



Review article

Utilization of food waste streams for the production of biopolymers

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ABSTRACT

Uncontrolled decomposition of agro-industrial waste leads to extensive contamination of water, land, and air. There is a tremendous amount of waste from various sources which causes serious environmental problems. The concern in the disposal problems has stimulated research interest in the valorization of waste streams. Valorization of the wastes not only reduces the volume of waste but also reduces the contamination to the environment. Waste from food industries has great potential as primary or secondary feedstocks for biopolymer production by extraction or fermentation with pre-treatment or without pre-treatment by solid-state fermentation to obtain fermentable sugars. Various types of waste can be used as substrates for the production of biomaterials but recently more focus has been observed on the agro-industrial wastes which have a high rate of production worldwide. This review collates in detail the different food wastes used for biopolymer, technologies for the production and characterization of the biopolymers, and their economic/technical viability.

1. Introduction

The rising global population has resulted in increased food processing demand and a concomitant accentuation in food processing wastes. According to the recent report of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), approximately 1.3 billion tons of food is wasted each year (Blakeney, 2019; CNN, 2020). Food waste sources include food industries and post-harvesting agro-processing which poses a significant threat to the environment (Hansen and Cheong, 2007; Malik and Grohmann, 2011) at both pre-market and post-market sites. These wastes are commonly disposed at landfill sites or employed in preparing compost. However, value-added products developed from these food wastes by recycling them into commercially viable goods would not only promote the recovery of the waste but also earn better returns (Theagarajan et al., 2019a).

It has been observed that the generation of food waste varies globally depending on geographical features. Figure 1 summarizes the estimated food waste in a few countries. The European Union (EU) generates the maximum waste followed by India and the USA. An intriguing aspect is that besides developing India, developed nations of the EU and the USA are also contributing to waste creation. This entails responsibility on the part of these countries to better utilize the disposed materials to reduce the existing bioburden. These two entities can involve practice and

policies that would reduce the said load of wastes. Perhaps the following disquisition would be of some use.

Among many products generated from food wastes, biopolymers are gaining more interest owing to their biodegradability/compostability, biocompatibility, and their bio-based nature. Biopolymer production from food wastes could be accomplished through extraction or fermentation, either with pre-treatment or, without pre-treatment by solid-state fermentation to acquire fermentable sugars. Biopolymers generated from the food wastes have biodegradability, bio-functionality, biostability, biocompatibility, and also offer a wide spectrum of chemical and mechanical properties that can be used for several applications (Bayón et al., 2018; Theagarajan et al., 2019b). In fact, researchers opine that useful products could be designed with such wastes even with low impact technologies. The recycled products would find applications in medicine, food industries, biosensors, industrial plastics, clothing fabrics, water treatment chemicals, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, and even as data storage elements (Sanchez-Vazquez et al., 2013). Figure 2 shows the application of biopolymers produced from different waste streams. The plethora of avenues depicted in the said figure does indicate possibilities that could be explored. Few of them indeed have been worked upon, and they have been debated at length in the present review. But, many more that are shown in the figure, could be possible domains of exploration of application. While biopolymers are inherently biocompatible and biodegradable, they have limited industrial application at large scale

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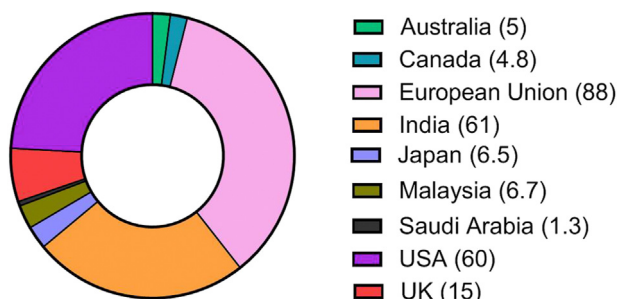


Figure 1. Food waste around the world in the year 2018 (million tonnes).

industries because of its poor mechanical, thermal and barrier properties (Yoha et al., 2019). Interestingly, given the multitude of areas of application, it is rather strange that process engineers/scientists are yet to fully engage the wasted materials as useful bioresources. More attention to the shown areas of research is surely warranted.

Poly(lactic acid) (PLA) and poly(hydroxyalkanoates) (PHA) are the key biopolymers in the market for biodegradable plastics. The demand for PLA is predicted to be double by 2023 (European Bioplastics, 2017). In 2017, worldwide production of PHA from commercial manufacturers was up to 2.05 million tons (Tsang et al., 2019). The global market size of PHA is estimated to grow from USD 57 million in 2019 to USD 98 million by 2024 (ReportLinker, 2019). This increases the demand for renewable, eco-friendly, and bio-based materials such as bagasse, zein, casein, plant starch, etc. Moreover, the bioplastic industries are predicted to be a serious player in the economy in the future. Notably, effluents from food oil and food waste industries contain an ample amount of carbon and nutrients that can be potential raw materials for bacterial fermentation to produce PHA. The bioplastic market will double in value in the next few years, rising at 17% per year from 2017 to an estimated market value of \$7.2 billion in 2022. Market of biopolymer coatings are expected to

exceed \$1.3 billion by 2024 (Global Market Insights, 2017). The industry of bio-based polymer coatings used in packaging, derives its raw material from starch, chitosan, soy protein, PLA and whey protein. With the thrust of eco-friendly resources, market growth is promising. In this context, it is mentionable that commercialized biopolymer coatings have been implemented by many companies such as Meridian Holding Group Inc., NatureWorks, Novamont S.p.A, Cargill and EcoSynthetix (Global Market Insights, 2017).

2. Different biopolymers and their conventional sources

Reportedly, biopolymers are formed by enzyme-catalyzed polymerase chain reactions, during complex cellular metabolic processes, under natural conditions. Various types of biodegradable polymers are being utilized in various fields, chiefly in medical applications. Natural biodegradable polymers include polysaccharides (cellulose derivatives, chitosan, starch), and protein-based polymers (collagen, gelatin, and albumin); whereas, aliphatic polyesters, poly-anhydrides, poly (alkylcyanoacrylates), polyaminoacids, phosphorous based polymers, and acrylic polymers are synthetic biodegradable polymers. Biodegradable polymers derived from petroleum resources are polyglycolide (PGA), PLA, poly (lactide-co-glycolide) (PLGA), polycaprolactone (PCL), poly (butylene succinate) (PBS), poly (p-dioxanone) (PPDO), polycarbonate, polyamides, and poly (esteramide)s, polyurethanes, polyanhydrides, and vinyl polymers. PHA and poly(hydroxybutyrate-co-hydroxyvalerate) [P(3HB-co-3HV)] are biodegradable polymers produced by microbial fermentation.

Biopolymers like cellulose, starch, pectin, chitin/chitosan, and derivatives are generally derived from agro-waste industries. Table 1 summarizes product-specific wastes from food industries. Polysaccharides are the most abundant natural biopolymer found in plants, animals, and microorganisms. On the other hand, collagen is an abundant protein-based biopolymer derived from mammals. Skins from cattle and

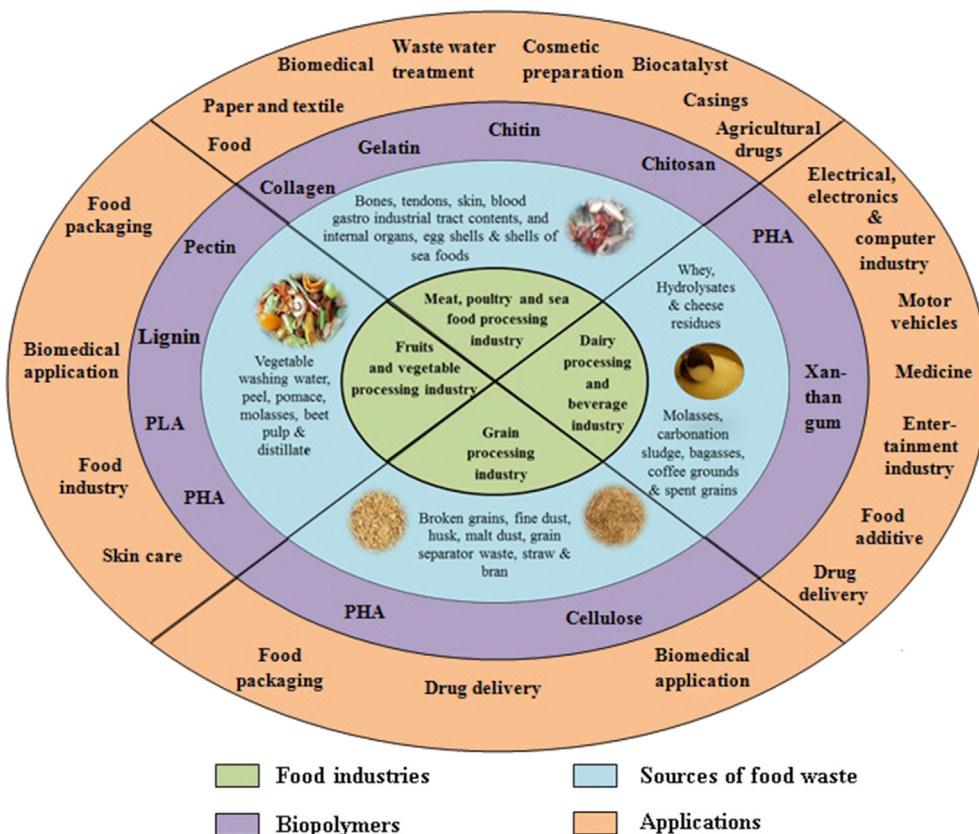


Figure 2. Applications of biopolymers produced from different waste streams.

Table 1. Product specific waste from industries.

Types of waste	Waste products	Food industries	Biopolymers	References
Abattoir waste	Bones, tendons, skin, contents of gastro industrial tract, blood and internal organs, eggshells, shells of seafood	Meat, poultry and seafood processing industry	Collagen, gelatine, chitin/chitosan, PHA	Tarafdar and Biswas (2013), Musinghe et al. (2015), Arunmozhivarman et al. (2017), Ponkham et al. (2011), Prameela et al. (2017), (Banerjee and Mahapatra (2012)), (Palareti et al. (2016)), (Palareti et al., 2016), (Povolo et al. (2012)), (Koller et al., 2015)
Waste from the rice mill, grist mill, malt house	Broken grains, fine dust, husk, malt dust, grain separator waste, straw, bran	Grain processing industry	PHA	Gasser et al. (2014), Cesário et al. (2014), Mostafa and Tayeb (2015), Aslan et al. (2016)
Waste from the milk production unit, cheese production	Whey, hydrolysate and cheese residue	Dairy processing industry	PHA (Carbon and nitrogen sources), xanthan gum	Niknezhad et al. (2015), Pais et al. (2015), Colombio et al. (2019)
Waste from preparation and processing of fruit, juice industries, oil mill	Vegetable washing water, peel, pomace, molasses, beet pulp, distillate	Fruit and vegetables processing industries,	PHA (carbon source), pectin, lignin, cellulose, PLA and Xanthan gum	Liang et al. (2014), Bilanovic et al. (2010), Martinez et al. (2014), Liang et al. (2014), Jonglerjunya et al. (2014), Szymanska-Chargot et al. (2017), Di Donato et al. (2014), Elain et al. (2016), Tapia-Blácido et al. (2017), Follonier et al. (2014)
Waste from the production of both non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages	Molasses, carbonation sludge, bagasse, spent grains, spent coffee grounds	Waste from brewery and distillery industries manufactures of coffee and tea	PHA	Karmee (2018), Obruca et al. (2014), Cruz et al. (2015)

pigs as well as their bones, mostly from abattoirs are the main sources of collagen. Fish wastes (scales, bones), eggshells, and chicken processing waste are used for the production of collagen (Kaya et al., 2015). They are used in the industries of food, pharmaceutical, cosmetics, and leather. Type I collagen, fibrillar type collagen responsible for the tensile strength of extracellular matrix in bone, accounts for about 90% of the overall collagen and is found mainly in the animal's skin, tendon, and ligament as well as the organic portion of the calcified tissue of bone and teeth (Arunmozhivarman et al., 2017). It has a wide range of applications in the pharmaceutical, biomedical, and food industries.

Gelatine is another widely used biopolymer in the food, pharmaceuticals, and photographic fields (Killekar et al., 2012). About 95% of gelatine is derived commercially from porcine and bovines. Gelatin is abundantly found in bones, tendons, skin, and cartilage (derived from partial hydrolysis of fibrous collagen) of animals (Sockalingam and Abdullah, 2015). The second most abundant biopolymer on earth is chitin which is N-acetyl- + -glucosamine units linked via β (1 \rightarrow 4) linkage (Cheba et al., 2011). It is regarded as the major structural component of the exoskeleton of marine zooplankton, including corals, jellyfish, shrimp, crab, prawn, and lobsters (Kandile et al., 2018); besides, the cell wall of fungi and cuticles of insects. The alkaline deacetylation of chitin produces chitosan that is used widely in the food, medicinal, pharmaceutical, textile, agriculture, cosmetics, and water treatment industries (Al-Manhel et al., 2018).

Lignocellulosic biomass is composed of cellulose (35–50%), hemicelluloses (15–35%), lignin (15–25%), and several inorganic materials. The composition of agro-industrial residues, including sugarcane bagasse, corn cobs, wheat straw, banana, soybean hull, oil palm mesocarp, rice straw, and soybean straw and hulls are the sources of the lignocellulosic material (Tapia-Blácido et al., 2017). Food wastes such as peanut husk, citrus peel, straw, and corn stover have high cellulose concentrations as well (Sanchez-Vazquez et al., 2013). The formation of a hydrogen bond network between hydroxyl groups of cellulose plays a major role in governing the physical properties of cellulosic materials. These networks are relatively resistant to oxidizing agents and strong alkali. Considering their resilience, cellulose fibers are nowadays being used to provide stability to thermoplastics or thermosetting polymer matrices that are replacing glass fibers (Sanchez-Vazquez et al., 2013).

Hemicellulose is the most abundant renewable plant material after cellulose. They are interconnected by hydrogen bonds with cellulose moieties and are bound by covalent bonds to lignin (Peng et al., 2009). Lignin is another polymer that is comprised of three primary lignin monomers viz. p-hydroxyphenyl alcohol (H), coniferyl alcohol (G), and synapyl alcohol (S). Lignin is a thermoplastic polymer consisting of G-units in soft-wood, G-S-H units in herbaceous plants, and G-S units in hard-wood. This biopolymer provides mechanical rigidity to the cell wall, protection against microbial attack (Huang et al., 2019).

Xanthan gum is another important biopolymer which is produced about 30,000 tons per year worldwide (Stredansky and Conti, 1999). It is a hetero-polysaccharide produced by the genus *Xanthomonas*. It is commonly used in food, pharmaceutical, and petrochemical industries. Generally in industries, *Xanthomonas campestris* is used for the production of xanthan gum (Mesomo et al., 2009). Food wastes, such as cheese whey, spent malt grains, citrus wastes are also good sources of xanthan gum.

PHA is another class of biodegradable polyesters which is produced by various microorganisms as intracellular carbon and energy storage materials, also some domains of archaea can synthesize PHA. It is produced using agro-industrial by-products comprising of carbon and nitrogen sources. PHA is synthesized and accumulated as inclusions by microorganisms when the available supply of nitrogen source is reduced, but the source of carbon is excessive (Salgaonkar and Bragança, 2017). PHA accumulation occurs in a broad range in Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacterial species, and archaea (Koller et al., 2017).

Various microorganisms can produce differently composed PHA co- and tetra polymers. Such polyesters have a wide range of applications in

the medical, agriculture, and marine industries. The capability of PHA biosynthesis substantially enhances the survival of bacteria under numerous stress factors such as heat shock, UV radiation, acidic pH, and osmotic pressure (Obruca et al., 2018). poly-3-hydroxybutyrate (P3HB), poly(3-hydroxybutyrate-co-3-hydroxyhexanoate) (PHBHHx), poly(3-hydroxybutyrate-co-3-hydroxyoctanoate) (PHBO) and P(3HB-co-3HV) are the polymeric esters under the group of PHAs. For the synthesis of PHAs by bacterial fermentation, microbes such as *Alcaligenes*, *Azotobacter*, *Agrobacterium*, *Azospirillum*, *Aeromonas*, recombinant *E. coli*, *Pseudomonas* sp., *Cupriavidus*, *Rhizobium*, *Rhodobacter*, *Bacillus*, and *Sphaerotilus* are used (Sanchez-Vazquez et al., 2013; Obruca et al., 2018).

3. Production of biopolymers from different food wastes

3.1. Chitin production

A substantial amount of seafood production worldwide is discarded as processing waste, including trimmings, fins, heads, skin, shells, and viscera. Chitin isolation from crustacean shells (exoskeleton) is both time and energy-consuming. Conventionally chemical treatments have been practiced for the extraction of chitin and chitosan from crustacean by-products. The two basic steps in chemical methods are first, deproteinization by alkali treatment followed by demineralization by acidic treatments at high temperature, with subsequent bleaching with reagents to attain colorless products. Mostly NaOH and HCl are preferred for these two processes. The advantages of the chemical method in chitin purification are energy-effectiveness, shorter processing time, and relatively less processing (Kaya et al., 2015).

In the biological process, two methods are used for extraction of chitin: enzymatic and fermentation. In the enzymatic process, enzymes such as proteases are used for deproteinization of crustacean shell, instead of alkali treatments. These proteolytic enzymes are generally obtained from *Lactobacillus* spp., *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* K-187, *Serratia marcescens* FS-3, and *Bacillus subtilis* or, from the gut bacteria in the shrimp intestine or, by using the proteases present in the biowaste (Gadagey et al., 2017).

3.1.1. Shrimp shell

The optimal conditions for the chitin and chitosan production from shrimp shell waste have been reported using 3% HCl and 4% NaOH, resulting in the recovery of 15.40% chitosan and 14.02% chitin (Hossain et al., 2014). Another group of researchers concluded that the yield of chitosan was low (at only 12.93%) when dried shrimp shells were demineralized with 1 N HCl at ambient temperature for 6 h. The shells were further treated with 3.5% NaOH at 65 °C for 2 h for deproteinization (Al-Manhel et al., 2018). But in another find, the yield of chitosan was higher (19%) when shrimp shells were demineralized with 5% HCl for 24 h, with deproteinization obtained by 5% NaOH at 60 °C and shell exposure time of 48 h (Arafat et al., 2015).

In one investigation, lactic acid bacteria (LAB), *Lactobacillus plantarum* was used as a starter culture in microbial fermentation of shrimp waste for obtaining chitin and carotenoids (Prameela et al., 2017). A recent study states that the pre-treatment of crustacean shell waste by atmospheric pressure dielectric barrier discharge plasma resulted in intensified protein removal. The plasma was generated with N₂. The yield of chitin was found to be higher (37.6%) for 6 min treatment of plasma compared to 3 and 1.5 min (25 and 33.2%, respectively) treatment (Borić et al., 2018). It is reported to be an effective and sustainable form of pre-treatment for removing invaluable compounds.

3.1.2. Prawn shell

Report on the extraction of chitin and chitosan from prawn shells is very scarce. A study on the same concluded that NaOH (5%) and HCl (0.5%) for deproteinization and demineralization could be effective in achieving a yield of 35% chitin and 25% chitosan (Mohammed et al., 2013). In another study, the yield of chitosan extracted from prawn shells was found to be 22.08 ± 0.13% when 5% NaOH was used for

deproteinization of shells followed by 4% HCl for demineralization and finally 50% NaOH was applied for deacetylation (Muley et al., 2018).

3.1.3. Crab shell

Chitin has been synthesized from crab shells also, using 7% HCl for demineralization and 5% NaOH for deproteinization, producing a yield of 10.60–12.73% (Pandharipande and Bhagat, 2016). Scientists have conducted experiments to extract chitin from crab shells by changing the concentration of NaOH (1 N and 5%) in the deproteinization step, and HCl (at 0.5 N, 1 N and 7%) in the demineralization step, along with the sample to solvent ratio at 1:10 and 1:15. From the two experiments, it was evident that 7% HCl, 1:10 sample to solvent ratio and 5% NaOH produced the highest yield of chitin (6%) (Aung et al., 2018). In another approach, chitin from crab, crayfish, and shrimp shells was reportedly isolated with NaClO for 10 min, ahead of demineralization and deproteinization procedures. This treatment brings the yield of chitin at about 13.4% for crab, 15.3% for crayfish, and 14.8% for shrimp shells (Kaya et al., 2015). Hajji and team employed 6 protease producing *Bacillus* strains: *B. subtilis* A26, *B. mojavensis* A21, *B. pumilus* A1, *B. Amyloliquefaciens* An6, *B. licheniformis* NH1 and *B. cereus* BG1 to ferment crab shell wastes. They observed high proteolytic activity in *B. pumilus* A1 followed by *B. licheniformis* NH1. Notably, all strains achieved high deproteinization rates for the crab shells (Hajji et al., 2015). Chakravarty and his team used protease producing bacteria (*Bacillus megaterium* NH21 or *Serratia marcescens* Db11) and organic acid-producing bacterium *Lactobacillus plantarum* to ferment lobster shell wastes. A combination of *Serratia marcescens* Db11 and *Lactobacillus plantarum* (*Lactobacillus* was added in the media after 3 days of culture) resulted in a yield of chitin of about 82.56% from lobster biomass with high efficiency of total deproteinization (87.19%) and demineralization (89.59%) (Chakravarty et al., 2018). Generally, the fermentation process of chitin extraction is costly compared to chemical and enzymatic methods. However, the extraction cost of chitin can be reduced using agro-wastes as the carbon source for microbial fermentation (Gadagey et al., 2017).

3.2. Production of collagen

Collagen is extracted from discarded parts of chicken, egg, and fish. Acid and enzymatic hydrolyses are mostly used for this extraction. NaCl, acetic acid, and pepsin are used to hydrolyze non-collagenous protein at cross-linking sites. The yield of collagen mostly depends on the acetic acid concentration, pepsin content, and duration of hydrolysis (Araújo et al., 2018). Nagai and Suzuki (2000) reported that acetic acid (0.5 M) could be used to extract collagen from skin and fins of fishes; whereas bone collagen could be decalcified with 0.5 M EDTA (ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid). The yield of collagen from these fish waste was found to be 36–54%.

To explore the effect of salts on the extraction of collagen from poultry wastes, Zhou and co-workers employed 0.45 M NaCl for the extraction of salt soluble collagen, 0.5 M acetic acid for extraction of acid-soluble collagen and 0.1% pepsin with a ratio of 1:80 (w/v) for extraction of pepsin soluble collagen from the skin of chicken feet. Interestingly, pepsin soluble collagen showed the highest yield of 49.10% followed by acid-soluble collagen (14.49%) and salt soluble collagen (1.13%) (Zhou et al., 2016). In a separate study, removal of non-collagenous proteins was obtained by mixing the sample with 0.1 N NaOH, which was further defatted with butyl alcohol, and then the organic matter was removed by soaking the defatted sample in 0.1 N HCl. These pre-treatments reportedly increased the yield of collagen by 38.7% (Munasinghe et al., 2015).

Collagen has also been extracted from chicken skin by treating it with 0.5 M acetic acid, 1% pepsin; the product contained fat and non-collagenous protein which were removed by 20% ethanol and 0.1 N NaOH. The yield of type I collagen in this extraction process was about 10–12% (Arunmozhivarman et al., 2017). An optimization study was carried out for the extraction process of collagen from chicken feet with

variables such as acetic acid concentration, pepsin content, and hydrolysis time, in response to yield. The highest yield of collagen (72.98%) was found at 0.3 mol/L of acetic acid, 0.2% of pepsin, and 12 h of hydrolysis (Araújo et al., 2018). Other process parameters could be worked out to further improve upon the process efficiency, such as unit operations, particle size, the effect of sample moisture, and likewise.

3.3. Recovery of lignin and hemicelluloses

The major source of lignocelluloses is the sugarcane bagasse, a cheap by-product of the sugarcane industry. It mainly contains cellulose, hemicelluloses, lignin, and ash (Peng et al., 2009). Lignin is a derivative of lignocellulose which is more resistant to most types of biological stresses compared to cellulose and hemicellulose. Lignin is reportedly extracted with aqueous solution and ethanol solution. The yield of lignin has been reported to be higher with 40% NaOH in distilled water (20.4%) than that of 40% NaOH in 50% ethanol (9%) (Jonglertjunya et al., 2014).

For sugarcane bagasse, the presence of fibrous residues makes its microbial degradation slower and more difficult. To overcome this complexity, pre-treatment of bagasse has been carried out to improve the substrate availability and fermentation process. Hemicelluloses are extracted from cereal straw and bagasse by alkali treatment. The addition of alkali at higher concentrations cleaves the α -ether linkage between lignin and hemicelluloses in bagasse (Peng et al., 2009). Alkaline treatment of bagasse with 1% and 3% NaOH resulted in the yield of 25.1% hemicelluloses (i.e. 74.90% of original hemicellulose present in bagasse). The hemicellulosic fraction obtained by sequential extraction has been successfully sub-fractionated by graded precipitation with ethanol (Peng et al., 2009). Alkali treatment had been proved to be an effective method for fractionating alkali-soluble lignin and hemicelluloses from bagasse and straw. Hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) is also used for both lignifications and solubilization of hemicelluloses (Brienzo et al., 2009). According to researchers, the yield of hemicelluloses from sugarcane bagasse reached 94.5% under 4% alkaline H_2O_2 treatment at 40 °C, for 10 h reaction time.

But a minimal degradation of hemicelluloses was achieved at the optimal conditions of 6% H_2O_2 for 4 h at 20 °C; the resultant hemicelluloses showed 4.6–14.1% of associated lignin content (Brienzo et al., 2009).

3.4. Cellulose production

For cellulose production, a mild acid-alkali condition is used for fractioning of fruit and vegetable pomace. Fruit pomace contains higher amounts of cellulose, hemicelluloses, pectin, and starch and, therefore, it can be used as carbon sources for the fermentation. Cellulose content is reportedly high in cucumber (16.13%) and low for tomato and apple (8.60% and 8.81%, respectively) pomace which is evident from the SEM image of their microstructure (Figure 3). This illustration depicts most density of microfibrils in cucumber and least in carrot. This information can decide the fate of the constituents that would be derived from these vegetables and fruits. Depending on cellulose content, suitable application of these biomaterials could be opined.

Initially, the substrates are boiled for 10 min to remove phenolic compounds, sugars, and parts of water-soluble polysaccharides and then treated with HCl to remove pectin polysaccharides. After that, the residues are subjected to alkali treatment for the removal of hemicelluloses followed by bleaching with sodium hypochlorite solution; cellulose is recovered as the resulting precipitate (Szymańska-Chargot et al., 2017). Similarly, cellulose was isolated from rice husk by chemical treatment with sodium hydroxide and neutralized with HCl (Shukla, 2013). This approach for the isolation of components from pomace did not require lengthy processing time or use of toxic chemicals and therefore reduces the cost and environmental hazards.

3.5. Production of xanthan gum

Xanthan gum is largely produced in different compositions, viscosity, and yields from different strains of *X. campestris* using cheese whey and citrus waste. Apple pomace is considered as a suitable substrate for the

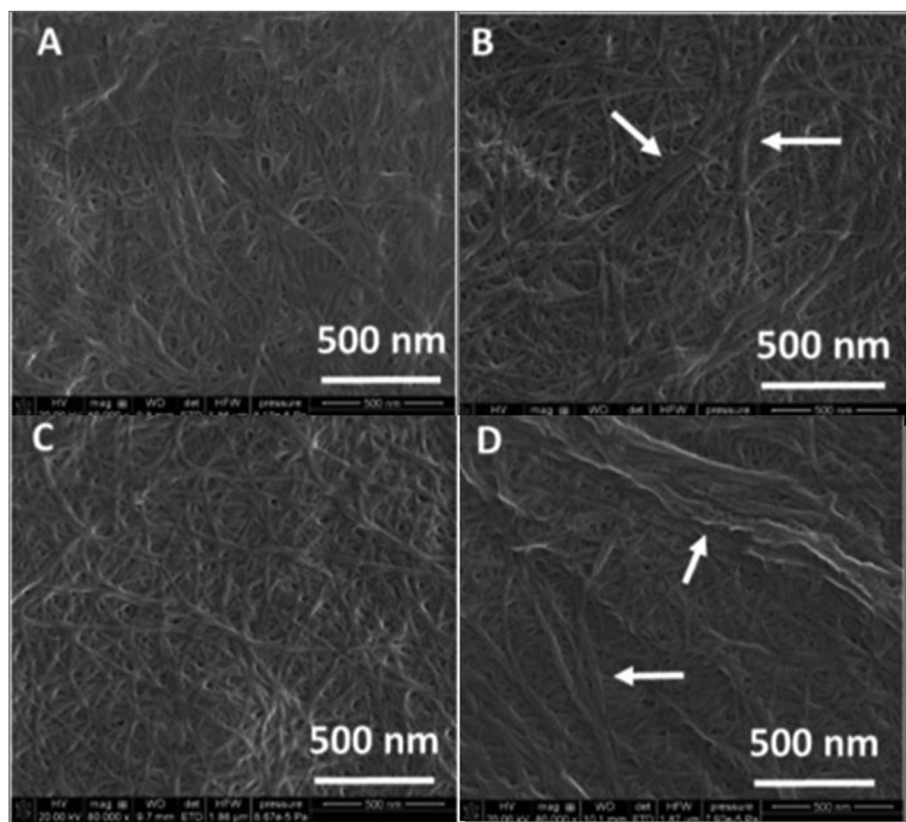


Figure 3. SEM image of cellulose isolated from the pomace of the a) apple b) cucumber c) tomato d) carrot (Szymańska-Chargot et al., 2017).

Table 2. Various microbial strains used for the production of biopolymers from dairy wastes.

Source	Microbial strains	Biopolymers	Yield	References
Fermented cheese whey	Activated sludge	PHA	28.2 g L ⁻¹	Colombo et al. (2019)
Cheese whey lactose	<i>Xanthomonas campestris</i> and <i>Xanthomonas pelargonii</i>	Xanthan gum	0.42g of xanthan g ⁻¹ of lactose; 0.27 g of xanthan g ⁻¹ of lactose	Niknezhad et al. (2015)
Cheese whey	<i>Haloferax mediterranei</i>	P(3HB-co-3HV)	9.6 g L ⁻¹	Pais et al. (2015)
Whey	Dairy wastewater as inoculum	PHA	0.284 g L ⁻¹	Bosco and Chiampo (2010)
Whey supernatant	<i>Thermus thermophilus</i> HB8	PHA	0.57 g L ⁻¹	Pantazaki et al. (2009)
Cheese whey	<i>Xanthomonas campestris</i> pv. <i>Mangiferae</i> indicae IBSF 1230	Xanthan gum	46.8 g L ⁻¹ of gum	Mesomo et al. (2009)
Whey permeate	<i>Pseudomonas hydrogenovora</i>	PHA	1.27 g L ⁻¹	Koller et al. (2017)
Milk whey	<i>X. campestris</i> pv. <i>campestris</i> – 2149	Xanthan gum	21.91 g L ⁻¹	Nery et al. (2008)
Whey lactose	<i>Haloferax mediterranei</i>	PHA	5.5 g L ⁻¹	Koller et al. (2017)
	<i>Pseudomonas hydrogenovora</i>		1.3 g L ⁻¹	
	<i>Hydrogenophaga pseudoflava</i>		2.7 g L ⁻¹	
Whey and corn steep liquor	Recombinant <i>Escherichia coli</i>	PHB	6.12 g L ⁻¹	Nikel et al. (2005)
Lactose and whey permeate	<i>Sinorhizobium 41 meliloti</i> , <i>Hydrogenophaga pseudoflava</i> DSM 1034	PHA	<i>Sinorhizobium 41 meliloti</i> : 0.483 g L ⁻¹ <i>Hydrogenophaga pseudoflava</i> : 0.375 g L ⁻¹	Povolo and Casella (2003)
Whey	<i>Ralstonia eutropha</i>	PHB	0.17 g L ⁻¹	Marangoni et al. (2002)

production of xanthan since it contains a high concentration of soluble sugars and also other substances such as pectin and organic acids, required for sustaining *X. campestris*. Grape pomace has also been used as the substrate but the yield obtained is very low due to its low absorption capacity and low sugar content (Stredansky and Conti, 1999). The same bacteria have also been used for the production of xanthan gum from jackfruit seed powder combined with peptone, citric acid, K₂HPO₄, and KH₂PO₄ where 51.62 g L⁻¹ yield of the product was obtained (Katherine et al., 2017).

In a potato-chips production plant, starch is an everyday waste, mainly due to slicing and washing processes. Production of biopolymers from potato processing has been carried out using enzymatic hydrolysis. Potato starch waste and malt in the ratio of 90:10 yield highest glucose concentration by converting about 96% of starch in the waste. Potato waste has also been used as an alternate substrate for *X. campestris* NRRL B-1003 bacterial strain for xanthan gum production by solid-state fermentation, submerged fermentation, and semi-solid state fermentation. Experiments reveal that yields of xanthan in solid and semi-solid fermentation are higher than submerged state fermentation (Bilanovic et al., 2010).

Kitchen waste hydrolysate has also been used by the bacteria to produce 11.73 g L⁻¹ of xanthan by batch fermentation (Li et al., 2016). Even to enhance the yield of the product, chicken feather peptone has been utilized as an enhancer supplement in the production media which increased the production of xanthan by 1.73 fold (Ozidal and Kurbanoglu, 2018). Coconut shell and cocoa husks have also been studied for the production of xanthan gum by *X. campestris* with minimal supplementation of urea and potassium (da Silva et al., 2018).

3.6. PHA and PHB production

The commonly used microbial strains for the production of PHB and PHA are *Bacillus* sp., *Comamonas* p., *Cupriavidus* sp., *Pseudomonas* sp., *Hydrogenophaga* sp., *Azotobacter* sp., *Burkholderia* sp., *Acinetobacter* sp., *Haloferax* sp., and *Azohydromonas* sp. A pre-treatment is required to convert food waste into PHA. This treatment is either through chemical or biological processing, for digestion of the sample matrix. Subsequently, PHA producing microorganisms utilize the carbon source made available to produce PHA (Nielsen et al., 2017; Rodriguez-Perez et al., 2015). It is noteworthy that waste substrates utilized for the production of PHA contain different concentrations of nitrogen and phosphorus. For the production of PHA, an appropriate ratio of carbon: nitrogen: phosphorous is needed, an excess concentration of any of these nutrients may cause inhibition (Rodriguez-Perez et al., 2015). The properties of PHA such as hardness and brittleness depend on their structure, and depending on the bacteria and the substrate used, the structure of monomers varies. The most widely recognized microbial PHA is poly 3-hydroxybutyric acid (PHB), a homopolymer of 3-hydroxybutyrate. This homopolymer is brittle and biodegradable and thermoplastic; however, only limited industrial use owing to high production cost of PHB is reported till date (Reis et al., 2008; Johnston et al., 2018).

3.6.1. Dairy waste

Wastes from the dairy industry contain soluble organics, suspended solids, and trace organics (fats, oils, and grease, minerals, and phosphates), and necessary ingredients for the biopolymer production by microbial fermentation (Sarkar et al., 2006; Bosco and Chiampo, 2010). Table 2 enlists various microbial strains used for the production of biopolymers from dairy wastes. PHB is the major biopolymer synthesized from the microorganisms isolated from dairy waste. During fermentation, buttermilk acts as a carbon source at pH 7, 37 °C, at a shaker speed of 150 rpm that results in maximum production of PHB (Mehta et al., 2017). Moreover, buttermilk is the cheapest source to produce microbial polymer from the microorganisms isolated from dairy wastes.

3.6.2. Waste from potato processing

Alcaligenes eutrophus uses fermentable substrate from potato waste and barley malt for the production of about 5 g L⁻¹ PHB (Rusendi and Sheppard, 1995). *Ralstonia eutropha* NCIMB 11599 can be used along with saccharified waste potato for PHB production at about 1.47g (L. h)⁻¹ (Haas et al., 2008).

3.6.3. Waste from the sugarcane industry

Utilization of sugarcane bagasse as a carbon substrate for the production of PHA by four halophilic archaeal isolates namely *Halococcus salifodinae* strain BK6 (AB588757), *Haloferax volcanii* strain BBK2 (AB588756), *Haloarcula japonica* strain BS2 (HQ455798) and *Hgm. borinquense* strain E3 (AB904833) has shown significant results. In a study, among the four strains, *Hgm. borinquense* strain E3 (AB904833) was chosen for further study as its growth increases to 30% (v/v) of sugarcane bagasse hydrolysate during screening. Thus, the resulting production was about 45.7–50.4% PHA (Salgaonkar and Bragança, 2017).

3.6.4. Fish waste

Halophilic bacterium, *Salinivibrio* sp. M318 isolated from fermenting shrimp paste uses combined sources of carbon and nitrogen from fish sauce, mixtures of waste fish oil, and glycerol for the production of PHB. Highest PHB production (42%, w/w) was obtained in this study with glycerol and waste fish oil as carbon source and 51.7% (w/w) when the fish sauce was used as a nitrogen source (Van Thuoc et al., 2019). In a different study, fish solid waste was used as a substrate for the production of PHB using *Bacillus subtilis* (KP172548). The production of PHB was about 1.62 g L⁻¹. These are all inexpensive substrates for the production of biopolymer and simultaneously reduce environmental problems (Mohapatra et al., 2017).

3.6.5. Poultry waste

Interestingly, chicken feather hydrolysate as nitrogen source and waste frying oil as a carbon source are used by *Cupriavidus necator* H16 for the production of PHA. These inexpensive waste products increased the yield of PHA by 50% compared to that of control cultivation, especially with the addition of 10% (v/v) chicken feather hydrolysate in the media, produced by microwave-assisted alkaline hydrolysis (Palareti et al., 2016). Iva Pernicova and team employed *Pseudomonas putida* KT2440 to ferment chicken feather waste for the production of *mcl*-PHA. The highest PHA yield of 1.42 g L⁻¹ were observed in the metabolically active bacterial biomass when it was transferred from the biodegraded feather into nitrogen-limited mineral media (Pernicova et al., 2019). Cyanobacterium, *Nostoc muscorum* Agardh with 10 g L⁻¹ poultry litter supplementation along with 10% CO₂ supply resulted in 144.2 mg L⁻¹ yield of PHB along with P(3HB-co-3HV) copolymer (0.77 g L⁻¹) (Bhati and Mallick, 2015).

3.6.6. Industrial fat-containing waste

Fatty acids-containing waste such as olive oil distillate (OOD), used cooking oil (UCO), and biodiesel fatty acids by-product have been used as the cheapest carbon source for the PHA production. Fats from refinery waste, sludge, and margarine, waste frying oil, waste water from oil mills are useful feedstock for the PHA production (Hassan et al., 2013; Cruz et al., 2015a; Rodriguez-Perez et al., 2015). Microbes such as *Cupriavidus necator*, *Pseudomonas* sp., *Comamonas testosteroni*, and *Azotobacter vinelandii* grow efficiently using fat from industrial wastes and have the capability of converting these fatty acids containing substrates into PHA (Cruz et al., 2015a). The yield of PHA is higher (5.50 g L⁻¹) in OOD for *C. necator* compared to UCO (4.60 g L⁻¹) (Cruz et al., 2015a). *C. necator* is a suitable candidate for the production of high amounts of polymers. Fatty acid substrates such as glycerol, methyl esters derived from different fatty acids, oleic acids, and fatty wastes have been used for the PHA production. Bacterial fermentation is widely used in the industrial

process for the production of PHAs. The online monitoring process is also developed for PHA production by utilizing UCO as a carbon source with *Cupriavidus necator*. The yield of PHA in UCO is found to be lower (7.40 g L⁻¹) (Cruz et al., 2015b), compared to used cooking oil from palm (9.50 g L⁻¹) (Kamilah et al., 2014). Therefore, sugar and/or fat-containing wastes can be the best candidate for PHA production.

Two cultures, *C. necator* DSM545 and its mutant strain phaZ1 do not differ in terms of growth and polymer content. For the wild type *C. necator* DSM545, there was a reduction in the intracellular PHA to 30% of the initial content under carbon starvation, but the strain *C. necator* sp-1 (phaZ1) maintained its PHA content at 85% even after 96 h incubation (Povolo et al., 2015). Favaro et al. (2019) employed this wild type *C. necator* DSM545 and *Pseudomonas (P.) oleovorans* DSM 1045, for the production of PHA from lipid residues such as crude glycerol, glycerol from biodiesel and a slaughterhouse, and biodiesel obtained from fatty acid residues. Different combinations of substrates were tested as the source of carbon for bacterial growth and its PHA accumulation. Results showed that both of them were able to grow in all the substrates; especially *C. necator* DSM 545 could produce copolymers P(3HB-co-3HV) and it could be used for the production of both *scl*- and *mcl*-PHAs.

Lipid-rich surplus streams from industrial sectors undergo chemical transformation into crude glycerol phase and biodiesel, and are used for the production of different types of PHA. In fermentation I, *Cupriavidus necator* DSM 545 utilized carbon source from animal-based crude glycerol phase for the production of homopolymer PHB which results in a yield of 0.29 g g⁻¹ cell dry mass (CDM). Fermentation II was accomplished using saturated biodiesel fraction (SFAE) as the sole carbon source by *Cupriavidus necator* DSM 545 which results in a yield of about 0.6 g g⁻¹ CDM of P(3HB-co-3HV), which is higher than the yield when glycerol was used as carbon source. Fermentation III and IV have been carried out by the bacterial strain *Ps. Citronellolis* DSM 50332 and *Ps. Chlororaphis* DSM 50083 using SFAE as a sole carbon source. The yield for SFAE conversion biomass amounted to 0.59 g g⁻¹ using *Ps. Citronellolis* DSM 50332 and 0.62 g g⁻¹ using *Ps. Chlororaphis* DSM 50083. The biopolyesters obtained were 3-hydroxyoctanoate (3-HO) and 3-hydroxydecanoate (3-HD) and, to a minor extent, 3-hydroxydodecanoate (3-DD), 3-hydroxynonanoate (3-HN), 3-hydroxyhexanoate (3-HHx) and 3-hydroxyheptanoate (3-HHp) monomers (Koller and Braunege, 2015).

3.6.7. Waste cooking oil

The safe disposal of used cooking oil is one of the problems faced by the food processing industries. Interestingly, waste frying oil from chips and chicken frying industries is found to be a suitable substrate for PHA production. In one of the studies, used rapeseed oil produced maximum PHB at 0.9 g L⁻¹ from 20 g L⁻¹ of oil (Verlinden et al., 2011). In another study, chemical mutagen ethyl methane sulphonate was used to mutate the wild type strain of *Cupriavidus necator* H16 (CCM 3726) to increase the yield of PHA production from waste frying rapeseed oil. In comparison with wild type strain, the yield of PHA was found to be higher (16.0 g L⁻¹) in the mutant strain, possibly due to the improved activities of enzymes involved in oxidative stress response. Importantly, the regulation of aeration or redox balance and mild oxidative stress conditions can enhance the production of PHA in mutant and PHA accumulating bacteria (Obruca and Snajdar, 2013).

Verlinden et al. (2011) describe that the concentration of PHB is higher when fermentation is carried out with *Cupriavidus necator* with waste frying oil compared to pure vegetable oil, due to various nitrogen sources suited for the production of PHB. When *Cupriavidus necator* is grown on oils, obtained PHB are found to be free from residual oil traces. Besides, the presence of high free fatty acids increases the uptake of fatty acid by *C. necator* into the β -fatty acid oxidation cycle, which contributes to increased production of PHB (Kamilah et al., 2014). Bacterial strains such as *Acinetobacter* sp. (BT1), *Pseudomonas stutzeri* (BT2), *Pseudomonas stutzeri* (BT3), *Pseudomonas* sp. (SP-13), *Pseudomonas* sp. (SP-20),

Pseudomonas sp. (AA4), *Bacillus altitudinis* (FF1), *Bacillus pumilus* (FS1) were isolated from soil and slaughterhouse waste. It followed a procedure specifically altered for selecting strains able to grow on waste cooking oil, commercial lard and tallow as carbon source. The strains SP-13, SP-20 and BTI showed better results in terms of % of polymer production per cell dry mass (Povolo et al., 2012).

3.6.8. Palm oil mill waste

Effluent from palm oil mills is one of the most important sources of pollutants in the palm oil industries. It contains a large levels of total solids, oil, and grease and has very high chemical oxygen demand (COD) and biochemical oxygen demand (BOD). This effluent is a potential source of carbon and nitrogen for microbial growth. PHA is reportedly produced from the mixed organic acids obtained from anaerobically treated residual oil, and lignocellulosic materials in the effluent, which make a renewable and cheap carbon source (Hassan et al., 2013). *Comamonas* sp. EB172 obtained from palm oil mill effluent accumulates PHA of about 59%. This bacterial strain is used for the biosynthesis of homopolymer and copolymer of P(3HB) and P(3HB-co-3HV) from oil mill effluent (Zakaria et al., 2010a,b).

Production of PHB has also been investigated with native strains of *Bacillus* sp., *Bacillus megaterium*, and *Lactobacillus lactis* using residual glycerol by-product from palm oil, waste frying oil, castor oil, jatropha oil, and whey as carbon sources (substrate). Using the said concept, *Bacillus megaterium* grown in combined substrate system using glycerol as carbon source has resulted in a promising yield of PHB (2.81 g L⁻¹) (Gómez Cardozo et al., 2016).

3.6.9. Olive oil mill waste

Waste from olive oil mill is another pollutant to potable water sources and responsible for changes in the microbial population of soil. However, this waste can well be used for the production of PHA. *C. necator* results in the highest polymer yield of 7.7 g L⁻¹ when cultivated on olive oil distillate; in fact, it is one of the best *scl*-PHA (short-chain-length polyhydroxyalkanoates) producers (Cruz et al., 2015a). The halophilic organism, *Haloferax mediterranei* has been used to produce PHA from the oil mill wastewater (OMW) in research activities. A study revealed that PHA yield was lower (0.2 g L⁻¹) when recovered from OMW compared with cheese whey (7.92 g L⁻¹), whey sugars (12.2 g L⁻¹), glycerol (16.24 g L⁻¹), rice bran and starch (77.8 g L⁻¹). The researchers involved in the said study also witnessed the production of copolymer PHBHV even without the addition of extra carbon source (Alsafadi and Al-mashaqbeh, 2016). Sunflower meal (SFM) hydrolysates, crude glycerol, and levulinic acid have been used as sole feedstock for the production of PHB and P(3HB-co-3HV) by fed-batch fermentation using the strain *Cupriavidus necator* DSM 7237. The yield was about 27 g L⁻¹ PHB and continuous supplementation of levulinic acid led to the production of 23.4 g L⁻¹ P(3HB-co-3HV) (Kachrimanidou et al., 2014). In another study, Kachrimanidou et al. (2015) employed the same bacterial strain using SFM and crude glycerol as carbon source which resulted in higher yield of (57 g L⁻¹) PHB without any commercial nutrient supplement (Kachrimanidou et al., 2015).

3.6.10. Fruit and vegetable wastes

Agro-industrial wastes from the food industries include tomato and lemon processing wastes, residues from fruit juice industries, and crop residues. To reduce environmental pollution, proper disposal of such biomass is crucial. Interestingly, PHB has been reportedly produced from vegetable wastes such as tomato, carrot, and fennel (Di Donato et al., 2014).

Strains from thermophilic bacteria *Bacillus thermantarcticus* and *Geobacillus thermoleovorans* subsp. *stromboliensis*, (type strain Pizzo; DSM15392), halophilic bacteria *Halobacillus alkaliphilus* (type strain FP5; DSM18525), and halophilic archaeon *Haloterrigena hispanica* (type strain FP1; DSM18328) use carbon source from agro-industrial vegetable wastes such as tomato, lemon, and carrot for PHB production. Carrot

waste as a sole carbon source produces a comparable amount of PHB (1.25 mg g⁻¹ dry cell) in comparison with complex media (1.35 mg g⁻¹ dry cell) (Di Donato et al., 2014). As a result, vegetable waste can be used as fermentation media for the production of bacterial biomass and biopolymers. Wine lees and crude glycerol are used as nutrient and carbon sources in batch and fed-batch fermentation for the production of PHB using the strain *Cupriavidus necator* DSM 7237. The yield was about 30.1 g L⁻¹ (Dimou et al., 2015). Therefore, the biorefining of food waste could lead to the development of a sustainable process for production of biopolymers in cost-effective manner.

Pomaces from apricot, grapes, and cherries can be used as substrates for producing *mcl*-PHA with *Pseudomonas* strains (*P. putida* KT2440 and *P. resinovorans*). Using wasted frying oil and the said microorganism, *mcl*-PHA has been produced. The yield of *mcl*-PHA was 1.4 g (L of pomace)⁻¹ with apricot as substrate and 21.3 g (L of pomace)⁻¹ for solaris grape. The study reported that the use of hydrolyzed pomace for the initial growth stage of *P. resinovorans* followed by the addition of waste frying oil results in higher yield (21.3 g L⁻¹) of PHA (Follonier et al., 2014). Interestingly, enzyme pre-treated grape pomace from winery waste has also been used as a carbon source by *C. necator* for the production of PHA (Martinez et al., 2016). In another investigation, to obtain volatile fatty acid-rich effluent, grape pomace was anaerobically digested under batch acidogenic conditions. The yield of PHA at 20% acidic effluent was found to be lower (49%) compared to 40% acidic effluent (63%) (Martinez et al., 2016).

Food wastes are divergent which renders them a suitable and interesting candidate for the production of biopolymers. The pomace of white grapes is a promising growth substrate for *P. putida* KT2440 for the biosynthesis of *mcl*-PHA. Grape pomace was supplemented with fatty acids (50 mol% of octanoic acid and 50 mol% of 10-undecenoic acid) for PHA accumulation in a study. The 2-step fermentation strategy finally achieved a biopolymer concentration of 5.8 g L⁻¹ *mcl*-PHA. Another important result in this study was, it produced 583 g of biopolymer from 40 kg of Gewürztraminer white grape pomace (Follonier et al., 2015). Grandfils and Reis (2019) employed *Pseudomonas citronellolis* NRRL B-2504 for the production of *mcl*-PHA using soluble fractions from apple pulp waste as a substrate. The yield was about 1.2 g L⁻¹ of *mcl*-PHA. Volatile fatty acids derived from hydrolysis of pea shells (PS), potato peels (PP), onion peels (OP), and apple pomaces (AP) have been used by *Bacillus* spp. for the production of PHA. Defined mixed culture of *Bacillus* spp. was used for efficient hydrolysis of biowaste. The yield of PHA was 100 mg L⁻¹ when combinations of hydrolysates PS and PP were employed along with 1% of glucose supplementation. The PHB yield was about 30 mg L⁻¹ for PS and AP in the ratio of 2:1 post addition of 1% of glucose, and for the PS: OP combination in the ratio of 2:1, the yield of PHB was 550 mg L⁻¹. Another combination of PS:OP and PS:AP in the ratio of 2:1 was effective in controlling the biowastes consumed individually, and enhanced the yield of the copolymer PHA and homopolymer (Kumar et al., 2015). Therefore, volatile fatty acid-rich effluents can be employed as an inexpensive substrate for the production of PHA.

Agro-food industrial by-products can also be used as the cheapest source to produce biopolymers. Leguminous processing water (LPW) rich in saccharose and stachyose, fruit processing water (FPW) rich in glucose, and fructose were used to PHA production using marine bacterial species *Halomonas* i4786. The yield of PHA thus found was 1.6 g L⁻¹ in LPW and 1.8 g L⁻¹ in FPW, respectively, under the batch mode of cultivation in a 5 L fermenter (Elain et al., 2016).

3.6.11. Spent coffee grounds

The liquid waste stream from the coffee industry is named as spent coffee grounds (SCG). Worldwide, around 6 million tonnes of spent coffee grounds are generated annually (Tokimoto et al., 2005). SCG can also be collected from cafeterias, restaurants, fast food chains, etc. *Cupriavidus necator* H16 uses oil derived from SCG as a substrate for the PHB production, and it has been observed that the yield of PHB is higher for coffee oil (10 g L⁻¹) compared to other waste frying oils such as

attention to the effect of pre-treatments, pre-considering on the process effectiveness. In another study, an enzymatic hydrolysate obtained from the potato residues were used as a substrate in fermentation with *Lactobacillus casei* along with yeast supplementation for improved production of lactic acid (Smerilli et al., 2016). Potato residues from the food processing industries have also been used as a starchy substrate for the production of LA under non-sterile conditions by thermophilic bacteria *Geobacillus stearothermophilus* (Smerilli et al., 2015).

Gelatin is a biopolymer derived from the partial acid or alkaline hydrolysis of fibrous collagen found in tendons, bones, skins, and cartilage of animals. Gelatin is reportedly extracted from fish scales that contain a high quantity of protein. The scales of blue tilapia fish were soaked in 3% HCl (1:6 w/v) for 16 h that produced 11.88% of gelatin (Sockalingam and Abdullah, 2015). This indicates that fish scales are a good source of gelatin.

4. Characterization of biopolymers for effective use of recovered moieties

Although recovery of biopolymers from wasted bioproducts is very important for best bioresource utilization, the assessment of the recovered biopolymer is equally essential. High quality of recovered products would help in achieving the best prices and manufacture better-finished products with them. Hence, besides developing biopolymers from waste sources, their characterization is also important to gauge their best utility. This is rather critical since these valorized bioresources could be employed in different processes and products, depending upon their quality.

To study the morphological and crystalline characteristics of biopolymer, X-ray diffraction (XRD) and scanning electron microscope (SEM) have been used in few studies. Numbers of techniques have been developed to trace PHA producing organisms in natural habitat, to quantify PHA in microbial biomass. Quantitative and structural analysis of isolated PHA is of enhancing significance for kinetic analysis of PHA formation process and to control the large scale PHA production process. Several PHA building blocks can be estimated with about 150–200 HAs which requires high-tech methodologies such as Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) or Mass Spectrometry (MS). Development of genetic methods to identify the PHA producing organisms are very rapid and clarification of enzymatic background of PHA biosynthesis resulted in employing techniques such as Southern Blot Hybridization (SBH), Fluorescence In Situ Hybridization (FISH) or Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). Structural characterization and information on functional groups of polyesters and their interactions are determined by NMR, Infrared (IR), and Raman spectroscopy. Optical microscopy, fluorescence staining, and fluorescence microscopy are used for rapid and direct screening test for imaging PHA granules (Koller and Rodr, 2015).

Characterization of PHA has been done using XRD analysis, UV-visible spectrophotometry, Differential Scanning calorimeter (DSC) analysis, Proton nuclear magnetic resonance (H-NMR) and Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) (Salgaonkar and Bragança, 2017). The FT-IR spectra for PHA, collagen, and lignin were obtained in the range of 400–4000 cm^{-1} (Jonglertjunya et al., 2014; Alsafadi and Al-mashaqbeh, 2016; Zhou et al., 2016). According to few researchers, the degree of deacetylation (DDA) in chitin and chitosan can be estimated in FT-IR using band ratio method and NMR using integrals of the peak of the proton, while, hemicelluloses can be analyzed by FT-IR and spectrum normalized to band nearest 900 cm^{-1} (Brienzo et al., 2009). Others suggest use of GC-MS (Gas chromatography-mass spectrometry) to analyze the monomer composition of PHA. The technique could also be used for the quantification of the amount of PHA produced at different time points. The number average molecular weight (M_n) of PHA is determined by Gel permeation chromatography (GPC) coupled with refractive index detector (Obruca et al., 2014; Gasser et al., 2014). The molecular weights of hemicellulosic fractions were determined by GPC with Knauer differential refractometer. Size exclusion chromatography

was used to analyze the molecular weight distribution of polymers and polydispersity index (PDI) (Kamilah et al., 2014). The thermal property of PHA has been analyzed by DSC with a temperature profile of over -30 °C to -200 °C, at a heating rate of 10 °C/min. Cellulose nitrate filters membrane of 0.45 μm was used to measure the cell dry weight (CDW) (Zakaria et al., 2010a,b). High-pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC) is used for performing carbohydrate analysis (Liang et al., 2014).

Besides, the soluble lignin concentration can be determined by UV-visible spectrophotometry at 290 nm (Jonglertjunya et al., 2014). High-performance anion-exchange chromatography (HPAEC) equipped with an amperometric detector could be used to determine the neutral sugar in the hemicellulosic subfractions. Thermal behavior of hemicelluloses and lignin can be analyzed using differential thermal analysis (DTA) and thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) with a heating rate of 10 °C/min in temperature between 30 °C and 500 °C. In NMR analysis for hemicelluloses, the ^1H NMR spectrum is recorded at 300 MHz whereas for the ^{13}C NMR spectrum was recorded at 74.5 MHz (Peng et al., 2009). Characterization of chitin and chitosan is carried out using FT-IR, NMR, TGA, XRD, and elemental analysis. Molecular mass distribution of chitosan was determined by GPC equipped with multi-angle laser light scattering (MALLS) and refractive index detectors (Mohammed et al., 2013).

5. Conclusion

Managing the waste derived from food processing industries is a serious environmental concern. Although the waste from the food processing industry is not an alarming bioburden, its uncontrolled accumulation is disadvantageous. Especially, when these wastes could be used for developing other valuable products as biopolymers, their valorization makes a good sense. The exposition has highlighted various sources for resourcing these wastes and multifarious techniques that could be employed as a remedial measure for waste valorization. The waste products from food are also much in industrial demand, which otherwise has to be synthetically synthesized. Plastic bag bans and global warming initiatives are driving increased market opportunities for bio-based plastics. There has been a tremendous effort to incorporate low-value nanomaterials into the biopolymers to reduce the cost of the final product. And also, the production of different biopolymers from a biorefineries will reduce greenhouse gas emissions significantly. The products from food wastes also compensate for the production cost of these biopolymers, owing to fractional raw material costs incurred compared with fresh raw material. These biopolymers have major applications in industries such as biomedical fields, food industries, electrical and electronic products, agricultural products, automation products, cosmetic preparation, wastewater treatments, biocatalysts casings, and the entertainment industry. Therefore, the production of biopolymers from food wastes could act as a key measure to minimize food waste disposal at land-fills and river streams. Future researchers are advised to explore more in the scalability of these lab-scale processes to pilot plant and industrial scales, investigate process modeling aspects, and develop experiments employing green techniques and green solvents, thus minimizing use of non-GRAS solvent. This would aid not only waste valorization, but also environmental sustenance.

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