# **Special Issue**

# Agri-Food Waste Extracts: Structural and Functional Characterization

## Message from the Guest Editor

Globally, the demand for fruits and vegetables has risen sharply in recent years due to dietary guidelines and shifts in eating habits. This has led to significant food losses and waste throughout the agri-food supply chain. The industry produces approximately 90 million tons of waste annually, a figure expected to grow in the future. A major concern with these residues is their impact on environmental pollution, given their high biodegradability. Agri-food waste is rich in numerous bioactive molecules with health benefits, making it a viable extraction substrate. However, the significant variability in raw materials requires thorough characterization of each by-product to determine its composition and identify potential applications. In light of this, the goal of this Special Issue is to explore various aspects of the structural and functional characterization of agri-food waste extracts. By linking extraction methods with the chemical makeup and bioactivity of the extracts, we aim to uncover the characteristics of agri-food compounds that could serve as active substances across multiple industries.

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## Deadline for manuscript submissions

21 November 2025



## Life

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.4
CiteScore 6.0
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/216514

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