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Agro-Industrial Wastewater Treatment with Decentralized Biological Treatment Methods

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Message from the Guest Editors

Nowadays, agro-industries represent one of the major contributors to the worldwide industrial pollution problem. In order to cover the needs of the growing population, the amount and complexity of waste generated by agro-industries and their management are very problematic. Therefore, agro-industries produce large quantities of wastewater and large amounts of waste, which very often are left untreated or unexploited and end up in the environment.

Biological methods have been recognized as inexpensive and effective processes to deal with this waste. Although aerobic biological treatment methods are more efficient, these processes are limited by the high cost of the continuously provided mechanical aeration. However, recent research has shown that decentralized biological treatment methods (e.g., trickling filters and constructed wetlands) can successfully treat several types of agro-industrial wastewater (e.g., dairy wastewater, olive mill and table olive mill wastewater, etc.) at a relatively low cost. Constructed wetlands are also considered a promising technology to treat wastewater because of their low cost, simple operation and maintenance, and favourable appearance.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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