



Indoor Farming and Artificial Cultivation

Guest Editors:

Prof. Dr. Alberto Pardossi

Department of Agriculture, Food
and Environment, University of
Pisa, 56124 Pisa, Italy

Dr. Luca Incrocci

Department of Agriculture, Food
and Environment, University of
Pisa, 56124 Pisa, Italy

Dr. Martina Puccinelli

Department of Agriculture, Food
and Environment, University of
Pisa, 56124 Pisa, Italy

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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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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Luigi De Bellis

Department of Biological and
Environmental Sciences and
Technologies, Università del
Salento, Centro Ecotekne, Via
Provinciale Lecce Monteroni,
73100 Lecce, Italy

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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Horticulturae Editorial Office
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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