

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



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Plastic Food Package

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Abstract

The potential harmful effects of plastic materials used for food packaging are not yet fully explained to the general population, who need to be more aware of the effects of plastics on the environment. Additionally, the plastic package has been reported as having major adverse effects on human health. Hence, this work aimed at investigating the consumer's perception about quality and safety issues related to the utilization of plastics to pack foods. A survey was conducted by on-line questionnaire method and a sample of 487 valid responses was considered. The obtained results revealed that Portuguese consumers are generally aware of possible hazardous effects of plastic packaging, especially considering some contaminants migrating from the plastic material into the food products. Additionally, they believe this can be a danger to public health. Nevertheless, when buying foods, a considerable number of participants do not worry about reducing the plastic they bring home along with their foods. Moreover, they consider that the plastic packaging materials have many advantages, such as being highly convenient. Still, they sense that plastic food packaging has a polluting nature.

Keywords

Plastic pollution; food packaging; consumer.