

CALL FOR PAPERS

For decades, the beneficial effects of microorganisms in seeds vegetables and fruits production have been known and subsequently applied in agriculture. Microorganisms provide nutrients and induce resistance to biotic and abiotic factors, incrementing the overall production. In the last years, the effects of microbial plant probiotics in the nutritional properties of the plant products as well as the bioactive compounds contents in plant foods have been described. Beneficial microorganisms have been related with increases in the levels of minerals, proteins, vitamins, polyphenols, flavonoids, and vegetable sterols in the plant edible parts. Many microbial strains have therefore a direct effect in plant food quality and consumers health.

On the other hand, the important negative impacts of certain microorganisms in the production and processing of plant products, not just in meanings of economic losses, but also in livestock and human health, have gained a lot of attention in the scientific community. Many novel studies have been focused on the identification of microbial strains able to induce negative effects in plants, the description of plant foodborne diseases, and the seeking for sustainable strategies for reducing the quality impact of the microbial load in all steps of the vegetable products manufacturing chain: cultivation, processing, and storage.

Finally, some microorganisms affect crops quality either by direct competition or by means of inhibition through the synthesis of some of their active metabolic products against plant pathogens, foodborne disease fungi and bacteria, or insect herbivory.

Over the last years, great advances have been achieved in this field. We expect, with this special issue, to publish high-quality original research papers on basic or applied research and also extraordinary quality reviews addressing recent advances to understanding of microbial effects in vegetable crops and plants' tissues.

Potential topics include but are not limited to the following:

- ▶ Identification of beneficial or deleterious microorganisms associated with crop roots, rhizosphere, and/or phyllosphere
- ▶ Effect of beneficial or deleterious microorganisms in crops and plant food quality
- ▶ Beneficial or deleterious effects of microorganisms associated with vegetables during manufacturing
- ▶ Effects of beneficial or deleterious microorganisms in vegetable food storage
- ▶ Microbial effects on bioactive compounds concentration in fresh or frozen vegetables
- ▶ Microbial safety of fresh-cut vegetables and fruits
- ▶ Incidence of microbial pathogens in farming and storage
- ▶ Quality assessment methods for microbial control during farming, manufacturing, packaging, and storage
- ▶ Control of plant pathogens
- ▶ Control of microorganisms producing plant food losses or plant foodborne diseases

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First Round of Reviews

Friday, 25 August 2017

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