



Institute of Food Technologists Fact Sheet

Founded in 1939, the Institute of Food Technologists is a nonprofit scientific society with more than 18,000 individual members working in food science, food technology, and related professions in industry, academia, and government. IFT serves as a conduit for multidisciplinary science thought leadership, championing the use of sound science through knowledge sharing, education, and advocacy.

IFT publishes various resources for the food industry, including [Food Technology](#) and the [Journal of Food Science](#). The organization also provides a wide range of food science-related continuing education programs. Each year, IFT conducts the world's largest annual forum, the [IFT Annual Meeting & Food Expo](#)®, covering the latest food science trends, new product and technology innovations, and scientific applications. As the authoritative voice of food science and technology, IFT contributes to public policy and opinion at national, state, and local levels. [IFT's Science and Policy Initiatives department](#) advocates the scientific perspective on food science and technology issues. And, through the [IFT Foundation](#), IFT supports programs such as undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships, career guidance programs, and much more.

What is Food Science?

Food science is a discipline whereby biology, physical science and engineering are used to study the nature of foods, causes of their decomposition, and the concepts underlying food processing. Food technology is the application of food science to the selection, preservation, processing, packaging, distribution, and use of safe, nutritious, and wholesome foods.

IFT Expertise

IFT's Science and Policy Initiatives department plays an active role in government policy activities at national, state, and local levels. IFT also works with the federal agencies on critical issues, such as food defense with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). IFT and its members regularly offer testimony and scientific insights to government agencies and congressional committees.

Membership

IFT provides its members an inclusive and welcoming community, accommodating all food science and technology professionals. Through comprehensive educational programs, IFT supplies members with the knowledge and tools they need to enhance their professional capacity and competency. IFT members have access to cutting edge technical and scientific information and an inside look at the latest advances in food.

Publications

Food Technology, IFT's monthly magazine, provides scientific reports, government and industry news, and updates on members' activities. IFT's *Journal of Food Science*, published nine times per year, features peer-reviewed original research, critical reviews, and hypothesis papers on chemistry, biochemistry, engineering, processing, microbiology, nutrition, and sensory evaluation. The *Journal of Food Science Education* is an online journal providing information on current innovations, trends, and issues surrounding food science and technology education at all

levels. *Comprehensive Reviews in Food Science and Food Safety* is a quarterly peer-reviewed online journal.

Annual Meeting & Food ExpoSM

Now in its 70th year, the IFT Annual Meeting & Food Expo is the largest annual scientific meeting and technical exposition of its kind. Attracting approximately 20,000 attendees, the Annual Meeting provides more than 1,000 technical presentations, while the IFT Food Expo[®] features nearly 1,000 exhibiting companies.

IFT Foundation

Safe and abundant food for all is the vision of the IFT Foundation. Established in 1985, the foundation is a community of donors addressing the critical global food science issues of the future. It funds scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students who will one day lead the food science and technology professions. IFT Expert Reports, funded by the IFT Foundation, bring credible food science to policymakers, the media, and the public.

IFT and the IFT Foundation partnered with Discovery Education to develop a unique program designed to introduce students, teachers, counselors, and parents at every U.S. public high school to the remarkable world of food science and technology.

Student Association

The IFT Student Association enables food science students to interact with peers at other universities and with working professionals. Student chapters are available to students enrolled at universities that offer degrees in food science and technology. All members of student chapters are automatically members of the IFT Student Association. Among several competitions, the Student Association annually conducts a product development competition, which challenges university teams to create new food products. Products are judged at the IFT Annual Meeting. Other association activities include the Graduate and Undergraduate Research Paper Competitions, College Bowls, and the Chapter of the Year Award.

Funding

IFT is funded by individual membership dues, subscription and advertising fees for *Food Technology*, subscription fees for the *Journal of Food Science*, registration, sponsorships and exhibitor fees for the Annual Meeting & Food Expo, and the IFT Foundation.

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