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The role of molecular gastronomy in ethical food production

[Beyond Halal: Exploring Dietary Preferences, Novel Ingredients and Techniques](#) • Book Chapter • 2026 • DOI: 10.1016/B978-0-443-30058-5.00019-5

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Abstract

In the rapidly evolving landscape of contemporary gastronomy, the intersection of culinary science and ethical food production has garnered significant attention. This paper explores the pivotal role of molecular gastronomy in shaping ethical practices within the realm of food production. Molecular gastronomy, characterized by applying scientific principles to culinary processes, presents a paradigm shift in how ingredients are sourced, prepared, and consumed. By incorporating molecular gastronomy techniques, this study explores how ethical challenges in the food industry, such as resource scarcity, environmental impact, and animal welfare, are addressed. Scientific advancements enable chefs and food scientists to develop innovative solutions promoting sustainability and ethical choices across the entire food supply chain. These solutions range from using alternative protein sources to minimizing food waste through creative culinary methods, emphasizing the role of

molecular gastronomy as a driver for positive change. In addition, the chapter scrutinizes the ethical implications of molecular gastronomy, examining how its principles align with consumer expectations and societal values. It underscores promoting transparency, traceability, and fair-trade practices, cultivating an increased awareness of the ethical dimensions associated with food choices. As molecular gastronomy continues to shape global culinary landscapes, its potential to contribute to ethical food production reflects a promising path toward a more sustainable and conscientious future. This interdisciplinary approach encourages collaboration among chefs, scientists, and policymakers, fostering a food system that is not only delectable but also ethically responsible. © 2026 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Author keywords

Food chemistry; Food science; Food technology; Nutrition specialty; Sustainable development

Indexed keywords

Engineering controlled terms

Ethical technology; Food chemistry; Food ingredients; Food Science; Food waste; Nutrition; Sustainable chemistry

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Ethical practices; Food chemistry; Food industries; Food production; Food science; Molecular gastronomy; Nutrition specialty; Paradigm shifts; Resource scarcity; Scientific principles

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Food supply

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Abstract

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