

Special Issue

Studies on Mechanical Characterization of Biopolymers

Message from the Guest Editors

Biopolymer is a polymer that can be obtained naturally or formed by living organisms or plants. Biopolymer also refers to a polymer that can be biodegraded by microorganisms or under normal environmental conditions. Thus, this material can be either bio-based plastic, biodegradable plastic, or both. Mechanical properties are aspects that need to be emphasized in the production of quality bioplastic-based products. However, when compared with synthetic polymers, bioplastics usually have lower tensile strength and barrier properties. Their high-water vapor permeability, oxygen permeability, fragility, low thermal resistance, vulnerability to degradation, and low processability have also limited their use in some applications such as packaging and coating.

The aim of this Special Issue is to overview and discuss current progress in the field of bioplastics and bioplastic composites, including several technologies and strategies to improve the mechanical and physical properties of the bioplastics. Topics of interest include all aspects of the manufacturing, analysis, characterization, and application of such bioplastics, as well as theoretical studies in the field.

Guest Editors

Dr. Azlin Fazlina Osman

Faculty of Chemical Engineering & Technology, Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP), Arau 02600, Malaysia

Dr. Zuratul Ain Abdul Hamid

School of Materials & Mineral Resources Engineering, Engineering Campus, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Gelugor 11800, Penang, Malaysia

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Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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As the world of science becomes ever more specialized, researchers may lose themselves in the deep forest of the ever increasing number of subfields being created. This open access journal *Applied Sciences* has been started to link these subfields, so researchers can cut through the forest and see the surrounding, or quite distant fields and subfields to help develop his/her own research even further with the aid of this multi-dimensional network.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Giulio Nicola Cerullo
Dipartimento di Fisica, Politecnico di Milano, Piazza L. da Vinci 32,
20133 Milano, Italy

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