



New Glycerol Upgrading Processes

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Message from the Guest Editor

Glycerol has traditionally been produced from tallow and oil by acid hydrolysis, and it can also be produced by several microorganisms, the latter method being a promising biorefinery approach in the event that glycerol production needs to be enhanced. However, presently, most of the glycerol production comes from the biodiesel production process as a side stream, which has led to a saturation of the existing traditional glycerol market in the chemical, food, and pharmaceutical sectors. As a consequence, prices have remarkably dropped, thereby affecting the profitability of biodiesel production processes. Therefore, glycerol—either crude or pure—could be a waste to be disposed of or, on the other hand, it could become an opportunity by turning it into a platform chemical.

The aim of this Special Issue is to provide a general and up-to-date overview of the wide variety of processes and products that are now being devised, researched, and implemented using glycerol as a starting building block and carbon source for chemical synthesis, thermochemical transformations, and biochemical/microbial processes.

