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Study on the Plant Protein in Food

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Message from the Guest Editors

The most important plant protein sources are cereals, pseudo-cereals, oilseeds, and food legumes, including oilseed legumes. The grains of these crops can be consumed without the enrichment of proteins or after protein enrichment. Either way, processing operations can also affect their physicochemical properties and eventually determine their functionality.

The utilisation of plant proteins for food applications is often challenging due to factors such as their large molecular weight and size, poor solubility in water and suboptimal technofunctional and organoleptic properties. Unlike meat-based proteins, plant proteins are typically complex mixtures with unpredictable behaviour. In addition, they are often considered to be nutritionally inferior compared to animal-based proteins due to their reduced essential amino acid profiles and low digestibility. Research on plant proteins is increasing exponentially, with the aim of understanding the raw materials and improving the quality of meat and dairy analogues for increased consumer acceptance within the relevant psychological, social and cultural context.



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Special Issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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