



Dr. Swati Sharma

Dr. Swati Sharma is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biosciences at Integral University, Lucknow, with over a decade of research experience in biological sciences. Her expertise focuses on plant-microbe interactions and postharvest management. She completed her doctoral research at CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute and the Department of Botany, University of Lucknow. Dr. Sharma has a strong publication record, including 24 research papers in international journals, one edited book, 12 book chapters, and two patents. She has successfully supervised nine Ph.D. scholars in microbiology and biotechnology, making significant contributions to research and academic mentorship.

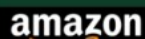
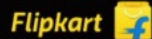


Dr. Amita Dubey

Dr. Amita Dubey is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biosciences at Integral University, Lucknow. She earned her Ph.D. from CSIR-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants and served as a Women Scientist at CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute. With over a decade of experience in research and teaching, her work focuses on cytochrome P450 monooxygenases and their role in the biosynthesis of therapeutically important secondary metabolites. Her research has advanced the understanding of metabolite pathways in medicinal plants and their application in pathway engineering. She has also contributed to studies on histone acetylation in improving cotton fiber yield and quality. Dr. Dubey has led two projects funded by the


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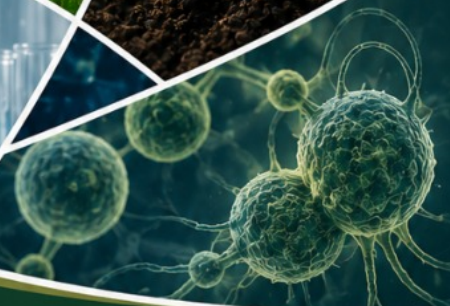


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FRONTIERS IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES: RECENT ADVANCES AND INNOVATIONS-VOL I

Frontiers in Biological Sciences: Recent Advances and Innovations

— Vol I —



Dr. Swati Sharma
Dr. Amita Dubey

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Edible Coatings: A Sustainable Solution for Prolonging fruit and vegetables Shelf Life

Smita Rai, Swati Pandey, Shefali Singh, Swati Sharma*

Department of Biosciences, Faculty of Science, Integral University, Kursi Road, Lucknow, 226026, India.

****Corresponding author Email Id: sw_sh@rediffmail.com***

ABSTRACT

Fruits as well as vegetables are needed more and more due to growing population but have a limited shelf life. This is because ripening, sensitivity to microbial deterioration after harvest, and mechanical damage result in significant postharvest losses. Hence, about 25-30% of the harvested perishables are lost before it reaches the final consumer. As in the food supply chain, they must go through harvesting, packaging, storing, loading, unloading and transportation. Because of inadequate storage as well as infrastructure and transit facilities, the producer tries to sell the product before it perishes. For many years researchers have been struggling to establish various mechanisms or treatments for sustaining the postharvest management. Numerous technologies, including evaporative cooling and cold storage, fruit coating treatments, however scarcely any technology have been adopted in the Indian food supply chain. Among these, edible coatings offer a sustainable approach for extending the shelf life and preserving the quality of fruits and vegetables after harvest.

INTRODUCTION

Edible films and coatings are produced from edible biopolymers and food-grade additives. Film-forming biopolymers can be proteins,