

## PREFACE

University of Food Technologies Plovdiv has established itself as a leading research centre in the field of food technology, biotechnology, tourism, and food-related technical sciences. This is evidenced by the number of research projects that are being developed at our university.

68<sup>th</sup> Scientific Conference with International Participation "FOOD SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY - 2021" is an annual meeting organized by University of food technologies, Plovdiv, Bulgaria. This year's conference was held on 22-23 October 2021. The scientific symposium program consisted of plenary sessions and included the following topics: Food Science and Technology; Food Chemistry, Microbiology and Biotechnology; Food Process Engineering; Catering, Tourism, Economy of Food Industry, Linguistics.

For the first time in the 68-year history of the University of Food Technology, this year we have been faced with the challenge of organizing our scientific forum in a completely new, digital format.

This year, our conference is supported by two research projects: Increasing the research competence and innovative capacity of UFT-Plovdiv through sustainable development of food systems with programmable properties and EIT Food RIS Consumer Engagement Labs.

Invited keynote speaker of the conference was Prof. Rafael Pagan, PhD - AgriFood Institute of Aragón-IA2, University of Zaragoza, Spain.

Another important element is the national and international recognition of the conference. This year, scientists from Spain, France, Romania, Belarus, Ukraine and Northern Macedonia took part in it with reports and posters. On Bulgarian part, the Conference is attended by professors and scientists from a number of universities and institutes of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the Agricultural Academy. 48 reports and posters were presented during the conference and all papers were subjected for at least 2 blind reviews by experts on the related topics. For this, only 31 papers were selected for publications.