



## Indoor Farming and Artificial Cultivation

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Deadline for manuscript  
submissions:

**31 August 2024**

### Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

There is growing interest in indoor farms (or plant factories), which are expressly designed to provide an optimal environment for crop plants. These typically include vegetable and medicinal species. The objective of a precise control of plant growth and development is obtained through a strict control of internal climate and the application of close-loop hydroponic system. Indoor farms have evolved from greenhouse crop environments, from which they differ in location (they are built in an urban environment), dependence on artificial lighting (with obvious effects on electricity consumption) and, often, on multi-layer cultivation (vertical farm is synonymous with indoor farm). The sustainability of indoor farms essentially depends on the reduction in energy consumption and on the increase in production and its commercial value (e.g., through bio-fortification, pesticide-free cultivation, application of specific techniques to improve the nutraceutical quality of fresh vegetables).





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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Horticultural plants and their products provide sustenance, health, and beauty. A confluence of factors is putting increasing pressure on horticultural production to evolve, and innovative research is addressing these challenges. *Horticulturae* provides a venue to communicate research results in a rapid manner with open access, allowing everyone the opportunity to stay abreast of leading research addressing horticulture. I invite you to consider publishing the results of your research in this high quality, peer-reviewed journal.

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