

Review

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Review

Integrated Management of Industrial Wastewater in Food Sector

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Abstract: According to the Food Waste Index Report, in 2019, around 931 million tons of food were wasted, equivalent to 17% of the total food available in markets (UNEP, 2021). Wastewater and food waste management are the world's main challenges in the near future. This is expected due to the forecasted increase in world population to 9 billion by 2050. Industrial activities like food processing consume large amounts of water, which may affect the limited drinking water resources. The food processing industry is considered one of the high-fresh water-demanding industries. Researchers and engineers are working on developing novel wastewater management approaches. Food processing effluent is characterized by valuable material in considerable concentrations, including proteins and lipids with low concentrations of heavy metals and toxicants. Developing an integrated management system for food-processing wastewater should focus on recovering abundant resources and improving the economic value of the process and mitigating the organic contaminant in the food-processing effluent. So far, more than the efforts exerted to understand the nature of the food processing effluent and the economic value of the potential effluent ingredients was needed to develop economic treatment processes. This state-of-the-art will review the wastewater management processes of the food processing industry to develop an approach for the abatement of containment discharge and reusing the valuable materials in the wastewater to improve the process economics through the regeneration of added-value materials, assuring sustainable food production with minimal environmental effect. The latest wastewater treatment processes in different food processing sectors will be reviewed. The physicochemical treatment/recovery techniques, including precipitation, membrane technology, solvent extraction, foam fractionation, adsorption, and aqueous two-phase systems, will be reviewed. The bio-treatment processes, based on microorganisms and/or enzymes consuming nutrients available in food-processing wastewater as low-cost substrates to produce valuable products, will be discussed in detail, including the production of microalga biomass in wastewater treatment systems. Finally, future research direction will be proposed to integrate the circular economy and develop integrated food processing wastewater management systems.

Keywords: integrated management; industrial wastewater; food sector; sustainable; circular economy

1. Introduction

The shortage of potable water resources may lead to several problems, including deaths and health-related issues [1,2]. 2.2 billion People worldwide lack access to safe drinking water, including 884 million who lack essential water services [3]. In some capitals, like New Delhi, India, there is a massive shortage in inhabitants' water demand leading to deadly competition over limited water resources [4]. Considering the increasing demand for water due to the steady increase in world population and the industrial use of water, reusing water is vital to maintain water resources and cope with the world's economic growth [5]. The circular economy concept should be implemented in water usage by considering restricted regulations for wastewater discharge to protect the natural water reserves. Wastewater reuse schemes should be developed and implemented in all the industrial sectors; nevertheless, more work and development are still needed to ensure sustainable water utilization practices through cost-effective technologies for wastewater treatment [6].

The food industry is a large water consumer. The amount of water used varies considerably in the food and beverages industry according to the nature of the sector, process parameters, unit size, and the cleaning process used [7]. Wastewater generated in food industries may result from processing units, rinsing and cleaning activities, forming byproduct formation streams, solid and liquid waste, [8]. The appropriate water resources and reusing technologies can be selected by evaluating each process water needs and characteristics. Three different approaches can be implemented to minimize water consumption in the food industry [9]:

- Using production technologies that consume less water.
- Decreasing uncontrolled water usage by implementing spray nozzles and reducing leaks.
- Recycling/reusing water efficiently.

A practical water use reduction strategy can be achieved by recycling and reusing the treated water and recovering valuable materials. Achieving such a strategy requires implementing efficient wastewater treatment methods. Due to the negative perception associated with using treated water and the possible contamination risk, the concept of circular water use is still not implemented in the food industry [10,11]. Figure 1 shows the percentage of water consumption in different types of the food industry. Water consumption in industrial food units is affected by many factors, including plant capacity, the manufacturing process, equipment, cleaning operations, and the end products. About 4 trillion m³, while the freshwater available for several activities is only about 0.01 trillion m³ which may increase water scarcity [12,13]. With limited water resources, unconventional water resources like wastewater, rainwater, and saline water must be considered [14,15]. Around 20% of global water consumption is associated with industrial applications; and is expected to increase annually [16].

Water reuse is significant for legislative requirements and strengthens corporate social responsibility and reputation. Several global companies like Coca-Cola and Heineken have taken the initiative to reuse treated water. Coca-Cola produces around 804 billion liters of wastewater annually; 173 billion liters are reused. The reuse of this large amount helped the company to meet governmental requirements. Heineken is working on a promising plan to reuse 100% of the brewery wastewater by 2030 [17].

Wastewater from the food industry is not toxic to aquatic life containing organic content 10-100 times that found in domestic water [18]. Due to the versatility of food industries, it is hard to develop one single management method for all different processing units. The optimum wastewater management approach and treatment method should be chosen based on the food processing process's nature and the discharged effluent's characteristics [19]. Water is needed in the food industry for process uses and non-process uses. The process uses include any water used as a raw material.

In contrast, the non-process uses include water consumed for washing, cooling, and heating [20]. The non-process uses of water represent the central portion of water use in the food industry [21]. Since water does not significantly impact the raw material or final product within the process uses, wastewater can be used as a sustainable water resource in the food industry after applying efficient treatment and management methods [22,23].

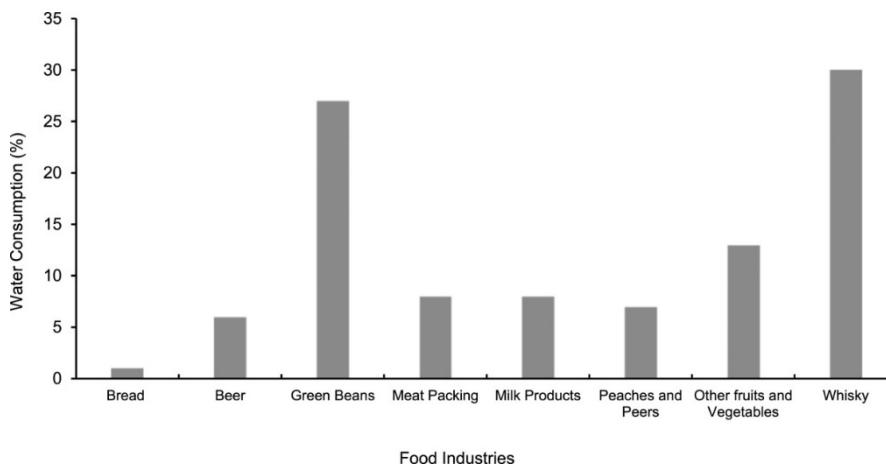


Figure 1. The nominal percentage of water consumed in different food industry sectors

The wastewater generation, management, and reuse in the beverage and food industry. The efficiency of the commonly employed wastewater technologies, including the economic and environmental consequences, will be discussed taking into consideration the following characteristics: (i) legislative requirements regulate water reuse, guidelines, and potential uses of recycled water, (ii) wastewater treatment technologies evaluation, including combining several treatment methods, and (iii) resources recovery during wastewater treatment.

The wastewater generated from non-process uses usually has a high loading of COD, BOD₅, organic contaminants, suspended solids, high nutrients like N₂ and P, solvents, and ions [24]. The circular economy is an interesting framework for wastewater management in the food industry based on reusing and recycling water and other valuable resources [25–28]. The circular economy supports sustainable development in all process-related activities [29]. New methods like mathematical modeling/optimization and pinch analysis are developed for the sustainable management of resources [30–33]. The primary goal of the circular economy is to develop process integration methods, including redesigning industrial operations to optimize resource management [34].

To implement the optimum wastewater management method, the process data, including water requirements, operational flow diagram, characteristics and amount of wastewater generated, and feasible methods of wastewater treatment considering the operating conditions. The previous discussion clearly shows the urgent need to develop integrated wastewater management for several industrial applications to reduce environmental harm. The focus of this state-of-the-art will be the integrated management of industrial wastewater in the food sector. This document will review the water consumption and wastewater generation in several food processing industries and the operating conditions. This document will discuss the choice of the optimum integrated wastewater management system considering water consumption, sustainable food production, and environmental protection, as shown in Figure 2.

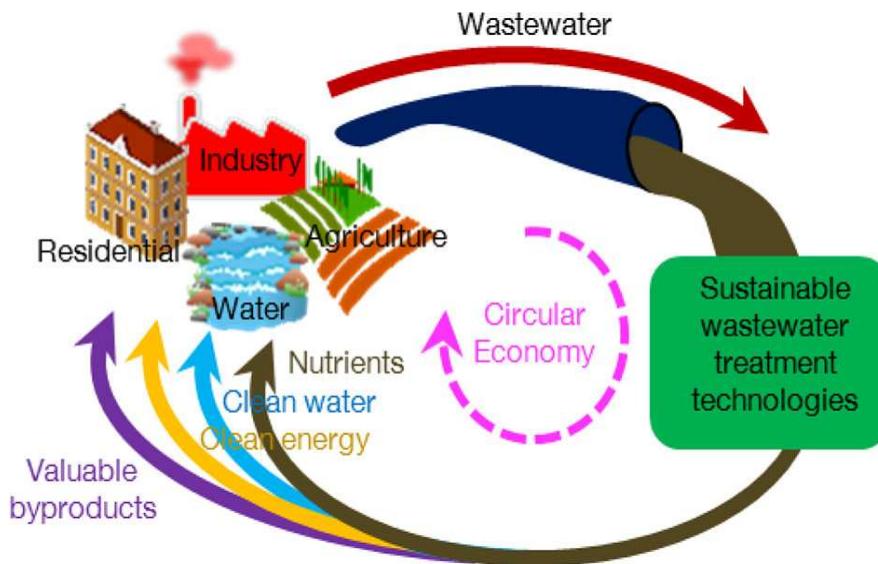


Figure 2. Interconnection between water demand, environmental protection, and enhancing food productivity

2. Integrated Industrial Wastewater Management

Table 1 illustrates the Estimated volume of wastewater produced for various food products with considering water requirements per product and their global production volume. Since washing and cleaning are the steps where most water is consumed in food industries, which are considered non-process use, water consumed is turned into wastewater. In sugar, edible oil, and grain milling industries, part of the consumed water is used for process-related applications, primarily for adjusting raw materials' humidity. Humidity levels are pretty crucial in grain milling and edible oil production industries. In addition, water can be used as a raw material during the production process. Creating glucose or fructose from the grains is one of the standard processes where water is used as a reactant [35].

Table 1. Estimated volume of wastewater produced for various food products

Product	Wastewater (m ³ /ton)	COD (kg/m ³)
Dairy	6.5	1.5–5.2
Fish	13	2.5
Meat and poultry	13	2–7
Sugar refining	11	1–6
Starch	11	1.5–42
Fruits, vegetables, and juices	21	2–10
Vinegar	28.5	0.7–3

2.1. Food Processing Units

The food processing units can be categorized into eight different industries: (1) meat production, (2) fish and seafood, (3) fruit and vegetables, (4) edible oils, (5) dairy products, (6) grain mill products, (7) bakery, and (8) other food products (like coffee, tea, sugar, and prepared and canned meals). Food industries are the central part of the food supply chain and play an essential role in sustainable development goals and improving the socio-economic indicators. However, the food industry is a large water consumer and consumes around 30% of the total water utilized by the industry [36].

2.1.1. Meat production industries

Meat represents the essential protein source in the human diet. The meat processing industry is one of the vital industries in the food supply chain, with around 325 million tons annually, including

poultry, beef, pork, and sheep raw materials [37]. In a typical meat processing unit, animals are slaughtered, washed, followed by meat cutting, processing meat into other products like sausage or burgers, and finally packing, as shown in Figure 3.

Water demand varies considerably based on the processed animal and final product. In poultry production, an average of 11.5 l of freshwater is needed per animal, while 1325 l is required per animal in beef processing units. Most of the water is used for washing purposes [38]. As shown in Figure 3, the evisceration step consumes around 44-60% of the unit water demand, subdivided into offal washing, approximately 7%-40%, and casings, like washing hair and fats, with around 9%-20%. Animals prewashing step is conducted using water sprays or in water, pools using 7-22% of the process water. Approximately 25-50% of the water is consumed during meat cleaning. Wastewater discharged from meat processing units may reach around 98% of the total water used [39]. Table 2 shows the meat processing unit characteristics for each meat production unit. As shown in Table 2, the wastewater is highly polluted effluents containing organic loads, nutrients, and suspended solids like blood, debris, meat, and bones.

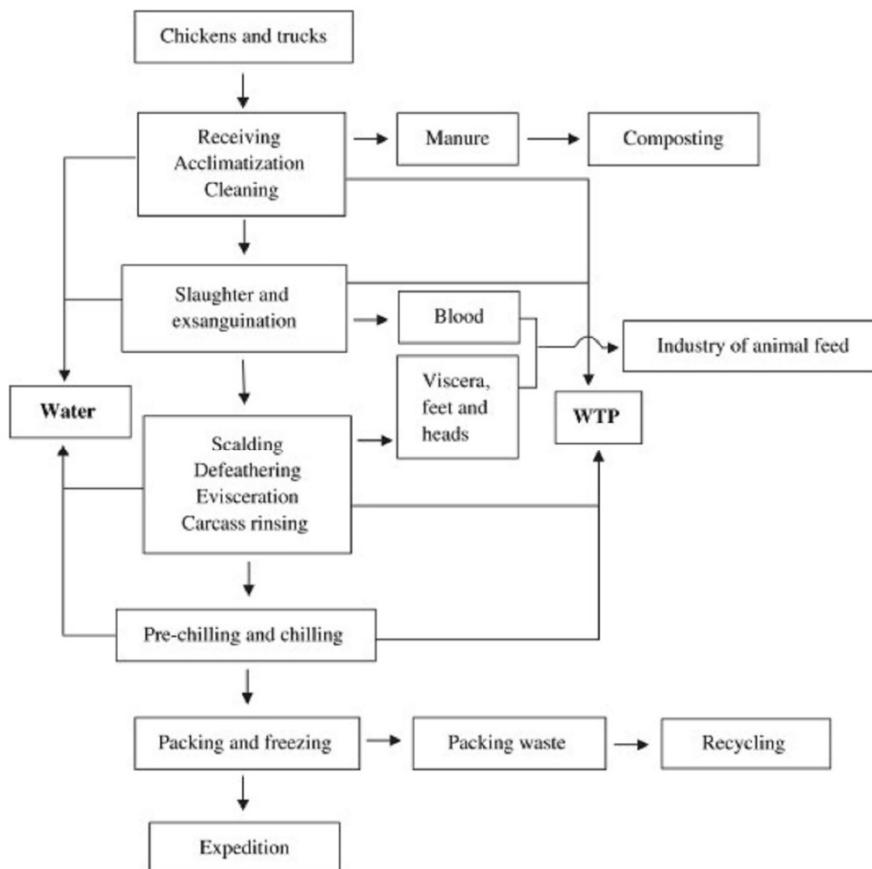


Figure 3. Meat processing industry, water demand, and wastewater generation

Table 2. Typical characteristics of wastewater in meat production [39]

Meat	COD mg/L	BOD5 mg/L	TN mg/L	TSS mg/L	O&G mg/L
Beef	4220	1209	427	1164	na
Poultry	950	400	80	240	120
Pork	4310	na	275	1240	125

Proteins in blood and debris are responsible for high total nitrogen (TN). Biological treatment methods are usually recommended for meat processing wastewater to facilitate the removal of organic loads and nutrients effectively compared to other treatment methods. Table 3 shows the latest wastewater treatment processes used in meat production industries.

Table 3. Latest wastewater treatment methods used in the meat production industry

Method	Parameter	Removal efficiency (%)
Up-flow anaerobic sludge blanket (UASB)	COD	78–80
	Oil and grease (O&G)	68–70
	Total Solid (TS)	85
Coagulation / Floatation	O&G	85
	BOD	62–78.8
	COD	74.6–79.5
	(NH ₃ -N)	68.75–90.38
Algal Treatment	Total Nitrogen (TN)	30.06–50.94
	Total Phosphorus (TP)	69
	TN	67
	COD	91
A2O Bioreactor	TP	83.48
	TN	90.48
	COD	98.33
Algal Treatment	BOD	97
	COD	94
	TP	94
	Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	85
Anaerobic Baffled Reactor with Activated Sludge	TN	72
	Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	>95
Algal Treatment	NH ₃ -N	89.74–99.03
	Phosphate (PO ₄ ³⁻)	92.39–99.93
	COD	98
	BOD	97
Sequence Batch Reactor (SBR)	TSS	89
	TN	91
	TP	86

Due to their capability to remove all contaminants, biological methods are more effective for treating wastewater from meat processing, like sequencing batch reactor and algal treatment. However, Physiochemical treatment methods, like filtration, coagulation, and flotation, can be used effectively to reduce grease and oil and total suspended solids. Physiochemical treatment methods are less complicated and cheaper compared to biological processes. Treated wastewater can be reused for washing which improves water reuse and resource recovery in meat processing.

2.1.2. Fish and seafood industries

Fish consumption increased from 9.9 kg to 16.7 kg per person annually from 1960 to 2016 [40]. In the last ten years, processed fish products, representing 90% of the global market, consumption has increased sharply. During fish processing, chilling and freezing, salting, smoking, drying, and canning are the most popular fish processing steps [41]. In addition, immediate processing steps are needed after catching until processing to facilitate transportation, including lime removal, cutting heads/fins, washing, scaling and gutting, bone separation, and cutting into steaks and fillets. Figure 4 shows the schematic process of fish processing.

Fish processing units are usually near aquatic environments to minimize processing time and transportation costs. Water consumption depends on the process's nature and operating conditions. Around 11 m³ of water is used to process 1 ton of prepared fish. The generated wastewater is usually discharged directly into aquacultures. Preparation steps, including slime removal, cutting heads, and washing, require considerable water and create an effluent contaminated with blood, high turbidity, BOD₅, and TSS [42,43]. Table 4 shows the typical characteristics of the wastewater generated during the fish preparation.

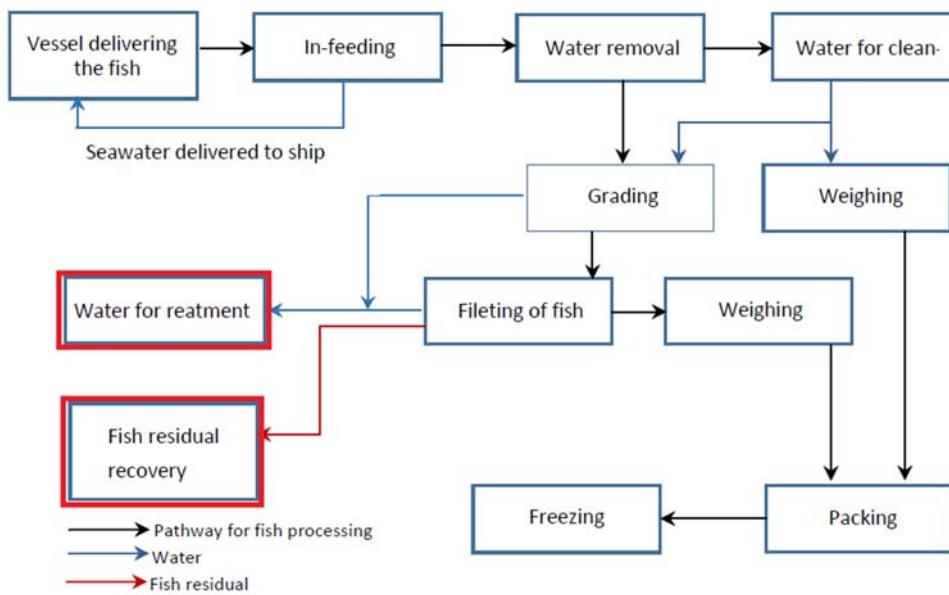


Figure 4. Shows the schematic process of fish processing

Table 4. Wastewater characteristics of fish preparation [39]

Parameter	R (1)	R (2)	R (3)
BOD ₅ (mg/L)	–	3163	858
COD (mg/L)	1518 ± 584.4	3325	–
Total Nitrogen (mg/L)	112 ± 34.5	410	–
Turbidity (NTU)	–	–	64.9
TSS (mg/L)	418 ± 487.2	703	770
pH	7.67	7	5.5–8.5

As shown in Figure 4, a large amount of wastewater is produced from non-process uses. The nature and amount of wastewater are dependent on the nature of the final product. Table 5 recaps the water consumed in fish and seafood canning processing units at distinct stages of the process.

Table 5. Water demand during the production of canned fish

Product	Water requirement (m ³ /hr. per ton of raw fish)				
	Thawing and washing	Cooking and can washing	Sterilization	Other	Total
Tuna	8	4	12	8	32
Sardine	6	4	12	6	28
Salmon	–	4	10	2	16
Shrimps	–	8	6	2	16

The wastewater generated during fish processing is characterized by high salinity and organic loads and ranges between 8 and 18 m³ per ton of product [44]. Table 6 summarizes the characteristics of wastewater generated during canned fish production.

Table 6. Wastewater characterization in canned fish industries [39]

Product	BOD5 (mg/L)	COD (mg/L)	Conductivity (mS·cm ⁻¹)	TSS (mg/L)	TN (mg/L)
Tuna	4569	8313	24.8	3150	471
Tuna	3300	5553	9.21	1575	440
Shrimp	980	1595	na	443	63
Sardine	1065	1320	12.3	4903	36

Fish processing wastewater contains high organic loading (BOD5 and COD) and total solids. To meet legislative demands, several treatment methods should be implemented. Blood, guts, and minces are the principal sources of high organic concentrations within fish processing effluent. The cooking stage drains a large number of nutrients into the effluent. At high temperatures, the flesh proteins denature, releasing N₂ [44]. Total solids can be subdivided into dissolved (TDS) from washing with seawater and suspended (TSS) solids from discharging fish flesh minces, debris, skin, and scales. Combining physiochemical and biological methods is required to eliminate all fish processing wastewater contaminants effectively. Table 7 signifies the developed treatment methods used for fish processing wastewater.

Table 7. Wastewater treatment processes in Fish processing industries

Treatment process	Parameter	Removal %
Crystallization	COD	40.1
	TSS	21.6
	TN	93.8
Sedimentation / Floatation	BOD5	90
	COD	60
	TSS	95
Ultrafiltration (UF)	NH4+-N	50
	BOD5	24.4
	COD	35.2
Reverse Osmosis (RO)/ UV Disinfection	DOC	99.9
	O&G	99.8
	TSS	98.4
Ring Fixed Bed Bioreactor (RFBB)	Hetero-trophics	100
	BOD	77
	COD	80
Algal Treatment	NH4+-N	42
	COD	99.9
	TDS	19.4
Moving Bio-Bed Reactor / UASB / Fluidized Immobilized Catalytic Carbon Oxidation / Chemo Autotrophic Activated Carbon	NH4+-N	93.1
	COD	99
	Protein	99
	Lipid	100
	O&G	100

2.1.3. Fruits and vegetable processing industry

With valuable vitamins and minerals, fruits represent a remarkable portion of daily diets. Processed fruits and vegetables, like juice, canned fruit, and jam, represent a considerable share of the food market. In 2021, the global market of processed fruits and vegetables was around \$US105 billion, which is forecasted to increase steadily [45]. Fruits and vegetable processing aims to produce juice and other products and extend the lifetime of fruits and vegetables using canning and drying. Figure 5 shows the diagram of different steps in fruit and vegetable processing.

Washing steps are the water-consuming steps in fruits and vegetables processing units, as shown in Figure 5. Primary washing, main washing, and rinsing consume around 18%, 53%, and 17% of the process water consumption, respectively. Domestic use and equipment cleaning are approximately 12% of the total water consumption. The water consumption in fruit and vegetable processing may range between 1.5 and 5 m³ per ton of the final product based on the feedstock and final product.

The wastewater contains suspended solids from soil and dirt, organic loads from biological elements like leaves, branches, and rotten fruits, TN and TP from fertilizers, and COD from pesticides [46,47]. Table 8 recaps the characterizations of the wastewater produced during fruits and vegetable processing. Wastewater from fruit and vegetable processing units is highly polluted and requires efficient treatment before it can be discharged into the environment or recycled for further use. Combining biological and chemical treatment methods is needed to accomplish the desired removal and treatment efficiency. Table 9 displays wastewater treatment processes used in fruit and vegetable processing units. The highest removal efficiency can be achieved using the hybrid biological-physiochemical methods.

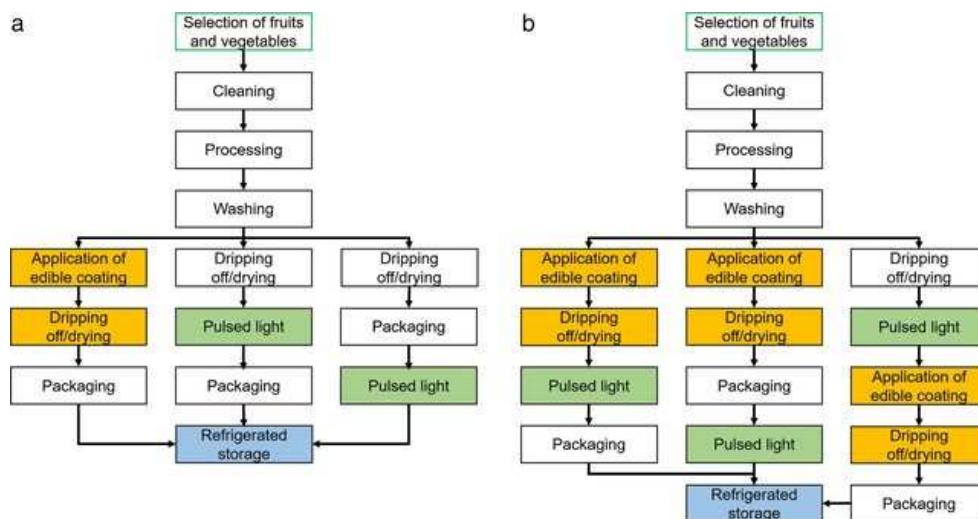


Figure 5. Diagram of fruits and vegetable processing

Table 8. Characterizations of wastewater generated during fruit and vegetable processing

Parameter	R (1)	R (2)	R (3)
COD (mg/L)	22,300	21,040	10,913
BOD ₅ (mg/L)	14,300	13,900	6900
TS (mg/L)	12,400	4590	2100
TN (mg/L)	220	na	252
TP (mg/L)	46	512.4	20.8

Table 9. Wastewater treatment processes used for fruit and vegetable processing

Method	Parameter	Removal (%)
Aqueous phase reforming	COD	79.7
	TOC	94.9
Fenton	COD	70.2
	Polyphenol	36.1
Electrocoagulation	COD	66
	Color	98
Fenton / Coagulation	COD	80
	Turbidity	99
	TSS	95
Up-flow anaerobic stage reactor and Activated sludge	COD	97.5
	BOD5	99.2
	TSS	94.5
Aerobic with Coagulation	O&G	98.9
	COD	99.6
Immobilized Cell Bioreactor	Turbidity	94.4
	COD	89.5
Plasma	COD	93.3
	Endotoxin	90.2

2.1.4. Edible oils industry

Edible oils are used for daily cooking, produced from natural or synthetic (synthesized fats). Edible oils from natural sources are more widely used since they are associated with fewer health risks and a simple production process compared to edible oils from synthetic fats [48]. Statistics indicate an increasing demand for soybean, palm, and rapeseed oil. In 2019, the consumption of palm, soybean, and rapeseed reached 71.48, 55.46, and 45.27 million tons, respectively [49,50].

Extraction of Edible oil extraction from seeds and vegetables takes place in three main steps, including pretreatment (preparation), pressing (extraction), and refining [51,52]. Figure 6 shows a diagram of the general procedure of edible oil extraction from seeds and vegetables.

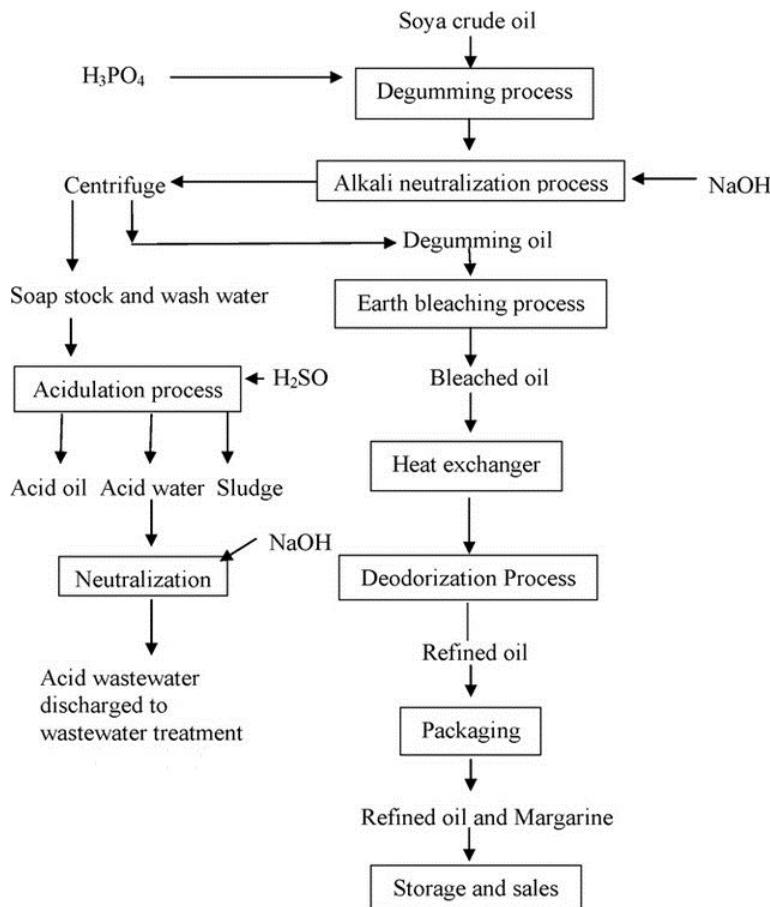


Figure 6. Edible oil production diagram

During the pretreatment step, biological and chemical substances that may interfere with oil extraction are removed, including optimizing the humidity content and cell wall breakage. During the Pressing/extraction step, lipids are separated from the seeds, which can be achieved using high-pressure extraction, thermal treatment, milling, solvent extraction, milling, or enzymatic extraction. Finally, the smoking point, color, and clarity are improved during the refining step, which can be achieved using physical and chemical processes like bleaching, neutralization, degumming, dewaxing, and deodorizing [53,54]. Water consumption mostly takes place in pretreatment and refining steps. The process water is used for steam generation, cooling, and washing. Table 10 summarizes the average water consumption and wastewater generation in the edible oils extraction process.

Table 10. Average water requirement and wastewater generation

Oil	Water requirement per ton of produced oil (m ³)	Wastewater generated per ton of seed (m ³)
Palm	2.450	0.87
Soybean	3.365	8.5
Rapeseed	1.860	0.85

The wastewater generated during edible oil extraction is characterized by high levels of COD, BOD₅, TN, TP, TDS, TSS, oil, and greases. Wastewater generated during edible oil extraction is a nontoxic waste since edible oil extraction does not involve any chemical use. Table 11 reveals characterizations of wastewater in various oil extraction units. Due to the existence of fatty acids in edible oils, BOD₅, COD, oils, and greases levels are quite high in the edible oil extraction effluent. In contrast, proteins in seeds lead to a higher level of TN. Higher levels of TN and TP are attributed to

the fertilizers used during seeds/vegetable farming. The presence of TSS is attributed to the soil, debris from the tree, fruit, and dust washed out during the washing step.

Table 11. Characteristics of edible oil wastewater [50]

Parameter	Palm oil	Soybean oil	Rapeseed oil
pH	3.4–5.2	4.2	6.3–7.2
BOD5 (mg/L)	10,250–43,750	4340	4300–4650
COD (mg/L)	15,000–100,000	17,000	13,800–15,000
TS (mg/L)	5000–54,000	6700	3800–4100
TN (mg/L)	180–1400	na	na
TP (mg/L)	180	na	62
O&G (mg/L)	4000	1550	3600–3900

A combination of biological and physiochemical treatment methods is necessary for developing an efficient treatment of wastewater generated during edible oil extraction. As indicated by the low biodegradability index of wastewater (low ratio of BOD5/COD), a single-step biological treatment method will not be enough to achieve efficient wastewater treatment [49]. Table 12 indicates various treatment methods in this field.

Table 12. Various treatment processes developed for edible oil effluent treatment

Method	Oil	Parameter	Removal (%)
Magnetic field + Adsorption	Palm	Color	39
		TSS	61
		COD	46
Microbial fuel cells + Biological aerated filters	Palm	NH3-N	93.6
		COD	96.5
		COD	86.7
UASB–Hollow-centered packed bed (HCPB)	Palm	BOD	90
		COD	88
		TSS	82.97
Flocculation	Palm	Turbidity	88.62
		COD	53.23
		Color	91.76
Algal Treatment	Palm	COD	71
		COD	85
		Color	96.8
Fenton advanced oxidation process (AOP)	Palm	TSS	100
		COD	71.3
		BOD5	96
Electrocoagulation - Peroxidation	Palm	COD	98
		TSS	99
		TDS	47.1
SBR	Palm	TSS	71.2
		COD	98
		TSS	99
Ultrafiltration + Adsorption	Palm	TDS	47.1
		TSS	71.2
		COD	42.3
Algal Treatment	Palm	BOD5	63.2
		Turbidity	63.3
		TN	86
Phosphate	Palm	Phosphate	85
		TOC	77

		COD	48
The integrated 2-phase anaerobic reactor	Soybean	COD	80
Yeast Treatment	Soybean	COD	94.7
Internal circulation-anoxic/oxic coupling reactor	Soybean	COD	90
Continuous aerobic/anaerobic in MBBR	Soybean	TN	98
Algal treatment	Soybean	COD	94.4
		TN	76
Electrocoagulation and Electro-oxidation	Rapeseed	CODs	77.8
		TSS	89
		DOC	99
		CODs	100
Electrochemical Peroxidation	Rapeseed	TSS	95
		DOC	77
Photo-Fenton	Rapeseed	COD	100
		TOC	86
Hybrid TiO ₂ /UV/ultrafiltration	Rapeseed	COD	80
		O&G	82
		COD	86
		TSS	90
Microbial fuel cell	Vegetable	Phosphate	64
		Turbidity	73.6
			91.5

2.1.5. Dairy industries

Due to the significant variation in dairy products, (1) milk, (2) cheese, (3) cream, (4) butter, (5) yogurt, and (6) powdered milk, several production methods, and processes are used. Figure 7 illustrates the flow diagram of a dairy production process to produce primary dairy products [55–59]. To understand the variety in dairy processes, around 500 types of cheese are produced globally, resulting in several wastewater treatment processes based on the initial feedstock and the final product. The whey generated in the cheese industry varies in quantity based on the type of cheese produced; for hard cheese like cheddar cheese, whey is produced in large amounts, while the whey generated during soft cheese production is quite limited.

The wastewater generated during the dairy industry may range between 0.5–20.5 l per kg of the dairy product. The wide range of wastewater production indicates the significant variation in the dairy industry based on the composition and variety of ultimate products. Table 13 shows water consumption and wastewater generation for different dairy production units [60–64]. Developing wastewater management methods and strategies is essential due to the large water consumption and the varying load and nature of contaminants. Table 14 reveals the characteristics of a multi-product dairy processing factory effluent, as the typical specifications of wastewater in milk processing units [65]:

Table 13. Water demand in different phases of dairy processing

Dairy product	Water consumption	Unit
Milk and dairy drinks	0.5–4.1	L W/L milk
Cheese	0.6–2.9	L W/L milk
Powdered products	0.1–2.7	L W/L milk
Frozen milk products	15.7	L W/kg of product
Cream	3.3	L W/kg of product

Butter	4	L W/kg of product
Yogurt and fluid products	1.2	L W/kg of product

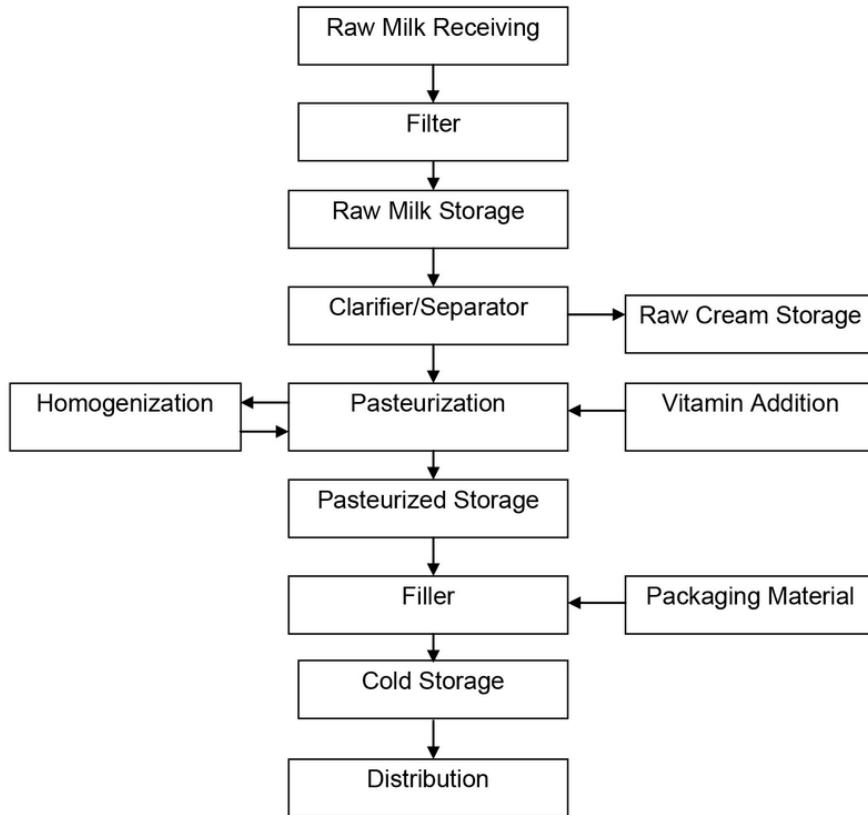


Figure 7. Process diagram of the dairy industry

The wastewater generated from the dairy processing units will include high COD, BOD5, and TN, resulting primarily from cheese production [66]. Several parameters may affect the nature and loading of wastewater, including processed milk amount, product type, production processes, and washing mechanism [67–69]. Due to the high TN, COD, and BOD5, biological treatment methods are very common in the dairy processing unit. Physicochemical treatment methods, including gravitational methods, membrane-based methods, and adsorption, are used to improve the effectiveness of the treatment method as an auxiliary process for biological treatment methods [70].

Table 14. Wastewater Characterization in dairy production

Parameter (mg/L)	Range	Average
COD	1906–2513	2131
BOD5	1372–1809	1536
TN	246–297	273
TP	55–73	60
TN	218–241	233
NO ₃ –N	22–48	38

Advanced oxidation processes can efficiently treat the high COD effluent from dairy units wastewater. Activated sludge, SBRs, aerated lagoons, up-flow anaerobic sludge blankets (UASB), and anaerobic filters are biological methods that can be used efficiently to reduce TN [71,72]. Algal treatment and microalgae cultivation units are necessary for managing dairy processing unit

wastewater treatment to reduce the high concentration of nutrients. Table 15 summarizes the biological methods used for dairy processing wastewater treatment.

Table 15. Biological treatment processes employed in dairy wastewater treatment

Method	Parameter	Treatment (%)
Algal Treatment	COD	76.77
	TN	92.15
	Phosphate	100
	COD	95.1
	NO ₃ -N	79.7
	TP	98.1
Algal Treatment	TDS	22.8
	COD	64.47
	TN	86.21
	Phosphate	89.83
	COD	81.8
	Phosphate	94
SBR	NH ₃ -N	85.1
	COD	63.5
	Phosphate	88
	NH ₄ ⁺ -N	66
	COD	71.27
	Phosphate	96.54
UAASB	NH ₄ ⁺ -N	95.88
	COD	81-93
	BOD	85-94
	TN	52-80
	COD	95-99
	Hybrid MBR	
Combined UASB and Membrane bioreactor (MBR)	COD	95
	COD	94.1
	BOD	98
	NH ₄ ⁺ -N	100
	COD	77
	Up-flow	>90
MBR	anaerobic/aerobic/anoxic	>50
	bioreactor	>50
	COD	98
	TSS	99
	COD	99
	Airlift bioreactor	
Airlift reactor with aerobic granular sludge	TN	79
	TP	63

2.1.6. Grain milling industry

Corn, wheat, and rice, the most consumed grains, produced globally in 2019 were about 1100, 735, and 496 x 106 tons, respectively. Grains are used to produce starch, flour, proteins, carbohydrates, and animal food. Milled grains are produced and used in several types of foods, like pasta and bread [73].

Grain milling can be categorized into (a) dry milling using cylinder or disc mills, (b) wet milling with cylinder or disc mills, and (c) wet milling with stone mills. The water demand and wastewater generation vary considerably based on the nature of the grain milling process. Figure 8 illustrates the schematic of the general grain milling process.

Water demand is determined based on seed humidity. The humidity of the grain should be in the range of 14-16% by weight. In dry grain milling, water is used for product tempering and conditioning, and the seeds separation from the endosperm. Wastewater generation in dry mills is lower compared to wet milling, and water use is limited to sites and devices washing. While in wet milling, a large amount of water is used in the washing stage, generating a large quantity of wastewater. Table 16 displays water demand and wastewater generation during the corn, wheat, and rice wet milling [74,75].

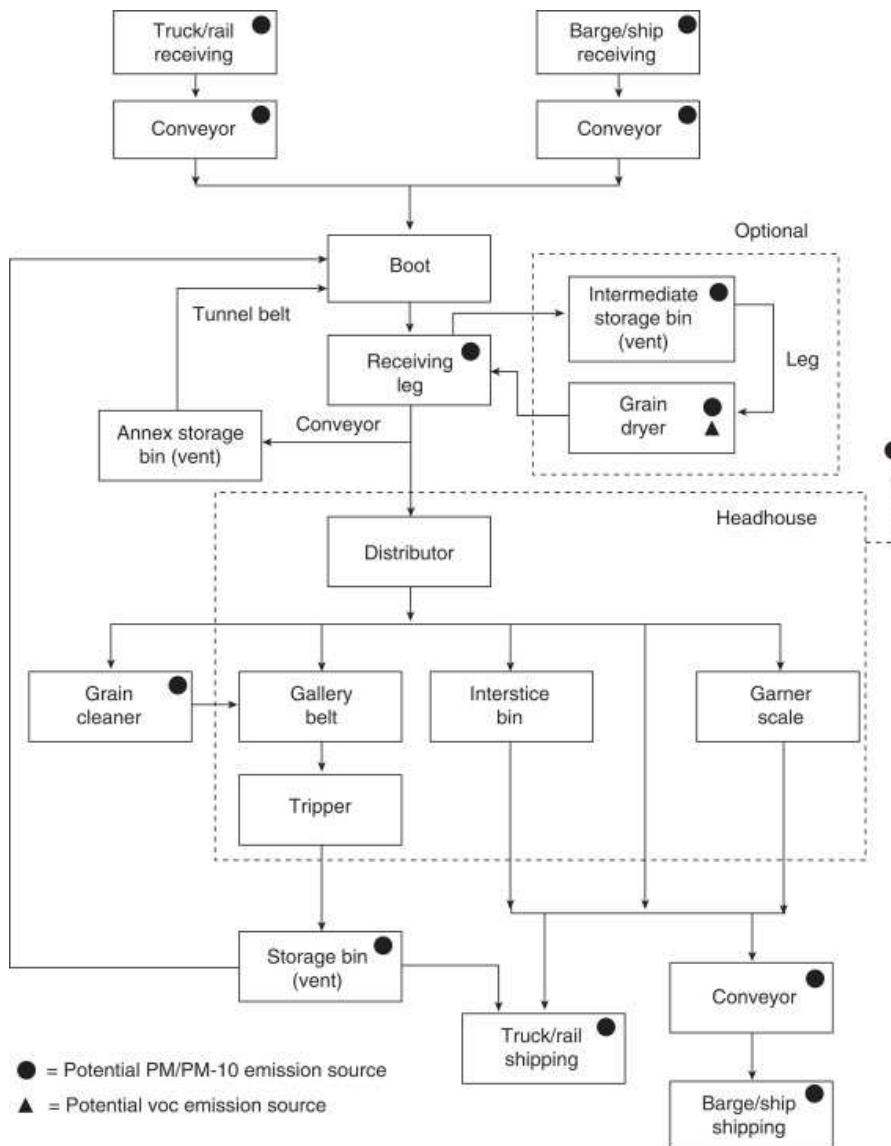


Figure 8. Diagram of the grain milling process

Table 16. Water demand and wastewater generation in grain wet milling units

Grain	Water requirement (m ³ per ton of grain)	Wastewater generation (m ³ per ton of grain)
Corn	4	3.6
Wheat	0.07	0.06
Rice	1.3	0.3

The wastewater generated from grain milling contains high loadings of COD, BOD₅, TDS, TSS, oils, and greases. The high loadings are expected due to the presence of proteins and carbohydrates

mainly produced during the washing step. Table 17 summarizes the wastewater characteristics for different grain seed milling processes.

Table 17. Wastewater characteristics for different grains milling process

Grain	Process	BOD5 (mg/L)	COD (mg/L)	TSS (mg/L)	TDS (g/L)	O&G (mg/L)	pH
Corn	Wet	26,000	106,600	–	109	–	5.2
Wheat	Wet	614	1680	818	1.8	1038	7
Wheat	Dry	80	154	94	0.3	Nil	7.5
Rice	Wet	1200	1350	1100	0.7	–	7.5

Wastewater generated during grain milling is characterized by high loadings of organics, chemicals, and solids; different treatment methods are needed to achieve efficient treatment of wastewater, as shown in Table 18. Corn contains higher concentrations of carbohydrates and protein, leading to higher concentrations in the generated wastewater during corn milling, which requires more extensive wastewater treatment. The ion exchange process can be used to enhance the glucose and fructose syrups clarity in corn refineries, resulting in higher TDS [76].

Table 18. Wastewater treatment processes in grains milling units

Grain	Technology	Wastewater	Parameter	Removal efficiency (%)
Wheat	Filtration+	Washing wastewater	BOD	45
	centrifugation+		DO	71
	filtration column +		Conductivity	13
	UV		Turbidity	82
Wheat	Ozone oxidation	Total wastewater	Phenols	80
Wheat	Coagulation micro-electrolysis	Total wastewater	Turbidity	98
Corn	+ two-phase anaerobic-aerobic	Oxidized modified starch wastewater	COD	96
	+ electrolysis		COD	99.8
	Internal circulation		NH ₃ -N	98.7
Corn	anaerobic + two- stage AO	Starch wastewater	TN	99
	biochemical +		TSS	99.3
	modified Fenton		TS	99.6
	Sedimentation +		BOD	100
Corn	microfiltration +	Starch washing wastewater	Cationic starch	80
	reverse osmosis		TP	33
Corn	Algal treatment	Cationic starch wastewater	COD	63
	Algal treatment		Color	67
Rice	Ultrafiltration	Total wastewater	TP	93.9
	Algal treatment		NH ₃ -N	100

Rice	Algal treatment	Total wastewater	BOD	98.7
			COD	91.6
			TDS	93.5
			TP	68.12
			TN	49.32

As shown in Table 18, biological treatment methods are more efficient for corn milling wastewater treatment, while physical treatment methods are more appropriate for wheat milling wastewater treatment. Algal treatment methods are proposed for wastewater generated from grains characterized by rich nutrients and no heavy metals. Algal biomass can be used in several industries like food and pharmaceutical industries and as a feedstock for biofuel production.

2.1.7. Bakery industry

The bakery industry has a remarkable place in daily diets around the globe [77]. The bakery industry is estimated at US\$ 311 billion in the United States. The feedstock used in the bakery includes sugar, flour, yeast, oil, water, salt, and preservatives [78]. Figure 9 shows the diagram of a typical bakery industry process.

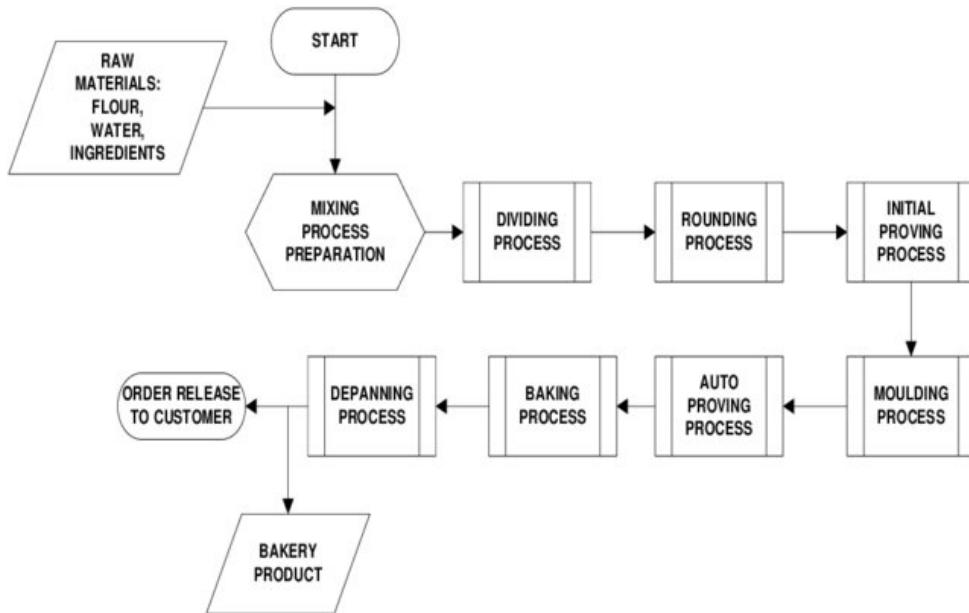


Figure 9. Diagram of the bakery industry

The bakery unit usually includes the following production steps: mixing, fermentation, baking, and storage. Equipment washing is the main wastewater-producing activity. Based on the factory capacity and the products' range, water demand varies from 38 to 1140 m³/day [78]. The ratio of water used to the bakery product in weight is around 10. Half of the water demand is used for non-process functions such as washing and cooling, usually discharged as wastewater. The bakery wastewater is biodegradable, containing a high organic load due to the high ratio of BOD₅:N:P and BOD₅/COD. Carbohydrates and lipids are the major contaminants in wastewater from bakery industries, with a weight percentage of around 70% carbohydrates and 20% lipids, indicating the presence of high loadings of BOD₅ and COD. However, the carbohydrates and lipids recovered provide an excellent opportunity to develop an economical/cost-saving treatment method [79–81]. Table 19 displays the specification of wastewater from the bakery unit.

Table 19. Wastewater characteristics of the bakery industry

Parameter, (mg·L ⁻¹)	[103]	[106]	[107]
pH	6	4.7–5.1	3.5–3.8
TSS	1180	6000	881–1124
TDS	3600		
BOD	2250	3200	1603–3389
COD	5700	7000	3984–9672
TN	60–90	36	
TP	30–100	7	
O&G	96	820	

The ratio of BOD₅/COD for bakery effluent is usually around 0.5; this ratio indicates the wastewater's biodegradability and the effectiveness of biological treatment of the effluent. The presence of high TSS and TDS indicates the need for pretreatment methods and physical treatment methods. Aerobic and anaerobic biological treatment will be needed, as noted in the TN and TP levels, as shown in Table 19. Table 20 demonstrates the outstanding accomplishments in bakery wastewater treatment [82].

Table 20. Wastewater treatment methods used in the bakery industry

Method	Stage	Parameter	Removal efficiency (%)
Electrochemical treatment	Pre-treatment	COD	6–8
		Turbidity	32–98
		TKN	57
		TP	65
Constructed wetland	Biological treatment	BOD	92
		TSS	69
		O&G	99
UASB	Biological treatment	COD	83.1
UASB	Biological treatment	COD	92

Bakery effluent treatment is not discussed in the literature in detail, which raises the need for more work to implement the circular economy concept for treating the bakery units' wastewater. This wastewater could be a source of valuable materials like fats, oils, and carbohydrates.

2.2. Other Food Processing Industries

In addition to the seven main foods industry categories discussed previously, other food industries like tea, sugar, cocoa, seasoning coffee, and prepared meals are usually categorized under the other food processing industries. Sugar, tea, and coffee will be reviewed due to their potential importance in the world food chain supply. Each industry is unique regarding water demand and wastewater generated through the process.

2.2.1. Sugar production

174 million tons of sugar is produced annually. Around 80% of global sugar is produced from cane, and the remaining originates from beet [83,84]. The nature of the sugar extraction process may vary depending on the feedstock, affecting water demand and wastewater generation. Figure 10 shows the sugar production process from cane and beet, including water consumption and wastewater generation.

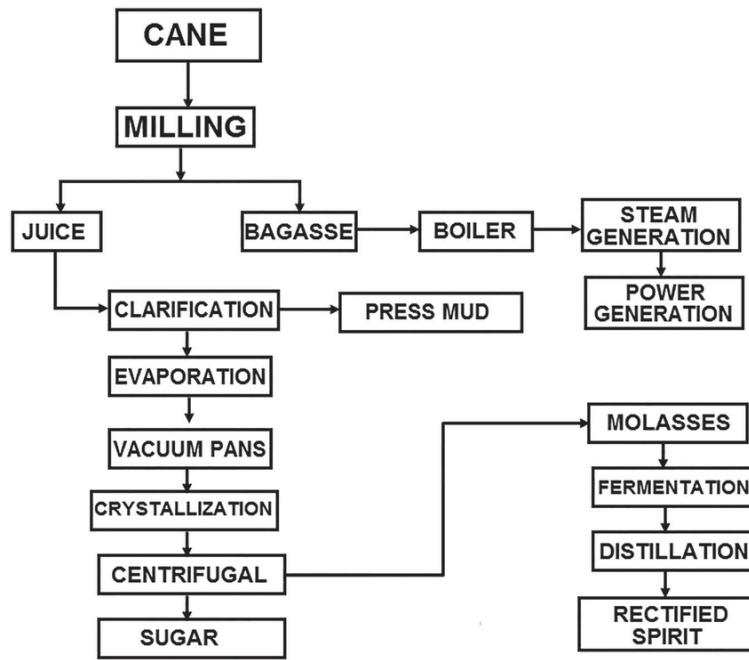


Figure 10. Sugar production from (a) beet and (b) sugarcane

During sugar extraction from beet, water is used for beet washing and transportation, generating an effluent that contains high levels of BOD5 and TSS (from beetroots covered with mud and soil). Recently, dry cleaning and mechanical conveyors have been developed to minimize energy and water demand. During sugar extraction from sugarcane, water consumption mostly occurs during the wet milling of sugarcane when the imbibition water is added [85]. The water consumption in sugar production may range between 1.3-4.36 and 3-10 m³ per ton for sugarcane and beet extraction, respectively. The water demand varies based on the initial conditions of the feedstock, including the humidity and dust. Around 20% of the water demand is discharged as wastewater when sugar is extracted from sugarcane, while 80% is discharged when sugar is produced from beet. High COD, BOD5, COD, TSS, and unpleasant odor characterize the wastewater generated during sugar extraction from beet. Table 21 shows the wastewater characteristics generated in sugar processing factories.

Biological treatment methods or a combination of physiochemical and biological treatment methods should be employed for treating the wastewater generated during the sugar industry since this wastewater is characterized by high levels of BOD5, COD, and TSS.

Table 21. Wastewater Characteristics in the sugar production industry

Parameter	Beet	Cane
COD _t (mg/L)	6621 ± 113.2	965–11,640
COD _s (mg/L)	6165 ± 517.1	799–10,640
BOD (mg/L)	3837	1939–2347
TKN (mg/L)	10	20–43
TP (mg/L)	2.7	3–31
TSS (mg/L)	665 ± 21.2	288–5030
VSS (mg/L)	335 ± 7.1	110–1990
pH	6.82	4.4–4.6

2.2.2. Tea industry

Tea is produced from the leaves of the tea plant [86]. Tea leaves are the primary feedstock for producing tea products, including post-fermented and black tea. Figure 11 indicates the tea

production process schematically. Around 1.4 m³ of water is consumed for each ton of tea produced, usually during oxidation and machine cleaning. The consumed water is discharged chiefly as wastewater. The wastewater is usually characterized by intense color and turbidity, including organic/inorganic chemicals starting from unprocessed and processed tea, detergents, grease/oil, and metallic particles, as demonstrated in Table 22.

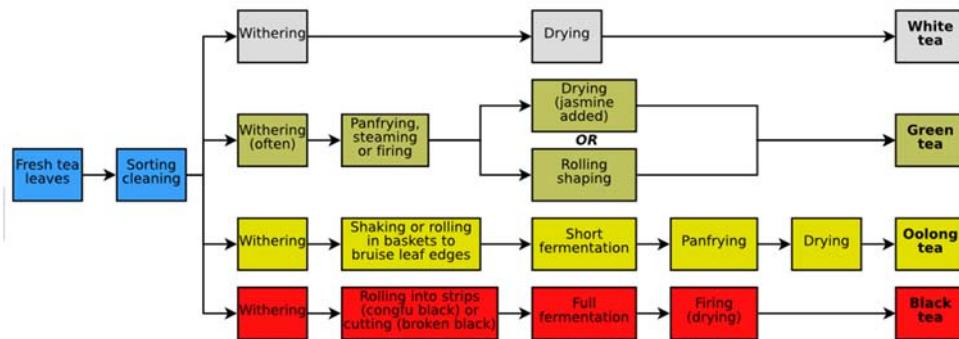


Figure 11. Diagram of tea production

Table 22. Wastewater characteristics in tea industries

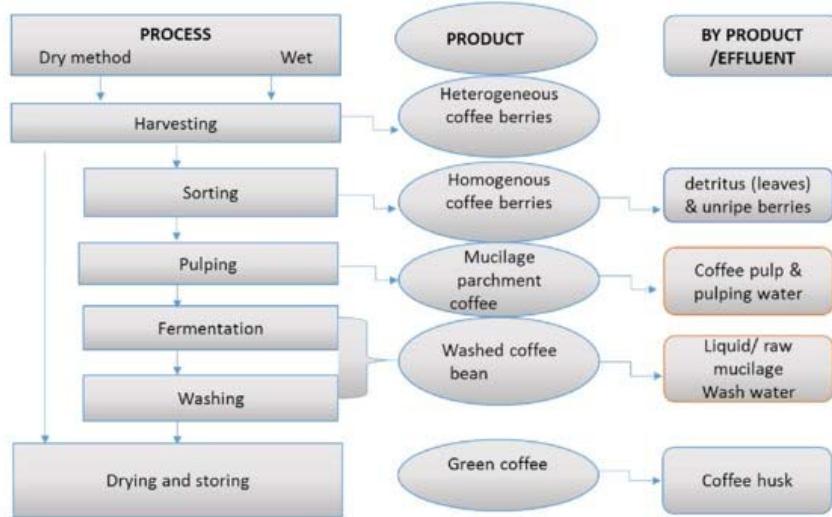
Parameter	R(1)	R(2)
Turbidity (NTU)	11,549	9210
COD (mg/L)	9850	628
BOD5 (mg/L)	na	193.4
TSS (mg/L)	8945	na
TOC (mg/L)	5057	na
pH	na	6.69
Conductivity ($\mu\text{S}\cdot\text{cm}^{-1}$)	na	317

Physiochemical treatment methods are recommended for treating the tea industry, considering the low COD and BOD5 and associated lower operational costs. For removing dyes and other components, such as phenolic compounds, AOPs showed the best removal efficiency [86].

2.2.3. Coffee industry

Around 10 million tons of coffee is consumed annually worldwide and increasing annually by 1.5% [87]. Two different methods of coffee processing are used: (1) the dry process and (2) the wet process, which varies considerably in terms of water and energy demands. Figure 12 shows the coffee processing phases.

Coffee bean processing involves the husk of coffee cherries removal and the beans drying. In dry coffee production, the husk of cherries is removed mechanically, and the drying is achieved using solar energy over two weeks. During wet coffee production, water is used in large amounts for sorting, skin removal, and washing coffee cherries [88]. Then, pulp removal can be achieved using machine-assisted aqua-pulping or the classic ferment-and-wash method. In the ferment-and-wash method, a large amount of water is used for beans fermentation and washing. Finally, coffee beans are washed in tanks or washing machines. During the wet process, around 12.5 m³ of water is used per ton of green coffee. The amount of wastewater generated is estimated at 3 m³ of highly polluted wastewater per ton of green coffee used. Table 23 shows the wastewater characteristics of coffee processing [89].

**Figure 12.** Diagram of coffee processing**Table 23.** Characteristics of wastewater from coffee processing

Type	pH	BOD5 (g/L)	COD (g/L)	TS (g/L)	TP (mg/L)	TN (g/L)
Arabica	3.9–4.1	3.6–15.2	6.2–31.5	5.4–13.4	5–8.8	0.1–0.12
Robusta	4.1–4.6	10.8–13.2	15–18.1	6.3–12	4–7.3	0.02–0.04

A perceptible amount of BOD5 and COD in coffee processing necessitates a different wastewater treatment method from the treatment method used in tea factories. Table 24 shows the most recent research on sugar, tea, and coffee processing/production wastewater treatment.

Table 24. Wastewater treatment methods used for Sugar, tea, and coffee industries [49]

Wastewater	Method	Parameter	Removal efficiency (%)
Sugar	UASB	COD	78–82
Sugar	Electrochemical	COD	84
Sugar	Anaerobic granular sludge	Turbidity	86
Sugar	Electrochemical peroxidation	COD	92–95
Sugar	Electrochemical peroxidation	COD	65
Sugar	Electrochemical peroxidation	COD	64
Sugar	Electrochemical peroxidation	TOC	66
Sugar	Electrochemical peroxidation	TOC	63
Sugar	Chemical oxidation+ electro-oxidation	COD	81
Sugar	Chemical oxidation+ electro-oxidation	Turbidity	83.5
Sugar	Electrochemical reactor	COD	90
Sugar	Electrochemical reactor	Turbidity	93.5
Sugar	Electrochemical reactor	COD	37.91
Sugar	Algal treatment	BOD	25.69
Sugar	Algal treatment	TDS	48.51
Sugar	Algal treatment	Turbidity	39.2
Sugar	Algal treatment	Turbidity	> 99.9
Tea	Membrane treatment	COD	> 99.9
Tea	Membrane treatment	TOC	> 99.9
Tea	Photo-Fenton	COD	88–99.3
Tea	UV photo-Fenton	TOC	96
Tea	UV photo-Fenton	COD	100

Tea	Adsorption + AOP	Polyphenol	97
Coffee	UV photo-Fenton	Color	98
Coffee	Photo-Fenton + UASB	TOC	93
Coffee	Chemical flocculation + AOP	BOD	95
Coffee		COD	87
Coffee	Adsorption	COD	99
Coffee		BOD	99
Coffee	Membrane treatment	COD	97
Coffee	Chemical coagulation + electro-oxidation	Conductivity	99
		TOC	95
		COD	97
		TOC	76.2
Coffee	Fenton's + coagulation	COD	76.5
		BOD	66.3

2.3. Different Wastewater Treatment Solutions

2.3.1. Treatment unit inlet composition

The primary contaminants in food processing wastewater are the organic molecules which can be considered as a nontoxic effluent [90]. However, low concentrations of cleaning products and other toxic compounds could be found unsuitable for regular treatment methods. For example, soybean processing generates around 10l of wastewater and 0.25 kg of solid waste, known as tofu curd residue. Tofu-containing wastewater contains complex polysaccharides rich in nitrogen and contains low carbon, requiring a pretreatment step before conventional biological and physical treatment methods. Whey produced during cheese production is rich in lactose which cannot be fermented using traditional fermentation methods [91].

During potato processing, wastewater contains remarkable levels of starch, which can be used for alcohol production [92]. Tomato, grapes, and apple processing waste generate a pomace that can be used as animal feed [93]. However, many of these wastes have some degree of utilization. Recently, several technologies have been developed to reduce pomace [94]. One of the most promising technologies is converting pomace into alcohol. However, choosing the optimum treatment method depends on the waste's organic composition, which is vital for producing valuable products. Higher oxygen demand and carbohydrate content substrate will require an extensive treatment process, and the substrate can be used for generating alcohol. The optimum sugar concentration of substrates used for alcohol production should be 15–20%. Higher sugar concentration substrates can be diluted or pretreated using acid hydrolysis, heat treatment, or enzymatic hydrolysis [95].

A balanced carbon-to-nitrogen ratio (C/N) should be maintained before the substrate is fed to fermentation to avoid antagonistic effects. The balance can be kept by mixing several wastewater streams, like the co-fermentation of corn with soy skim milk [96,97]. In many cases, the food processing wastewater does not have enough nitrogen content, which may require the addition of other supplements to ensure a balanced substrate for microorganisms during the fermentation process. Adding lipids improves the production of ethanol by around 14% [98]. However, adding lipids to the substrate should be considered based on the nature of the wastewater; for example, a low concentration of lipids in molasses stimulated ethanol production. In general, studying the composition of the wastewater will help in the careful design of an optimum process.

The following Tables show the primary physical and chemical properties and composition of organic molecules usually found in wastewater generated during food processing. Wastewater rich in carbohydrates is an ideal substrate for alcohol production—usually, carbohydrates in food processing wastewater range from 0.45%w/v to 4.3%w/v. So, sugar or nitrogen sources should be added to provide enough nutrients for the microorganisms. The solid-containing wastewater contains higher carbohydrate content of 29.2%w/w to 54.6% w/w; this wastewater represents an excellent raw material for alcohol production. Liquid effluents with low hydrocarbon content act as

dilution agents or replacements for process water. However, nitrogen supplements could be needed to meet the growth requirements of the microorganism [99].

Solid-rich waste and liquid wastewater can form an ideal medium for producing alcohol. An economic analysis should be conducted before developing such an industrial-scale process.

Table

Characteristics of food processing liquid effluents (Med: Median, SD: Standard deviation, N: number of reported values). Median and standard deviation provided only for N ≥ 3.

Parameters	Tofu processing effluent				Sweet whey				Acid whey				Potato processing effluent				Sweet beverage (soda) industry effluent			
	Med	Mean	SD	N	Med	Mean	SD	N	Med	Mean	SD	N	Med	Mean	SD	N	Med	Mean	SD	N
Carbohydrates [g/L]	6.6	8.3	7.1	4	33.5	33.1	13.1	10	43.7	41.5	6.0	8	16.8	16.8	0.3	2	4.5	8.0	8.8	3
Proteins, g/l	1.2	1.2	0.8	6	4.5	4.9	2	11	7.9	7.6	1.7	8	2.4	3.3	2.5	4	0.2	0.2	1	
Lipids, g/l	3.8		1		3.9	3.9	2.6	10	5.5	5.6	2.5	7		0.2		1		0		
pH	5	5.2	0.4	5	4.2	4.4	0.9	9	4.7		1	5.8	5.5	0.7	5	9.8	9.8	0.8	6	
Ash, %w/w	1.7	1.7	0.4	3	0.7	1.0	0.6	7	0.5	0.5	0.1	7	0.2	0.2	0	2	0.1	0.1	0.1	5
Total solids, % w/w	1.7		2		6.7	6.3	0.9	6	6.4	6.6	0.5	6	0.8	1.0	1.0	4	0.1	0.1	2	
COD, g/l	19.9	22.6	13.3	7	69.3	67.1	4.8	4		79.5		1	5.9	6.0	3.8	4	7.4	1.3	1.3	8

Table

Characteristics of food processing wastes rich in solids (Med: Median, SD: Standard deviation, N: number of reported values). Median and standard deviation provided only for N ≥ 3.

Parameters	Tomato pomace				Apple pomace				Grape pomace				Spent coffee grounds				Bread waste			
	Med	Mean	SD	N	Med	Mean	SD	N	Med	Mean	SD	N	Med	Mean	SD	N	Med	Mean	SD	N
Carbohydrates, %w/w	33.9	36.1	10.3	9	42.8	44	6	10	29.2	28.1	5.0	5	49.5	51.2	6.5	6	54.6	58.9	14.4	6
Proteins, %w/w	21	16.4	9.1	13	4.3	4.3	1.3	11	10.5	9.9	2.5	7	16.4	17	4.6	8	11.8	11	2.1	8
Lipids, %w/w	13.4	11.3	5.3	7	2.7	2.9	1.2	9	6.7	6.9	1.8	7	24	22.2	5.7	8	1.8	1.8	0.4	4
pH	2.9		1			3.9		1		4.4	0.8	2		5.3	0.6	2				
Ash, %w/w	4.1	5.0	2.1	6	1.5	1.5	1.0	9	4.8	4.8	2.0	6	1.5	1.5	0.2	5	1.80	1.7	0.5	7
Total solids, % w/w	14.5	17.8	7.1	3	27.7	28.3	2.2	4		35.0	1	29.2	28.3	7.7	4	89	80.7	13.4	7	
COD, g/kg	87.0	86.7	9.5	3	14.3	14.4	6.1	3		14.4		1	160		1					

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Organic contents

The organic content of food processing waste is affected by the presence of several metal ions, which play a primary part in the metabolism of microorganisms. Metal ions participate in biocatalytic reactions within growth enzymes keeping the cell osmotic pressure. The deficiency or overload of mineral ions may result in cell death and limit alcohol production. Consequently, the concentration of minerals in the waste directly affects alcohol production. Whey substrate requires the addition of ferrous sulfate or ferric chloride, which could increase the butanol yield from 0.06 to 7.13 g/L and 4.32 g/L, respectively [100].

Inorganic content (minerals)

Adding minerals to the substrate is essential to maintain a high yield and increase the selectivity of the desired product, like the butanol-to-acetone ratio in whey fermentation. Minerals are essential for yeast strain stability and for improving ethanol production. A higher yield of the desired product is essential for reducing the energy demand of the process. The optimum concentration of mineral ions can be determined using the statistical design of the experiment (DOE) method. To optimize the concentration, several studies were found in literature exploring the production of ethanol from molasses, seaweed, and bagasse [100].

Table

Mineral content of liquid effluents (Med: Median, SD: Standard deviation, N: number of reported values). Median and standard deviation provided only for N ≥ 3.

Mineral content, mg/l	Tofu processing wastewater				Sweet whey				Acid whey				Potato processing wastewater				Sweet beverage (soda) industry wastewater			
	Med	Mean	SD	N	Med	Mean	SD	N	Med	Mean	SD	N	Med	Mean	SD	N	Med	Mean	SD	N
Calcium	34.6		1		341	340	84	4	1100	1110	85	4		100		1		3.7		1
Magnesium	16.3	2	2	49	55	22	3		230		1			91.2		1		3.1		1
Sodium	127		1		386	366	82	4		1785	2	2		40		1		21.6		1
Potassium	861		1		1300	1250	240	3	1400	1367	153	3		35		1		4.3		1
Iron	9	1	2			2		1			0		0.2		1		0		1	
Manganese	0		1			0		0.1		1		0.2		1		0		0		1
Phosphorous	15	1	2		440	700	521	3	540	540	198	3	169	268	295	3		1.3		1
Sulfur	2240	1	1			0		0		0	58	67	30	3		300		1		
Zinc	0.5	0	2		0.3		2		2.2		1		0.5		1		0		1	

Table

Mineral composition of wastes rich in solids (Med: Median, SD: Standard deviation, N: number of reported values). Median and standard deviation provided only for $N \geq 3$.

Mineral content, mg/kg	Tomato pomace				Apple pomace				Grape pomace				Spent coffee grounds				Bread waste			
	Med	Mean	SD	N	Med	Mean	SD	N	Med	Mean	SD	N	Med	Mean	SD	N	Med	Mean	SD	N
Calcium	5700	5297	1922	7	675	808	366	6	4400	4570	1164	3	777	1020	625	5	1358	1252	553	6
Magnesium	2310	2	388	390	174	6	1500	1643	682	4	1900	1515	820	5	700	731	519	4		
Sodium	1820	2	100	855	1045	5	440	420	92	3	267	317	282	4	3150	3438	644	4		
Potassium	8740	2	2300	3098	2649	5	1880	2027	711	3	8100	7635	3062	5	1600	2270	1521	5		
Iron	384	2	30	30	6	3	50	41.3	31	3	85	136	131	4	93	230	239	5		
Manganese	366	2	6	7	2	4	106	106	34	3	33	34	6.7	4		1.7			1	
Phosphorous	4750	5466	1921	8	850	973	435	5	3400	3077	1120	3	1534	1442	394	5	1890	1945	420	4
Sulfur			0		1100		1		890		1	1600	2000	872	5					
Zinc	54	1	13	11	6	4	9800		1	12	12	3					20.5	8	2	

Metal absorption is the limiting step in alcohol tolerance levels [100]. The tables above show the mineral composition of various FPWs. Mineral concentrations is higher in waste streams rich in solids; such waste can be used as a complete production medium for alcohol, with a limited need for adding mineral ions. Magnesium and zinc play a significant role in the glycolytic pathway and cell stability and regulate yeast stress during ethanol fermentation. Usually, solid waste does not have enough amount of zinc to maintain microorganisms' growth except grape pomace. All food wastes listed except grape pomace, so zinc supplement must be added to streams that may contain some solid waste.

2.3.2. Technologies for food industry wastewater treatment and reuse

Water is a crucial component in various industrial processes worldwide. However, it is important to implement appropriate treatment techniques to prevent the release of contaminants into the environment [100–102]. Shockingly, nearly 80% of global wastewater remains insufficiently treated. Industrial pollutants such as suspended solids, grease, oil, and particles contribute to elevated COD, pH, BOD₅, and turbidity, ultimately leading to surface and groundwater pollution. Such hazardous pollution poses a severe threat to human health. Therefore, it is imperative to develop effective treatment methods to avoid the discharge of industrial pollutants into the environment.

Figure 13 gives a brief outline of the different technologies currently being used to process food industry wastewater. As described by the Council Directive 2020/741/EC, a single technology or a group of numerous technologies can be utilized in conjunction with one another to meet the discharge criteria established for various physical, chemical, and biological parameters. The technology to be used typically depends upon the extent of contaminants present in the wastewater [101].

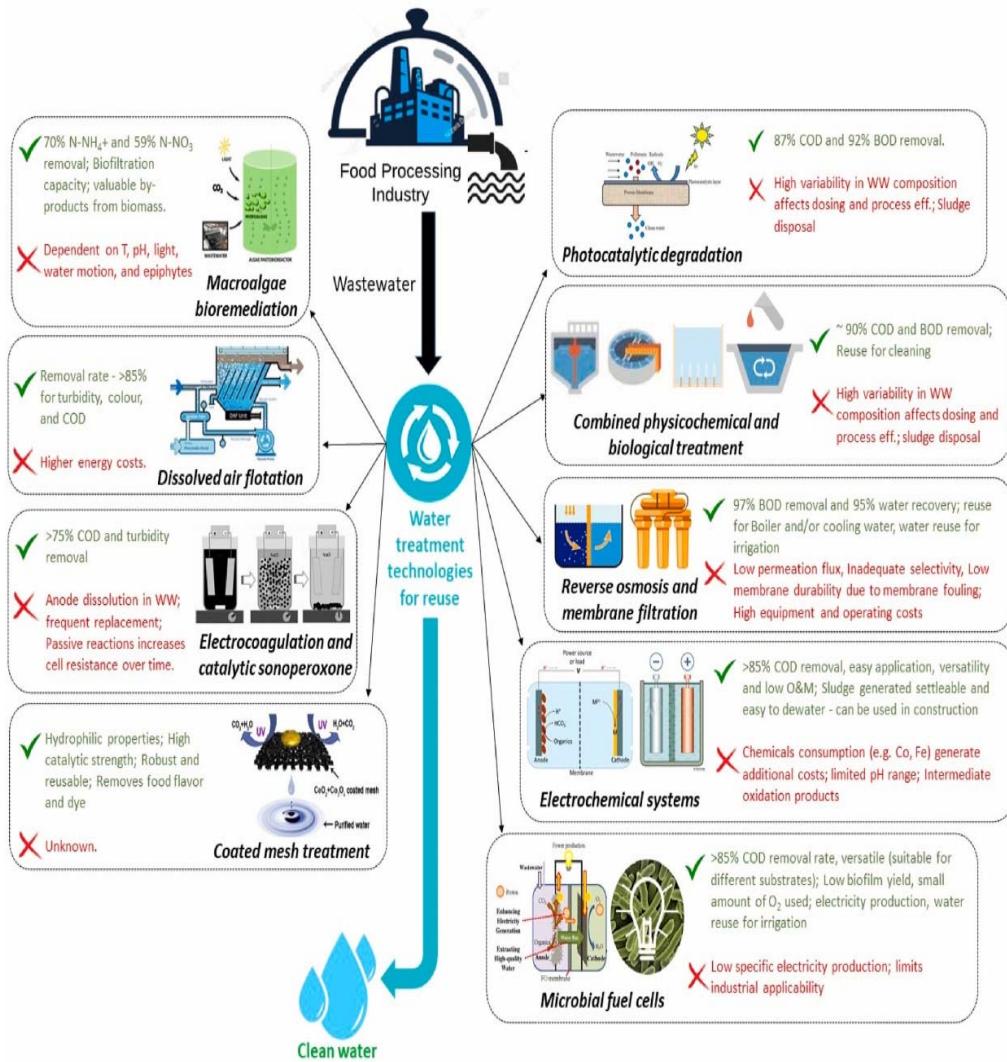


Figure 13. Gives a brief outline of the different technologies.

Technologies for food industry wastewater treatment and reuse include physical, chemical, and biological treatment methods, as shown in Figure 13. Physical treatment involves the removal of large particles through sedimentation or filtration. The chemical treatment uses chemicals such as coagulants and flocculants to remove dissolved contaminants. Biological treatment utilizes microorganisms to break down organic pollutants. Advanced treatment technologies such as membrane filtration and ozone treatment can further treat wastewater to meet stringent reuse standards. The treated water can be reused for non-potable purposes such as irrigation or industrial processes, thus reducing the strain on freshwater resources and promoting sustainable water management practices in the food industry [100–102].

2.4. Challenges and factors for selecting the optimum treatment method

When selecting the optimum treatment method for wastewater, several challenges and factors must be considered: the characteristics of the wastewater, the type and amount of contaminants present, the size and scale of the treatment facility, and the available resources. Factors such as cost, energy requirements, and maintenance needs must also be considered, as they can affect the long-term viability and sustainability of the chosen treatment method. Furthermore, regulatory requirements and environmental concerns are critical factors that must be considered when selecting a wastewater treatment method. Wastewater management is a crucial part of food industries to enhance productivity and reduce environmental effects. Process integration methods are practical tools to decrease water demand and wastewater generation by considering the physicochemical

characteristics of the system under study, including water demand and minimum acceptable threshold for particular contaminants [101].

Water pinch analysis and mathematical optimization are standard process integration methods to reduce water demand and wastewater generation [95]. To achieve sustainability in food industries, the process should be modified to ensure higher productivity, lower resource consumption, and minimal environmental destruction [101,102]. Recently, process integration methods have attracted significant attention in food industries. Mixed integer nonlinear programming to manage water/wastewater in milk-processing units reduced water demand and wastewater generation by around 33 and 85%, respectively, by examining each unit's needs and integrating the overall process [103]. The literature highlights the necessity to gather complete qualitative and quantitative information on water/wastewater flow rates, quality, and placement in the production unit. By employing water pinch analysis and mathematical optimization, 30% of water demand and wastewater generation were reduced in a corn refinery by developing a wastewater management system which could be an ideal start for other food processing units [102]. Using a similar analogy, BOD5 was used as the critical contaminant for developing a wastewater management system, reducing water demand and wastewater generation by around 43 and 66%, respectively [103,104].

Figure 14 Advantages and disadvantages of the different nutrient recovery processes

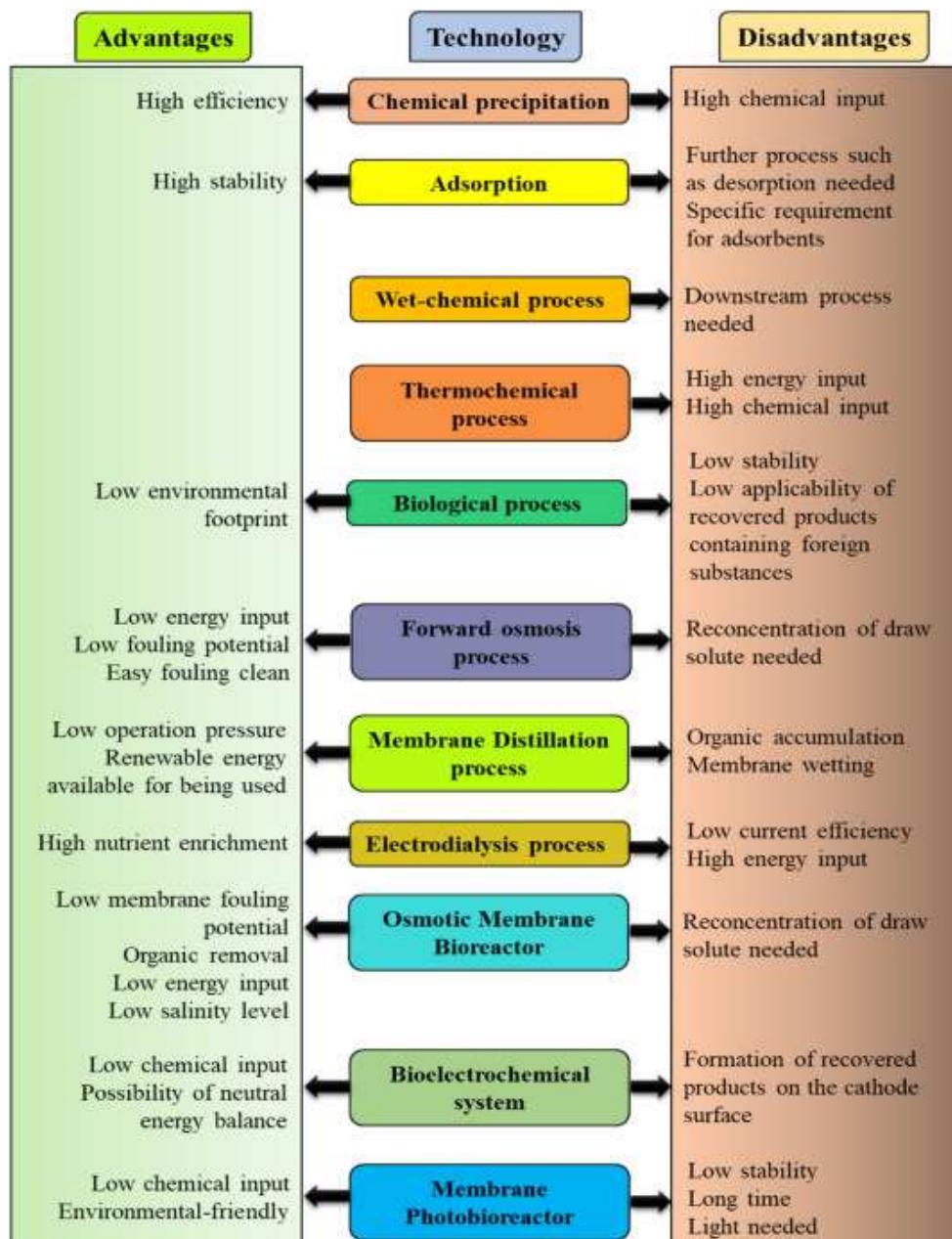


Figure 14. Advantages and disadvantages of different nutrient recovery processes.

2.4.1. Environmental hazards of industrial wastewater

Industrial wastewater discharge into water bodies may result in severe water pollution and negatively impact humans and the ecosystem. Several contaminants are usually present in food processing wastewater, including organic matter, hydrocarbons, suspended solids, inorganic dissolved salts, heavy metals, surfactants, and detergents. Contaminated water is unsuitable for drinking and irrigation and adversely affects humans, animals, plants, and aquatic life.

2.4.2. Water quality

Water quality is the main parameter for developing wastewater management systems. Wastewater treatment scenarios, efficiency, and techniques are designed to address the characteristics of wastewater and water consumed by each unit. The water quality and characteristics are essential to use water pinch or optimization techniques. In wastewater management systems, treated wastewater streams are referred to as "sources" of water, while units in which water is consumed are known as "sinks". The minimum acceptable threshold of the water used in any sink process is essential to design a treatment method.

The operating conditions like pressure, temperature, device materials, and porosity determine the minimum acceptable threshold of water required for each sink process [106,107]. Understanding the production process limitations is vital to determine acceptable water quality. As the wastewater characterizations like contaminants (like TSS, BOD5, COD) grow, applying water management strategies becomes more demanding and costly. Treatment methods that address specific contaminants are more favorable to use than other non-specific wastewater treatment methods, considering their design and practice. However, applying such processes in food processing wastewater treatment is problematic since treatment methods/processes are usually sensitive to different contaminants, and multiple-contaminant approaches are then suggested [91,105].

2.5. Development and Integrated Management

Treatment of food processing wastewater will help recycle and reuse water, recover resources, and protect the environment. Industrial wastewater, in general, is divided into gray, white, and black water according to the wastewater characteristics and reuse potential. Greywater treatment is simple and requires solids removal before reusing [106]. White water can be reused for industrial applications without any treatment since the quality of the white water is quite similar to fresh drinking water.

Graywater contains raw materials and products, increasing the potential for recovering resources and reusing water. Physical treatment methods are usually preferred for gray water treatment, as the organic wastewater loadings increase, including COD, BOD5, and other nutrients. Further complicated treatment processes are needed, and such wastewater is no longer considered greywater. Membrane-based techniques have shown efficient treatment of greywater produced from food processing units compared to standard physical methods considering water, energy, and land requirement [107].

2.5.1. Industrial wastewater treatment levels

Industrial wastewater treatment is classified according to the following levels in Figure 15. The raw wastewater is treated first using preliminary and primary treatment methods to remove coarse materials and suspended particles. Then the refined wastewater is treated using secondary/biological treatment methods.

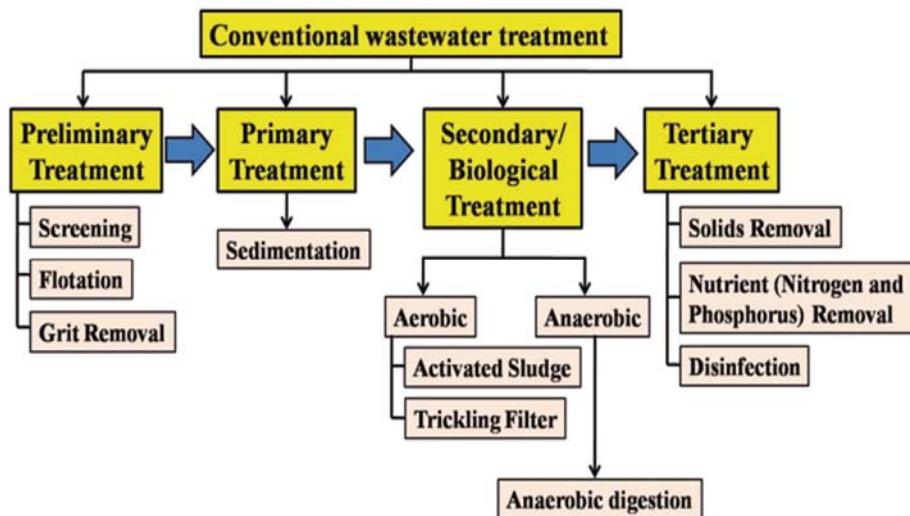


Figure 15. Treatment of industrial wastewater

2.5.2. Wastewater Treatment Operations

The wastewater treatment methods are composed of unit operations Figure 16.

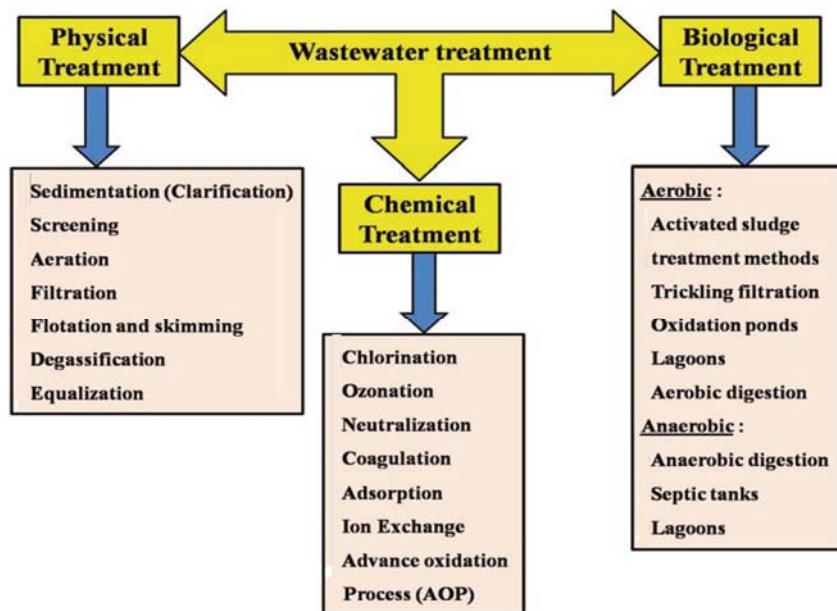


Figure 16. Wastewater treatment operations

2.5.3. Membrane separation techniques

Membrane separation techniques can separate valuable chemicals and raw materials with high efficiency and minimum energy requirement [108–112]. Due to the expected membrane fouling and the high concentration of suspended solids in food processing effluent, membrane fabrication and regeneration were modified significantly to reduce the fouling effect. New research trends are directed towards manufacturing specific contaminants membranes, which can be used to remove specific contaminants at high efficiency. For example, several selective nanocomposite membranes were developed to remove heavy metals, ions, and pathogens.

Reducing contaminants concentration is essential to minimize the harmful effect on the environment. Several harmful compounds are released into the environment if food waste is not

adequately treated, including organic solvents, phenolic compounds, sweeteners, artificial dyes, and food preservatives. The maximum permissible amount (MPA) of COD and BOD5 discharge is 120 and 40 mg·L⁻¹, respectively. Usually, COD and BOD5 levels in the food processing waste could reach around 20 times the allowable MPA. Biological treatment methods must be used to reduce the high levels of COD and BOD5 discharged from the food industry.

TDS and TSS negatively impact unit operations, leading to membrane fouling, erosion, and environmental impacts. TDS and TSS are used and non-soluble suspended matter present to index the soluble and non-soluble suspended matter in the wastewater, respectively. TSS affects the membrane processes commonly used in the food industry and increases the membrane fouling rate [112]. COD and insoluble chemicals like pesticides from the TSS in food processing industries. Several treatment strategies and conventional treatment methods are necessary to reduce TDS and TSS. Several water management strategies rely on minimizing physical and organic contaminants from the source, like separation-from-origin and preventing wastewater mixing.

Membrane treatment technology is one of the promising technologies for treating wastewater from food industries. However, membrane operation suffers from unavoidable fouling problems and high operating and initial costs. To use membrane technology effectively for wastewater treatment, those mentioned above two significant challenges must be addressed. Fouling is the primary reason for the considerable delay in implementing membrane separation processes since it will lead to a high operating and maintenance cost, lower efficiency, and an elevated membrane restoration frequency. Fouling occurs due to continued solids deposition on the membrane surface or the subsequent blocking of the membrane pores.

Nitrogen and phosphorus-containing nutrients are the third challenging group of contaminants in food processing wastewater treatment. N and P compounds originate from protein compounds and agricultural fertilizers like N-NH₃, N-NO₃, and PO₄ [101]. Controlling nitrogen and phosphorous content in the wastewater is important to maintain the biological treatment methods in good operating conditions. Higher levels of nitrogen may increase the chances of algal bloom. Harmful algal blooms (HABs) are the sudden and unrestrained wild species growth of algae. This type of algae is harmful to the ecosystem, releases toxic substances into the water, decreases dissolved oxygen, and increases fish and aquatic animal mortality [103]. Some forms of nitrate and nitrite may lead to a negative impact on human health. MPA in the discharged wastewater of TN and TP is 40 mg/L. Several algal methods have been developed recently for treating meat, dairy, and edible oil processing units' effluents. The cultivated algae are used later for producing biofuels. The algae processes are still under development, and further research is needed. Figure 17 illustrates the ladder of growing value propositions for water reuse as the water quality/the value chain investment increase.

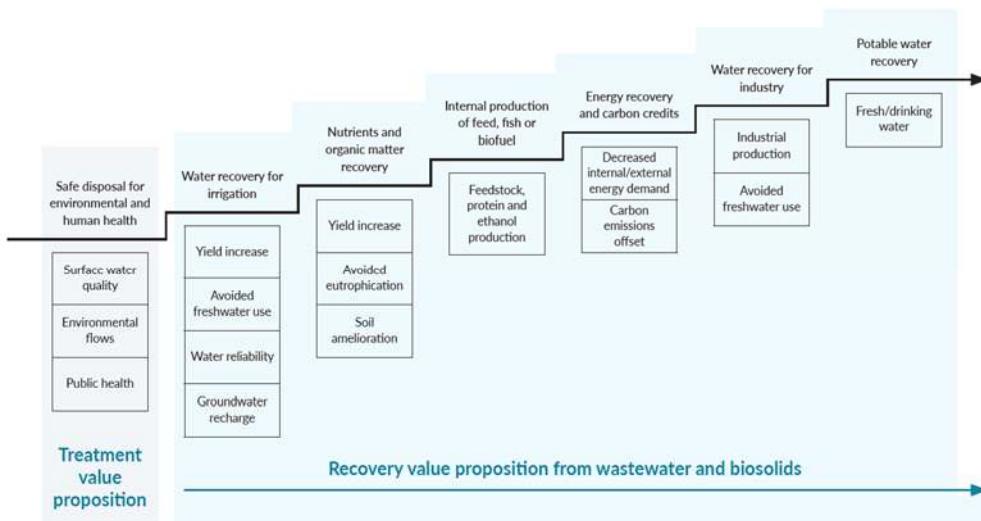


Figure 17. Ladder of increasing value propositions for reuse with increasing investments in water quality or the value chain

3. New Integrated Methods and Technologies

3.1. *Microbial fuel cells*

Microbial fuel cells (MFC) can be used to recover valuable chemicals and energy by treating food industry wastewater. A direct product of MFC is clean electricity. MFC was used successfully for continuously treating dairy industry wastewater for more than 75 days [113]. 95% removal efficiency of BOD5 was achieved, resulting in a power density of 27 W.m³ [114,115]. MFC was used for treating the effluent of the vegetable oil industry using 20 samples for 72 hrs. The results indicated that MFC could play an influential role in treating effluent. MFC is improved with time and temperature at a COD removal efficiency of 80%. MFC utilizes microorganisms to generate electricity which affects the MFC performance; a plant-based rhizosphere microbial community can be employed to avoid such issues.

3.2. *Recovery of proteins and lipids*

Dairy industry wastewater contains high COD and BOD5 loadings due to lipids, proteins, and hydrocarbons. Na-lignosulphonate can recover valuable chemicals from wastewater and remove the BOD5. 96 and 46% of the lipids and proteins were recovered at a BOD5 removal efficiency of 73% at 22°C [116,117]. Algal photo-reactors represent an efficient method for recovering lipids and proteins and can be used for water-containing toxins, which can be treated using microalgae. Solvent extraction of lipids did not show interesting results in scaling the process to an industrial scale [118]. Lipids can also be produced by treating fish processing wastewater using microalga cultivation of *Chlorella Vulgaris*. *This process can be developed further for producing lipids from fish processing wastewater inside a bio-refinery process [119]. High turbidity could affect microalgae growth, so the TSS should be reduced before the biological treatment [120].*

3.3. *Recovery of ammonium and phosphate*

Composting of food processing waste to generate struvite to recover ammonium and phosphate. The process can be combined with food processing waste and sewage sludge ash. The precipitate mostly comprised struvite (~72%) and demonstrated high P-bioavailability (>98%) with traces of heavy metals [121]. *Schizochytrium* sp. is used for treating tofu whey wastewater to produce docosahexaenoic acid. COD, TP, and TN removal was 64.7, 66, and 59.3%, respectively [122]. Several processes were developed to recover ammonium and phosphate separately by using electrodialysis. A monovalent anion-selective membrane can prevent phosphorus stream contamination by ammonium or other monovalent anions [123–126].

3.4. *Production of biopolymers*

Biopolymers are used in several applications. Biopolymers can be produced from food industry wastewater through extraction or fermentation without requiring pretreatment. Food industry waste, containing high organic content, is a potential feedstock for biopolymer production. *Cupriavidus necator* is used to convert brewery waste stream to produce poly-3-hydroxybutyrate biopolymer. The maximum biopolymer yield and volumetric productivity achieved were 0.28 g g⁻¹ and 0.022 g L⁻¹ h⁻¹, respectively [127]. The process is still not economically viable due to the need for sterilization requirements and pure microbial cultures. The high production cost of biopolymer production procedures compared to traditional plastic production methods hindered the commercialization of the process.

3.5. *Production of xanthan*

Biosynthesis of xanthan species while treating challenging winery wastewater is a viable option for recovering valuable resources from wastewater from food processing units. Maximum xanthan production was 23.85 g L⁻¹. The efficiency of sugar, nitrogen, and phosphorus conversion was 90.8, 71.7, and 83.1%, respectively. This process can be employed for winery wastewater treatment and recovering valuable resources as feedstock for the xanthan production industry [128,129].

3.6. Biogas production by anaerobic digestion

Anaerobic digestion (AD) of municipal solid waste was studied in detail for producing combined heat and power (CHP) [130,131]. AD of food industry wastewater and sewage sludge was conducted using two parallel anaerobic digestion reactors at a scale of 8500 m³ for each reactor [132,133]. 8300 m³ d⁻¹ of biogas were produced from each reactor; the unit was operated for 12 months. Around 0.048 m³ d⁻¹ of biogas is produced from dairy processing wastewater treatment using a reactor volume of 0.28 m³ using microwave and ultrasonic generators. Future work should target the process economics and pretreatment methods needed to improve the quality of feedstock [134,135]

3.7. Heat recovery

Heat recovery from wastewater streams is not studied in detail. There is a potential to recover a considerable amount of heat from wastewater streams. In general, heat exchangers are employed in the food industry to eliminate microbial activity and increase the shelf life of the products. In addition, heat exchangers can condition products/streams before filling or drying [136,137]. Recovering the heat by heating up cold streams will minimize process energy demand. The optimum heat recovery process can be developed based on the operating temperature and wastewater volume. Several heat transfer systems were developed and used in the food industry. Water was preheated to 60°C in a whey facility by utilizing heat in a stream at 230°C, achieving 35–55% in energy efficiency. Heat recovery in the food industry can be achieved using gravity film and plate heat recovery methods.

3.8. Mining of resources from wastewater

Several valuable compounds are available in wastewater, so wastewater can be used to generate valuable natural resources. Resources reuse is more attractive; when the concept of re-source, re-make, and re-think is applied to create new added-value products from waste streams. Figure 18 signifies the possibilities of resource recovery from wastewater [100].

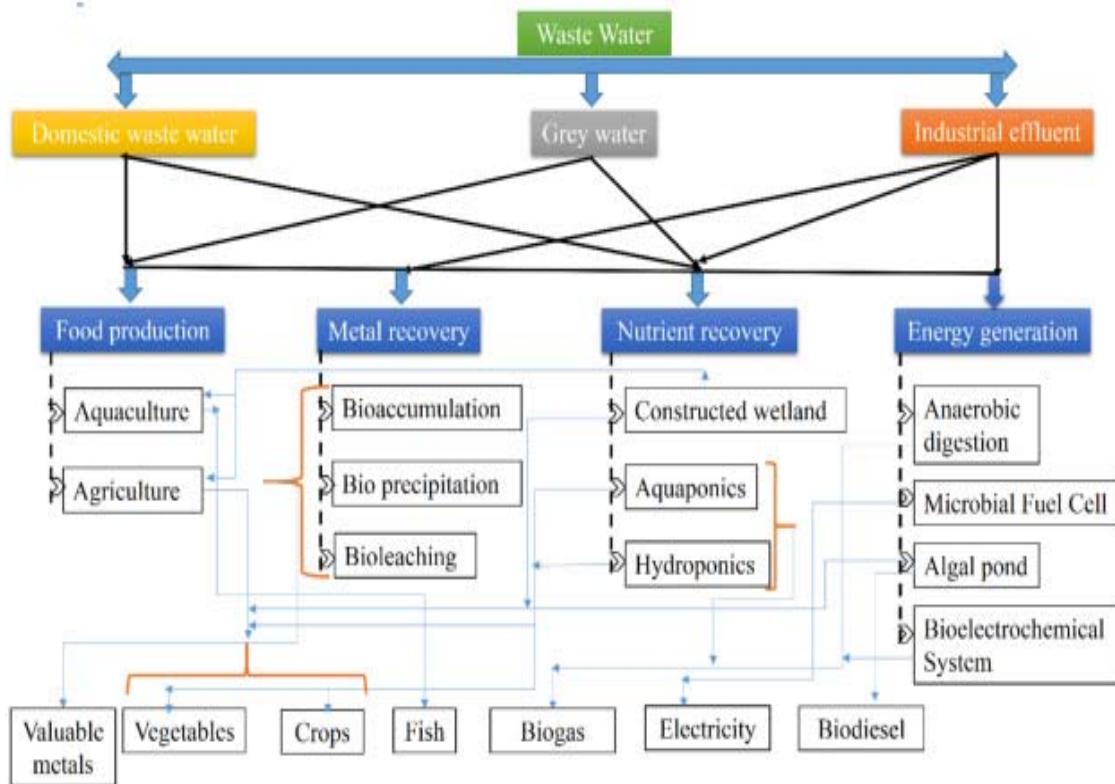


Figure 18. Different aspects of resource recovery from wastewater

Several methods can be used for nutrient recovery from wastewater streams, including chemical, biological, and membrane bioreactors, bio-electrochemical systems, and membrane photo-bioreactors. The recovery using chemical processes includes either adsorption or precipitation steps. The precipitation step is performed using magnesium and calcium-based compounds to facilitate the precipitation process. While the adsorption step is performed using either ion exchange, electrostatic attraction, or surface precipitation. Nutrient recovery using membrane systems is conducted using forward osmosis or electrodialysis. Nutrient recovery within the bio-electrochemical system and photo-bioreactor is performed by employing microbes and algae. An efficient nutrient recovery can be achieved by combining the forward osmosis process and the bio-electrochemical system. The membrane photo-bioreactor can be developed by combining combined photo-bioreactor with a membrane technology [138].

4. Water Management Framework

In the circular economy framework, economic development is directly proportional to resource conservation and environmental sustainability. In wastewater management, adopting the circular economy concept promotes resource recovery as a central element and provides a strategy to improve water supply. Water systems management to harmonize the circular economy concept is based on the 3 principles such as i) design out waste externalities treatment process, ii) keep resources in use, and iii) regenerate natural capital [139].

Thus sustainable recovery of resources from wastewater can generate revenue by producing marketable products ensuring the safety of water reuse, and maintaining water quality standards for specific applications and economic purposes [140]. For implementing CE in the wastewater sector along with technological advancement, many other factors such as financial, social, environmental, risk assessment, and energy balance must be considered. Furthermore, proper environmental education, awareness, and understanding of CE principal for the CE model adoption are required. Hence, implementing circular and sustainable solutions by companies and wastewater operators can further accelerate the transformation toward a CE model [141].

Food industry waste can be recycled to create a circular economy in agri-food fields. Waste recycling of food industry residues can produce value-added products since the waste contains valuable nutrients and is rich in renewable energy. Several useful products, like biofuels, bioenergy, and bio-fertilizers, can be generated from food industry waste. In addition, metal compounds and nutrients can be extracted and reused in several applications. A circular economy concept in the food industry will help circulate resources and nutrients in a closed loop, minimizing discharging streams to the environment. Food waste can generate valuable chemicals and nutrients in addition to energy. In comparison, biodegradable materials can be recycled further to produce other biodegradable products or as an end-of-life alternative to carbon capture for CO₂ sequestration. To explore the opportunities for developing a circular economy in sustainable food waste management, understanding existing food waste situations worldwide is a crucial cornerstone [142].

Figure 19 illustrates the possible route for recovering value-added product from wastewater, which facilitates the revenue generated from the waste.

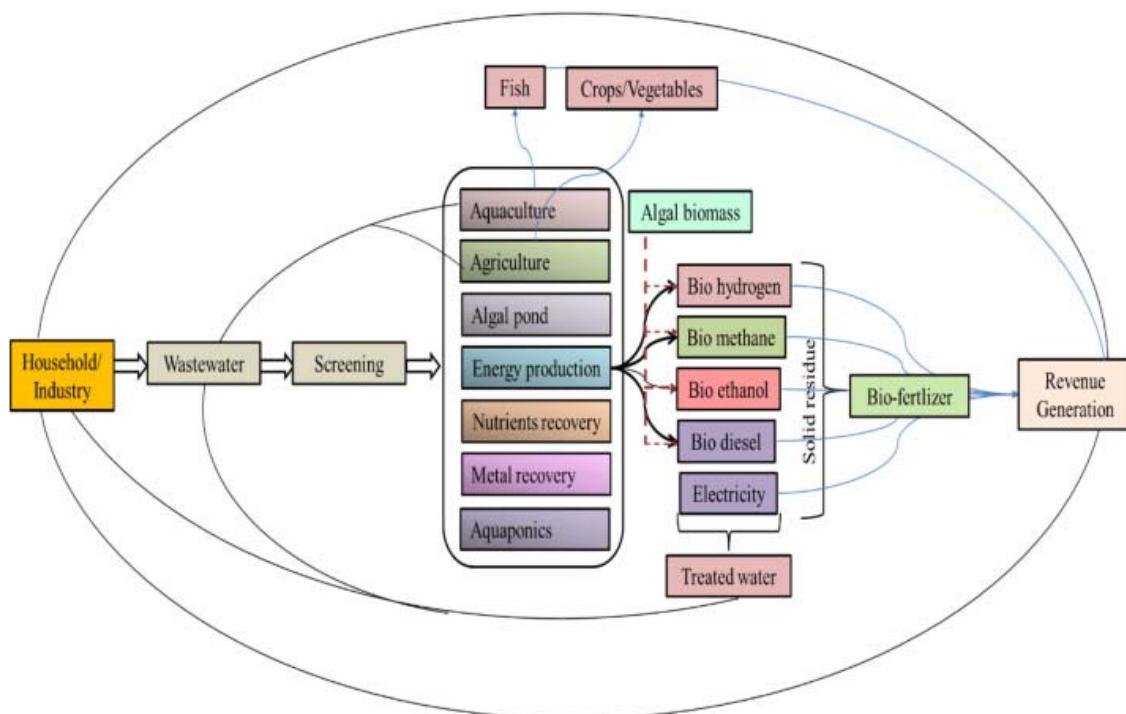


Figure 19. The possible route for the recovery of value-added product from wastewater which facilitates the revenue generated from the waste

4.1. Resource recovery

The resource recovery (4R concept) was developed based on the following four steps REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, and RECOVER. Around 20-30% of food is wasted during the pre-harvest step in developing countries due to several supply chain constraints. This ratio may reach up to 72% in some cases. It is crucial to develop technologies capable of recycling and repurposing food industry waste. Packing and containers made of plastic can be reused and recycled [143]. Considering economic and operating boundaries, waste cooking and palm shell can be converted into biodiesel [113]. Corncob is another food waste that can produce biofuels through pyrolysis. The produced fuel can be employed as a biofuel in addition to producing other valuable chemicals [144]. Three principles govern the circular economy: protecting and enhancing regular capital, the reorganization of resources by remanufacturing, restoring, and reusing materials inside their technical and biological cycles, and finally, the utilization of food manufacturing by-products and nutrients [145]. Implementing the circular economy instead of conventional WWT methods to ensure valuable RR; including water and raw materials. In addition, the circular economy will reduce GHG emissions from food industrial activities [110].

4.2. (4R) scheme

The 4R scheme can take several forms: in-process reusing of IWW (industrial waste works) with/without treatment; IWW recycling, related to the recovery of water for drinking by substituting or improving the existing treatment plant; resources recovery from wastewater generated during food processing, including inorganic nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus, organic fertilizers, biogas, biopolymers, energy, heavy metals, salts, industrial products, etc. [146]. These scheme strategies in IWW are designed to close industrial water cycles and obtain invaluable components that require a combination of wastewater treatment methods, as shown in Figure 20. However, wastewater comprises several contaminants, specific pollutants, high organic matter contents, and poorly biodegradable components, which make this task tedious [147].

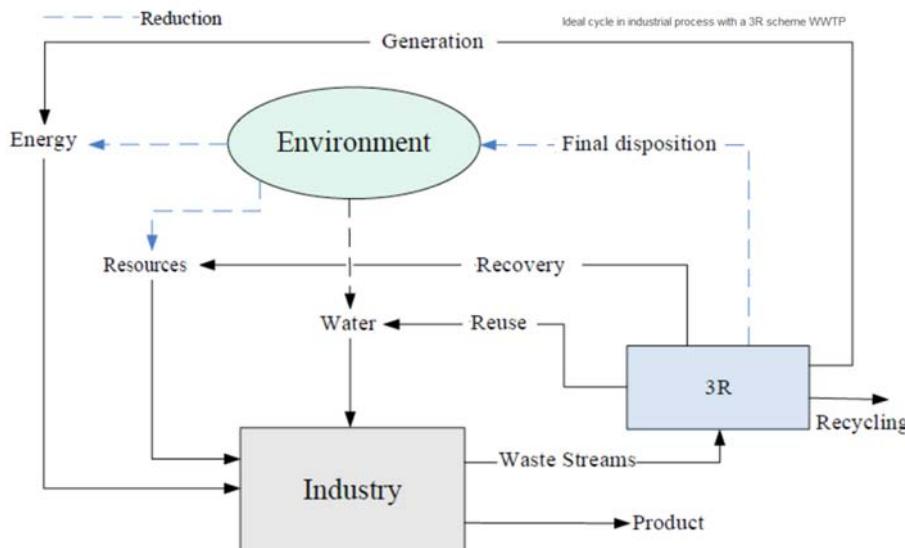


Figure 20. 4R scheme

5. Case Studies

5.1. Slaughterhouse wastewater management and resource recovery

Actual SWW samples with average concentrations of 1950, 1400, 850, 750, 200, and 40 mg/L for COD, BOD, TOC, TSS, TN, and TP, respectively, were taken from selected licensed MPPs in Ontario, Canada. Anaerobic and aerobic sludge inocula in concentrations of 40,000 and 3000 mg/L, respectively, were obtained from the Ashbridges Bay Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant in Toronto, Canada. The inocula were acclimatized over a period of 60 days. The combined ABR-AS-UV/H₂O₂ system consisted of a 36-L ABR with five equal-volume chambers and individual biogas collection, a 12.65-L aerobic AS reactor with controlled air flow to maintain DO concentrations of 2 mg/L, and a 1.35-L UV-C photoreactor with recycle, the output power of 6 W, and uniform light distribution. [148]

The meat processing industry needs to incorporate both waste minimization and resource recovery into SWW management strategies, considering the portion of the industry's waste and by-products that have a potential of recovery for direct reuse, including nutrients and methane as biofuel. Figure 21 presents a schematic illustration of the ideal operation of a meat processing plant and supply chain from animal farming and raw materials to the final product, waste disposal, and recoverable resources. Cleaner production should be the focus of meat processing plants due to the increasing interest in environmental initiatives and demands for green practices. Thus, it is appropriate to classify and minimize waste generation at the source, and on-site treatment is the preferred option for water reuse and potential energy recovery. As a result, there are some considerations to be made for the adequate treatment of SWW effluents.

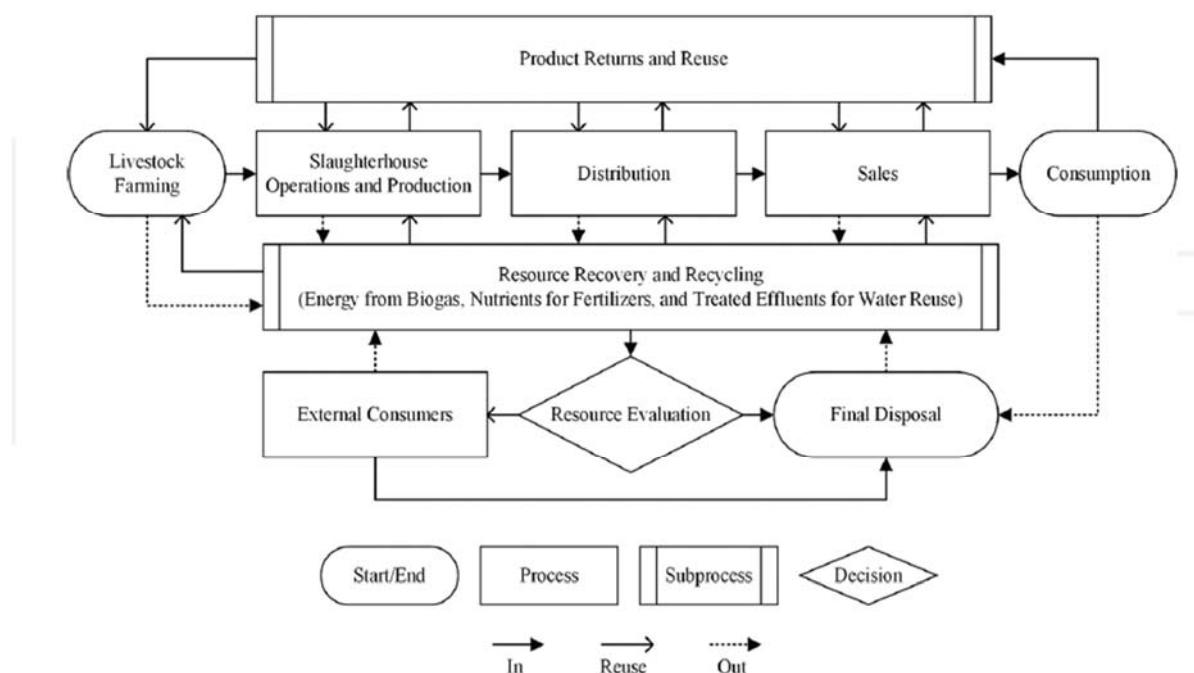


Figure 21. presents a schematic illustration of the ideal operation of a meat processing plant and supply chain.

5.2. Recycling and reuse of fish processing [149,150]

The wastewater management concept aims to develop a management cycle or system to control the wastewater flow from several units and through the flowing streams. Disposal of untreated or poorly treated wastewater has severe consequences for the health and environment. The wastewater management cycle usually contains four essential interconnected steps/stages:

Pollution elimination or lessening at the source, considering pollution load and volume of wastewater produced. Prohibiting or controlling the use of specific contaminants to eliminate or limit their entering into wastewater streams through regulatory, technical, and/or other means. This step

also includes measures to reduce the volumes of generated wastewater (e.g., demand management and increased water use efficiency).

The elimination of pollutants from wastewater streams: Implement processes that can treat and eliminate wastewater contaminants generating a safe-to-use/discharge treated water stream without any consequences or negative effects on the environment. The optimum treatment process is chosen based on the concentration and nature of contaminants and the end use of the treated water.

Wastewater Reuse: Reusing treated/untreated wastewater can be done only in a monitored process to ensure safe use. Usually, treated water is used for irrigation, while with existing advanced treatment technologies, adequately treated water can be utilized in several applications after

The valuable resources recovery: Wastewater contains several valuable compounds and nutrients which can be separated from wastewater either directly, like heat and organic matter, or using extraction methods like biofuels, in addition to nitrogen and phosphorus, which can be used for producing fertilizer.

Impacts on	Examples of impacts
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased burden of disease due to reduced drinking water quality Increased burden of disease due to reduced bathing water quality Increased burden of disease due to unsafe food (contaminated fish, vegetables and other produce irrigated) Increased risk of disease when working or playing in wastewater-irrigated area
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreased biodiversity Degraded aquatic ecosystems (e.g. eutrophication and dead zones) Foul odours Diminished recreational opportunities Increased greenhouse gas emissions Increased water temperature Bioaccumulation of toxins
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced industrial productivity Reduced agricultural productivity Reduced market value of harvested crops, if unsafe wastewater is being used for irrigation Reduced opportunities for water-based recreational activities (reduced number of tourists, or reduced willingness to pay for recreational services) Reduced fish and shellfish catches, or reduced market value of fish and shellfish Increased financial burden on healthcare Increased barriers to international trade (exports) Higher costs of water treatment (for human supply and other uses) Reduced prices of properties near contaminated water bodies

Source: Adapted from UNEP (2015b, Table 1, p. 15).

An additional role of the wastewater management cycle is to mitigate any negative impacts on human health, the economy, and the environment. When taking into account the multiple benefits of improved wastewater management, several of these processes can be considered cost-effective, thus adding value across the wastewater management cycle while supporting the further development of water supply and sanitation systems. Based on the assumption that it is possible to align water quality requirements with water use locations, multiple-use systems with cascading reuse of water from higher to lower water quality can make water reuse more affordable than providing extensive water treatment at each point of abstraction along a river basin.

Strong economic arguments favor optimizing freshwater-use efficiency, managing wastewater as a resource, and eliminating (or at least reducing) pollution at the point of use. Utilizing wastewater at, or as close as possible to, its source generally increases cost-efficiency due to the lower conveyance costs. The fact that so little wastewater management is currently occurring, particularly in developing countries, means that there are vast opportunities for water reuse and for the recovery of useful by-products provided the appropriate incentives and business models are in place to help cover the substantial costs. Recent market studies also establish a positive trend in water and wastewater treatment investments in developing countries. Worldwide, utilities' annual capital expenditures on water infrastructure and wastewater infrastructure have been estimated at US\$100 billion and US\$104 billion, respectively.

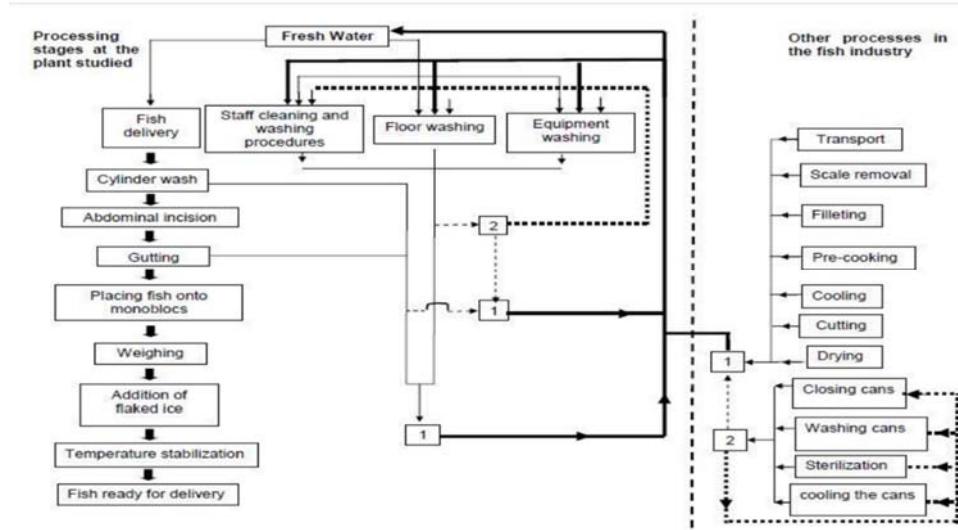


Figure (A) Potential recycling and reuse of effluents in the fish processing industry

Strong demand of water resources is driving the need for the enhanced use of wastewater. Population growth, urbanization, changing consumption patterns, climate change, loss of biodiversity, economic growth, and industrialization all impact water resources and wastewater streams, with repercussions on atmospheric, land, and water pollution. An improved approach to wastewater management will help alleviate the impact of some of these pressures. From a resource perspective (see Figure (B)), sustainable wastewater management requires (i) supportive policies that reduce the pollution load upfront; (ii) tailored technologies that enable fit-for-purpose treatment to optimize resource utilization; and (iii) taking account of the benefits of resource recovery.

Framing wastewater management from a resource perspective

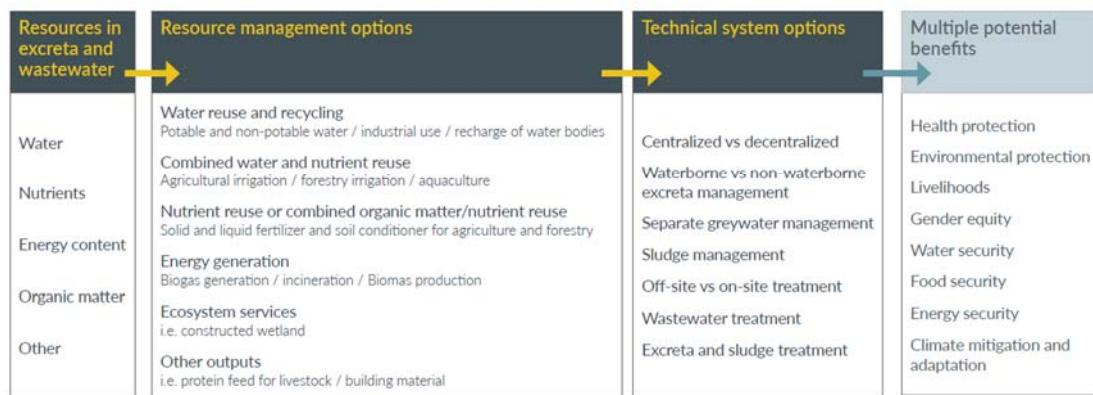


Figure (B) Resource perspective

From a BAT perspective, the possibility of reducing water, energy, and chemical need as well as maximizing the recovery from waste is a good approach. With the high demand for fish proteins for food in the fish industry and animal production, the industry can increase the margins by recovering materials and selling it. For filleting oily fish, the normal production includes:

For processing 25,000 tons/year of herring (oily fish) to fillet:

Water consumption: 125–200,000 m³/year; or 5–8 m³/ton fish processed.

COD discharge: 2200 tons; 85 kg/ton fish processed.

Tot-N discharge: 62.5 tons; 2.5 kg N/ton fish processed.

PO₄-P discharge: 2.5–7.5 tons; 0.1–0.3 kg P/ton fish processed.

Energy:

Filleting: 50–125 tons; 2–5 kWh/ton fish processed.

Freezing: 1,250–1,750 tons; 50–70 kWh/ton fish processed.

Chemicals: Antioxidants: 2,500 tons; 100 kg/ton fish processes.

Solid waste: 50% of processing amount.

Recovered by-products

Protein, oil, and fat have become valuable sources of income for many fish processing plants, and we see numerous examples of BAT plants having no waste from fish processing. This is another reason for introducing better processing systems. In the discussion of the 3R Technology, we have given a cost example illustrating this driver to improve the processing system.

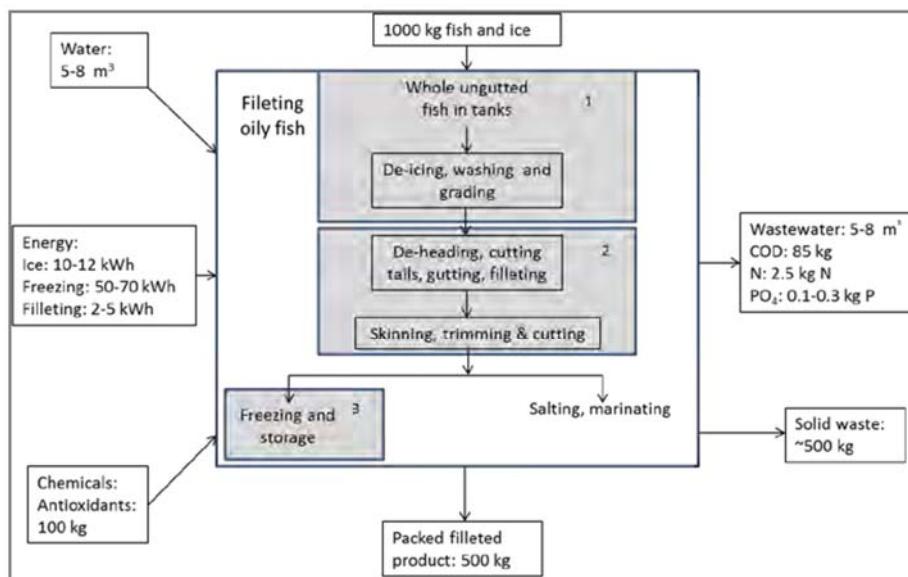


Figure (C) Normal inputs and outputs from the filleting of oily fish (herring)

The fish processing industry is implementing waste recovery and reuse and water-saving solutions. Local conditions with no vulnerable recipients to nutrients or organic loading have made the industry head for a level of water treatment technology that is not very sophisticated. Still, the increased market for more costly by-products might be moving the BAT solutions into another generation that will see new technologies applied for recovering proteins and fat from the industry. In the future, we might also see that the market for nutrient recovery (phosphorus and nitrogen) also is becoming interesting. Fish proteins are a valuable source, and re-using the by-products will be economically beneficial and is expected to move BAT for this industry into some interesting areas in the future. It can be stressed that an effective BAT implementation should be an important tool for stimulating the development of a wide-ranging, cutting-edge market for water and energy-efficient technologies and products. Along with investments, the approach of governments and enterprises to manage processing activities has also been changing.

It must be emphasized that BATs refer not only to the technology used at an installation but also to how the installation is designed, built, operated, and maintained. Some BATs are a simple consequence of common sense and do not involve any investment. As a result, significant savings can be achieved thanks to higher productivity, reduced water and energy consumption, and reduced wastewater pollution to treat.

6. Conclusions

Dwindling natural resources is a significant problem worldwide. Due to this, a transition from a linear to a circular economy is necessary, under which wastewater holds promising potential as a regenerative source of sustainable water and resource recovery. Lack of awareness and knowledge on the possibility of wastewater treatment is necessary. It is essential to recognize that wastewater

facilities have the potential to operate as loop-closing wastewater bio-refineries, recovering added value resources such as chemicals, nutrients, bioplastics, enzymes, metals, and water which are valuable inputs for industries and agriculture. Because of society's escalating demand for water, resources, food, and energy, a CE approach meets the need through recycling and reusing treated wastewater. Resource recovery contributes to the development of socio-economic growth and alleviates environmental issues emanating from waste generation.

Wastewater can be a secondary resource from which metals can also be extracted besides energy generation. In addition, wastewater can be recovered as fertilizer, reducing the global environmental impact of their industrial production. Water reuse has many positive benefits, but not enough is being done to promote it. Water reuse requires a comprehensive approach based on scientifically driven solutions, a robust legislative framework, a robust regulatory framework, and an institutional environment. Industrial symbiosis provides a proper and sustainable way to deal with the WW generated. CE helps in the development of the economic condition of society by restoring the environment and its natural resources. Thus, the concept of circular economy serves as the best strategy to deal with wastewater with advanced integrated technologies compared to the traditional treatment facilities while concomitantly progressing towards self-sustainability, carbon neutrality, and achieving the SDGs for a better world.

A key objective of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals for Water is to reduce pollution, eliminate dumping, minimize hazardous chemical releases, have untreated wastewater halved globally, and increase recycling and safe reuse. A paradigm shift has occurred in how wastewater management is currently managed in terms of 'reuse, recycling, and resource recovery, compared to 'treatment and disposal'. In addition to addressing health and environmental concerns, food, and energy security, but also mitigating climate change, this new concept has many benefits. Wastewater can be considered an abundant source of precious and sustainable resources within a circular economy, balancing economic growth with preserving natural resources.

This state-of-the-art review of the capacity of global production, water demand, and wastewater generated by food processing industries around the world. The primary approach is implementing sustainable food production in the food processing industries. Recent trends in process integration and water management highlight water reuse and recycling by utilizing wastewater as a nonconventional water source. Nevertheless, implementing wastewater management systems needs collecting technical information about food processing industries. Water consumption, wastewater generation, and feasible wastewater treatment methods were reviewed initially.

The food processing industries use large amounts of water, which may negatively impact the environment and require several treatment methods before discharging the wastewater. To diminish the negative impacts, an integrated approach should be implemented, considering higher process productivity, water, and environmental protection to reduce water demand and generation of wastewater. A systematic review was presented in detail for sustainable wastewater management strategies by reusing and recovering water and valuable resources. The ultimate goal of sustainable operation in food processing industries is increasing productivity, reducing operating costs, and eliminating environmental consequences.

Due to the limited availability of natural resources, including water, wastewater represents a great opportunity to recover valuable nutrients and resources. As a result of extended suburbanization and utilization of limited natural resources, better resource management tools and measures should be implemented. Several valuable chemicals and nutrients are present in wastewater generated from food industries, including organic materials, metals, nutrients, and chemicals. The management of such valuable resources can be achieved by implementing a transformation model for value-added materials recovery. The circular economy through a "closed-loop" process by reusing and recovering materials and energy was discussed in detail by identifying the emerging technologies available for treating the food industry wastewater to recover resources. Biological treatment methods for food industries' wastewater can treat the effluent and recover resources like lipids and proteins, approaching the circular economy concept.

Technologies used for conventional wastewater treatment and advanced treatment technologies, including anammox technology, algal treatment, and microbial fuel cells, have been reviewed. In addition, recovering the energy contained in the wastewater streams in the form of biogas and biofuels was discussed as a tool for generating clean energy from wastewater streams. New trends in wastewater treatment and recovery processes, like Other single-cell proteins, biopolymers, and metals, were deliberated. The state-of-the-art highlighted the use of wastewater after adequate treatment in agriculture, fisheries, aquaponics, and algal cultivation. A critical assessment of adopting the circular economy in the food industry was discussed. Resource recovery from food industry wastewater through the integration of wastewater management systems will ensure efficient utilization of resources.

However, research is needed to develop more robust treatment systems which can handle the variation of food industry loadings and composition. In addition, improving the performance of innovative treatment technologies like pyrolysis reactors and microbial fuel cells.

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Abbreviations

AD	Anaerobic digestion
BAT	Best available technologies
BOD ₅	Biological oxygen demand
CHP	Combined heat and power
COD	Chemical oxygen demand
HAB	Harmful algal blooms
IWW	Industrial Waste works
MFC	Microbial fuel cell
MPA	Maximum permissible amount
O&G	Oil and grease
SBR	Sequence Batch Reactor
SGD	Sustainable development goals
TN	Total nitrogen
TP	Total phosphorus
TS	Total solids
TDS	Total dissolved solids
TSS	Total suspended solids
UASB	Up-flow anaerobic sludge blankets
WWTPs	Wastewater treatment plants
UF	Ultrafiltration
RO	Reverse Osmosis
NF	Nanofiltration
RFBB	Ring Fixed Bed Bioreactor
EC	Electro-coagulation
HCPB	Hollow-centered packed bed
MBR	Membrane bioreactor
FPWs	Food process wastewater
IM	Integrated Management
CE	Circular Economy
VA	Value Added
RR	Resource Recovery
4R	Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, And Recover
SWW	Slaughterhouse wastewater

SC	Supply chain
WHO	<u>World Health Organization</u>
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
WWW	<u>Worldwide Water</u>

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