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Foreword/Avant-propos

Workshop on alternative solvents for extraction, purification and formulation (WAS2014)

Workshop international sur les solvants alternatifs pour l'extraction, la purification et la formulation (WAS2014)

Foreword

Nowadays, solvents are widely used in manufacturing processes such as perfume, cosmetics, pharmaceutical, food ingredient, nutraceutical, biofuel or fine chemical industries, where they are used for extraction, purification, formulation or synthesis processes. Recent trends in natural product chemistry have largely focused on finding solutions that minimize the use of solvents or alternatives to petroleum solvents. This must be achieved while also enabling process intensification and a cost-effective production of high-quality extracts.

The objective of this workshop was to provide a complete picture of the current knowledge on alternative and green solvents used at laboratory and industrial scales for extraction, purification, formulation, and synthesis of natural products in terms of innovation, original methods and procedures, and safety of the products. The workshop was aimed at professionals from industry, academic researchers and lecturers engaged in natural product chemistry, and graduate-level students. The scientific program consisted of 13 conferences with highly recognized experts and 34 posters by young researchers and PhD students.

More than 180 scientists and experts from industry (50%) and academia (50%) from 15 countries have participated in this workshop held in Avignon, France, a venue that created an environment for information exchange, generation of new ideas, and acceleration of applications that benefit science and society. WAS2014 had served as a catalyst for the advancement of research in the field of "alternative solvents" by connecting scientists and experts within and across disciplines (extraction, synthesis, formulation, and purification) from around the world in the vibrant City of the Popes, Avignon, France.

Avant-propos

Aujourd'hui, tout procédé d'extraction, de synthèse, de purification ou de formulation de principes actifs dans l'industrie cosmétique, la parfumerie, l'agroalimentaire, la pharmacie ou la valorisation de la biomasse met en œuvre, directement ou indirectement, des solvants issus de ressources fossiles, devenus incontournables dans ces différents secteurs d'applications. L'utilisation de ces solvants pétroliers est de plus en plus souvent montrée du doigt pour leur participation à la pollution environnementale et à l'effet de serre. Par ailleurs, l'épuisement progressif des ressources pétrolières et le durcissement de la réglementation incitent les industriels, mais aussi les chercheurs académiques, à s'orienter vers la recherche et l'utilisation de solvants alternatifs plus respectueux de l'environnement.

Cette journée thématique sur les solvants alternatifs pour l'extraction, la purification, la synthèse et la formulation a permis aux domaines utilisant des solvants d'entrer dans leur révolution « verte », en opérant une mutation vers des solvants alternatifs issus de la biomasse. Plus de 150 chercheurs et experts, représentant plus de 55 pays, venant du milieu industriel (50 %), mais aussi académique (50 %), ont participé à cette première rencontre sur les solvants alternatifs (WAS2014), qui s'est tenue à Avignon (France), la Cité des papes.

Farid Chemat
Avignon University, France

Anne-Sylvie Fabiano Tixier*
Avignon University, France

Antoine Bily
Naturex, France

Natacha Rombaut
ORTESA LabCom, Naturex—Avignon University, France

* Corresponding author.
E-mail address: anne-sylvie.fabiano@univ-avignon.fr

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