

Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement

https://www.ijmfmap.in/file/Publication_ethics_of_IJMFMAP_24.pdf

1. Website: International Journal of Minor Fruits, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: <https://www.ijmfmap.in/>

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Place of publication: West Bengal, India

*Owner of the Journal: Society for Minor Fruits, Medicinal & Aromatic Plants

*Journal Subjects: Agriculture, Horticulture, Plant Science and other allied Sciences.

1. It is double blinded, peer-reviewed and Open Access International Research Journal.
2. All articles bear DOI.
3. Article publication is chargeable.
4. Plagiarism checking of all submitted articles is carried out by iThenticate through license agreement between the Turnitin and the Society (Society for Minor Fruits, Medicinal & Aromatic Plants).
5. Journal Archiving: Journal's own website, CABI and Journal's Passport of Index Copernicus International
6. Journal is abstracted by CABI
7. The journal is indexed in Scopus (Elsevier), CABI (Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International), EBSCO, CAS (Chemical Abstracts Service, American Chemical Society) and J-Gate (Informatics India Pvt. Ltd.).

*Authorship criteria

We adhere to the COPE ([Committee on Publication Ethics](#)) definition of authorship. All individuals listed as authors must fulfill the specified authorship criteria, and anyone meeting these criteria must be acknowledged as an author. Contributors who fall short of meeting the authorship criteria should be acknowledged in the Acknowledgements section.

Aims and Scope of Journal

The International Journal of Minor Fruits, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (IJMFM & AP) is a peer-reviewed international research journal, which publishes original scientific works and review articles related to the fields of research, phototherapy, toxicology, pharmacology, development, production, processing, marketing and export of minor fruits, medicinal, aromatic plants and any crops, plants and plant parts having medicinal and aromatic properties. The subject areas covered by this journal are Crop Science, Agro-forestry, Biodiversity conservation, Biotechnology, Genetics and Plant Breeding, Medical Science, Ayurvedic Medicines, Natural resource Management, Indigenous Traditional Knowledge, Post-Harvest Technology, Plant Protection and Marketing and

Entrepreneurship development, which contribute towards promotion of minor fruits, medicinal and aromatic plants.

Above information has been given on the homepage of the journal><https://www.ijmfmap.in/>

2. Name of journal

International Journal of Minor Fruits, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants

Print ISSN: 2424-6921 and On-line ISSN: 2424-693X

3. Peer review process

Editorial process (peer review):https://www.ijmfmap.in/policy_journal.php

Each paper in every issue is reviewed (Peer Review) by the experts from the concerned field. The policy is double blind peer review. The list of referees is published in respective issue of the journal at the end in such a way that author of a paper or referee or vice-versa cannot identify each other. Referees are advised to inform the Editor-in-Chief about any potential conflict of interest as soon as he/she receives the invitation to review the manuscript. Further, their judgments should be objective and be treated confidentially. Any relevant published work, which is not yet cited should be pointed out to the authors by the referees. Decision of the Editor-in-Chief / Editorial Board is final. Mention of a pesticide or a commercial or proprietary product does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation for the use by the Journal.

The editorial process is consisted of 9-step in online mode:

Step-1:

Submission of ethical statement is must while sending article to the Journal (IJMFM&AP).

On receipt of an article through email to the Editor-in-Chief (at profsnghosh@gmail.com) or Associate Editor (at debprld@yahoo.com) ([Article submission>https://www.ijmfmap.in/article_submission.php](https://www.ijmfmap.in/article_submission.php)), the article is marked by 'date of receipt' and is allotted a manuscript (MS) number. Observing the suitability of article to the journal as mentioned in <https://www.ijmfmap.in/index.php>, an acknowledgement for the article is sent to the corresponding author through email. If the author does not submit the ethical statement (https://www.ijmfmap.in/ethical_statement.php), along with the article, the corresponding author is requested to submit an ethical statement through email. Further, if author still fails to submit the ethical statement, the article is not processed and after 1-month the article ceases to be qualified for consideration and is omitted from the list.

Step-2:

After receipt of article and author's ethical statement, the article is checked for plagiarism by special software provided by iThenticate. If the article is showing more than 10 per cent similarity, the corresponding author is informed to re-submit the article by removing similarity as per software report and bring their article to the level of <10 per cent similarity. The author who fails to re-submit their article with less than 10 per cent similarity, his/her article is not considered for further processing and omitted from the list.

Step-3:

After receipt of article with less than 10 per cent similarity, the corresponding author is requested to credit the Article Processing Charge as mentioned on the website>https://www.ijmfmap.in/article_submission_charge.php to the society's / journal bank account. Paying a submission fee does not guarantee the acceptance of article and is charged to cover the article handling and peer review costs. This fee is non-refundable.

Step-4:

Confirming the credit of Article Processing Charge, a request letter is sent through email to the expert (s) of concerned field for review. The selection of reviewer is made by Editor-in-Chief or members of Editorial board. On receipt of consent from reviewer, the manuscript bearing MS-number on the top of the first page without the name of authors, affiliation/address and email (*i.e.*, by deleting the author/s identity) along with an evaluation form is sent through email as attachments for review. **The journal follows the Double Blind Review Policy.**

Step-5:

After receipt of reviewed article and evaluation report from the reviewer, a letter is sent to the concerned author of the article along with reviewed article and evaluation report for revision through email as attachments. The signed evaluation report is not sent to the author.

Step-6:

After receipt of revised article, it is again checked for plagiarism by special software provided by iThenticate. The article having less than 10 per cent similarity is considered for publication.

Step-7:

After receipt of the revised article, showing less than 10 per cent similarity, the article is thoroughly scrutinized by the Editor-in-Chief or the members of Editorial Board for its adherence/compliance to the format of the Journal. If the article is not structured as per the 'list of requirements', the Corresponding Author is informed and is advised to rectify and resubmit the paper / article accordingly. The paper may be rejected at this stage if the incorporation of suggestions/corrections *etc.* is found unsatisfactory or the revised article does not meet the 'list of requirements'.

Step 8:

After receipt of the revised article, it is checked for inclusion of reviewer's suggestion and comments. Being satisfied with the requirements, the corresponding author is sent an 'Acceptance letter' and requested to credit the 'Article Publication Charge (APC)' as mentioned on the website >https://www.ijmfmap.in/policy_change.php to the society's / journal bank account, which is non-refundable.

Step-9:

Before sending it to the Press, the selected articles are re-examined until Chef Editor or members of Editorial board are satisfied. After typesetting, the whole issue (PDF format) is sent to the authors and all members of the Editorial Board for any correction/remarks. A waiting period 7-10 days are provided for any suggestions and corrections. Thereafter, the concerned articles are corrected as per the suggestions / comments. Afterwards, the final corrected version of the issue is published online on the website ><https://www.ijmfmap.in/journal.php> and printed subsequently.

4. Ownership and management

The journal is owned by the **Society for Minor Fruits, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants**. The Website is https://www.ijmfmap.in/executive_committee.php

Society For Minor Fruits Medicinal And Aromatic Plants (SMFM&AP) (Registration Number: S0032741 Of 2022-23)

Vision

To be a leading scientific society with works on minor fruits, medicinal, aromatic and any plants having medicinal and therapeutic values.

Mission

To promote plantation and industrial sector of minor fruits, medicinal and aromatic plants.

Objectives

- To collect, conserve and utilize minor fruits, medicinal and aromatic plants.
- Provide opportunity for eminent scientists, researchers, growers, traders, processors and policy makers in universities, research institutions, industry and nongovernmental organizations to present their cutting edge researches.
- Discuss various issues for the development of minor fruits, medicinal and aromatic plants.
- Organizing international symposium/seminar/conference for sharing experiences and knowledge among the scientists/students/stake holders for encourage, promote, and assist development of minor fruits, medicinal and aromatic plants.
- To publish Journal entitled “International Journal of Minor Fruits, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants” on regular basis.
- To identify potential for their commercial exploration and encourage and assist education and training in relevant subject area.
- Stimulate research, extension, and regulatory programs regarding the minor fruits, medicinal and aromatic plants.
- Perform all other acts that necessary for fulfillment of the aims/objectives of the Society.

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8. Author fees

i. Article Processing Charge>https://ijmfmap.in/article_submission_charge.php

- No Processing Charge for the article submitted by the Life member of the society (Society for Minor Fruits, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, owner of the journal).
- No Processing charges for invited article.
- For Non-members of the society, an amount of 20 US Dollars orequivalenttoINR is to be required per article towards Article Submission and Processing Charge.

ii. Article Publication Charge (APC): https://ijmfmap.in/policy_change.php

- No publication charges for the article submitted by the Life member of the society (Society for Minor Fruits, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, owner of the journal),if he or she is the only author or all the authors are Life Members.
- No publication charges for invited articles.
- For Non-members of the society, an amount of 30 US Dollars orequivalenttoINR is to be required per article as publication charges.

9. Process for identification of and dealing with allegations of research misconduct:

https://www.ijmfmap.in/allegations_misconduct.php

The International Journal of Minor Fruits, Medicinal, and Aromatic Plants places great importance on addressing all forms of misconduct and is committed to taking appropriate actions to uphold the integrity of the scholarly record. These actions will be conducted in accordance with the [guidelines](#) set by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) as and when brought to the notice of the Editor-in-Chief or Editorial Board Members.

10. Publication Ethics:https://www.ijmfmap.in/ethical_statement.php

Scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals are vital for sharing research findings and advancing knowledge. They serve as records of merit and precedence, impacting researchers' careers and funding. Upholding scientific integrity is crucial to prevent harm. In academic publishing, editors, authors, and reviewers are responsible for maintaining high ethical standards. Here we outline the responsibilities of those, who are directly concerned with the publication process.

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We adhere to the COPE ([Committee on Publication Ethics](#)) definition of authorship. All individuals listed as authors must fulfill the specified authorship criteria, and anyone meeting these criteria must be acknowledged as an author. Contributors who fall short of meeting the authorship criteria should be acknowledged in the Acknowledgements section.

Ethical Statement (Authors' Declaration)

It is mandatory to submit a statement by the first author or corresponding co-author that **“The manuscript is the original work of author(s) that has not been submitted for publication to any other journals. In addition, the author/s declares that they have no conflict of interest”**.

The Editor-in-Chief / Editorial board assumes no responsibility for the statements, opinion or facts expressed in the journal, which vests entirely with the author(s) thereof. It is understood that the author (s) have obtained a prior approval of their Department, Faculty or Institute where such approval is necessary.

In addition, author(s) must ensure the following ethical guidelines:

- **Honest Data Interpretation and Image Use:** Conducting honest data interpretation, avoiding manipulation, and using only original, unprocessed images. Any necessary adjustments must be disclosed in figure legends.
- **Concise and Accurate Research Presentation:** Presenting a concise and accurate report of their research and an objective discussion of its significance.
- **Data and Methodological Transparency:** Providing sufficient data and methodological details for critical evaluation and replication by others. Encouraged to share unique materials and software with a material transfer agreement.
- **Community Data Sharing:** Making primary datasets available through community data-sharing practices.
- **Placing Results in Context and Avoiding Plagiarism:** Placing their results in context, citing relevant work, and avoiding plagiarism.
- **Related Submissions and Cross-Referencing:** Informing the editor of related submissions and providing cross-referencing for under-consideration or in-press manuscripts.
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- **Funding Declaration:** Informing the editor of any financial stakes and sources of funding.
- **Identification of Hazards:** Identifying and discussing any potential health or environmental hazards associated with the reported work.
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Responsibilities of Reviewers include:

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- **Professional Communication:** Keeping comments to the author professional, focusing on the manuscript content.
- **Similarity Check:** Informing the editor of any similarity between the submitted manuscript and published work.
- **Ethical Concerns:** Alerting the editor to potential ethical problems.

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Editors, responsible for the final decision on manuscript acceptance or rejection, must ensure:

- **Scientific Merits:** Base decisions on the scientific merits, irrespective of personal circumstances of authors.
- **Fair and Timely Evaluation:** Ensure a fair and timely evaluation process for submitted manuscripts.
- **Confidentiality:** Handle submitted manuscripts confidentially.
- **Conflict of Interest:** Disclose conflicts of interest promptly and involve another editor for handling if needed.
- **Reviewer Selection:** Carefully select reviewers, independently verifying author-suggested reviewers' details. Use caution with author-suggested reviewers to avoid bias and keep reviewer names and details confidential.
- **Appeals Consideration:** Give fair and careful consideration to appeals against editorial decisions.
- **Data Protection:** Comply with data protection regulations.
- **Handling Unethical Behavior:** Follow up on indications or allegations of questionable research practice.

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We uphold editorial independence with utmost regard. The content featured in the journal remains entirely autonomous, detached from the Society's stance on scientific or policy matters. The editor's decision stands as conclusive, unwaveringly unaffected and uncompromised by any influence from the Society.

Appeals Process: https://www.ijmfmap.in/appeals_process.php

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Post publication debate and correction: https://www.ijmfmap.in/post_publication.php

Editorial Board actively promotes academic debate and constructive criticism of the research presented in the journal. While authors do not possess the right to veto unfavorable comments about their work, they do retain the option to respond to criticisms. It is imperative, however, that no referee comment or published correspondence includes any personal attacks on the authors. We strongly advocate for criticism directed towards the work itself rather than the researcher. Editors are tasked with editing or rejecting any statements that are deemed personal or offensive, ensuring that the discourse remains focused on the scholarly content and constructive critique.

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Procedure for Handling Research Misconduct Complaints:

https://www.ijmfmap.in/allegations_misconduct.php

Our policy for managing allegations of research misconduct is based on the guidelines of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). Complaints, or allegations of misconduct are treated with the utmost seriousness, irrespective of internal or external affiliations to the journal and whether the submission is pre- or post-publication. If such an allegation is reported to the Editor-in-Chief, he will then adhere to guidelines set by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) to effectively address and resolve the nature of the problem.

Receipt of Complaint: The office of the Editor-in-Chief receives a complaint related to research misconduct in a submitted manuscript or a published article through e-mail.

Submission of Complaint: If reporting misconduct for a published article, complaints can be made through e-mail to the Editor-in-Chief. Complainants must clearly outline the nature of the misconduct, highlighting specific details such as plagiarized content.

Investigation Initiation: The editorial office initiates an investigation, engaging with the editorial board of the journal and corresponding author(s) of the suspected article.

Author's Response: The corresponding author(s) is contacted and requested to provide a factual explanation, along with any available evidence.

Resolution Steps: If the author(s) acknowledges the misconduct: for published articles, an erratum or retraction may be necessary. However, for manuscripts under review, the process may proceed with the author(s) addressing the required changes.

Non-response or Unsatisfactory Explanation: In case of non-response within the stipulated time or an unsatisfactory explanation, the article may be permanently retracted or rejected. Confirmation may be sought from relevant experts or authorities as necessary before a decision is made.

Communication of Outcome: The complainant is informed of the resolution once the matter is resolved.

Conclusion of Complaint Case: The complaint case is considered concluded upon resolution of the issue. This procedure emphasizes confidentiality, sensitivity, and a thorough investigative process to address and resolve allegations of research misconduct.

11. Publishing schedule: https://www.ijmfmap.in/journal_publishing_schedule.php

The International Journal of Minor Fruits, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants is being published regularly since 2015 with two issues per year during June and December. The first volume was published with only one issue *i.e.*, Volume 1, Number 1 during March 2015 and was published from Sri Lanka. However, onward publications *i.e.*, Volume 2, Number 1, June 2016 and onward issues are being made regularly from India. All issue are available online from the links> <https://www.ijmfmap.in/journal.php#:~:text=SOCIETY-,Journal%20Issue,-IJFMF%26AP%20Vol>

12. Access

Open access statement: https://www.ijmfmap.in/open_access.php

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13. Archiving: https://ijmfmap.in/archiving_policy_journal.php

Every issue of the journal is preserved in printed form and securely stored under the supervision of the Office of the Editor-in-Chief. Additionally, an electronic version is maintained on a computer and a hard disk drive in the Editor-in-Chief's office. The electronic versions of all published issues are accessible on the journal's website. Every issue of the journal is abstracted by CABI (Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau of International) since its inception *i.e.*, first volume (2015) and full issue has been sent to CABI for the purpose of abstracting. All issues are included in the CABI database. Furthermore, all volumes from 2015 to the present are available in the Index Copernicus International (ICI) database, accessible through the "Passport of International Journal of Minor Fruits, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants" site.

To enhance visibility, all full-length papers from every issue are submitted to various indexing bodies, including EBSCO Publishing, Inc., USA (from 2021 onwards), Indian Citation Index (from 2015 onwards), J-Gate (from 2021 onwards), CAS (Chemical Abstracts Service, from 2021), IJIFACTOR (from 2021), IP Indexing (from 2024) and **Scopus** (From 01.01 2021 to 31.10.2027).

14. Revenue sources: https://www.ijmfmap.in/revenue_sources.php

The society entitled “*Society for Minor Fruits, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants*” (registered) is the owner of its official publication “*International Journal of Minor Fruits, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants*”. The society generates revenue through various channels, including a \$20 as Article Processing Charge (details: [Article Processing Charge](#)) and \$30 as Article Publication Charge for accepted articles (details: [Articles Publication Charges](#)), and a life membership fee of \$100 (details: [Enrolment Form](#))

15. Advertising: <https://www.ijmfmap.in/advertising.php>

The Society entitled ‘*Society for Minor Fruits, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants*’ (registered), owner of its official publication ***International Journal of Minor Fruits, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants*** strictly prohibits any form of advertisement, either within the journal or on the society's webpage, for the purpose of generating additional income.

16. Direct marketing: https://www.ijmfmap.in/direct_marketing.php

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