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Sophorolipid Production from Food Waste

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Abstract Text:

Sophorolipids (SLs) are among the most extensively studied microbial biosurfactants. *Starmerella bombicola* is the most productive strain known for SL production, with a volumetric productivity of up to 3.7 g/L.h (Wang et al., 2019). Recent sustainable development goals of food security, environmental protection, material and energy efficiency are the key drivers for the valorization of food waste. In the present work, the production of biosurfactant SLs from several (food) waste streams was investigated. Food waste obtained from a local restaurant was subjected to enzymatic hydrolysis for 16 h, yielding a hydrolysate containing about 100 g/L glucose and 2.4 g/L free amino nitrogen. The hydrolysate was subsequently used for SLs fed-batch fermentation and reached titer of 115.2 g/L in 92 h with an overall volumetric productivity of 1.25 g/L.h (Kaur et al., 2019). Further improvement of fermentation system and strategy has been developed using a semi-continuous integrated production-separation system. An average volumetric productivity of 2.43 g/L.h and an overall SLs yield of 0.73 g/g was achieved within 240 h. Moreover, the potential of sustaining high production efficiency during long-term fermentation times (480 h) was investigated and an overall productivity and SLs yield of 2.39 g/L.h and 0.73 g/g were obtained, respectively (Wang et al., 2020a). This laboratory experiment was further evaluated with TEA simulation. It was found that the most profitable option led to high NPV (US\$183,598,000), IRR (36.17%), ROI (43.87%) and payback years (2.28 years) (Wang et al., 2020b). It should be stressed that SLs price need to lower to allow SLs to penetrate the market.

References

- Wang et al., 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jctb.5847>.
- Kaur et al., 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2019.05.326>.
- Wang et al., 2020a. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2019.118995>.
- Wang et al., 2020b. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biortech.2020.122852>.

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Global Food Challenges and their Solutions

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