

Special Issue on Technology for food handling automation

Guest Editors: **Assoc. Prof. Kazuyoshi Wada** (Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan)
 Prof. Shinichi Hirai (Ritsumeikan University, Japan)
 Prof. Kensuke Harada (Osaka University, Japan)
 Prof. Máximo A. Roa (DLR, Germany)
 Assoc. Prof. Pablo Valdivia y Alvarado (Singapore University of Technology and Design, Singapore)

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Today, automation in the food industry is attracting attention as an area for the social implementation of human-collaborative robots. While many processes in food production are being automated by specialized machines, many manual tasks remain, such as packing and serving lunch boxes. Food products are not as stable in shape and physical properties as workpieces in the manufacturing industry, and there are many challenging factors for robotic handling, such as flexibility, wetness and rapid change over time, as well as a wide variety of food products.

This special issue focuses on the latest relevant technologies and research cases for food handling automation. It covers not only robotic hands and their control technology for handling a wide variety of food products, but also a wide range of technologies related to the evaluation of food handling.

We also welcome survey and short papers that clarify current essential topics in technology for food handling automation. Prospective contributed papers may cover, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- Robotic hands for food handling
- Evaluation of food handling
- Food Sorting and Classification
- Food Handling and Transportation
- Food Processing
- Food Packaging
- Sensor Technology
- Human-robot collaboration
- AI and Machine Learning
- Food sample

Submission: The full-length manuscript (either PDF file or MS word file) should be sent by **January 31, 2025** to the office of Advanced Robotics, the Robotics Society of Japan through the homepage of Advanced Robotics (<https://www.rsj.or.jp/pub/ar/submission.html>). Instructions for authors and manuscript template are available at the homepage.