

# **Advances in Biological Science Research**

A Practical Approach

Edited by  
**Surya Nandan Meena and Milind Mohan Naik**



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**ACADEMIC PRESS**

An imprint of Elsevier

Academic Press is an imprint of Elsevier  
125 London Wall, London EC2Y 5AS, United Kingdom  
525 B Street, Suite 1650, San Diego, CA 92101, United States  
50 Hampshire Street, 5th Floor, Cambridge, MA 02139, United States  
The Boulevard, Langford Lane, Kidlington, Oxford OX5 1GB, United Kingdom

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### Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

A catalog record for this book is available from the Library of Congress

### British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-0-12-817497-5

For information on all Academic Press publications visit our website at  
<https://www.elsevier.com/books-and-journals>

*Publisher:* Andre G. Wolff  
*Acquisition Editor:* Linda Versteeg-buschman  
*Editorial Project Manager:* Sandra Harron  
*Production Project Manager:* Poulouse Joseph  
*Cover Designer:* Vicky Pearson Esser

Typeset by TNQ Technologies



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# Trends in production and fuel properties of biodiesel from heterotrophic microbes

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## 16.1 Introduction

Biodiesel, a renewable energy source, is rapidly emerging as an alternative fuel for conventional petrodiesel. It has been estimated that approximately 22% of the total greenhouse emissions arise due to the use of fossil transport fuels [1]. One-fifth of the total CO<sub>2</sub> released is due to the use of transport fuels, and hence the use of alternative, renewable fuels like biodiesel is recommended. Biodiesel offers many advantages like miscibility with petrodiesel, reduction in exhaust emissions, higher flash point, inherent lubricity, high energy return, low content of sulfur and phosphorus, a high cetane number, and ease in biodegradability [2].

In the transport sector, global biofuel production increased by 2.5% in 2017 compared to the previous year. The United States registered a 1.6% increase in biodiesel production with 6 billion liters and was the largest producer of this renewable fuel. Brazil was the second largest producer with a total production of 4.3 billion liters, a 13% increase. Germany, which produced 3.5 billion liters, was the largest biodiesel producer in Europe. Argentina produced 3.3 billion liters, followed by Indonesia with a production of 2.5 billion liters. Biodiesel commands a share of 29% in the liquid biofuel market. The total production of biodiesel was 36.6 billion liters in 2017, which was a 1% increase compared to 2016 [3]. In India, 150 million liters of biodiesel was produced in 2017 and another 10 million liters would be added in 2018 [4]. The European Union (EU) has specified that every member country should derive 20% of its energy requirement from biofuels and 10% of its transport fuel should be obtained from renewable sources [5]. Biodiesel production is expected to increase every year by 4.5% to reach 41 billion liters in 2022 [6].