



## SUMMARY

Food is any substance consumed by an organism for the proper development and growth. It is usually of plant or animal origin, and contains essential elements, such as carbohydrates, fats, proteins, vitamins, or minerals. Foods from both plant and animal origin normally carry micro flora on the surface of their parts. Apart from this naturally occurring micro flora they may get contaminated from outside source usually in the field or during storage, transport and distribution processes. There are thousands of microorganisms found everywhere in the environment that have great potential and impact on our lives, but not always in a pleasant way. Though they are useful in the production of wine, beer, dairy products, they are also the main culprits of most cases of food and cultivar deterioration. Bacteria, molds and yeasts are the examples of the micro-organisms that play a major role in the food spoilage as well as food poisoning and hence proves fatal for the human consumption. There are many factors that influence the growth of microorganisms in foods like nutrient content, pH, oxygen, water content etc.