

Editor's Letter

Dear Reader,

Food Technology and Biotechnology has started its 54th year of issuing scientific papers in the fields of biotechnology, food science, and food-related technologies. Following the trend present in recent years, in 2016 we experienced a further increase in the number of manuscripts submitted to our journal reaching a number well over 500. Regrettably, at the same time the financial and other resources followed a reverse trend and the journal was not able to extend the number of published contributions. The inevitable outcome was more rejected papers, reaching almost 90 %. Unfortunately, most papers have been rejected due to insufficient quality or quantity of presented scientific results, and only a smaller fraction due to incompatibility with the journal's scope and policy. This corroborated the observations already noted in the last year's editorial that the number of papers submitted for publication worldwide increased tremendously but only at the expense of quality. Although most experts in scientific publishing foresee the forthcoming end of this trend, we still experience it in the Journal.

The analysis of the submitted contributions by countries of origin revealed that papers came from over 60 different countries with the highest share of Indian and Turkish manuscripts (about 10 % each) and papers from Iran reaching the third place, indicating that the Iranian scientists discovered *Food Technology and Biotechnology* as a suitable communication means for their scientific results. Being a country of significant scientific potential, especially in the food science sector, more manuscripts submitted from Iran is by all means positive, although the rejection rate is still high because they do not fulfil the criteria required for publication. About two thirds of papers published in 2016 came from European countries, indicating that the average quality of contributions from Asian and Latin American research groups still lags behind those from European scientific institutions. It is our goal to attract even more manuscripts from these institutions, as well as to improve the quality of all submissions.

An important problem the Editorial Office faces in the manuscript processing is the hesitation of reviewers to accept to review the papers and the time required to obtain adequate high quality reviews. The number of papers submitted worldwide burdens scientists with an obligation of peer reviewing, resulting in ever more rejections and prolongation of the reviewing process. On the other hand, authors firmly express their interest in having their work published as soon as possible. Our Editorial Office tries to cope with this problem by expanding the base of reviewers and by improving the processing mechanism, which should result in faster reviewing process. Some of the problems indicated, as well as the present trends in scientific publishing aimed to circumvent them were the topics at the PubMet 2016 symposium held from 20 to 21 October, 2016 in Zadar, Croatia, at which our journal participated very actively. A general feeling was expressed that there are not enough meetings of this kind which would bring together publishers, editors, authors and researchers in the field of scientific dissemination in the times of ever faster changes in this area.

Speaking of successes *Food Technology and Biotechnology* achieved in 2016, an excellent news was a significant increase of the Journal's impact factor that reached the value of 1.179 for the year 2015 (0.920 for the previous year). This is the third best IF in the history of the Journal and the first above 1 since 2011. In the same time the 5-year impact factor increased from 1.500 to 1.520. *Food Technology and Biotechnology* has always had a pronounced discrepancy between the 'regular' IF and the 5-year IF, indicating that the papers published in the Journal were cited, but not immediately upon issuing. At least to some extent this is due to a rather slow rate of indexing in WoS and Scopus. In relation to this, the second important achievement accomplished in 2016 was the inclusion in the list of journals indexed by PubMed, starting with volume 52. We hope that this should further increase the visibility of the Journal and further improve the number of recent citations.

Finally, summarising the year that has passed, in my opinion it was a good year that set good foundations for further growth and improvement of our journal although we still have to fight with the same problems that marked the scientific publishing in the recent years. Still, with the enthusiasm of all the people working for the journal I have a strong feeling that its future will be characterised by further development in an effort to serve the scientific community worldwide.

Editor-in-Chief



Prof. Dr. Sc. Vladimir Mrša