Waste Biomass Management – A Holistic Approach

Lakhveer Singh • Vipin Chandra Kalia Editors

## Waste Biomass Management – A Holistic Approach



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## Preface

All living beings have quite efficient metabolisms. Plants are the basic producers of almost all things, which are available for consumption by human beings. Animals and human beings are able to digest most of the plant parts, however, a few components go undigested and are excreted out. A few other components of plant origin, which are not fit for human consumption, find their way to the landfills. Here, microbes play an active role in further degradation of wastes of biological origin. Microbes work either in isolation or in association with others. Anaerobic digestion is a wonderful process which involves different sets of microbes with highly specialized metabolic activities. These networks of different biochemical pathways result in almost complete degradation of organic matter present in the biowastes. The different intermediates can be either used as feed for the next set of microbes or may end up as bioproducts with unique applications. Although such processes are already operative in Nature, however, we need to work hard to elucidate the mechanisms and then exploit them for the benefit of human beings. Specialized pretreatments either physico-chemical or enzymatic help to make the process of waste degradation a bit easier. For enzymatic treatment, microbes with high hydrolytic process are required. Thermochemical conversion-liquefaction of biomass generates high value byproducts. These processes for waste biomass management result in producing oil, ethanol, biodiesel, sugars, biogas, activated carbon, etc. The last century has seen a transition from chemical to biological processes, primarily because of their eco-friendly nature. The Green Technologies are expected to save Earth. Scientific efforts are constantly needed to realize the significance of these approaches. Here, the rising stars of tomorrow-the young researchers and scientists need to make innovative contributions. This book intends to feed the young ignited minds and provoke them to contribute scientifically for the economic benefits of the society. In this book, scientists with strong academic backgrounds and practical experience have shared their research works carried out over the last few decades. This book is a reflection of the dedication of the scientific community towards human welfare. I am truly humbled by the contributions of each of the respected authors. I am extremely indebted to them for their efforts. Words are not sufficient enough to truly and adequately acknowledge the worthiness of their efforts. My true inspirations to write this book were bestowed in me and the constant faith and support of—my mother (Late Mrs. Kanta Kalia), who passed away, during the preparation of this book, and my father (Mr. R.B. Kalia), Amita (wife), Sunita, and Sangeeta (sisters), Ravi, Vinod, and Satyendra (brothers), Daksh and Bhrigu (sons), my teachers especially Dr. A.P. Joshi, my friends—Rup, Hemant, Yogendra, Rakesh, Atya, Jyoti, Malabika, Neeru, and Ritusree. I must also acknowledge the support of my young friends—Asha, Sadhana, Sanjay, Mamtesh, Subhasree, Shikha, Jyotsana, Ravi, Priyanka and Rahul.

Delhi, India

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