Is There More Research on Plant-Based Foods in Some Countries Than in Others?

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With increased interest in the importance of diet in preventing and treating chronic diseases, plant-based foods (PBF) have gotten much attention in recent years. In this poster, we compared several countries in terms of the percentage of articles from each country on PBF in general and on specific PBF (e.g. cabbage, nuts, etc.). We used a previously-described PBF hedge* to search PubMed.

In the past, NLM edited the Author Affiliation field (AD) to add "USA." This practice ceased on Oct 1, 2013.** This lack of quality control by NLM over the author field makes it difficult to conduct a comprehensive search for articles published by authors in the US because it is common for US authors to omit the country name from their addresses. We therefore decided to limit our searches to 1995-2013.

18 countries were included in this study. Each of these countries has over 100,000 articles on all subjects from 1995-2013.

Countries in blue such as Spain ranked lower by the percentage of all articles but higher by the percentage of PBF articles, while countries in orange such as the US ranked higher by the percentage of all articles but lower by the percentage of PBF articles.
