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Sustainable Use of Natural Resources: The Need for a Circular Economy Model in Food Industry

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Message from the Guest Editor

Worldwide, the food industry represents a very important sector capable of supplying huge amounts of food. Its relevance, however, has proportionally augmented its generation of waste. Over the last decade, a few European directives, regulations, and communications in relation with waste (disposal, reutilization, and reducing strategies) and sustainable use of natural resources have been published with the main purpose of protecting human and animal health and the environment. In order to achieve a more efficient production system that complies with European regulations, wastes and subproducts need to be re-utilized to increase their throughput that will positively impact their economical yield, while reducing their generation and thus protecting health and the environment. Different applications have been considered for re-using subproducts, even though the most efficient approach is the establishment of models that allow waste reduction. It is thus critical to update the food industry to include it into the circular economical trend to improve its economical throughput while protecting natural resources.



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