

Herbal Nutraceuticals

Products and Processes

Edited by

Santosh Kumar Upadhyay Sudhir Pratap Singh

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Contents

About the Editors <i>xvii</i>		
List of Co	ontributors	xix
Preface	xxv	

1	Plants Based Nutraceuticals: An Overview 1
	Dheeraj Bisht, Vikas Bhatt, Rajeshwar Kamal Kant Arya, Shikha Yadav, Deepak Kumar,
	Sudhir Pratap Singh, and Santosh Kumar Upadhyay
1.1	Introduction 1
1.2	Historical Background Behind Nutraceutical Investigations 2
1.3	Pervasive Requisition for Nutraceuticals 3
1.4	Classification of Nutraceuticals 3
1.4.1	Traditional Nutraceuticals 4
1.4.1.1	Prebiotics 4
1.4.1.2	Dietary Fibers 4
1.4.1.3	Antioxidant 5
1.4.1.4	Spices 5
1.4.1.5	Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids 6
1.4.1.6	Polyphenols 6
1.5	Popularly Found Herbs Utilized as Nutraceuticals 6
1.5.1	Nontraditional Nutraceuticals 6
1.5.2	Recombinant Nutraceuticals 8
1.5.3	Fortified Nutraceuticals 8
1.6	Utility of Nutraceuticals in Cure of Different Diseases 9
1.6.1	Nutraceuticals for Cardiovascular Diseases 9
1.6.1.1	Allicin and Allin 9
1.6.1.2	Omega-3 Fatty Acids 10
1.6.1.3	Soya Isoflavones 10
1.6.1.4	Proteins, Peptides, and Amino Acids 10
1.6.1.5	Antioxidants and Vitamins 10
1.6.1.6	Phytosterols 11
1.6.1.7	Alkaloids 11
1.6.2	Nutraceuticals in Radiotherapy and Chemotherapy-based Cancer Treatment 11
1.6.2.1	Curcumin 12
1.6.2.2	Ginger and Genistein 12
1.6.3	Nutraceuticals for Prostate Cancer Treatment 12

vi	Contents	
'	1.6.3.1	Silibinin 13
	1.6.3.2	Soy Isoflavones 13
	1.6.4	Skincare Nutraceuticals 14
	1.6.4.1	Peptides with Biological Activity 14
	1.6.4.2	Biologically Active Polysaccharides 14
	1.6.4.3	Botanical Extracts with Biological Activity 15
	1.7	Current Status of Nutraceuticals 15
	1.8	Challenges and Future Aspects 15
	1.9	Conclusion 16
		References 16
	2	Herbal Nutraceutical as Alternative Medicine 23 Alok Sharma, Madhu, Sapna Avinash Kondalkar, Ajay Kumar Meena, and Santosh Kumar Upadhyay
	2.1	Introduction 23
	2.1	Classification of Nutraceuticals 24
	2.2.1	Traditional Nutraceuticals 24
	2.2.1.1	Probiotic Microorganisms 26
	2.2.1.1	Nutraceutical Enzymes 27
	2.2.2	Nonconventional Nutraceuticals 27
	2.3	Types of Herbal Nutraceuticals Used as Alternative Medicine 27
	2.3.1	Herbal Nutraceuticals Based on Food Availability 27
	2.3.1.1	Angelica 27
	2.3.1.2	Anise 28
	2.3.1.3	Allium sativum 28
	2.3.1.4	Artemisia annua 28
	2.3.1.5	Boswellia serrata 28
	2.3.1.6	Curcuma longa 28
		Foeniculum vulgare 29
		Glycyrrhiza glabra 29
	2.3.1.9	Medicago sativa 29
	2.3.1.10	Moringa oleifera 29
	2.3.1.11	Zingiber officinale 29
	2.3.2	Herbal Nutraceuticals Based on Chemical Nature 30
	2.3.2.1	Carbohydrates-based Herbal Nutraceutical for Alternative Medicine 30
	2.3.2.2	Lipids and Fatty Acids Based Herbal Nutraceutical for Alternative Medicine 31
	2.3.2.3	Amino Acid-based Herbal Nutraceutical for Alternative Medicine 31
	2.3.2.4	Phenolic Compound-based Herbal Nutraceutical for Alternative Medicine 32
	2.3.2.5	Terpenes-based Herbal Nutraceutical for Alternative Medicine 32
	2.3.2.6	Mineral-based Herbal Nutraceutical for Alternative Medicine 33
	2.3.3	Herbal Nutraceuticals Based on Mode of Action 33
	2.3.3.1	Nutraceutical with Antioxidant Therapeutic Properties 33
	2.3.3.2	Nutraceutical with Antimicrobial Therapeutic Properties 34
	2.3.3.3	Nutraceutical with Anti-inflammatory Therapeutic Properties 34
	2.4	Conclusions 35
		Acknowledgments 35 References 35

3	Significance of Nutraceuticals in Modern Health Maintenance and Disease Prevention 47 Mahra Mohammad Moosa Ali Alblooshi, Kok-Song Lai, Swee-Hua Erin Lim,
	and Shamshul Ansari
3.1	Introduction 47
3.1.1	Addressing Nutritional Gaps 47
3.1.2	Confluence of Nutrition and Medicine 48
3.2	Plant-based Nutraceuticals 48
3.3	Plant-based Nutraceuticals in the Middle East 49
3.4	Modified Versus Organic Plant-based Nutraceuticals 50
3.5	The Preventive Potency of Plant-based Nutraceuticals 50
3.6	Prospective Developments in Plant-based Functional Foods: Global
	and Middle Eastern Perspectives 53
3.7	Conclusions 54
	References 54
4	Applications of Spices in Nutraceuticals 59
	Ashwini Prabhu
4.1	Introduction 59
4.2	Benefits of Spices as Nutraceuticals 60
4.2.1	Anticancer Potential of Spices 60
4.2.2	Spices and Antidiabetic Activity 66
4.2.3	Spices in the Prevention of Cardiovascular Disorders 67
4.3	Conclusions 68
	References 69
5	Antioxidant Properties of Food Plants, Spices, Beverages, and Nutraceuticals—Health and Anti-aging Potentials 77 Michael Wink
5.1	Introduction 77
5.2	Reactive Oxygen Species and Health Implications 79
5.3	Antioxidant Molecules from Nature 90
5.4	Antioxidant Activities in the Model System Caenorhabditis elegans 91
5.5	Potential Health Benefits of Herbal Products with Antioxidant Properties 93
5.6	Conclusions 94
	Acknowledgments 95
	References 95
6	Nutraceuticals with Antidiabetic Potentials from Plants 107
	Roman Lysiuk, Serhii Oliinyk, Andrii Boiko, Iryna Lozynska, Petro Oliinyk,
	and Andrian Boiko
6.1	Introduction 107
6.2	Types of Diabetes 108
6.3	Flavonoids in Ameliorating of Diabetes Mellitus Complications 109
6.4	Diabetic Cardiomyopathy 110
6.5	Diabetic Cardionyopathy 110 Diabetic Nephropathy 111
6.6	Diabetic Neuropathy 113
0.0	Diabetic real opacity 115

ν	1	ı	ı

6.7	Diabetic Retinopathy 113
6.8	Diabetic Skin Ulcer 114
6.9	Improvement of Bioavailability of Flavonoids 114
6.10	Plant-derived Nutraceuticals with Antidiabetic Potentials 115
6.10.1	Beetroot (Beta vulgaris L.) 115
6.10.2	Cabbage (Brassica oleracea var. capitata) 116
6.10.3	Onion (Allium cepa L.) 117
6.10.4	Bilberry (Vaccinium myrtillus L.) 118
6.10.5	Parsley (Petroselinum crispum (Mill.) Nym. ex Hill) 119
6.10.6	Pumpkin (<i>Cucurbita pepo</i> L.) 120
6.11	Conclusions 123
	References 124
_	II I IVE
7	Herbal Wine and Health Benefits 135
	Sonia Morya, Gopika S. Pillai, Abishek Dinesh, Amenah S. Alotaibi, Hanan A. Alatawi, and Farid Menaa
7.1	·
7.1	Introduction 135
7.2	Defining Concept of Herbal Wines 135 Historical Roots 136
7.3	
7.4	Emerging Trends of Herbal Wine 136 The Harbal Commonant 137
7.5	The Herbal Component 137 Selection of Herbs 137
7.6	
7.6.1	Lavender 137
7.6.2	Rosemary 138
7.6.3	Thyme 139 Chamomile 140
7.6.4 7.6.5	Hibiscus 141
7.6.6	Ginger 142
7.6.7	Lemon Balm 143
7.6.8	Peppermint 144
7.0.8	Techniques for Incorporating Herbs into the Wine Matrix 145
7.8	Significance of Herbal Wine in Human Health 147
7.8 7.9	Future Prospective of Herbal Wine 148
7.10	Conclusion 149
7.10	References 149
8	Plant-based Nutraceuticals with Anticarcinogenic Potential 155
	Omar S. Al-Odat, Gabriella Yao, Nicole K. Schmalbach, Daniel A. Guirguis, Osama
	Aloudat, Patrick A. Newport-Ratiu, Subash C. Jonnalagadda, and Manoj K. Pandey
8.1	Journey of Nutraceuticals: From Folklores to Linchpins 155
8.2	Therapeutic Nutraceuticals for the Treatment of Chronic Inflammation
	and Cancer 156
8.2.1	Capsaicin 160
8.2.2	Diallyl Sulfide 160
8.2.3	Cinnamaldehyde 161
8.2.4	6-Gingerol 161
8.2.5	Eugenol 161

8.2.6	Diosgenin 162
8.2.7	Garcinol 162
8.2.8	Thymoquinone 162
8.2.9	Quercetin 163
8.2.10	Sulforaphane 163
8.2.11	α-Pinene 163
8.2.12	Piperine 163
8.2.13	1,8-Cineole (Cin) 163
8.3	A Cancer and Inflammation Savior: Curcumin 164
8.3.1	Curcumin Against Solid Cancers 164
8.3.2	Curcumin Against Hematological Malignancies 165
8.3.3	Development of Curcumin Clinical Trials 165
8.4	Conclusion and Future Direction 173
	Author's Contributions 173
	Financial Support and Sponsorship 173
	Abbreviations 174
	References 175
9	Nano-based Herbal Nutraceuticals Against Different Diseases 187
	Priyanku Pradip Das, Mehak Thakur, Dheeraj Bisht, Rajeshwar Kamal Kant
	Arya, Shavkatjon Azizov, H. Lalhlenmawia, and Deepak Kumar
9.1	Introduction 187
9.2	Plant-mediated Nanoparticles as Antioxidant Agents 188
9.3	Plant-mediated Nanoparticles as Anti-inflammatory Agents 189
9.4	Plant-mediated Nanoparticles as Antimicrobial Agents 191
9.5	Plant-mediated Nanoparticles as Antidiabetic Agents 192
9.6	Plant-mediated Nanoparticles as Antihypertensive Agents 192
9.7	Plant-mediated Nanoparticles as Anti-obesity Agents 193
9.8	Conclusion and Future Direction 194
	References 194
10	The Florest World Francisco the Applications of Coince in New York 201
10	The Flavorful World: Exploring the Applications of Spices in Nutraceuticals 201 Anuradha and Navneeta Bharadvaja
10.1	Introduction 201
10.1	Chemistry of Compounds Specific to Spices 202
10.2.1	Phenolic Compounds 203
10.2.1	Terpenes 204
10.2.3	Alkaloids 204
10.3	Role of Spices as Nutraceuticals 204
10.3.1	Digestion 206
10.3.2	Antidiabetic 206
10.3.3	Anti-inflammatory 206
10.3.4	Antioxidant Property 207
10.3.5	Anti-lithogenic Effect 207
10.3.6	Anticancer Effect 207
10.4	Conclusion 207
	References 208

х	Content.

11	Carotenoids: Their Sources, Bioactivity, and Application in Industry 211
	Irwandi Jaswir, Dedi Noviendri, Mohd Aznan Md Aris, Soraya Ismail, Widya Lestari,
	Noraihan Mat Harun, and Ridar Hendri
11.1	Introduction 211
11.2	Sources of Carotenoid 213
11.2.1	α-Carotene and β-Carotene 214
11.2.2	β-Cryptoxanthin 214
11.2.3	Lycopene 214
11.2.4	Zeaxanthin 214
11.2.5	Astaxanthin 215
11.2.6	Fucoxanthin 215
11.3	Carotenoids Bioactivity 217
11.3.1	Provitamin A Activity 217
11.3.2	Antioxidant/Prooxidant Activity 217
11.3.3	Carotenoids as Anticancer 218
11.3.4	Carotenoids for Obesity 220
11.3.5	Anabolic Activity on Bone Components 220
11.4	Carotenoid Applications in Industry 221
11.5	Conclusions 223
	Acknowledgments 223
	References 223
12	Nutraceuticals in Legumes 229
	Rajan Katoch, Ankur Tripathi, Neelam Thakur, and Kiran
12.1	Introduction 229
12.2	Legumes: A Superfood for Combating Malnutrition and Hunger 230
12.3	Nutritional Profile of Legumes 231
12.3.1	Proteins 231
12.3.2	Carbohydrates 231
12.3.3	Fat Content 232
12.3.4	Micronutrients 232
12.4	Nutraceutical Compounds in Legumes 232
12.4.1	Bioactive Peptides and Proteins 233
12.4.2	Resistant Starch, Dietary Fiber, and Oligosaccharide Content 233
12.4.3	Lipids, Phytosterols, and Phytoestrogens 233
12.4.4	Minerals and Vitamins 234
12.5	Nonnutritive Bioactive Compounds 234
12.5.1	Polyphenolic Content 234
12.5.2	Saponins 235
12.5.3	Lectins 236
12.5.4	Phytic Acid 237
12.5.5	Enzyme Inhibitors 237
12.6	Nutraceutical Activities of Bioactive Compounds Present in Legumes 240
12.6.1	Anticancer Activities 240
12.6.2	Protection from Cardiovascular Ailments 240
12.6.3	Antidiabetic Activities 241
1264	Henato-protective Activities 241

12.7	Nutraceutical Uses of Legumes in Traditional Medicine System 241
12.8	Legume-based Nutritionally Fortified Food 242
12.9	Conclusion 242
	References 243
13	Nutraceutical Potential of Herbal Beverages 251
	Anoma Chandrasekara, Sashya Diyapaththugama, and Fereidoon Shahidi
13.1	Introduction 251
13.1.1	Herbal Beverages 251
13.2	Bioactive Compounds in Herbal Beverages 254
13.2.1	Phenolic Compounds 254
13.2.2	Phenolic Acids 254
13.2.3	Flavonoids 255
13.2.4	Tannins 255
13.2.5	Coumarins 255
13.2.6	Terpenes 255
13.2.7	Carotenoids 255
13.2.8	Polyacetylenes 256
13.3	Bioactivities of Herbal Beverages 256
13.4	
13.5	e
	Bael 257
13.5.2	Indian Pennywort 258
	Tanner's Cassia 258
13.5.4	Jackfruit 258
13.5.5	Rang Jued 259
13.5.6	•
13.5.7	Moringa 259
13.6	Tropical Fruit Herbal Beverages 260
13.6.1	Wood Apple 260
13.6.2	
	June Plum 261
13.6.4	Carambola 261
13.7	Herbal Beverages in Africa 261
13.8	Herbal Beverages in South America 262
13.9	Herbal Beverages in Europe 263
13.10	Conclusions 263
	References 264
14	Nutracouticals Present in Edible Oils 271
14	Nutraceuticals Present in Edible Oils 271
14.1	Rupasree Mukhopadhyay and Shruti Kabra Introduction 271
14.1	Edible Oils and Their Uses 273
	Coconut Oil 274
14.2.1	Coconut Oil 2/4 Cottonseed Oil 274
	Groundnut/Peanut Oil 275
14.2.4	Olive Oil 275

cii	Contents	
-----	----------	--

14.2.5	Palm Oil 275
14.2.6	Rapeseed or Mustard Oil 276
14.2.7	Ricebran Oil 276
14.2.8	Sesame Oil 277
14.2.9	Soybean Oil 277
14.2.10	Sunflower Oil 277
14.3	Important Nutraceuticals Present in Edible Oils 278
14.3.1	Essential Fatty Acids 278
14.3.2	Vitamin E: Tocopherols and Tocotrienols 280
14.3.3	Phytosterols and Phytostanols 282
14.3.4	Oryzanol 283
14.3.5	Squalene 284
14.3.6	Carotenoids 286
14.3.7	Lecithin (Phospholipids) 287
14.3.8	Phenolic Compounds 289
14.3.8.1	
14.3.8.2	Isoflavones 290
14.4	Conclusion 291
17.7	References 292
	References 292
15	Nutraceuticals from Conventional and Nonconventional Fruits 309
13	Karishma Sebastian, Manjula Belagihalli Siddalingappa, Jeevitha Devaraju,
	and Panneer Selvam Ranchana
15.1	Introduction 309
	Apple 310
15.2	
15.2	
15.3	Peach 310
15.4	Peach 310 Plum 310
15.4 15.5	Peach 310 Plum 310 Apricot 310
15.4 15.5 15.6	Peach 310 Plum 310 Apricot 310 Sweet Cherry 310
15.4 15.5 15.6 15.7	Peach 310 Plum 310 Apricot 310 Sweet Cherry 310 Mango 311
15.4 15.5 15.6 15.7 15.8	Peach 310 Plum 310 Apricot 310 Sweet Cherry 310 Mango 311 Banana 311
15.4 15.5 15.6 15.7 15.8 15.9	Peach 310 Plum 310 Apricot 310 Sweet Cherry 310 Mango 311 Banana 311 Citrus 312
15.4 15.5 15.6 15.7 15.8 15.9 15.10	Peach 310 Plum 310 Apricot 310 Sweet Cherry 310 Mango 311 Banana 311 Citrus 312 Grapes 312
15.4 15.5 15.6 15.7 15.8 15.9	Peach 310 Plum 310 Apricot 310 Sweet Cherry 310 Mango 311 Banana 311 Citrus 312 Grapes 312 Guava 312
15.4 15.5 15.6 15.7 15.8 15.9 15.10 15.11	Peach 310 Plum 310 Apricot 310 Sweet Cherry 310 Mango 311 Banana 311 Citrus 312 Grapes 312 Guava 312 Papaya 312
15.4 15.5 15.6 15.7 15.8 15.9 15.10 15.11	Peach 310 Plum 310 Apricot 310 Sweet Cherry 310 Mango 311 Banana 311 Citrus 312 Grapes 312 Guava 312 Papaya 312 Pineapple 313
15.4 15.5 15.6 15.7 15.8 15.9 15.10 15.11	Peach 310 Plum 310 Apricot 310 Sweet Cherry 310 Mango 311 Banana 311 Citrus 312 Grapes 312 Guava 312 Papaya 312
15.4 15.5 15.6 15.7 15.8 15.9 15.10 15.11 15.12 15.13	Peach 310 Plum 310 Apricot 310 Sweet Cherry 310 Mango 311 Banana 311 Citrus 312 Grapes 312 Guava 312 Papaya 312 Pineapple 313
15.4 15.5 15.6 15.7 15.8 15.9 15.10 15.11 15.12 15.13 15.14	Peach 310 Plum 310 Apricot 310 Sweet Cherry 310 Mango 311 Banana 311 Citrus 312 Grapes 312 Guava 312 Papaya 312 Pineapple 313 Sapota 313
15.4 15.5 15.6 15.7 15.8 15.9 15.10 15.11 15.12 15.13 15.14 15.15	Peach 310 Plum 310 Apricot 310 Sweet Cherry 310 Mango 311 Banana 311 Citrus 312 Grapes 312 Guava 312 Papaya 312 Pineapple 313 Sapota 313 Annona 313
15.4 15.5 15.6 15.7 15.8 15.9 15.10 15.11 15.12 15.13 15.14 15.15 15.16	Peach 310 Plum 310 Apricot 310 Sweet Cherry 310 Mango 311 Banana 311 Citrus 312 Grapes 312 Guava 312 Papaya 312 Pineapple 313 Sapota 313 Annona 313 Pomegranate 314
15.4 15.5 15.6 15.7 15.8 15.9 15.10 15.11 15.12 15.13 15.14 15.15 15.16 15.17	Peach 310 Plum 310 Apricot 310 Sweet Cherry 310 Mango 311 Banana 311 Citrus 312 Grapes 312 Guava 312 Papaya 312 Pineapple 313 Sapota 313 Annona 313 Pomegranate 314 Dates 314
15.4 15.5 15.6 15.7 15.8 15.9 15.10 15.11 15.12 15.13 15.14 15.15 15.16 15.17 15.18	Peach 310 Plum 310 Apricot 310 Sweet Cherry 310 Mango 311 Banana 311 Citrus 312 Grapes 312 Guava 312 Papaya 312 Pineapple 313 Sapota 313 Annona 313 Pomegranate 314 Dates 314 Avocado 314
15.4 15.5 15.6 15.7 15.8 15.9 15.10 15.11 15.12 15.13 15.14 15.15 15.16 15.17 15.18 15.19	Peach 310 Plum 310 Apricot 310 Sweet Cherry 310 Mango 311 Banana 311 Citrus 312 Grapes 312 Guava 312 Papaya 312 Pineapple 313 Sapota 313 Annona 313 Pomegranate 314 Dates 314 Avocado 314 Aonla 314
15.4 15.5 15.6 15.7 15.8 15.9 15.10 15.11 15.12 15.13 15.14 15.15 15.16 15.17 15.18 15.19 15.20	Peach 310 Plum 310 Apricot 310 Sweet Cherry 310 Mango 311 Banana 311 Citrus 312 Grapes 312 Guava 312 Papaya 312 Pineapple 313 Sapota 313 Annona 313 Pomegranate 314 Dates 314 Avocado 314 Aonla 314 Strawberry 315
15.4 15.5 15.6 15.7 15.8 15.9 15.10 15.11 15.12 15.13 15.14 15.15 15.16 15.17 15.18 15.19 15.20 15.21	Peach 310 Plum 310 Apricot 310 Sweet Cherry 310 Mango 311 Banana 311 Citrus 312 Grapes 312 Guava 312 Papaya 312 Pineapple 313 Sapota 313 Annona 313 Pomegranate 314 Dates 314 Avocado 314 Avocado 314 Strawberry 315 Kiwifruit 315

15.25	Longan 316
15.26	Blueberry 316
15.27	Raspberry 317
15.28	Walnut 317
15.29	Fig 317
15.30	Olive 318
15.31	Jamun 318
15.32	Passionfruit 318
15.33	Phalsa 318
15.34	Acerola 319
15.35	Mulberry 319
15.36	Prickly Pear 319
15.37	Sea Buckthorn 320
15.38	Bael 320
15.39	Conclusions 322
	References 322
16	Nutraceutical Potential of Staple Food Crops 329
	Aroma Joshi, Arun Kumar Gupta, Avinash Kumar Jha, Bindu Naik,
	Vijay Kumar, and Sarvesh Rustagi
16.1	Introduction 329
16.2	Overview of Major Staple Food Crops and Their Nutritional Composition 330
16.3	Bioactive Compounds Present in Staple Cereal Crops 330
16.4	Health Benefits of Staple Food Crops 333
16.5	Emerging Trends in Staple Food Crop Research 335
16.5.1	The Trend of Plant-based Ingredients/Foods 335
16.5.2	Beyond Vegan and Vegetarian: Flexitarian Trend 335
16.5.3	New Generation in Plant-based Alternatives 335
16.5.4	Potential for Genetic Modification to Enhance Nutraceutical Content 336
16.5.5	Nutritionally Enhanced Food Crops to Improve Global Health 336
16.5.5.1	Biofortified Rice 336
16.5.5.2	Biofortified Maize and Cassava 336
16.5.5.3	Biofortified Wheat 336
16.5.5.4	Nutritionally Enhanced Feed Crops 337
16.5.5.5	Integrating Traditional and Modern Knowledge for Sustainable Nutrition 337
16.6	Importance of Educating Consumers About the Nutraceutical Potential 338
16.6.1	Significance of Consumer Education 338
16.6.2	Strategies for Effective Consumer Education 338
16.7	Importance of Promoting Staple Food Crops as Nutraceutical Sources 339
16.8	Future Scope and Conclusion 339
	References 340
17	Pseudocereals Nutraceuticals 347
17	
171	Sonia Morya, Aniket More, Arno Neumann, and Shikha Chauhan
17.1	Introduction 347 Types and Classification of Provide corrects 248
17.2	Types and Classification of Pseudocereals 348
17.2.1	Amaranth 348

xiv	Contents	
	17.2.2	Quinoa 350
	17.2.3	Buckwheat 353
	17.3	Nutritional Composition of Pseudocereals 355
	17.4	Health Benefits of Pseudocereals 355
	17.4.1	Nutraceutical Properties of Amaranth 358
	17.4.2	Nutraceutical Properties of Quinoa 358
	17.4.3	Nutraceutical Properties of Buckwheat 359
	17.5	Functional Properties and Nutraceutical Potential 360
	17.6	Challenges and Opportunities 363
	17.7	Conclusion 364
		References 364
	18	Safety Concerns Associated with Microalgal Nutraceuticals 373 Freny Shah, Niranjan Mishra, Kanti Bhooshan Pandey, and Sandhya Mishra Abbreviations 373
	18.1	Introduction 373
	18.2	Market Trends 374
	18.3	Microalgal Source and Nutrient Profile 375
	18.4	Functional Foods with Microalgae 376
	18.4.1	Vitamins 376
	18.4.2	Minerals 376
	18.5	Safety Concerns and Measures to be Followed 376
	18.6	Applications of Microalgal Nutraceuticals 377
	18.6.1	Human Nutrition 377
	18.6.2	Biomedical Applications 378
	18.6.3	Nucleic Acids 379
	18.6.4	As Anticancer Agents 379
	18.6.5	Animal/Aquafeed 379
	18.6.6	Aquaculture 380
	18.7	Problems of Contamination 380
	18.8	Future Scope 380
	18.9	Conclusion 381
		Acknowledgments 381
		References 382
	19	Toxicity Evaluation of Nutraceuticals 387 Sonia Morya, Farid Menaa, and Sharvary Arun Vichare
	19.1	Introduction 387
	19.1.1	Toxicity Evaluation Methods 388
	19.1.1.1	In Vitro Methods 388
	19.1.1.2	In Vivo Methods 390
	19.1.2	Clinical Trials 393

19.1.2.1 Phase 0 Clinical Trials 393
19.1.2.2 Phase I Clinical Trials 394
19.1.2.3 Phase II Clinical Trials 394
19.1.2.4 Phase III Clinical Trial 394
19.1.2.5 Post-marketing Surveillance 394

19.1.3	Factors Influencing Toxicity of Nutraceuticals 394
19.1.3.1	Dosage and Exposure Levels 394
19.1.3.2	Interactions with Other Compounds 395
19.1.3.3	Genetic Variability and Individual Differences 397
19.1.3.4	Formulation and Manufacturing Processes 397
19.1.4	Ethical Considerations 398
19.2	Emerging Trends and Future Prospects 398
19.3	Conclusion 399
	References 399

Index 405

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Preface

Nutraceuticals are nutritive pharmaceuticals of health significance. It could be fortified food product or dietary supplement. Nevertheless, the health benefits of nutraceuticals are over and above the basic nutritional function. The recommended level of consumption of nutraceuticals not only maintains good health but also functions against life-style-related acute and chronic metabolic disorders. Thus, nutraceutical bioactive molecules help in disease prevention and promote optimal health, quality, and longevity of life. The medical uses of nutraceuticals in disease like depression, stress, cardiovascular and gastrointestinal disorders, cancer, cholesterol, obesity, and diabetes have been intensively studied. These bioactive molecules of high value are obtained from natural biosphere resources. Nutraceuticals can be derived from animals, plants, microorganisms, and fungal sources. Herbal bioactives comprise a variety of phytochemicals like polyphenols, alkaloids, terpenoids, and derivatives thereof. Many traditional literatures support the utilization of herbs as natural remedies to handle the metabolic and physiological disorders. Herbs may be categorized into food, medicinal, and poisonous types, according to the active and functional constituents they harbour.

The current book entitled "Herbal Nutraceuticals: Products and Processes" enlisted the numerous important herbal nutraceuticals from different plants sources including horticultural and agricultural important crops, as well. The book started with the overview of herbal nutraceuticals and covered diverse aspects of their application for the human health. Various chapters included in the book described the medicinal importance of various herbal constituents as alternative medicines, their importance in health benefits in the modern day life style, their antidiabetic and anticarcinogenic potentials, and antioxidant properties. In addition, the nutraceutical potential of various cereals, pseudo cereals, legumes, fruits, and oils have been specifically discussed in various chapters. It is a well-known truth that nothing is absolutely beneficial in the world. The positive and negative implications are associated with each substance. And therefore, at the end chapters describing the safety concern and toxicity evaluation have been included. Overall, *Herbal Nutraceuticals: Products and Processes* is a comprehensive book for the diverse knowledge and application for human health benefits.

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1

Plants Based Nutraceuticals: An Overview

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1.1 Introduction

The term nutraceuticals evolved from a combination of nutrition and pharmaceuticals and was coined by Stephen De Felice in 1989. According to him, nutraceuticals are food commodities or fractions that grant health benefits and clinical advantages (Durazzo et al. 2020). The word nutraceuticals, is not so popular worldwide and is many of time it is confused by the term dietary supplements, which is an important need for the health of humankind. However, in-depth studies of both terms manifest some root differences, such as the fact that nutraceuticals are prominent in treating several illnesses besides being important dietary supplements (Bommakanti et al. 2023). US FDA is usually not in favor of the term nutraceuticals, which is generally denoted as foodemerged derivatives with some other values specified by the elementary nutritional fractions that exist in that specific food item. Another misleading term for nutraceuticals is functional food, which can be described as any food being synthesized or manufactured employing scientific intelligence, with or without competent information on why or how it is being used (Tsiaka et al. 2022).

Moreover, when functional food helps to manage and treat ailments other than anemia, it is categorized as a nutraceutical (Jalgaonkar et al. 2019). These incorporate a large variety of products, including dietary supplements, genetically altered products, isolated nutrients, plant products, and processed cereals. Modifications in lifestyle patterns bring about influential changes in the everyday dietary regime that may lead to the emergence of newly developed lifestyle abnormalities such as type-2 diabetes and obesity. Other than these, cardiac disorders, namely stroke and ischemic heart dysfunction, are the most common reasons for mortality in the entire world. Nutraceuticals are reported as appropriate medications for these factors to cure such lifestyle

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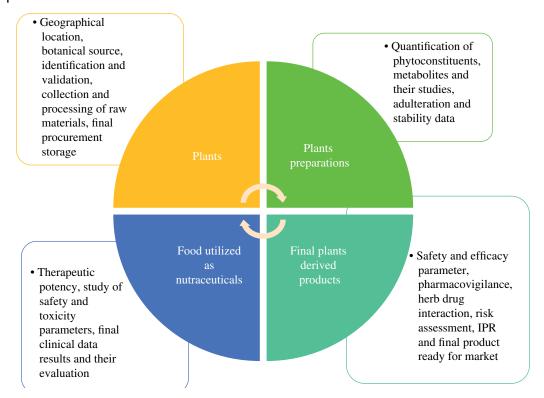


Figure 1.1 Identification and validation of plant-based nutraceuticals. *Source:* Mukherjee et al. (2016); Donno (2020).

abnormalities, hence attaining worldwide acceptability expeditiously. Besides these lifestyle abnormalities, nutraceuticals are utilized for the cure of various types of clinical manifestations, namely hypercholesteremia, allergic problems, sleep disorders, inflammations, immunodeficiencies, depressive situations, malignancies conditions, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), and anemic disorders (Jalgaonkar et al. 2019; Tsiaka et al. 2022).

It can be suggested that nutraceuticals have very efficacious and potent outcomes and marvelous health benefits that make them crucially attractive to consumers. In the last few years, the significance and importance of plant-based nutraceuticals have evolved, and the development of nutraceutical has revealed that it is crucial for human beings to have sound health considerations for better wellness and fitness. This work focuses mainly on the therapeutically active medicinal phytoconstituents derived from various parts of plants worldwide to cure and prevent various ailments. These phytochemicals obtained from plants could be used as nutraceuticals, further exploring their numerous remedial benefits and the theme behind their remarkable and valuable impacts on human health (Figure 1.1) (Mohammad and Imran 2019; Shahidi 2012).

1.2 Historical Background Behind Nutraceutical Investigations

The father of current remedies, Hippocrates (460–377 BC), suggested the root stone for modern-time nutraceuticals via the fabled quote, "Let food be thy medicine and medicine by the food." He was recognized as the founder of the idea that specific foods could also be a remedy for curing and controlling a disorder besides the drug moieties (Nwosu and Ubaoji 2020). Roman physician Galen