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Agricultural and Food Waste: Analysis, Characterization, and Extraction of Bioactive Compounds and Their Possible Utilization

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Message from the Guest Editors

The food processing industries produce millions of tons of losses and waste during processing, which are becoming a grave economic, environmental, and nutritional problem. Fruit, vegetable, and food industrial solid waste include leaves, peels, pomace, skins, rinds pulp, stems, seeds, twigs, and spoiled fruits and vegetables, among other waste released in food production, which can be formed during cleaning, processing, cooking, and/or packaging. These wastes are characterized by being an important source of bioactive compounds, such as phenolic compounds, dietary fibres, polysaccharides, vitamins, carotenoids, pigments, and oils, among others. These bioactive compounds are closely associated with beneficial effects in human health. The reutilization of these by-products will ensure the sustainable development of food industries and reduce their environmental impact, which will contribute to the fight against environmental problems, leading to climatic change potential mitigation. Therefore, the determination of bioactive compounds composition in agricultural and food waste and the production of extracts containing these compounds is the first step towards its reutilization.



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Special Issue



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