

FOOD PROCESSING WASTE IN VIETNAM: UTILIZATION AND PROSPECTS IN FOOD INDUSTRY FOR SUSTAINABILITY DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

Vietnam is a country that produces a variety of agricultural products, including vegetables, tubers, fruits, and processed products. Along with the increase in population, the demand for consumers also increases, and the by-products of farming are increasing and being discharged into the environment. This is one of the critical research issues that need to be solved to ensure sustainability in agriculture. This review summarized recent studies on familiar sources of by-products in Vietnam, such as banana peels, citrus peels, dragon fruit skins, rice bran, and rice husks, and their potential in the food industry. Some solutions are also proposed to solve and turn this low-value raw material into a high-value product and serve a variety of products and consumers in the food industry. Especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, the by-products contain valuable and reusable biological resources. These compounds could be future applications to support improving the consumer's immune system and various health benefits. Processed and utilized by-products from food production could not only help increase incomes for farmers, especially in developing countries like Vietnam but also could aid in ensuring food security and sustainability in agricultural production.

Keywords: agricultural, sustainable, utilization, waste

INTRODUCTION

Currently, sustainability, along with food security, is one of the top concerns around the world, which is also related to the problem of environmental pollution. According to research by Kaza et al. (2018), food and agricultural waste account for 44% of the entire amount of urban solid waste generated worldwide, which has been rising every year. In addition, the rapidly rising consumer demand and the growth of the global population made an agricultural waste account for a large part and constantly increase every year (Gustavsson et al., 2011). The waste was usually not used further and had low value. The development of the economy in modernization and urbanization and new awareness about the global environment requires appropriate treatment of this waste source because the discharge level is increasingly complex (Cho et al., 2020). Agricultural waste accounts for the majority and is classified into crop, livestock, and food processing waste (Nwakaire et al., 2016). Vietnam has a tropical climate suitable for the growing conditions of many plants such as citrus, pineapple, shallot, etc., especially in the Mekong Delta region. Many fruits and vegetables are produced and consumed in fresh and processed forms. However, along with having various products from vegetables and fruits, abundant by-products are discharged and are not also appropriately utilized. It could be seen that the waste from agriculture production accounted for 10-30% of total weight; for example, pomelo peel accounted for 30% of total fruit weight (Zarina & Tan, 2013), and the skin of shallot was approximately 10% of total weight (Thuy et al., 2020). The majority of these by-products, such as banana peels, dragon fruit skins, jackfruit rags, jackfruit seeds, citrus fruit peels, shallot skins, etc., have significant moisture contents and are therefore particularly problematic. Agricultural by-products are mainly from the crop and livestock industries in the Southeast and Mekong Delta regions, with more than 13.9 million tons in 2020 and 39.4 million tons (Huong, 2021). However, local and international studies showed that by applying proper treatment methods, these wastes might be used to generate valuable by-products (Tai et al., 2021a, 2021b). Contrary, if not managed properly, these wastes can produce other compounds that pollute or degrade the environment, health, and the economy. The importance of waste recycling and its economic potential is mostly unseen by agriculturists (Nwakaire et al., 2016). As environmental consciousness grows, there is increased interest in turning agricultural wastes into valuable products (Szabo et al., 2019).

Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, consumers are increasingly interested in their health and immune-improving products (Galanakis et al., 2021). Some by-products, such as onion peel waste, are created with large amounts of the compound quercetin, which may help improve antioxidant function and maintain immunity (Thuy et al., 2018; Thuy et al., 2020). Fruit and vegetable waste is the best source of compounds such as polysaccharides, proteins, natural citric, phytochemicals, dietary fiber, and flavors, known for their antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-bacterial, and anti-allergic properties (Sagar et al., 2018; Socaci et al., 2017). Based on the basic idea of a circular economy by Bigdeloo et al. (2021) showed that consumer psychology and the 6Rs principle (rethink/re-decision, reduce, reuse, recycle, recovery, residuals management) has a great impact on the utilization of agricultural waste. They can become a precious resource before being discharged into landfills. Moreover, in terms of economics, using by-products to process valuable food helps increase the income of gardeners or producers while reducing the harmful burden on the environment. Even with such a significant amount of waste, there is still a lot of interest in the creation of new, cutting-edge waste recycling techniques that have attributes like quick, clean, sustainable, and affordable recycling. In view of sustainability and the circular economy's connection to waste from food, scientific researchers have been looking for affordable and environmentally acceptable processing methods and procedures. A practical approach is to assess the nutritional value of the waste by applying the necessary procedures.

The survey was conducted (n = 200) to identify the agriculture which commonly produces waste and could re-use as value added products. Two questions, "What kind of agricultural raw material after food production often produces a lot of by-products?" and "Which agricultural by-products have the potential to be reused in the food industry?", were used for investigation. The participants could give the responses from the list answers for each question or can add more information to the other answer box. Among the wide range list of agricultural materials, eight materials as rice, banana, jackfruit, passion fruit, pomelo, orange, pineapple, and dragon fruit were chosen. This review includes recent studies of common food processing wastes, identification of the components contained in them, recommendations, and effective methods and solutions for reuse, extraction, and purification into value-added products. At the same time, the applicability in the food industry is also evaluated, and the assessment of sustainability and economic efficiency is also given. Daily aggregated information can help agricultural producers, processors, and investors determine the sustainability and economics of

locally available and abundant agricultural resources. Due to the limit of industrial application of these materials, this review could also give a recommendation for upscale production in the food industry based on the potential usage.

RECENT STATUS AND RESEARCH ON COMMON FOOD PROCESSING WASTE IN VIETNAM AND THEIR POTENTIAL NUTRIENT COMPOSITIONS

Rice (*Oryza sativa*)

Rice ranks among the top ten most valued commodities in terms of Vietnam's largest export turnovers. The economic impact of the cultivation of rice, however, is negligible and unsustainable. Compared to other countries, the value of rice produced in Vietnam is still low, and production costs, notably energy costs, are high (Cong, 2016). Furthermore, rice by-products, including rice husk and bran, have not been effectively recovered and utilized. Additionally, one of the biggest problems facing the rice processing industry is waste and pollution, which leads to a waste of resources, increased expenses, a decline in product quality, damage to the working environment and ecosystems, and a bad reputation for the businesses (Cong, 2016; Loan et al., 2023). In recent years, researchers and food companies have made efforts to develop processing processes and utilize by-products from rice production and processing and have initially shown success. Specifically, the research by Thuy et al. (2021) has taken advantage of rice bran in processing traditional fermented vegetable products. This is new research that can be developed on an industrial scale and take advantage of the abundant nutrients from rice bran in the processing of traditional products (Thùy et al., 2022). Lactic-fermented products are also considered one the future products because they bring many health benefits to consumers. Jaichakan et al. (2019) found that cellulolytic enzymes may produce mixed oligosaccharides from rice husk, rice straw, and defatted rice bran, which can be used for probiotic characteristics. Glucose solution hydrolyzed by rice bran was also obtained by Liên and Thuỷ (2016). Some other studies also extracted some components from rice bran, such as protein (Ly et al., 2018; Trang and Pasuwan, 2018) and lipids (Truong et al., 2017). Some types of bran also contain components with functional properties, such as anthocyanins from rice bran "Câm" (Lê et al., 2021). The recycling and utilization of waste brings about economic and social benefits and are essential in protecting the environment. Therefore, other innovative techniques should be applied to recover and reuse the potentially abundant materials, which contribute to the sustainable development of Vietnam.

Banana (*Musa sp.*)

The most popular and important tropical fruits eaten worldwide are bananas (*Musa sp.*). In addition, it is typically grown on all types of land in Vietnam, making it a significant commercial crop. Dried bananas, smoothies, ice cream, bread, flour, wine, and some functional meals are just a few examples of banana products that have undergone small- to medium-scale processing (Hiên and Thùy, 2014; Thuy et al., 2022a). Among a lot of varieties cultivated in Vietnam, the "Xiêm" banana was commonly used on an industrial scale and studied recently (Thuy et al., 2023a; Thuy et al., 2022b; Thuy and Van Tai, 2022; Tran et al., 2023). Studies on the functional characteristics of bananas have attracted more attention, especially their ability to reduce the starch digestibility index, helping to assist in the adjustment of the glycemic index when consuming starchy products fortified starch, or non-starch from bananas. Peel, which makes up 18-30% of the entire fruit, is the primary by-product of bananas (Tai et al., 2021a, 2021b). Nevertheless, a lot of banana peels are thrown away as waste into the environment in the food processing sector, which has a detrimental effect on the residential areas nearby. It is a perfect substrate for the creation of value-added products since it contains minerals, different amino acids, and antioxidant compounds, as well as considerable amounts of carbohydrates, proteins, and fiber (Tai et al., 2021b). Recently, Vietnamese researchers applied the conventional drying method to reuse "Xiêm" banana peel (Tai et al., 2021a). Besides, under extraction by ethanol, "Xiêm" banana peel extract contained a high content of phenolic and flavonoid, 62.41 mgGAE/g and 6.98 mgQE/g, respectively. Another group of Malaysian scientists summarized that many biological compounds with various functionalities were found in banana peel extract (Mohd Zaini et al., 2022). A few of the effects of the peel that have been studied and customarily applied for a long time include burns, anemia, diarrhea, ulcers, inflammation, diabetes, cough, snakebite, and heavy menstruation. (Fries and Waldron, 1950; Gore and Akolekar, 2003; Kumar et al., 2012; Pereira and Maraschin, 2015). Moreover, it has a reputation for having high concentrations of nutritional fiber and bioactive substances (Lopes et al., 2020). The substance also has strong antioxidant, antimicrobial, and antibiotic capabilities, which have been established (Li et al., 2019). It may therefore be applied in the pharmaceutical and nutraceutical businesses in the future. Comparing banana peels to other fruits, phenolics-essential secondary metabolites-are more prevalent in banana peels (Bashmil et al., 2021). Phenolic compounds have been related to several health advantages, including cardiovascular disease prevention, cancer prevention, diabetes prevention, and obesity prevention (Reboredo-Rodríguez et al., 2018). The potential inhibition of lipid oxidation as well as the growth of molds and bacteria led to the banana peel could be converted into functional food (Vu et al., 2018). Hence, extracting these secondary metabolites from banana peels may result in usable materials, raising the value of the banana sector. Factors impacting the quantities of phenolic compounds in the peel include the chemical composition (particularly individual

phenolics) was recently investigated. To be efficiently recovered and used, these metabolites must all be studied for their potential uses as constituents in foods or therapeutic agents.

Dragon fruit (*Hylocereus sp.*)

The French brought the dragon fruit, also known as pitaya, to Vietnam over a century ago (Mizrahi et al., 1996). Because of its high tolerance to challenging climatic conditions, pitaya has been successfully grown in Vietnam's mangrove areas, which is interesting. As a result, it has become a crucial resource for the nation's long-term development, especially in the underdeveloped areas of the Mekong River Delta (Hoat et al., 2018). Dragon fruit is classified as a key export fruit product, bringing in billions of dollars in income value to farmers every year. In 2019, the growing land of dragon fruit was approximately 36.5 thousand hectares and produce around 630 tons of total yield, which led Vietnam to the world's exporter of dragon fruit (Nguyen et al., 2020). The main export markets of Vietnamese dragon fruit are China (accounting for more than 80%), Thailand, and Indonesia. Besides, Vietnamese dragon fruit has also been exported to many other countries such as India, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the European Union, and Chile. In addition to the traditional dragon fruit with red skin and white flesh, Long An province also has the main product of red flesh dragon fruit. Besides, this province also has developed many varieties of dragon fruit with purple skin and flesh or dragon fruit with yellow skin and white flesh. These fruits are determined to contain high nutritional compounds. The production and processing of dragon fruit are still in the early stages of development and struggle with extreme price swings. The total soluble solid of concentrated red dragon fruit juice from Binh Thuan province in Vietnam was 13.8-60°Brix, and the amounts of total polyphenols, flavonoids, vitamin C, and betacyanins were about 2000 gGAE/mL, 1000 gQE/mL, 100 g/mL, and 80 mg/kg, respectively (Nguyen et al., 2021). The peel from dragon fruit was also a good source of pectin and antioxidant pigment. The study of Thuy et al. (2022c) showed that red dragon fruit peel contained 22.28 mg/100 mL of betacyanin in the extract under ultrasound-assisted extraction. The chemical structures of betacyanin can be further categorized as betanin, amaranthine, gomphrena, and bougainvillea substances (Kunnika and Pranee, 2011). According to Man et al. (2020), betanin (5-O-glucosides) is the main structural component of the red dragon fruit peel and it has strong antiradical properties. Because of this, the red dragon fruit peel has the capacity to color food. In Asia traditional medicine, dragon fruit is also used as herbal medicine in formulas to treat and prevent some diseases such as diabetes, obesity, hyperlipidemia, and cancer (Le et al., 2021; Sofowora et al., 2013). In addition, dragon fruit skin and pulp were also known to be rich sources of fiber and rich in vitamins, and minerals (Manihuruk et al., 2017; Nurliyana et al., 2010). The high fatty acid content of dragon fruit seeds makes them a good source of fat for the body's digestion and absorption processes. According to Afandi et al. (2017), the seeds of dragon fruit grown in Malaysia have high concentrations of crucial fatty acids like oleic acid (22.7%), palmitic acid (17.5%), *cis*-vaccenic acid (3.0%), and linoleic acid (50%). Fatty acid content in Vietnam dragon fruit seeds is still lack of information. According to several studies, dragon fruit contains a significant amount of naturally polymers, including proteins and polysaccharides (such as galacturonic acid), which offer active sites in the polymer chain to adsorb particles and promote coagulation (Choy et al., 2014; Garcia-Cruz et al., 2013; Miller et al., 2008). The coagulation ability of dragon fruit peel, which is classified as agricultural waste, has only been studied once, by Sharifah et al. (2018) to remove turbidity from landfill leachate. Dragon fruit offers several health benefits because of its nutritional and therapeutic qualities, particularly in the management and control of oxidative stress. The stem, flower, peel, and seed of the pitaya are just a few of the numerous parts that contain bioactive substances that have been linked to several advantageous biological functions, including antioxidant capacity, antibacterial activity, and anti-cancer activity. According to studies conducted by Sharifah et al. (2018), the bioactive substances found in dragon fruit are all effective, beneficial, secure, and long-lasting substitutes for manufactured drugs. In addition to having therapeutic benefits, pitaya is a natural source of colorants that may be used in the food and cosmetics industries. Dragon fruit has developed into a valuable product for the Vietnamese economy and a catalyst for sustainable development because of its ecological characteristics, advantages to human health, and economic value. Particularly in terms of promoting the sustainable use of ecosystems and biodiversity in the Southwest of Vietnam, the sustainability of agricultural production is more vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Due to the dragon fruit's exceptional adaptation and resilience to a variety of challenging environmental conditions, the trial growth model of climbing this plant in the mangrove area of the Mekong Delta, which is characterized by high temperatures, was successful. Further study is required to determine how to exploit this byproduct from this plentiful and highly adaptable resource to ensure the expansion of sustainable agriculture.

Pineapple (*Ananas comosus*)

Vietnam's agricultural industry, which includes fruits and vegetables, generates a sizeable amount of export goods each year and accounts for 9% of the nation's GDP. According to Nga and Trang (2015), the storage facilities of companies that process fruits and vegetables have an annual capacity of more than 313 thousand tons of goods. One of the most well-known tropical fruits, the pineapple (*Ananas comosus*), is available both fresh and processed. Pineapple products could be processed in a variety of ways, from small-scale farms to large-scale industries.

Pineapple juice is a popular product among pineapple goods because of its pleasant flavor (Rattanathanalerk et al., 2005). A key economic value in juice processing is extraction yield (Barrett et al., 2004). This is the ratio between the total solids in the plant material used in the procedure and the soluble extract found in pineapple juice. According to Nguyen and Le (2012), a production line's economic efficiency increases when extraction yield increases and processing loss decreases. The top and bottom of the pineapple are cut during the peeling process (15-20% of the fruit weight), and the skin and eyes of the pineapple, as well as parts of its other components, are removed during the preparation of the fruit for storage, frozen or dried (30-40% of the fruit weight), and the waste obtained after pressing pineapples to extract juice (20-40% of the beginning material's weight). The amount of garbage in the water grows dramatically during harvest season; around 2.5-3.3 million tons of waste accumulate in large reforestation sites, settlements, and plantations (Trang et al., 2013). Biogas can be made from waste from the fruit and vegetable industries, which helps to minimize pollution. Furthermore, these wastes have the potential to be a significant source of renewable energy (Dubrovskis et al., 2012). Environmental concerns are created when pineapple plant waste is burned or allowed to degrade in a landfill (Tripathi et al., 2013). This is because CO₂, CO, CH₄, organic volatile chemicals, NO₂, and halogen compounds are generated. Therefore, pineapple plant waste needs to be turned into useful, high-value things rather than being thrown away. Cellulose, hemicellulose, and lignin are the fibers that are created as a byproduct of the production of pineapples (Norazreen et al., 2018). Pineapple fibers can also be recycled for a variety of other purposes such as food packaging (Sasikala and Umamathy, 2018), medical applications (Kengkhetkit and Amornsakchai, 2012), automotive and electrical applications (Hoang et al., 2019). Young's modulus of the pineapple fibers is the highest when compared to other natural fibers (Asim et al., 2015). As a result, once the pineapple fibers are changed into a new aerogel material, the structural material of the pineapple fibers can be improved. Long pineapple leaves are stripped of their strong, silky fibers, which are then used to create bio-aerogels in a subsequent step. In a study by Luu et al. (2020), isolated pineapple leaf fibers were successfully employed to create eco-friendly and affordable pineapple fiber aerogels by employing polyvinyl alcohol as a cross-linker and a freeze-drying technique. The pineapple fibers aerogels have a very low density and a lot of porosity. The pineapple fibers aerogel has a surface area of up to 5.6 m²/g and a pore size of 1.3-2.2 nm. The pineapple fibers aerogels are flexible and can be used for building heat insulation as well as food preservation because of their low Young's modulus values. Recently, cellulose aerogel from pineapple leaves was used to remove dyes and oil in wastewater (Vu et al., 2022). The cellulose isolated from pineapple leaves in Ben Tre province, Vietnam, was used to create cellulose-g-poly(acrylic acid), which has a great potential for agricultural usage, particularly in coastal regions facing a developing strand of saltwater intrusion (Thien et al., 2022). Bromelain enzyme from the Vietnamese "Cau Duc" pineapple peel also was extracted by Thanh et al. (2013). A high extraction yield of 51.13% by dry mass was achieved when cellulose was successfully extracted from Vietnamese pineapple leaf waste. This study also demonstrates how exciting and practical it is to manufacture bio-superabsorbent in Vietnam using leftover pineapple leaves. According to Phan et al. (2020) and Tuyet Phan et al. (2021), it is also excellent for environmental preservation. Producing a variety of goods, including those used in the food sector, may be achieved through the utilization of agricultural by-products from the production and processing of pineapples (Chinh et al., 2014). By applying appropriate handling and processing measures, this source can generate great profit value, while reducing the impact on the environment, ensuring its sustainability. New and green technologies should also be considered for the extraction of beneficial ingredients for consumers' health in pineapple by-products.

Jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*)

Vietnam's middle-part and southern provinces are home to a large jackfruit tree (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*) population. In the food business, jackfruit pulp can be utilized to create a wide range of goods, such as jackfruit chips, cocktails, and many other items that are highly prized in foreign markets. The jackfruit fruit is composed of 31.0% peels, 28.2% pulp, 15.35% seeds, and 25.35% rags. In addition to the pulp, jackfruit rags contain a significant amount of cellulose (20.5%), protein (0.3-0.6%), reducing sugar (1.7-4.50%), total sugar (1-6.8%), and pectin (1.10-1.63%). The demand for jackfruits has recently increased domestically and internationally, which has resulted in an increase in trash like fruit skin, seeds, and rags. In addition to creating a new refreshing product and additional jobs for the farmers, using fruit rags to make fermented drinks reduces the requirement for environmental treatment because of the processing of jackfruit in the food business. Jackfruit seeds can have a protein content that ranges from 5.3% to 6.8% (Chrips et al., 2008). In recent years, there has been a lot of interest in the use of alternative sources of starch in industrial applications. This has led to a lot of interest in jackfruit seeds as a good source of starch (Mahanta and Kalita, 2015). According to Tulyathan et al. (2002), the recovery yield of starch extracted from jackfruit seeds was around 77%, indicating the possibility of its use as a potent source of starch in the food and pharmaceutical industries (Kittipongpatana and Kittipongpatana, 2011), as a stabilizer, thickening, and binding agent. To increase the utilization of fresh seeds, turning them into flour is an excellent strategy (Mahanta and Kalita, 2015). Jackfruit seed starch produced in Vietnam has a higher amylose percentage (44%) than other starches, according to Tran et al. (2015). As prebiotics, jackfruit seeds are suitable due to their non-reducing carbohydrates (Bhornsmithikun et al., 2010). As jackfruit's outer peel is rich in calcium, pectin, and fiber compounds, using it to produce pectin can increase

profits for producers and processors while reducing waste (Moorthy et al., 2017). Begum et al. (2014) investigated how various extraction techniques affected the yield, physicochemical content, and structural traits of pectin obtained from jackfruit waste. The extracted pectin was of inferior quality compared to commercial pectin, having low solubility and a high ash concentration, necessitating more study into the manufacture of high-quality pectin from jackfruit waste with higher solubility. As a result, various research has concentrated on extracting pectin from jackfruit peel using more modern techniques such as extraction with aid of ultrasound (Moorthy et al., 2017) and the assistance of ultrasound-microwave to extraction (Xu et al., 2018), which have been shown to give larger pectin-yields-than-traditional approaches. Dam and Nguyen (2013) improved the method for creating fermented drinks using jackfruit rags. To transform jackfruit into minimally processed items, correct postharvest techniques were used, which also resulted in the production of fruit waste. Waste from jackfruit needs to be converted into useful items in order to aid in waste administration by producing various goods and renewable energy sources. Further research should be done on finding practical industrial applications for jackfruit as well as proper waste control during jackfruit processing.

Orange (*Citrus sinensis*)

As one of the plants grown in tropical and subtropical climates of the genus *Citrus*, oranges (*Citrus sinensis*) are one of the typical trees, especially in Vietnam. Vietnam is ranked as the top 20 countries supplying the highest number of oranges in the world, serving the beverage processing industry. However, along with the production process, a large amount of orange peel was discarded after the juice extraction process. Recent studies show that orange peels contain many important ingredients that can be reused, such as essential oils and antioxidant compounds. Orange peels come in a variety of colors, including blue, yellow-green, and vivid orange, with numerous oil veins. Limonene (> 85%), cymene, myrcene, pinene, citral, citronellal, nootkatone, n-decanal, n-nonanal, n-dodecanal, and linalyl acetate are among the principal components of the essential oil, which makes up roughly 1.5 percent of the fruit (Tao et al., 2009). These molecules are mostly monoterpene and sesquiterpene hydrocarbons, as well as their oxygen derivatives (Xiao Nan and Sun Chul, 2013). Orange essential oil's potent antibacterial and antifungal properties have recently been discovered to be due to abundant limonene (Mai, 2020). Local research showed that microwave-assisted extraction was effective in the production of essential oil from the orange peel (Toan et al., 2020; Tran et al., 2020; Tran et al., 2019; Van Tuan et al., 2021). Another research was applied vacuum frying on orange peel, which used in candy making (Hien and Nguyet, 2021). These outcomes validated the vacuum frying technique as a means of frying high-quality king orange peel while preserving the oil's quality. Orange oil from the Vietnamese province of Phu Tho contained this antioxidant activity and antimicrobial activity (Van Loi and Uyen, 2016). Orange peel is a potential agricultural by-product that can be reused and widely applied in agricultural industries. By appropriate treatment, extraction and processing methods, this source of agricultural by-products can not only be solved to reduce the burden of environmental pollution but also provide a great economic benefit to the locality.

Pomelo (*Citrus maxima*)

One of the citrus trees, pomelo is native to tropical and subtropical countries including Vietnam. Vietnam is a pomelo-growing country with various varieties, some pomelo varieties can be mentioned such as "Da Xanh" pomelo (Ben Tre), "Nam Roi" pomelo (Vinh Long), "Dien" pomelo (Ha Noi), and "Doan Hung" pomelo (Phu Tho), etc. The growing area of pomelo has been increasing in recent years, for example, the area planted with "Da Xanh" pomelos in Ben Tre province (Southern Vietnam) is currently 8,824 hectares in 2021, accounting for about 30% of the fruit tree area. Pomelo is often consumed in fresh form, eaten directly or some farmers process pomelos into juice; however, the peel is not usually used even though it contains a variety of valuable nutrients and biological compounds. Pomelo peel accounts for 30% of fruit weight (Zarina and Tan, 2013). Flavonoids, which have anti-inflammatory and anticancer characteristics and are crucial in the prevention of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and other illnesses, are abundant in pomelo peel (Ke et al., 2015; Peterson et al., 2006; Yi et al., 2017). As a result, pomelo peels could be a cheap and easy source of bioactive compounds for use in the food and pharmaceutical sectors (Deng et al., 2012). Pomelo flavonoids resemble flavanones (Ke et al., 2015). The main components with great antioxidant capacity, sweetness, and flavoring are naringin and hesperidin (Nogata et al., 2006; Zou et al., 2016). According to the research of Van Hung et al. (2020), Vietnamese pomelo peel has a high content of phenolics, flavonoids, naringin, and hesperidin. The combined enzyme-ultrasound-assisted extraction technique was found to be the most effective method for extracting bioactive compounds with the best antioxidant and antibacterial activity from pomelo peel, however, it also differed content of biological extraction depending on the pomelo species. Citrus peels are used to make commercial pectin because they have a high pectin content (approximately 20-30%) and are by-products of juice processing (May, 1990). To clean pectic materials of contaminants, ethanol or isopropyl alcohol is used to precipitate the pectic component (Methacanon et al., 2014). Commercial pectin extraction involves the use of hot, diluted acids like hydrochloric or nitric acid, followed by the precipitation of pectic materials with ethanol or isopropyl alcohol and washing with ethanol to eliminate contaminants. Acids are used to break down cell wall materials and separate the contents of cells prior to extraction. The concentration of galacturonic acid in pectin extracted with

citric was significantly greater than that of pectin extracted with acetic acid or lactic acid. Citric acid and lactic acid considerably increased the antioxidant capacity of pectin as compared to acetic acid. The isolated pectin from different pomelo types have varied structures. Pure high methoxyl-pectin could be extracted from pomelo peel by-products using an organic solvent, potentially making it a "green" extraction method (Van Hung et al., 2021). Moreover, pomelo peel extract has demonstrated antioxidant properties, suggesting that it could be employed as a supplement in the pharmaceutical and food industries. With EC50 values of 60.89±0.31 g/mL, 60.69±0.21 g/mL, and 24.16±0.06 g/mL for DPPH, ABTS, and FRAP assay, respectively, the extract from Thanh Kieu pomelo (cultivated in Vietnam) peel was shown to have the highest antioxidant activity (Ha et al., 2022).

Passion fruit (*Passiflora edulis*)

Vietnam is a major producer, consumer, and exporter of passion fruit, both fresh and processed. The peel makes up 80% of the weight of passion fruit, resulting in a lot of waste. Rather than reclaiming the garbage, most businesses opt to discard it, polluting the environment and endangering human health. The cellulose and pectin content of passion fruit peels is 42% and 18% dry weight, respectively (Canteri et al., 2010; Contreras-Esquivel et al., 2010). As a result, cellulose and pectin recovery from this waste has a high potential and is extremely practicable. Pectin is a high-value functional food component that is commonly employed as a gelling and stabilizing agent. It's also a plentiful, widespread, and multifunctional component of all land plants' cell walls (Sharma et al., 2006). The most popular starting materials for manufacturing commercial pectin are apple pomace and citrus peels. A novel way to reduce the cost of disposing of biological waste while enhancing the fruit juice processing industry is to recover value from waste generated during the fruit processing process. However, just a few articles have examined the subject of pectin recovery from byproducts of passion fruit (Locatelli et al., 2019; Sharma et al., 2006). However, the majority are high ester pectin (Kulkarni and Vijayanand, 2010). Pectic-oligosaccharide (POS), a new type of prebiotic derived from the partial hydrolysis of pectin, provides several health benefits for people and animals. When compared to highly esterified sources, POS has been shown to have improved biological characteristics when made from low-esterified pectin (Dongowski et al., 2002). Additionally, limited study on the simultaneous extraction of pectin and cellulose from passion fruit peel in Vietnam was found. Finding a workable method to transform the peels into valuable items is therefore important. Pectin and cellulose were successfully extracted from the leftover peel of the passion fruit. Pectin production peaked at 12.60% during the process. To create carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC), the cellulose in the skin of a passion fruit was etherified (Phan and Ngo, 2020). The peel of the passion fruit, cultivated in Vietnam, was utilized in pectin extraction tests after the juice had been extracted. Under optimal conditions, passion fruit peel pectin extraction produced 2.5 g/100 g of fresh peel. The powder pectin extracted from fresh peels has a 95% pectin concentration. Pectin was demonstrated to have a degree of esterification of 35–45% on average and to be free of harmful germs, making it an excellent raw material to produce POS (Xuan Sam and Huyen, 2018).

DEVELOPMENT OF VALUE-ADDED FOOD PRODUCTS FROM WASTE

Sources of agricultural by-products are increasing due to consumer demand. Along with that, researchers are looking for appropriate solutions to make effective use of this resource, including Vietnam. Studies at home and abroad show that by-products contain large amounts of digestible fiber, biologically active compounds, and some compounds with other functional properties. By appropriate processing techniques along with the advancement of modern and advanced production and processing techniques, these by-products will be transformed into value-added products. Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) defined the green technology concept in the field of agriculture and agri-food, as "the pursuit of economic growth and development, while preventing environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and unsustainable natural resource use" (OECD, 2011). Over the last decade, food production has mushroomed increased, and it also resulted in many wastes being generated, specifically in Vietnam as above discussed. In general, agricultural waste, especially fruit and vegetable, posed a high content of prebiotics, dietary fiber, carotenoids, fatty acids, phenolic compounds, isoprenoids, lipids, proteins, starch, saponins, and phytoestrogens, as some material already mentioned, making them an important source for development into functional foods, nutraceuticals, and cosmetics (Deng et al., 2012; Sagar et al., 2018; Thuy et al., 2022d; Thuy et al., 2023b; Thuy et al., 2022e; Thuy et al., 2023c; Thuy et al., 2022f; Vu et al., 2022). When key waste problems are solved, it will promote agricultural and economic development, and the food supply chain will also change in a positive direction. New approaches in food processing to ensure sustainability are also proposed. New research and analysis techniques were also developed. At the same time, on the social side, when agricultural resources are effectively used in production and processing, technologies to reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment are proposed, leading to a better life for people are growing (Thuy et al., 2022g). They play a significant role in sustaining human populations' ability to sustainably feed themselves, as well as in guaranteeing the sustainability of agriculture, the environment, and biodiversity.

Dietary fiber and resistant starch as prebiotic sources

Human digestive enzymes can only partially break down dietary fiber, which is a component of food made from plants. Additionally, interest in starch bioavailability and its potential as a source of dietary fiber, particularly in adults, has been rekindled by the idea of resistant starch (RS). Although they can be employed in a variety of meals, the functional features of RS are currently believed to be present (Sajilata et al., 2006). Some research found that various proportions of dietary fibers can be found in all layers of an onion. Three distinct onion cultivars were examined by Jaime et al. (2002) for their dietary fiber content (skin and interior layers). As a result, the "Grano de Oro" onion had the highest total dietary fiber content (63%) in the skin, while the lowest amount (12%) was found in interior parts. Additionally, the skin of the "Grano de Oro" onion variety had 67% more dietary fibers that were insoluble than the inner part. According to Benítez et al. (2013), bagasse also has substantial quantities of dietary fiber, ranging from 36–45%. Unfortunately, there is currently a paucity of knowledge on the dietary fiber content of Vietnamese onion or shallot skins. About 70.6 percent of all dietary fibers, the bulk of which were insoluble, were derived from pineapple shells. Xylose and glucose make up most of the natural sugars present in fiber products (Sagar et al., 2018; Wu and Shiau, 2015). Due to the polyphenol myricetin, pineapple fiber has been discovered to have increased antioxidant activity. Fiber from apples and citrus had noticeably less antioxidant action. The natural flavor and color of pineapple dietary fiber have been noted, which may increase consumer acceptance of the product as a fiber supplement (Sagar et al., 2018). A powdered beverage that was enriched with dietary fiber from pineapple peel was the subject of an earlier study by Larrauri et al. (1997). High-quality, organoleptically suitable crushed and powdered (formed into flour) pineapple peels with an 8% moisture content were combined with sugar, citric acid, flavor, color, and a foaming agent to create a special drink mix. Due to the presence of 25% dietary fiber, cellulose, and hemicelluloses (17–18%), up to 17% pectic components, and lignin between 2–3% in the pulp and peels of orange wastes created during the juice extraction process, this beverage mixture had a laxative effect (Mahato et al., 2019). There were 22% soluble and 54% insoluble dietary fibers in citrus fiber produced from orange juice. Citrus fiber was low in calories, very good at absorbing oil, and had a large water storage capacity. Orange fiber is recommended as a pulp source for drinks (cloudy drinks), a gelling agent, a binder for low-calorie bulking, and a thickening agent (Lundberg et al., 2014; Rafiq et al., 2018). Citrus dietary fiber's organoleptic qualities have been shown in studies to have no negative effects on food properties. Dairy products, infant foods, beverages, soups, fruit juices, and desserts are among the approved uses (Dervisoglu and Yazici, 2006). Insoluble dietary fiber made up 47.6% of the total amount of dietary fiber found in orange peels from the "Liucheng" variety, whereas soluble dietary fiber made up 9% of the dry weight. Cellulose and pectic polysaccharides were found to be the main components of these substances. With a total dietary fiber content of 14% (dry weight), lemon peels are approximately twice as high in fiber as lemons that have been peeled (7 percent dry weight) (Gorinstein et al., 2001; Lundberg et al., 2014). The percentages of total dietary fibers that were soluble and insoluble, respectively, were 5% and 9%. Both soluble and insoluble dietary fibers were present in large amounts in lemon pulp and peel. Contrarily, there was much more dietary fiber in the pulp (78%) than in the peel (53%) of orange (*Citrus sinensis*) (Lundberg et al., 2014).

Enzyme production

Enzymes are one of the efficient strategies in the green technology revolution for catalyzing the process. Because of its high fidelity and, more crucially, high productivity in the reaction process, enzyme catalysis is a vital method for many sorts of crucial applications, and enzymes are frequently seen as suitable tools that are most likely to improve biotechnology. This method of using agricultural waste to produce products with additional value is also one of the more efficient ones. Many bacterial species found in agricultural waste create enzymes that find use in a variety of industries, including food, medicine, textiles, and dyes. Current research demonstrates that one of the most successful strategies for preparing the environment for climate change is biotechnology. Studies using waste by-products as substrates or substrates to create enzymes are still not widespread in Vietnam. However, the research by Jahan et al. (2017) aimed to create useful biocatalysts using agricultural waste (apple peels, orange peels, lemon peels, potato skins, and wheat bran). This study demonstrates that *Bacillus licheniformis* KIBE-IB3, which generates the most proteoglycanase (PGase), can create the greatest amounts of PGase when given the right nutrients (Jahan et al., 2017). The different ingredients support microbial growth because fermentation is what constitutes agricultural waste, which leads to the production of valuable enzymes. Throughout the industrial process, waste is employed as a raw material. Due to the degradation of many enzymes by the substrates found in these raw materials, the lignocellulose substrate is transformed from a complex material to a less complex one by fungal growth. Additionally, it has been demonstrated that pectinase may be obtained for a low cost and with ease from rice bran, especially in nations like Vietnam that produce a lot of rice each year. Using *B. subtilis* CBTK 106, banana waste was employed as a substrate for high-titer α -amylase synthesis. Banana stem was prepared by steaming at 121°C for 60 min to serve as a suitable carbon source for the creation of cellulase. Moreover, a strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* was identified from agricultural waste in Vietnam and used for the manufacture of alcohol. By rupturing the alpha-1,4 bonds present in starch, amyloglucosidases, often referred to as glucoamylases, can release glucose molecules. In their investigation into the viability of employing banana peels for *T. viride* GIM 3.0010

to produce cellulase in solid-state fermentation, Sun *et al.* (2011) found that the peels give the producing organism vital nutrients, leading to high enzyme yields. Xylanases degrade the polysaccharide found in plants called xylan, which has a wide range of industrial applications. *A. niger* growth and, consequently, the production of phytase was dramatically accelerated using rice bran in recent research. Agricultural by-products are used to produce ellagitannase, an enzyme used to biodegrade the production of ellagic acid and ellagitannin (Buenrostro-Figueroa *et al.*, 2014; Yin *et al.*, 2013). Similarly, Saharan *et al.* (2017) investigated how fermentation affected phenols, flavonoids, and the ability of popular foods to scavenge free radicals. In addition, they investigated how the enzymes α -amylase, xylanase, and α -glucosidase affect the release of polyphenols and antioxidants from cereals during solid-state fermentation. The results showed that fermentation increased enzyme activity and at the same time increased polyphenol content. Therefore, several techniques that do not use synthetic enzymes have been used, such as the fermentation of xylanase, glucosidase, and lipase from a peanut press by *A. oryzae*. The end outcome was a striking increase in enzyme activity across all studies (Oliveira *et al.*, 2017). Many companies are using industrial enzymes, according to extensive studies on the subject. Many sectors are now starting to look at the benefits of enzymes made from agricultural waste. Due to its high fidelity and, more significantly, high yield in the reaction process, enzyme catalysis is a crucial method for a range of vital applications. Enzymes are occasionally viewed as the biotechnology industry's most flexible tool. A vast spectrum of enzymes used in food, medicine, textiles, and color creation is produced by microbes from agricultural waste.

Functional and preservative compounds

Bioactive compounds, including dietary fibers, have been extensively studied in fruit and vegetable wastes and by-products such as banana peel, orange peel, and pomelo peel.... Locally, some researchers have investigated that agriculture waste in Vietnam posed a high content of antioxidant compounds which led to many functional properties. Specifically, "Vinh Chau" shallot skin has a high content of quercetin and its derivatives as quercetin-glucoside and methylated-quercetin-hexose. Shallot extract contains a high concentration of quercetin-mono-glycoside (43.8% and 35.3%, respectively, in the flesh and skin). Quercetin-di-glucoside was present in considerable concentrations in the meat extract (38.9%). The peel and flesh of shallot bulbs contained 14–16% of methylated quercetin(-glucoside) (Tai and Thuy, 2023; Thuy *et al.*, 2020). Moreover, the skin of the Vietnam red dragon fruit has a high betacyanin concentration of 22.28 mg/g. The food sector may use the obtained result to create a natural food color for the next processing (Thuy *et al.*, 2022d). Fruits and vegetables, which contain phenolics, carotenoids, anthocyanins, and tocopherols, have also been found to have the ability to fight against cancer and other detrimental diseases caused by free radicals (Caleja *et al.*, 2017; Poljsak and Milisav, 2018) and also, could potential to reduce the glycemic index of food (Ngo *et al.*, 2022). The anti-aging, anti-inflammatory, and anti-cancer properties of β -carotene, ascorbic acid, and several phenolic compounds are well known (Ha *et al.*, 2022; Nurliyana *et al.*, 2010). Bananas are a common fruit growing in Vietnam that are eaten when they are ripe or utilized in recipes. Many types of bacteria are susceptible to the antimicrobial effects of banana peel extracts in certain recent studies (Rahman *et al.*, 2019). This material can be recovered by using its high-value molecules such as the antioxidant compound and the dietary fiber fraction, which have a lot of promise for use in the production of functional meals. So, producing microbial chemicals effectively from cheap agro-industrial waste can have positive effects on the environment and the economy. For the microbial compounds produced, these agro-waste leftovers can act as a source of glucose. Using a variety of microbial sources, such as bacteria, yeasts, mold, and algae, agro-waste can be fermented into microbial pigments or edible colorants. Agricultural waste is a cheap and useful source for creating commodities with added value that are renewable. This waste can be used to create a range of biological flavoring agents by microbial origin bioconversion. Due to its environmental friendliness, vanillin is one of the most essential flavoring chemicals in the food industry (Mishra *et al.*, 2013). Research into the manufacture of ferulic acid from agro-food industry wastes and by-products has yielded promising results in previous years. Byproducts of the cereal sector, such as rice, maize, wheat, and sugar beet pulp, have been investigated as a potential source of ferulic acid, which has been recovered at maximum yield from these wastes (Sibhatu *et al.*, 2021). Górnas *et al.* (2015a) studied the phenolic compounds found in crab apple pomace flesh, seeds, and stems, and found that seeds had the highest polyphenol concentration (3592.6–23,606.8 mg/kg). Eleven apple seed oils prepared from leftovers from the production of juice and fruit salads were studied by Górnas *et al.* (2014) for their lipophilic composition. According to this study, palmitic, oleic, and linoleic acids make up the majority of the fatty acids in apple seeds. From 12 to 27 g/100 g of oil were produced. Tocotrienols and tocopherols are present in high concentrations in seed oils generated from industrial fruit waste and by-products (Górnas *et al.*, 2015b). Watermelon seeds contained high content of phytosterol, which accounted for around 28% (Górnas and Rudzińska, 2016). The tocopherol profile in the seed oils of industrial by-products from five dessert apples and seven crab varieties raised in Latvia was also examined by Górnas (2015). Ascorbic acid, often known as vitamin C, is a naturally occurring vitamin that is found in many different plant sections. It is the best biochemical that might be used in the food industry, and it has long been known about it. Current methods largely use it as a natural biomedicine and food preservative (Ayala-Zavala *et al.*, 2009). Many antimicrobial food packaging techniques, such as bioactive extracts of citrus species bio-waste, have been employed to preserve diverse foods by inhibiting a wide range of microorganisms that cause degradation without affecting the quality and functional features

(McClements *et al.*, 2021). The addition of food tastes and preservative chemicals generated from various agricultural wastes to processed foods enhances the flavor, experience, and overall satisfaction of a variety of goods. Yet research has demonstrated that there are no unfavorable effects from including these flavors and related compounds in food (McClements *et al.*, 2021).

Other products

Each year, a large amount of organic waste is released by agricultural and industrial operations. Sugar and carbohydrate content are common in these wastes (Kim *et al.*, 2019). Moisture, nutrients, and significant volumes of carbon are readily available and can be successfully utilized to produce a range of high-value goods. It is crucial to look for low-cost and innovative alternatives to the synthesis of citric acid from waste due to the continuously growing demand for the substance. Over 90% of the citric acid traded on the global market is produced globally by fermenting agro-industrial waste products. As it is easy to use, consumes less energy, and is very practical, this is advantageous (Galanakis, 2018). Pine waste produces biomass-assisted citric acids more efficiently than apple pomace. The commercial citrus juice extraction facilities annually produce tons of organic waste residue, peels, and segment membranes (Santiago *et al.*, 2020). The stench pollutes the air, and the discarded wastes pollute soil and the environment. Food color is one of the characteristics that have a significant impact on sensory value, particularly consumer appeal. Red dragon fruit is one possible component. *H. polyrhizus* has high content of minerals like potassium, magnesium, and calcium in addition to being high in organic acids, protein, phosphorus, vitamin C, moisture, and fiber (Delgado-Vargas *et al.*, 2000). At least seven betacyanins, which are responsible for the intense purple-red color of the flesh and peel, have been specifically found in this material by Rebecca *et al.* (2010). *H. polyrhizus* betacyanin has a lot of potential for coloring a variety of foods, and they could be employed not only as colorants but also as antioxidants (Castellar *et al.*, 2003). According to Rodriguez *et al.* (2015), the red dragon fruit's skin contains 30.18 mg/100 g of fresh peel and 42.71 mg/100 g of fresh pulp, respectively, of the health-promoting betacyanin. From this source, betacyanin can be extracted and used as a natural food colorant (red purple) as well as a source for natural health and beauty products. This minimizes food waste. By increasing the fruit's monetary value and promoting a sustainable economy, using the pulp and peel also reduces pollution. Betacyanin is a natural colorant with a significant molecular absorption index and coloring potential.

In addition to the food industry, agricultural wastes, fruits and vegetables are used to compost as bio-fertilizer, used in growing vegetables and supplementing clean food for the family and increasing income. This method not only works to treat the odor of waste, reduces pollution, but also helps reduce fertilizer costs, producing clean vegetables for use in meals. In Vietnam, a very common waste product is rice husk, which was previously considered a waste, causing many difficulties for rice processing plants. With an output of more than 25 million tons of rice per year, after milling, the Mekong Delta produces more than 1.5 million tons of rice husk (Song *et al.*, 2021). Moreover, in the process of growing sugarcane, humus and bagasse are released annually around millions of tons. These are all abundant sources of raw materials for people to reuse in the agricultural production process. According to studies, the amount of nutrients contained in 7 tons of rice straw if used to make organic fertilizer is equivalent to 2 bags of urea, 1 bag of phosphorus and 4 bags of potassium. In fact, Vietnam's demand for organic fertilizers is very high, but the price of chemical fertilizers has increased and the impact of climate change on agricultural production is increasingly serious. Therefore, the exploitation of raw materials from agricultural waste is considered an important direction, in line with the current trend of green and clean agriculture development.

CONCLUSION

This review has summarized some common agricultural by-products in Vietnam, and relevant domestic and foreign studies on the sources of by-products. The source of agricultural by-products in Vietnam is very large because the consumer demand for agricultural products is also increasing. However, these sources have not yet been used appropriately. Agricultural by-products are rich in nutrients such as resistant starch, biologically active compounds, essential oils, and pectin, which can be processed into many different products. By applying green technologies and techniques, this source of raw materials can contribute great value to industries, especially the food industry in Vietnam. However, these technologies need to be standardized and optimized in the future to ensure safety, quality, and savings. Techniques for the application of value-added products from agricultural by-products also need to be developed and perfected, while meeting the needs of society. The opportunities for research and development of agricultural by-products in Vietnam are huge, however, it needs to consider more about appropriate technology to fill the gaps and process to upscale. The by-products, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, contain important biological resources that can be used to boost the user's immune system and provide other health benefits in the future. It is necessary to have specific plans such as methods of collection and treatment of agricultural products, by-product management, techniques applied to optimize the use of by-products, and the application of value-added products. Environmental impact assessment, social needs, and economic analysis are also necessary steps in optimizing agricultural waste in Vietnam. Sustainable agriculture can not only help reduce environmental pollution but also improve people's living standards.

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