



Editorial

Journal summary 2025 from Editor in Chief

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AIMS Agriculture and Food had a good year in 2025. We have continued to improve and grow, and I would like to thank all those who contributed to our success in 2025. Specifically, I am thankful to the authors who submitted 372 manuscripts during 2025. Special thanks and appreciation to the many devoted reviewers who worked diligently to assist the contributing authors and ensure the scientific quality and merits of the accepted manuscripts. I would also like to thank the Managing Team of the journal for their hard work during 2025. The combined efforts of the authors and our teams have yielded 54 published scientific papers that included 46 research papers, 4 review articles, and 4 editorials. Our efforts to enhance the quality of the journal continued in 2025, and we accepted and published only those manuscripts that had successfully passed our thorough and careful review process. The acceptance rate in 2025 was about 15%, reflecting our commitment to publish only papers that meet our scientific and technical criteria. The published articles have clearly advanced the state of knowledge in their respective fields. Assisting our contributing authors in attaining the desired language quality and clarity of their manuscripts is important. Therefore, in 2025, we added a manuscript processing step of English proofreading that was provided to the authors by a professional team. Our efforts to continuously enhance the quality and competitiveness of our journal will continue in 2026. We remain committed to improving the efficiency of the review process, and we aim to achieve a faster process.

Our contributing authors come from a very broad and heterogeneous spectrum of regions from around the globe. The topics of the articles that have been published in 2025 addressed relevant objectives, challenges, and opportunities pertinent to Agriculture and Food in both developing and developed countries. Collectively, the published articles have successfully reflected the journal's uniqueness in addressing the interface between food and agriculture. Our latest CiteScore in Scopus is 3.9, and the latest Impact Factor in ESCI-Web of Science is 1.3. AIMS Agriculture and Food is well-

positioned in the ranking of Journal Citation Indicator (JCI). Our journal is ranked 120/182 in the Food Science and Technology category and 71/132 in the Agronomy category. Our ranking by Citescore in the Food Science category is 167/404. Five Special Issues/Topical Sections were published in 2025, and several new Special Issues (SI) will be published in 2026. Information about these new SIs can be found online (<https://www.aimspress.com/aimsagri/article/specials>).

The beginning of a new year calls for identifying and phrasing our collective agriculture- and food-related goals and objectives. It is also a time when success in meeting previous objectives must be assessed. Unfortunately, no major breakthroughs or significant progress in addressing challenges that are related to food safety, food security, and loss and waste generation in agriculture and food operations have been made in 2025. The challenges and gaps in these areas must therefore be further addressed in 2026. New means for effectively closing the respective gaps need to be developed, implemented, and challenged for their efficacy. Specific research objectives in each of the afore-listed areas must be redefined and phrased. For example, data by the FAO organization indicates that we continue to lose or waste at least 30% (1.3 billion tons) of the food that is annually produced globally for human consumption. Contrasting this data with a report by the WFP, indicating that 318 million people are facing acute food insecurity in different parts of the world, paints a very bleak picture. Reducing the magnitude of food loss and waste, and thus increasing food availability, is not likely to be accomplished by developing new applications for food waste but rather by enhancing food availability and utilization. A key factor in this regard is reducing waste generation rather than enhancing waste utilization. This enhancement should be reflected in both the pre- and post-harvest segments of the food supply chain. Reducing food loss and waste also calls for alleviating the confusion and enhancing the clarity about the perceived or suggested shelf life of food products. New regulations about “sell-by date” or “best consumed before” are thus urgently needed. Let us hope that these challenges will be successfully addressed in 2026.

Food safety continues to present major challenges all over the world. Enhancing food safety requires the introduction and implementation of new approaches and tools for both the detection and prevention of food contamination. In recent years, a significant effort has been made in developing new detection tools. However, major accomplishments in developing and implementing agriculture and food production and processing infrastructures that are designed to significantly lower the risk of food contamination have not been made. Let us hope that 2026 will introduce major breakthroughs and accomplishments in these regards.

The campaign against Ultra Processed Foods (UPF) has gained renewed traction in 2025. This campaign, which I would like to call “A Plot Against Food”, is based on poorly substantiated and misleading arguments and information. If widely adopted, this campaign carries a tangible risk of erasing many of the outstanding accomplishments of modern food science, technology, and production. Legislators in different countries have already initiated and even passed bills and regulations that will ban UPFs. The city of San Francisco is currently suing major food manufacturers for “creating a public health crisis with the engineering and marketing of UPFs”. The lawsuit alleges that the food industry knew that their products were making people sick, but they continued to devise and market increasingly addictive and harmful products in order to maximize profits (<https://sfcityattorney.org/san-francisco-city-attorney-chiu-sues-largest-manufacturers-of-ultra-processed-foods/>). In September 2025, the California Legislature passed a bill that creates a statutory definition of UPFs and requires the removal of certain “UPFs of concern” from school meal programs by July 1, 2035. Twelve additional states are already at different stages of developing and passing similar bills. There is a critical need for

developing data and information to successfully challenge and ultimately negate major poorly substantiated and misleading arguments and misconceptions about food processing in general and UPF in particular.

AIMS Agriculture and Food is an effective conduit for sharing and discussing scientific information and data that can effectively address such challenges and gaps. I would therefore encourage both past and new authors to use our journal as a platform for publishing their research findings. I hope that together we can find solutions and means to better feed the world with sufficient, healthy, nutritious, and safe food. I wish all of us a highly productive and peaceful 2025.

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