance and unpredictability of the dynamic market. Modern industries rely on modular production system and dynamic strategies to respond to the change in demand and always thrive to enhance their flexibility. The use of IoT, block chain technology and advanced analytics has made possible for a real time visualization of the product across the entire supply chain. Agro-food industries are focusing on diversification of suppliers rather than dependent on single source and geographically concentrated suppliers. Automation is also being implemented at different stages of supply chain by use of robots while AI is used for demand forecasting, optimize inventory and facilitate decision making at different stages. All these latest developments are the outcome of the rigorous efforts of scientists, engineers, and scholars throughout the world. There is a strong need of a platform for dissemination of scientific knowledge which can be shared across global scientific community.

There are scores of journals published every month on food science and technology. As per web of science journal master list there are 294 journals publishing articles in the domain of food science. Many of them are publishing excellent articles and are pioneers in this field. Most of the food related journal either publishes articles in specialized domain such as preservation, processing, food chemistry, starch, hydrocolloids, food microbiology or publishes articles of food technology intertwined with other related areas such as food nutrition, food quality, biotechnology, agriculture, wellness to name a few. However, a journal encompassing food technology and management is not present in the horizon of food related journals. 'International Journal of Food Technology and Management' is an effort to bridge this gap and aims to provide a platform for scientific community to publish the articles related to food technology, as well as the management strategies employed within the agro-food industry. It is going to be an online peer reviewed open access journal supported by ScholarScript. It aims to publish interdisciplinary research on food processing, innovations in preservation, food management throughout the supply chain, consumer demands and dietary habits, circular bio-economy, food business and entrepreneurship through peer review process maintaining high standards. The journal aims to publish only worthy article that are backed up by sound and irrefutable data. We aim to develop a repository of knowledge for food technology and management related scientific discoveries and developments that can easily be assessed by current educators and researchers around the globe and future generations as well.

Conflict of Interest

The authors have declared no conflict of interest.