
Editorial

Natalia Falagán*

Plant Science Laboratory,
School of Water, Energy and Environment,
Cranfield University,
Building 52a, Cranfield, Bedfordshire MK43 0AL, UK
Email: natalia.falagan@cranfield.ac.uk
*Corresponding author

Carol Verheecke-Vaessen

Applied Mycology Group,
School of Water, Energy and Environment,
Cranfield University,
Building 52a, Cranfield, Bedfordshire MK43 0AL, UK
Email: c.verheecke@cranfield.ac.uk

Food security is threatened by global population growth and its associated increasing food demand, together with climate changes impact on key natural resources. Also, in developing countries, around 40% of food production is lost during postharvest and food processing, while in the developed countries, 40% of food production is wasted at the retail and consumer level. The development of sustainable postharvest strategies is essential to preserve the functional and physical quality of fresh produce across the supply chain. In this sense, innovation in controlled and modified atmospheres; alternative packaging materials; enhancement of food safety; and understanding the underlying mechanisms in postharvest behaviour will greatly contribute to improving food supply chain resilience. Tackling these challenges requires an interdisciplinary approach and collaboration within the scientific community.

From extending our knowledge of the food losses at postharvest in developing countries to innovative insight on the solutions to develop, this special issue provides a unique portfolio of state-of-the-art research outcomes.