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Rapid Detection of Mycotoxin Contamination

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Message from the Guest Editor

Mycotoxin contamination in crops, and the subsequent mycotoxin contamination in food and feed is currently a major concern in environmental and food safety, affecting both crop production and animal husbandry. In turn, the rapid detection of mycotoxin levels in food and feed, as well as in other biological and environmental matrices, is of key importance both in mycotoxin monitoring and exposure assessment.

Mycotoxin occurrence in produce is mostly as a result of improper harvest or storage conditions that favour the emergence of toxinogenic fungi (e.g., *Fusarium*, *Penicillium*, *Aspergillus,* and other species). Target mycotoxins include the most hazardous aflatoxins, trichothecenes (e.g., T-2, deoxynivalenol), resorcilactones (e.g., zearalenone), fumonisins, and ochratoxins, as well as recently identified compounds (e.g., sterigmatocystin, moniliformin, and others). The meteorological conditions prior to harvest strongly affect fungal growth and mycotoxin production; moreover, climate change also exerts its impact, as toxinogenic fungal strains may now emerge at climatic zones where they could not colonise before.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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