Innovative processes for the extraction of rapeseed proteins

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Introduction

Considering global population growth driven by emerging countries and consequently the increase in the nutritional needs of populations, the valorization of the protein fraction of plant resources, particularly proteins from oleaginous seeds like rapeseed, appears to be a major challenge in meeting this demand. The valorization of these proteins uses traditional extraction processes and, increasingly, innovative techniques to preserve the nutritional and functional quality of proteins. Methods of intensification and extraction with alternative solvents are examples of techniques that are likely to develop and which can be considered for the extraction of proteins from rapeseed.



Intensified extractions



Extraction with subcritical water







Deep eutectic solvents (DESs) are known as a new class of promising ionic solvents with a broad range of potential applications. DESs are systems characterized by their ability to form an eutectic mixture, meaning that their melting point is much lower than those of the individual components. They are generally regarded as "green" because they are composed of ammonium salts and H-bond donors (HBDs) which are considered to be eco-friendly. DESs have already been used for the extraction of proteins (bovine serum albumin, trypsin) with an aqueous two-phase system. However, it can also be extrapolated to the extraction of rapeseed proteins.

Conclusion

Innovative and intensification techniques provide promising solutions for preserving the quality and functionality of proteins as well as for reducing the environmental impacts of extraction processes.