

Module - 1
<b>Cell basic unit of life:</b> Introduction, Origin, and evaluation of life. Structure and functions of a cell. Stem cells and their application.
Biomolecules: Properties and functions of Carbohydrates, Nucleic acids, proteins, lipids. Importance of special biomolecules: Properties and functions of enzymes, vitamins, and hormones.
<b>Application of biomolecules:</b> Carbohydrates in cellulose-based water filters production, PHA and PLA in bioplastics production, Nucleic acids in vaccines and diagnosis,
Proteins in food production, lipids in biodiesel and detergents production, Enzymes in biosensors fabrication, food processing, detergent formulation, and textile processing.

## Origin of life

### Theories of Origin of Life:

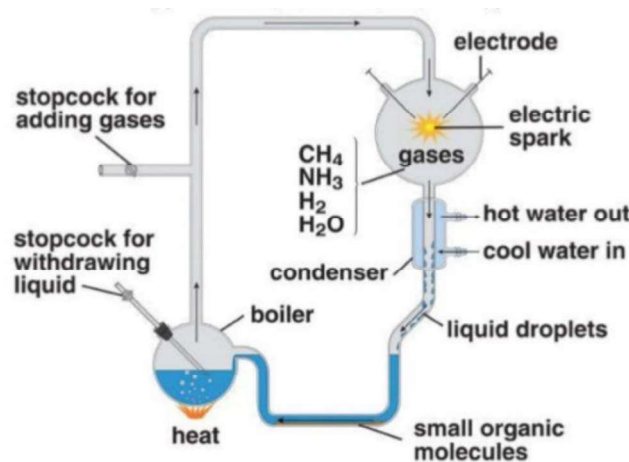
In the olden days, people believed that the universe and life on it was an act and result of God's creation. There was, however, no evidence to support these claims. The early scientists and Greeks believed that life on earth never began on earth itself. They believed that it came from somewhere else in outer space and they named this phenomenon 'panspermia'.

Then came the theory of spontaneous generation of life during the times of Aristotle who believed that life was born from decaying and rotting inorganic matter such as hay, straw, and other non-living material. This theory was rubbished by Louis Pasteur.

Next came the 'chemical evolution of life' theory by two scientists- Oparin from Russia and Haldane from England. They believed that the generation of life on earth was a slow chemical process which occurred from pre-existing non-living materials such as amino acids, proteins and nuclear material such as RNA.

They postulated that these organic materials came together under conditions of high temperature, reducing atmosphere (without oxygen) and gases released from volcanos all of which were favorable to produce simple living forms. So they called this mixture of organic materials 'organic soup'.

This theory was further supported by the experimental evidences provides by **Stanley L. Miller and Harold Urey in 1952**. They created early earth like reducing conditions in laboratory scale by creating electric discharge in a flask containing  $\text{CH}_4$ ,  $\text{H}_2$ ,  $\text{NH}_3$  gas along with water vapour at  $800^\circ\text{C}$  as shown in figure. The analysis of the products synthesized in this experiment suggests the formation of amino acids, nucleobases, pigments, fats and sugar molecules. These experimental evidences strongly support the chemical evolution of biomolecules and from abiogenic molecules. These building blocks then polymerize to synthesize complex biopolymers.



## **Evolution of Life**

Evolution can be described as a change in species over time. Dinosaur fossils are significant evidence of evolution and of past life on Earth.

Darwin's theory of Natural selection still holds ground but was modified with progress in genetics and developed into the Modern synthetic theory which is regarded as the most valid theory of evolution.

### **Darwin's Theory of Natural Selection**

An English Scientist, Charles Darwin (1809-1882) explained the mechanism of evolution through his theory of natural selection. He is still regarded as 'the father of evolution' because of two very significant contributions.

He suggested that all kind of organisms are related through ancestry and he suggested a mechanism for evolution and named it natural selection.

According to Darwin, organisms produce more offspring than can survive. Because environmental resources are limited there ensues struggle for existence. Organisms with advantageous variations are protected and allowed to reproduce while the disadvantageous variants are eliminated from nature. This is what was termed natural selection by Darwin.

#### **According to this theory:**

1. The unit of evolution is 'population' which has its own gene pool. Gene pool is the group of all different genes of a population.
2. Heritable genetic changes appear in the individuals of a population.

3. These heritable changes or variations occur due to small mutations in the genes or in the chromosomes and their recombination's.
4. Natural selection selects the variations which helps in adapting to the environment.
5. A change in the genetic constitution of a population selected by natural selection is responsible for evolution of a new species, since through interaction of variation and **Natural Selection** more offsprings with favourable genetic changes are born. This is called 'differential reproduction'.
6. Once evolved, **Reproductive Isolation** helps in keeping species distinct.

### **Evidences of Evolution**

**Fossils** – They represent plants and animals that lived millions of years ago and are now extinct.

**Comparative anatomy and morphology** – It shows evidences of the similarities and differences between living forms of today and that of the prehistoric times.

Some of the examples of comparative anatomy and morphology are:

**Homologous organs** – All mammals share the same pattern of forelimbs. Though they perform different functions, they are anatomically similar. This is called **divergent evolution** and the structures are called homologous structures (common ancestors).

**Analogous organs** – The pair of organs is not anatomically similar, but performs the same function (e.g., the wings of butterflies and birds). This is called **convergent evolution**.

**Adaptive melanism** – In England, it was noted that before industrial revolution, the number of white winged moths was more than that of dark melanised moth. However, after industrialisation, there were more of dark melanised moths. The explanation was that after industrialization, the tree trunks became darker with deposits of soot and smoke and hence, the number of dark moths increased in order to protect themselves from predators while the white winged ones were easily picked up by the predators.

Similarly, the herbicide and pesticide resistant plants and animals and antibiotic-resistant bacteria are some of the evidences that point towards evolution.

### **Structure and functions of a cell**

*A cell is defined as the smallest, basic unit of life that is responsible for all of life's processes.*

A cell is the structural and fundamental unit of life. The study of cells from its basic structure to the functions of every cell organelle is called Cell Biology. All organisms are made up of cells. They may be made up of a single cell (unicellular), or many cells (multicellular). Cells are the building blocks of all living beings. They provide structure to the body and convert the nutrients taken from the food into energy. Cells are complex and their components perform various functions in an organism. They are of different shapes and sizes.

Cells comprise several cell organelles that perform specialised functions to carry out life processes. Every organelle has a specific structure.

#### **Characteristics of Cells**

Following are the various essential characteristics of cells:

- Cells provide structure and support to the body of an organism.
- The cell interior is organised into different individual organelles surrounded by a separate membrane.
- The nucleus (major organelle) holds genetic information necessary for reproduction and cell growth.
- Every cell has one nucleus and membrane-bound organelles in the cytoplasm.
- Mitochondria, a double membrane-bound organelle is mainly responsible for the energy transactions vital for the survival of the cell.
- Lysosomes digest unwanted materials in the cell.
- Endoplasmic reticulum plays a significant role in the internal organisation of the cell by synthesising selective molecules and processing, directing and sorting them to their appropriate locations.

#### **Types of Cells**

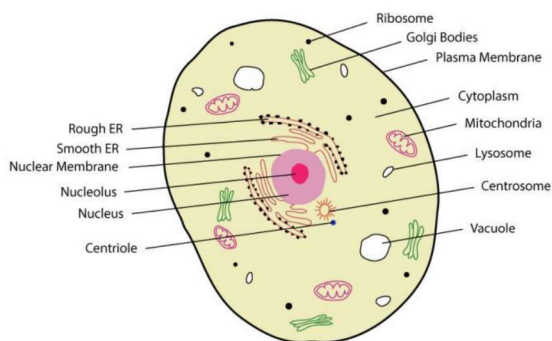
Cells are similar to factories with different labourers and departments that work towards a common objective. Various types of cells perform different functions. Based on cellular structure, there are two types of cells:

- Prokaryotes
- Eukaryotes

## Prokaryotic Cells

1. Prokaryotic cells have no nucleus. Instead, some prokaryotes such as bacteria have a region within the cell where the genetic material is freely suspended. This region is called the nucleoid.
2. They all are single-celled microorganisms. Examples include archaea, bacteria, and cyanobacteria.
3. The cell size ranges from 0.1 to 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter.
4. The hereditary material can either be DNA or RNA.
5. Prokaryotes generally reproduce by binary fission, a form of asexual reproduction. They are also known to use conjugation – which is often seen as the prokaryotic equivalent to sexual reproduction (however, it is NOT sexual reproduction).

## Eukaryotic Cells



1. Eukaryotic cells are characterised by a true nucleus.
2. The size of the cells ranges between 10–100  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter.
3. This broad category involves plants, fungi, protozoans, and animals.
4. The plasma membrane is responsible for monitoring the transport of nutrients and electrolytes in and out of the cells. It is also responsible for cell to cell communication.
5. They reproduce sexually as well as asexually.
6. There are some contrasting features between plant and animal cells. For eg., the [plant cell](#) contains chloroplast, central vacuoles, and other plastids, whereas the animal cells do not.

**Cell Structure**

The cell structure comprises individual components with specific functions essential to carry out life's processes. These components include- cell wall, cell membrane, cytoplasm, nucleus, and cell organelles. Read on to explore more insights on cell structure and function.

**Cell Membrane**

- The cell membrane supports and protects the cell. It controls the movement of substances in and out of the cells. It separates the cell from the external environment. The cell membrane is present in all the cells.
- The cell membrane is the outer covering of a cell within which all other organelles, such as the cytoplasm and nucleus, are enclosed. It is also referred to as the plasma membrane.
- By structure, it is a porous membrane (with pores) which permits the movement of selective substances in and out of the cell. Besides this, the cell membrane also protects the cellular component from damage and leakage.
- It forms the wall-like structure between two cells as well as between the cell and its surroundings.
- Plants are immobile, so their cell structures are well-adapted to protect them from external factors. The cell wall helps to reinforce this function.

**Cell Wall**

- The cell wall is the most prominent part of the plant's cell structure. It is made up of cellulose, hemicellulose and pectin.
- The cell wall is present exclusively in plant cells. It protects the plasma membrane and other cellular components. The cell wall is also the outermost layer of plant cells.
- It is a rigid and stiff structure surrounding the cell membrane.
- It provides shape and support to the cells and protects them from mechanical shocks and injuries.

**Cytoplasm**

- The cytoplasm is a thick, clear, jelly-like substance present inside the cell membrane.
- Most of the chemical reactions within a cell take place in this cytoplasm.
- The cell organelles such as endoplasmic reticulum, vacuoles, mitochondria, ribosomes, are suspended in this cytoplasm.

**Nucleus**

- The nucleus contains the hereditary material of the cell, the DNA.
- It sends signals to the cells to grow, mature, divide and die.
- The nucleus is surrounded by the nuclear envelope that separates the DNA from the rest of the cell.
- The nucleus protects the DNA and is an integral component of a plant's cell structure.

**Cell Organelles**

Cells are composed of various cell organelles that perform certain specific functions to carry out life's processes. The different cell organelles, along with its principal functions, are as follows:

**Cell Organelles and their Functions****Nucleolus**

The nucleolus is the site of ribosome synthesis. Also, it is involved in controlling cellular activities and cellular reproduction.

**Nuclear membrane**

The nuclear membrane protects the nucleus by forming a boundary between the nucleus and other cell organelles.

**Chromosomes**

Chromosomes play a crucial role in determining the sex of an individual. Each human cells contain 23 pairs of chromosomes.

**Endoplasmic reticulum**

The endoplasmic reticulum is involved in the transportation of substances throughout the cell. It plays a primary role in the metabolism of carbohydrates, synthesis of lipids, steroids and proteins.

**Golgi Bodies**

Golgi bodies are called the cell's post office as it is involved in the transportation of materials within the cell.

**Ribosome**

Ribosomes are the protein synthesisers of the cell.

**Mitochondria**

The mitochondrion is called "the powerhouse of the cell." It is called so because it produces ATP – the cell's energy currency.

**Lysosomes**

Lysosomes protect the cell by engulfing the foreign bodies entering the cell and help in cell renewal. Therefore, they are known as the cell's suicide bags.

## Chloroplast

Chloroplasts are the primary organelles for photosynthesis. It contains the pigment called chlorophyll.

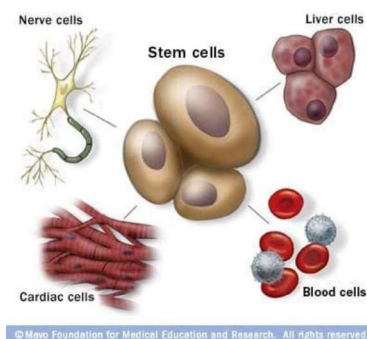
## Vacuoles

Vacuoles store food, water, and other waste materials in the cell.

## Stem cells and their application.

**Stem cells** are special human cells with the unique ability to develop into various types of cells, ranging from muscle cells to brain cells. These versatile cells also possess the power to **repair damaged tissues** within the body.

Stem cells have two important properties. They are able to make more cells like themselves. That is, they self-renew. And they can become other cells that do different things in a process known as differentiation.



## Types of Stem Cells:

### Embryonic Stem Cells:

- Derived from the early embryo, these cells are initially **totipotent**, meaning they can differentiate into any cell type.
- As development progresses, they become **pluripotent**, capable of forming various cell types.
- Some embryonic stem cells are **multipotent**, differentiating into closely related cell types.



**Adult Stem Cells:**

- Obtained from developed organs and tissues (e.g., bone marrow).
- They repair and replace damaged tissues in their specific location.
- Hematopoietic stem cells, found in bone marrow, are used in **bone marrow transplants** for treating certain cancers.

**Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells (iPSCs):**

- Created by converting tissue-specific cells into embryonic-like cells in the lab.
- iPSCs share characteristics with embryonic cells and can give rise to all cell types in the human body.

**Mesenchymal Stem Cells:**

- Derived from connective tissues (stroma) surrounding organs.
- These cells can develop into bones, fat cells, and cartilage.
- Mesenchymal stem cells are used to treat various diseases

**Applications of Stem Cells:**

- **Tissue Regeneration:** Stem cells can be used to grow specific tissues or organs, making them valuable for kidney and liver transplants.
- **Disease Research and Drug Testing:** It help study normal development, disease onset, and progression. They serve as a tool for testing new drugs.
- **Understanding Genetic Defects:** Stem cells aid in studying genetic defects and disease causes.
- **Replacing Damaged Cells:** In the future, stem cells may replace damaged or lost cells due to various diseases

### **Biomolecules**

Biomolecules are organic molecules essential for life, including carbohydrates, proteins, lipids, and nucleic acids, playing critical roles in cellular structure, energy storage, and genetic information transfer.

Biomolecule Classes:

- Carbohydrates
- Proteins
- Lipids
- Nucleic Acids

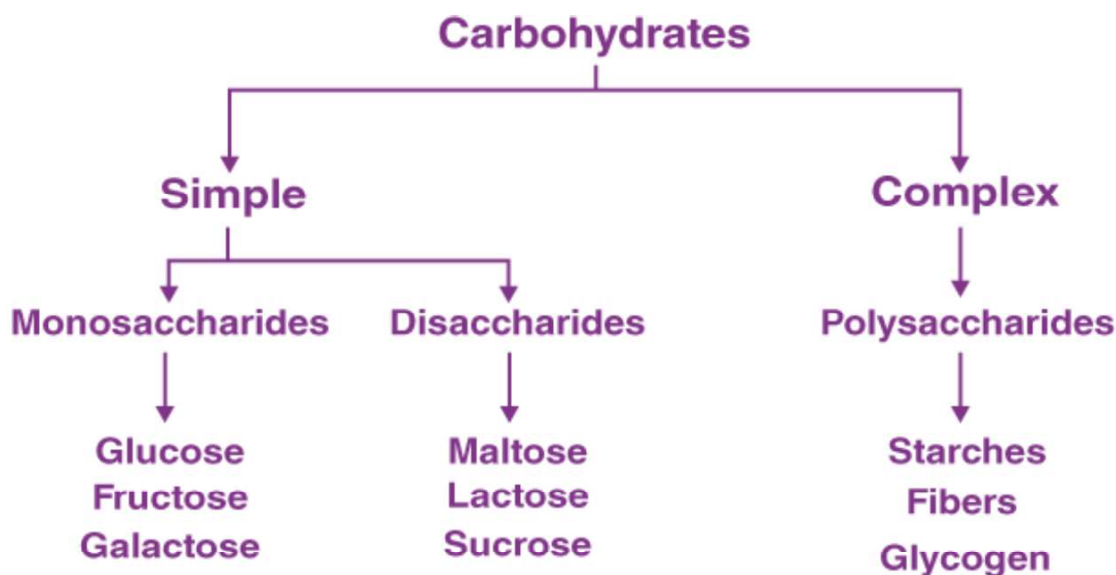
Functions of Biomolecules:

- Energy Storage: Carbohydrates and lipids are primary energy storage molecules.
- Structural Support: Proteins and carbohydrates (like cellulose) provide structural support in cells and tissues.
- Enzymatic Activity: Proteins, specifically enzymes, catalyze biochemical reactions.
- Genetic Information: Nucleic acids store and transmit genetic information.
- Transport: Proteins can act as transport molecules, carrying substances across cell membranes or in the bloodstream.
- Hormonal Regulation: Lipids and proteins can act as hormones, regulating various physiological processes.

### **Properties and functions of Carbohydrates**

Carbohydrates are a group of naturally occurring carbonyl compounds (aldehydes or ketones) that also contain several hydroxyl groups.

It may also include their derivatives which produce such compounds on hydrolysis. They are the most abundant organic molecules in nature and are also referred to as “saccharides”. The carbohydrates which are soluble in water and sweet in taste are called “sugars”.



Carbohydrates, primarily serving as a source of energy, also play structural and regulatory roles, with properties like being soluble in water and sweet tasting.

Properties of Carbohydrates:

- **Structure:** Carbohydrates are composed of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen atoms, often in a 1:2:1 ratio ( $\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ ).
- **Solubility:** They are generally soluble in water, especially monosaccharides and disaccharides, due to the presence of hydroxyl ( $-\text{OH}$ ) groups.
- **Sweetness:** Many carbohydrates, particularly simple sugars, have a sweet taste.
- **Solidity:** At room temperature, many carbohydrates are solid.
- **Energy Storage:** Carbohydrates are a primary source of energy for the body, broken down to release glucose for cellular processes.
- **Structural Component:** Some carbohydrates, like cellulose in plants and chitin in insects, form structural components of cells and tissues.
- **Glycosidic Bonds:** Monosaccharides are linked together by glycosidic bonds to form disaccharides and polysaccharides.

**Functions of Carbohydrates:**

**Energy Source:** Glucose, a simple carbohydrate, is the primary fuel for the body's cells, particularly the brain, and is essential for energy production through cellular respiration.

**Structural Support:** Carbohydrates like cellulose and chitin provide structural support in plant cell walls and insect exoskeletons, respectively.

**Fiber for Digestive Health:** Non-digestible carbohydrates, like dietary fiber, promote healthy digestion and gut motility.

**Cellular Recognition and Signalling:** Carbohydrates, particularly those found on cell surfaces (glycoproteins and glycolipids), play a role in cell-to-cell communication and recognition.

**Protein Sparing:** Carbohydrates help spare proteins from being used as an energy source, ensuring that proteins are available for other essential functions.

**Metabolic Regulation:** Carbohydrate metabolism plays a crucial role in maintaining stable blood glucose levels, which is essential for overall health.

**Lubrication, Cellular Intercommunication and Immunity:** Carbohydrates also play a role in lubrication, cellular intercommunication and immunity.

### **Nucleic acids**

Nucleic acids are large biomolecules that play essential roles in all cells and viruses. Nucleic acids, primarily DNA and RNA, are crucial macromolecules that store and transmit genetic information, directing protein synthesis and playing a vital role in cellular processes.

Nucleic acids are naturally occurring chemical compounds that serve as the primary information-carrying molecules in cells.

**Types:** The two main classes of nucleic acids are deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and ribonucleic acid (RNA).

**DNA:** Carries genetic information for the development and functioning of an organism.

Forms a double helix structure.

Contains the bases adenine (A), guanine (G), cytosine (C), and thymine (T).

**RNA:** Plays a role in protein synthesis and other cellular processes.

Often single-stranded, unlike DNA.

Contains the bases adenine (A), guanine (G), cytosine (C), and uracil (U).

**Functions:**

Store and transmit genetic information.

Direct protein synthesis.

Play a role in various cellular processes.

**Building Blocks:**

Nucleic acids are composed of nucleotides, which consist of a sugar molecule, a phosphate group, and a nitrogenous base.

**Examples:**

DNA: Found in the nucleus of cells, and in mitochondria and chloroplasts.

RNA: Found in the cytoplasm and nucleus of cells.

mRNA: Transmits genetic information from DNA to ribosomes.

rRNA: Forms part of ribosomes.

tRNA: Transfers amino acids to ribosomes during protein synthesis

### **Proteins**

Proteins are very large molecules composed of basic units called amino acids. Proteins contain carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and sulphur.

Protein molecules are large, complex molecules formed by one or more twisted and folded strands of amino acids. Proteins are highly complex molecules that are actively involved in the most basic and important aspects of life. These include metabolism, movement, defense, cellular communication, and molecular recognition.

**Classification of Proteins**

Protein molecules are large, complex molecules formed by one or more twisted and folded strands of amino acids. Each amino acid is connected to the next amino acid by covalent bonds.

1. **Primary (first level)** – Protein structure is a sequence of amino acids in a chain.
2. **Secondary (secondary level)** – Protein structure is formed by folding and twisting of the amino acid chain.
3. **Tertiary (third level)** – Protein structure is formed when the twists and folds of the secondary structure fold again to form a larger three-dimensional structure.
4. **Quaternary (fourth level)** – Protein structure is a protein consisting of more than one folded amino acid chain.

**Properties of Proteins:**

- Building Blocks: Proteins are made up of amino acids, which are linked together via peptide bonds to form long chains called polypeptides.
- Structure: Proteins have a complex structure, ranging from simple linear sequences (primary) to folded shapes (secondary, tertiary, and quaternary).
- Versatility: Their diverse structures allow them to perform a wide array of functions.
- Shape and Size: Proteins can range from simple crystalline spherical structures to long fibrillar structures.
- Denaturation: Proteins can lose their structure and function when exposed to conditions like heat, pH changes, or detergents.

**Functions of Proteins:**

Catalysis: Enzymes, a type of protein, speed up chemical reactions within cells.

Structure and Support: Proteins provide structural support for cells, tissues, and organs, like collagen in skin and bone.

Transport: Some proteins act as carriers, transporting molecules like oxygen (haemoglobin) or nutrients across cell membranes.

Immunity: Antibodies, a type of protein, defend the body against foreign invaders like bacteria and viruses.

Hormones: Some proteins act as hormones, regulating bodily processes like growth and metabolism.

Movement: Contractile proteins, like actin and myosin, are responsible for muscle contraction.

Storage: Some proteins store nutrients, such as iron or amino acids, for later use.

Regulation: Proteins can regulate cell growth, differentiation, and other cellular processes.

Energy: Proteins can be broken down for energy, but they are not the primary source of energy like carbohydrates or fats.

**Lipids**

These organic compounds are nonpolar molecules, which are soluble only in nonpolar solvents.

In the human body, these molecules can be synthesized in the liver and are found in oil, butter, whole milk, cheese, fried foods and also in some red meats.

**Properties of Lipids**

Lipids are a family of organic compounds, composed of fats and oils. These molecules yield high energy and are responsible for different functions within the human body.

- Lipids are oily or greasy nonpolar molecules, stored in the adipose tissue of the body.
- Lipids are a heterogeneous group of compounds, mainly composed of hydrocarbon chains.
- Lipids are energy-rich organic molecules, which provide energy for different life processes.
- Lipids are a class of compounds characterised by their solubility in nonpolar solvents and insolubility in water.
- Lipids are significant in biological systems as they form a mechanical barrier dividing a cell from the external environment known as the cell membrane.

Functions:

- **Energy Storage:** Lipids, particularly triglycerides, are the body's primary energy reserve, providing a concentrated source of energy that can be readily broken down for fuel. They store more energy per gram than carbohydrates or proteins.
- **Structural Component of Cell Membranes:**

Lipids, especially phospholipids, are a key component of cell membranes, forming a bilayer that separates the inside of the cell from its external environment.

This bilayer acts as a barrier, controlling which molecules can enter and exit the cell.

- **Hormone Synthesis:** Certain lipids, like cholesterol, are precursors to steroid hormones, which play crucial roles in regulating various bodily processes, such as growth, development, and reproduction.
- **Fat-Soluble Vitamin Absorption:** Lipids aid in the absorption of fat-soluble vitamins (A, D, E, and K) from the gut.
- **Insulation and Protection:** Lipids, particularly subcutaneous fat, provide insulation against temperature changes, helping to maintain a stable body temperature. They also cushion and protect vital organs from injury.
- **Signalling and Communication:** Some lipids act as signalling molecules, transmitting messages between cells and influencing various cellular processes.

- Other Functions: Lipids contribute to the taste and texture of food, as well as satiety (feeling of fullness). Lipids also play a role in the formation of myelin sheaths, which insulate nerve fibers and allow for efficient transmission of nerve impulses.

### **Properties and functions of enzymes**

Enzymes are proteins that help speed up metabolism, or the chemical reactions in our bodies. They build some substances and break others down. All living things have enzymes. One of the most important roles of enzymes is to aid in digestion. Digestion is the process of turning the food we eat into energy. For example, there are enzymes in our saliva, pancreas, intestines and stomach. They break down fats, proteins and carbohydrates. Enzymes use these nutrients for growth and cell repair.

Enzymes also help with:

- Breathing.
- Building muscle.
- Nerve function.
- Ridding our bodies of toxins.

There are thousands of individual enzymes in the body. Each type of enzyme only has one job. For example,

The enzyme sucrase breaks down a sugar called sucrose.

Lactase breaks down lactose, a kind of sugar found in milk products.

Some of the most common digestive enzymes are:

- Carbohydrase breaks down carbohydrates into sugars.
- Lipase breaks down fats into fatty acids.
- Protease breaks down protein into amino acids.
- **Hydrolases:** Involved in **hydrolysis**, where a water molecule is added to break down substrates (e.g., digestive enzymes).
- **Oxidoreductases:** Facilitate **electron transfer** reactions (e.g., redox reactions).
- **Lyases:** Form or break **double bonds** by adding or removing chemical groups.
- **Transferases:** Transfer a chemical group from one substance to another (e.g., kinases).



- **Ligases (Synthetases):** Couple the formation of chemical bonds to the breakdown of a pyrophosphate bond in ATP.
- **Isomerases:** Rearrange atoms within a molecule to form an isomer.

### **Functions of Enzymes**

The enzymes perform a number of functions in our bodies. These include:

1. Enzymes help in signal transduction. The most common enzyme used in the process includes protein kinase that catalyses the phosphorylation of proteins.
2. They break down large molecules into smaller substances that can be easily absorbed by the body.
3. They help in generating energy in the body. ATP synthase is the enzyme involved in the synthesis of energy.
4. Enzymes are responsible for the movement of ions across the plasma membrane.
5. Enzymes perform a number of biochemical reactions, including oxidation, reduction, hydrolysis, etc. to eliminate the non-nutritive substances from the body.
6. They function to reorganize the internal structure of the cell to regulate cellular activities.

## **Vitamins**

The vitamins are natural and essential nutrients, required in small quantities and play a major role in growth and development, repair and healing wounds, maintaining healthy bones and tissues, for the proper functioning of an immune system, and other biological functions. These essential organic compounds have diverse biochemical functions.

There are thirteen different types of vitamins, and all are required for the metabolic processes.

### **Types of Vitamins**

Based on the solubility, Vitamins have been classified into two different groups:

- Fat-Soluble Vitamins.
- Water-Soluble Vitamins.

#### **Fat-soluble vitamin**

Fat-soluble vitamins are stored in the fat cells and as the name suggests, these vitamins require fat in order to be absorbed. Vitamin A, D, E and K are fat-soluble vitamins.

#### **Water-soluble vitamin**

Water-soluble vitamins are not stored in our body as its excess gets excrete through the urine. Therefore, these vitamins need to be replenished constantly. Vitamin B and C are water-soluble vitamins.

Vitamins are essential organic micronutrients that play crucial roles in various bodily functions, acting as coenzymes or hormones, supporting metabolism, immune function, bone health, and more.

**Properties of Vitamins:**

- **Essential Nutrients:** Vitamins are substances that the body needs, but cannot produce in sufficient amounts, so they must be obtained through the diet or supplements.
- **Organic Compounds:** Vitamins are organic, meaning they contain carbon, and are vital for the body's chemical processes.

**Two Main Types:**

- **Fat-soluble vitamins:** Vitamins A, D, E, and K are stored in the body's fat tissue and liver.

**Water-soluble vitamins:** Vitamins C and the B vitamins (B1, B2, B3, B5, B6, B7, B9, and B12) are not stored in the body and are excreted through urine.

**Coenzymes:** Many vitamins act as coenzymes, which are substances that assist enzymes in carrying out their functions.

**Hormonal Role:** Some vitamins, like Vitamin D, also function as hormones, regulating various bodily processes.

**Functions of Vitamins:**

**Metabolism:** Vitamins are crucial for various metabolic processes, including energy production, nutrient absorption, and waste removal.

**Immune Function:** Several vitamins, such as Vitamin C and Vitamin D, are essential for a healthy immune system, helping the body fight off infections and diseases.

**Bone Health:** Vitamins like Vitamin D and Vitamin K are vital for bone health, helping the body absorb calcium and maintain bone density.

**Antioxidant Activity:** Some vitamins, like Vitamin C and Vitamin E, act as antioxidants, protecting the body against damage from free radicals.

**Other Functions:**

Vitamins also play roles in:

**Blood Clotting:** Vitamin K is essential for blood clotting.

**Nerve Function:** B vitamins are important for nerve function.

**Skin and Hair Health:** Biotin is known for its role in maintaining healthy skin and hair.

**Digestive Health:** Some vitamins, like Vitamin A, are important for maintaining a healthy digestive system.

**Epithelial Integrity:** Vitamin A and C help maintain the integrity of epithelial tissues, which form barriers against pathogens.

## **Hormones**

**Hormones** are **chemical messengers** synthesized and produced by specialized glands in the body. These glands, known as **endocrine glands**, release hormones directly into the bloodstream. Hormones control and regulate the activity of certain cells and organs.

They play a crucial role in maintaining homeostasis and coordinating various physiological functions.

### **Types of Hormones:**

#### **Peptide Hormones:**

- Composed of amino acids and soluble in water.
- Examples: Insulin (produced by the pancreas).
- Cannot pass through cell membranes due to the phospholipid bilayer.

#### **Steroid Hormones:**

- Fat-soluble and can pass through cell membranes.
- Examples: Testosterone, estrogen, progesterone.
- Regulate various processes, including growth, metabolism, and sexual function.

### **Functions of Hormones:**

- **Metabolism:** Hormones influence energy use, storage, and metabolic rate.
- **Homeostasis:** Maintain internal balance (e.g., blood pressure, blood sugar, electrolyte levels).
- **Growth and Development:** Hormones play a role in growth, tissue repair, and development.
- **Reproduction:** Control sexual function and reproductive processes.
- **Mood and Sleep:** Hormones affect mood and sleep-wake cycles.

The pituitary gland's hormones stimulate the testes and ovaries to produce their own hormones. The pituitary gland is an endocrine gland located near the brain. Other endocrine glands in the body include the thyroid, pancreas, and adrenal glands.

**Pancreas – Insulin:** The pancreas secretes hormones such as glucagon and insulin, which balance the body's blood sugar levels. Somatostatin and pancreatic polypeptide are two other hormones secreted.

#### **Properties of Hormones**

- Because of their low molecular weight, they can easily pass through capillaries.
- Because they are water-soluble, they can be transported through the blood.
- Hormones always have a low concentration of action. Hormones are important because they are non-antigenic.
- They function as organic catalysts. In the human body, hormones serve as coenzymes for other enzymes.

- Hormones are notable for their ability to be destroyed, excreted, or inactivated after their function has been completed.
- Hormones cause a limited number of reactions in their initial action and do not directly influence any metabolic activities of a cell.
- Hormonal activity is not inherited.

### **Carbohydrates in cellulose-based water filters production**

Cellulose, a complex carbohydrate, is a key material in water filter production due to its abundant availability, high mechanical strength, and hydrophilicity, making it suitable for trapping particles and pollutants.

**Cellulose as a Carbohydrate:** Cellulose is a polysaccharide, a type of carbohydrate made up of many glucose molecules linked together.

#### 1. Sources of Cellulose:

- **Natural Sources:**

Cellulose is the primary structural component of plant cell walls, making plants like cotton, hemp, flax, jute, and wood excellent sources.

- **Microbial Cellulose:**

Some bacteria also produce cellulose, which can be used as a source for water filtration.

Types of Cellulose-Based Filters:

#### **Cellulose Acetate Membranes:**

These membranes are formed by dissolving cellulose acetate in a solvent and then casting or extruding it into a film, which is then treated to create pores.

#### **Cellulose-Based Paper Filters:**

These are made by using cellulose pulp fibers to create a paper-like material that can be used for filtration.

#### **Cellulose-Based Hydrogels:**

These are three-dimensional networks of cellulose that can absorb and retain water, making them suitable for water purification applications.

#### **Properties for Water Filtration:**

**Mechanical Strength:** Cellulose fibers provide the structural support for filter materials, allowing them to withstand pressure and maintain their shape.

**Hydrophilicity:** Cellulose's ability to attract and interact with water helps in the efficient capture of particles and pollutants.

**Porous Structure:** The natural structure of cellulose fibers creates a porous network that allows water to pass through while trapping impurities.

### **Examples of Cellulose-Based Water Filters:**

**Paper Filters:** These filters are commonly used for removing sediments and other particles from water.

**Membrane Filters:** These filters are used for more advanced water purification, removing a wider range of contaminants.

**Nanocellulose-Based Filters:** These filters are promising for removing heavy metals and other pollutants from water

### **Production Methods:**

#### **Extraction and Modification:**

Cellulose is first extracted from its source and then modified to enhance its filtration properties, such as by acetylation (creating cellulose acetate) or oxidation.

#### **Membrane Formation:**

Cellulose acetate solutions can be cast or extruded to form membranes.

#### **Filter Fabrication:**

CNFs and CNCs can be used to create filters by forming a porous matrix or by coating other materials.

#### **Polyelectrolyte Modification:**

Cellulose filters can be modified with polyelectrolytes (charged polymers) to enhance their ability to remove specific contaminants.

#### **Interfacial Polymerization:**

This method involves using a membrane as a scaffold and then forming a new layer on its surface through a chemical reaction at the interface of two immiscible liquids.

### **Advantages of Cellulose-Based Water Filters:**

**Sustainability:** Cellulose is a renewable and biodegradable resource, making it an environmentally friendly alternative to traditional filter materials.

**Cost-Effectiveness:** Cellulose is relatively inexpensive and readily available, making cellulose-based filters a potentially cost-effective solution for water purification.

**Versatility:** Cellulose can be modified in various ways to create filters with different pore sizes and functionalities, allowing them to be used for a wide range of water purification applications.

**High Surface Area:** CNFs and CNCs have a high surface area, which can enhance their ability to adsorb and remove contaminants from water.

Applications:

#### **Drinking Water Purification:**

Cellulose-based filters can be used to remove bacteria, viruses, and other contaminants from drinking water. **Wastewater Treatment:** They can also be used to remove pollutants from wastewater, such as heavy metals and organic compounds. **Industrial Applications:**

Cellulose-based filters are used in various industrial processes, such as filtration of liquids and gases.

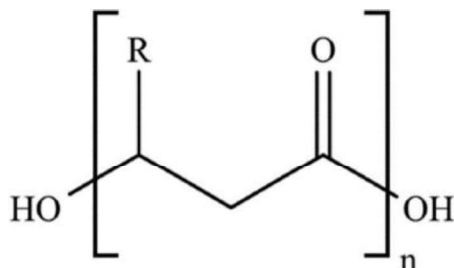
### **PHA and PLA in bioplastics production**

PHA (Polyhydroxyalkanoates) and PLA (Polylactic Acid) are both biodegradable bioplastics, but PHA is produced by microorganisms through fermentation, while PLA is derived from renewable resources like corn starch or sugarcane.

Polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs) are biopolymers as they offer a sustainable alternative to conventional plastics. They can replace the linear use and disposal practices of plastics with a circular life cycle. They find use in a wide range of applications ranging from packaging to medical devices.

#### **Polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs): Chemical Composition and Types**

Polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs) are a family of microbial polyesters. They form a large group of thermoplastic polymers produced by various prokaryotic organisms. They are formed as carbon and energy storage materials under unbalanced nutrition conditions. PHAs encompass a wide range of materials with significant variations in their chemical structure. The general structure of PHA consists of repeating units in the polymer chain as



## **Applications of PHAs**

In addition to its eco-friendly characteristics, PHA is a versatile natural polymer that can be tailored to meet specific applications. Some examples include:

- Biofuels, fine chemicals, bioplastics, industrial fermentation, upholstery, and carpet
- Food packaging (compostable bags, lids, thermoforming tubs)
- Disposable items (diapers, cosmetic containers, razors, cups, feminine hygiene products, utensils)
- Packaging films (containers, paper coatings, shopping bags)
- Medical surgical garments, drugs, and bio-implants

## **Physical properties**

**Origin** – PHA is produced through microbial processes, making it environmentally friendly.

**Transparency and colorability** – PHA can be transparent or translucent. They exhibit good optical clarity which makes them ideal for clear packaging applications.

**Biodegradability** – PHA can naturally degrade, reducing environmental impact and waste accumulation.

**Solubility** – PHAs are insoluble in water and organic solvents.

**Barrier properties** – PHA have good barrier properties to gas and oxygen making them suitable for packaging materials.

**Flexibility** – PHAs range from rigid to flexible. Longer side chains tend to be more flexible than smaller side chains.

**Processability** – PHAs tend to have good processing.

**Polylactic acid (PLA)** is a biodegradable thermoplastic polyester derived from renewable resources like corn or sugarcane, offering an alternative to traditional petroleum-based plastics. It's known for its biodegradability, biocompatibility, and versatility in various applications, including packaging, 3D printing, and biomedical devices.

**Bioplastic:** PLA is a bioplastic, meaning it's made from renewable resources rather than fossil fuels.

**Biodegradable:** PLA is biodegradable, meaning it can break down naturally under specific conditions, such as in industrial composting facilities.

**Thermoplastic:** PLA is a thermoplastic, meaning it can be softened by heat and molded into various shapes.

**Polyester:** PLA is a polyester, a type of polymer characterized by ester linkages in its backbone.

Production

**Lactic acid:** PLA is synthesized from lactic acid, which is produced through the fermentation of sugars from plants like corn, sugarcane, or cassava.

**Lactide:** Lactic acid is then converted into lactide, a cyclic dimer, which is polymerized to form PLA.

#### **Ring-opening polymerization:**

The polymerization process is known as ring-opening polymerization, where the lactide monomers are linked together to form the polymer chain.

Properties and Advantages:

**Renewable Resource:** PLA is derived from renewable resources, making it a more sustainable alternative to traditional plastics.

**Biodegradable:** PLA's biodegradability reduces environmental impact compared to non-biodegradable plastics.

**Versatile:** PLA can be processed using conventional plastic processing techniques, making it suitable for various applications.

**Good Mechanical Properties:** PLA exhibits good mechanical properties, including strength, stiffness, and gas barrier properties.

**Biocompatible:** PLA is biocompatible, meaning it can be used in medical applications without causing harm to the body.



Applications: **Packaging:** PLA is used in food packaging, including trays, bags, and containers.

**3D Printing:** PLA is a popular material for 3D printing, used to create a wide range of objects.

**Biomedical Applications:** PLA is used in biomedical devices, such as sutures, implants, and drug delivery systems.

**Textiles:** PLA can be spun into fibers for textiles and other applications

### **Nucleic acids in both vaccines and diagnostic applications**

#### **Nucleic Acid Vaccines:**

Nucleic acid vaccines have the potential to be safe, effective, and cost-effective. The immune responses induced by nucleic acid vaccines only target the selected antigen in the pathogen. Nucleic acid-based vaccines, including DNA (as plasmids) and RNA [as messenger RNA (mRNA)] vaccines, exhibit promising potential in targeting various indications and diseases.

These vaccines introduce genetic material (DNA or RNA) encoding a specific protein from a pathogen (like a virus or bacteria) into the body.

The body's cells then use this genetic material as a blueprint to produce the protein, which is displayed on the cell surface. The immune system recognizes this protein as foreign and mounts an immune response, including producing antibodies and T-cells that can neutralize the pathogen if encountered in the future.

#### **Types of Nucleic Acid Vaccines:**

**DNA vaccines:** Use DNA as the genetic material.

**RNA vaccines:** Use RNA as the genetic material.

#### **Mechanism:**

The genetic material (DNA or RNA) provides instructions for making a specific protein from the pathogen. Once inside host cells, this genetic material is read by the cell's own protein-making machinery. The cell then manufactures antigens (foreign proteins), which trigger an immune response.

**Advantages:**

- No live components, reducing the risk of vaccine-triggered disease.
- Relatively easy to manufacture.
- Immune response involves both B cells and T cells.

**Challenges:**

- Some RNA vaccines require ultra-cold storage.
- Booster shots may be necessary.

Application: While DNA and RNA vaccines are being developed for various diseases (including HIV, Zika virus, and COVID-19), none have yet been approved for human use

Nucleic acids, specifically DNA and RNA, are used in vaccines to stimulate an immune response by providing instructions for producing specific pathogen proteins, while they are also used in diagnostic tests to detect pathogens or genetic mutations.

**Immune Response:**

The immune system recognizes these proteins as foreign (antigens) and mounts an immune response against them, providing protection against the disease. **Examples:** mRNA vaccines, like those used against COVID-19, are a prominent example of nucleic acid vaccines.

**Cancer Treatment:** Nucleic acid vaccines are also being developed as a personalized treatment for cancer, targeting specific patient tumors.

**Nucleic Acids in Diagnosis:**

**Detection of Pathogens:** Nucleic acid tests, such as PCR (polymerase chain reaction), can be used to detect the presence of pathogens, like viruses or bacteria, in a sample.

**Genetic Testing:** Nucleic acid analysis can also be used to identify genetic mutations or variations that can be associated with diseases or predispositions.

**Examples:** COVID-19 tests, which detect the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, are based on nucleic acid amplification techniques.

**Diagnostic Applications of Nucleic Acids:**

**PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction):** PCR amplifies specific DNA sequences, allowing detection of pathogens (e.g., viruses, bacteria) in clinical samples.

Widely used for diagnosing infectious diseases. **RT-PCR (Reverse Transcription PCR):** Converts RNA into complementary DNA (cDNA) before amplification.

Essential for detecting RNA viruses (e.g., SARS-CoV-2): **Nucleic Acid Probes:** Labeled DNA or RNA molecules that bind specifically to complementary sequences.

Used in techniques like hybridization and fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) for identifying pathogens.

Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS): Analyzes entire genomes or transcriptomes. Enables rapid identification of pathogens and their variants.

CRISPR-Based Diagnostics: Utilizes CRISPR-Cas systems for detecting specific nucleic acid sequences.

Promising for point-of-care testing. Antisense Oligonucleotides:

- Synthetic nucleic acids designed to bind to specific RNA targets.
- Used in gene silencing and therapeutic applications.
  - Liquid Biopsies:
- Detects circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) or RNA for cancer diagnosis and monitoring.
  - Microarrays:
- Arrays of immobilized nucleic acid probes for simultaneous detection of multiple targets.
- Useful in genotyping, expression profiling, and pathogen identification.

### **Proteins in food production**

Proteins play a crucial role in food production, both nutritionally and as functional ingredients.

Nutritional Importance:

**Essential Amino Acids:** Proteins are vital for building and repairing tissues, producing enzymes and hormones, and supporting immune function.

**High Protein Foods:** Foods rich in protein, like meat, poultry, fish, eggs, dairy, and legumes, are important sources of these essential nutrients.

**Plant-Based Protein:** Plant proteins like soy, pea, and wheat are increasingly used as functional ingredients in food production, offering a viable alternative to animal proteins.

**Whey Protein:** Whey protein, a byproduct of cheese production, is a valuable source of protein with excellent gelation and viscosity-developing properties.

2Functional Properties in Food Processing:

**Textural Enhancement:** Proteins contribute to the texture of foods, influencing their chewiness, firmness, and overall mouthfeel.

**Gelation and Viscosity:** Certain proteins, like those in egg whites and whey, have the ability to form gels and increase viscosity, making them useful in various food applications.

**Emulsification and Binding:** Proteins can act as emulsifiers, stabilizing mixtures of liquids and solids, and as binders, holding ingredients together.

**Food Safety:** Fermentation-produced proteins, like enzymes used in food processing, have been assessed for safety and are used to enhance the nutritional value and digestibility of foods.

### 3. Emerging Protein Sources and Technologies:

**Cultured Meat:** Lab-grown meat, or cultured meat, is a new technology that produces animal protein in bioreactors using cells taken from living beings, offering a potential alternative to traditional meat production.

**Insect Protein:** Insects are a rich source of protein and essential amino acids, and are being explored as a viable alternative protein source for food and feed applications.

**Plant-Based Meat Analogs:** Plant-based meat alternatives, like those from Beyond Meat and Impossible Foods, are made from plant proteins that mimic the texture and appearance of meat.

**Protein Engineering:** Protein engineering involves modifying proteins to improve their functionality, nutritional value, and other desirable characteristics, leading to innovative and sustainable food products.

**Fermentation:** Fermentation, a biological process, can enhance protein digestibility and nutritional value in foods, while also reducing antinutrient content

Proteins are not only essential for our health but also critical for creating diverse and appealing foods. Whether it's the tenderness of meat, the creaminess of dairy products, or the structure of baked goods, proteins play a central role.

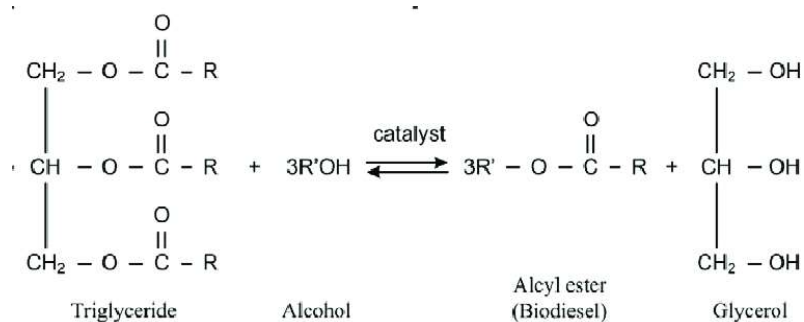
### Lipids in biodiesel and detergents production

Lipids, specifically fats and oils, are crucial in both biodiesel and detergent production. Biodiesel is produced via transesterification of lipids with alcohol, while lipids are used as a base for soap and detergent production through saponification.

#### Biodiesel Production:

**Source of Lipids:** Biodiesel, a renewable fuel alternative to petroleum diesel, is primarily derived from lipids found in various sources like vegetable oils, animal fats, and microalgae.

**Transesterification:** The process involves reacting these lipids (triacylglycerols) with an alcohol (typically methanol or ethanol) in the presence of a catalyst (like sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide) to produce fatty acid esters (biodiesel) and glycerol.



**Types of Lipids:** Various types of lipids, including vegetable oils (e.g., soybean, palm, rapeseed), animal fats (e.g., tallow), and microalgae lipids, can be used as feedstocks for biodiesel production.

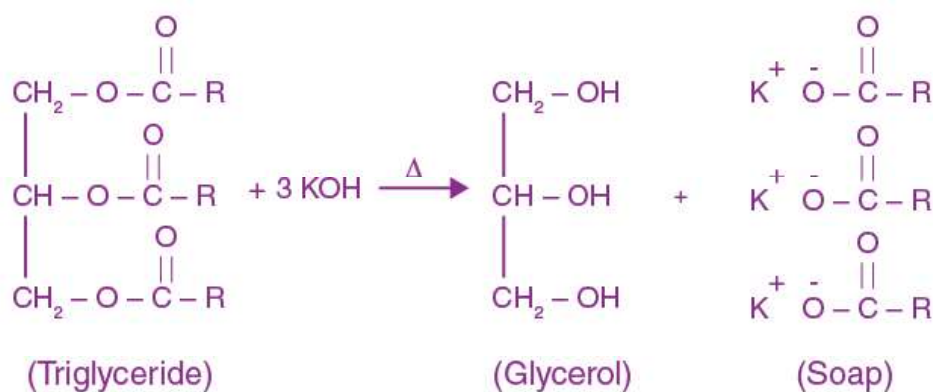
**Process:** The transesterification process involves several steps, including lipid extraction from the biomass, followed by the reaction with alcohol and the separation of biodiesel and glycerol.

### Detergent Production:

**Saponification:** Lipids are converted into soap through saponification, a chemical reaction where fats or oils react with a base (e.g., sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide).

#### **Soap Formation:**

This reaction breaks down the lipids into fatty acids and glycerol. The fatty acids then combine with the base to form soap, which is a cleaning agent.



**Detergent Production:** Detergents are often made from similar processes, with additional ingredients like surfactants and builders added to enhance cleaning capabilities.

Key Differences:

**Reaction:** Biodiesel production uses transesterification, while detergent production uses saponification.

**Products:** Biodiesel produces fatty acid esters (FAMES) and glycerol, while saponification produces soap and glycerol

### **Enzymes in biosensors fabrication**

Enzymes play a role in the fabrication of biosensors, enabling sensitive and selective detection of target analytes.

Enzyme-Based Biosensors:

Enzyme-based biosensors combine biocatalysts (enzymes) with transducers to create analytical devices.

Unique Properties of Enzymes are: **Specificity:** Enzymes recognize their substrates with high specificity.

**Catalytic Activity:** They accelerate chemical reactions, making them efficient biocatalysts.

Applications of Enzyme-Based Biosensors

- **Healthcare:** Diabetes monitoring, disease diagnosis, drug development.
- **Environmental Monitoring:** Detection of pollutants, pesticides.
- **Food Industry:** Quality control, food safety.
- **Bioprocess Monitoring:** Fermentation monitoring, enzyme activity measurement

Enzymes as Bioreceptors

**Enzyme-Substrate Interaction:** The enzyme acts as a bioreceptor, recognizing and binding to its specific substrate (analyte).

**Enzymatic Reaction:** The enzyme catalyzes a reaction, converting the substrate into a detectable product or altering a measurable parameter (e.g., oxygen consumption, hydrogen peroxide production).

**Signal Detection:** The transducer in the biosensor converts the enzymatic reaction signal (e.g., electrical signal, optical signal) into a measurable readout.

**Fabrication Steps:**

**Enzyme Immobilization:** The immobilization of enzymes onto a solid support (such as a sensor surface) is a critical step.

Enzymes can be physically adsorbed, covalently attached, or encapsulated within matrices.

Immobilization ensures enzyme stability and enhances biosensor performance.

**Enzyme–Nanoparticle Conjugates:**

- Functional nanostructures often involve coupling enzymes with nanoparticles (NPs).
- NPs serve as carriers and sensing components.
- Physicochemical properties of NPs impact biosensor performance.

Large-Scale Fabrication Techniques:

- Roll-to-roll methods (e.g., screen-printing, inkjet printing, 3D printing) enable mass production.
- Integration into flexible, wearable, and cost-effective point-of-use devices is achievable

### **Role of Enzymes Food processing**

Enzymes play a crucial role in food processing, acting as biological catalysts to accelerate reactions, improve quality, and extend shelf life, making them essential for various food products and processes.

- Enhancing Food Processing Techniques and Quality:
  - Accelerating Reactions: Enzymes speed up chemical reactions, which can be used to accelerate processes like fermentation in beer and wine production, or the ripening of fruits.
- Improving Texture and Flavor: Enzymes can modify the texture and flavor of food products. For example, proteases break down proteins, leading to meat tenderization, while amylases convert starch to sugars, affecting the sweetness and texture of baked goods.
- Improving Extraction and Yields: Enzymes can assist in extracting juices from fruits and vegetables, improving the yield and quality of the final product.
- Enhancing Stability and Shelf Life: Enzymes can help stabilize food products, reducing spoilage and extending shelf life. For example, catalase can remove hydrogen peroxide, preventing browning and extending the shelf life of certain foods.
- Optimizing Raw Material Performance: Enzymes can help optimize the performance of raw materials, even when their quality varies, leading to more consistent and predictable outcomes in food processing.

Applications in Different Food Industries:

- Bakery: Enzymes can be used to modify dough rheology, gas retention, and crumb softness in bread, pastry, and biscuit making.
- Dairy: Enzymes like lactase are used to process milk for lactose-intolerant individuals, while others are used in cheese making.
- Meat Processing: Proteases are used to tenderize meat, while other enzymes can improve the color, smell, and taste of meat products.
- Fruit and Vegetable Processing: Enzymes can be used for peeling fruits, clarifying fruit juice, and reducing viscosity, as well as extending the shelf life of fruits and vegetables.
- Beverage Industry: Enzymes are used in brewing, winemaking, and juice production to improve flavor, clarity, and stability.
- Feed Industry: Enzymes are used to improve the utilization of feed, increasing the amount of nutrients available to animals, which improves their health, lowers feed cost for the farmers and reduces farm waste volume.

**Benefits of Using Enzymes in Food Processing:**

- Sustainability:
  - Enzymes can reduce energy consumption, water usage, and waste in food processing, making it more sustainable.
- Cost-Effectiveness:
  - Enzymes can improve efficiency and reduce processing time, leading to cost savings for manufacturers.
- Food Safety:
  - Enzymes can be used to detect foodborne diseases and improve food safety.
- Improved Quality and Sensory Properties:
  - Enzymes can enhance the quality, stability, and sensory properties of food products.
- Increased Variety and Accessibility:
  - Enzymes can enable the production of a wider variety of food products, including those suitable for specific dietary needs, and make foods more affordable, palatable, and available.

**Role of Enzymes in detergent formulation**

Enzymes in detergent formulations act as biological catalysts, breaking down complex stains like proteins, fats, and starches into smaller, more manageable compounds, enhancing stain removal and cleaning performance, even at lower temperatures.

**Enzymes as Catalysts:** Enzymes are proteins that speed up chemical reactions without being consumed in the process. In detergents, they act as catalysts, breaking down complex molecules in stains.

**Helps in Specific Stain Removal:** Different enzymes target specific types of stains:

Proteases: Break down protein-based stains like blood, egg, grass, and sweat.

Amylases: Break down starch-based stains.

Lipases: Break down fats and oils.

Cellulases: Help to remove pilling and fuzz from cotton fabrics.

**Enhanced Cleaning Performance:** By breaking down stains into smaller pieces, enzymes make them easier to wash away and improve overall cleaning efficiency.

**Low-Temperature Washing:** Enzymes allow for effective cleaning at lower temperatures, reducing energy consumption and water usage.

**Fabric and Color Care:** Enzymes can also help prevent soil from redeposition and improve fabric care by acting directly on cotton surfaces, helping garments look new longer.

**Environmentally Friendly:** Enzymes are biodegradable and can be used at low concentrations, making them a sustainable choice for cleaning products



### **Role of Enzymes in textile processing**

Enzymes play a crucial role in textile processing, acting as eco-friendly and efficient alternatives to harsh chemicals, used in various stages like desizing, bleaching, dyeing, and finishing, improving fabric quality and reducing environmental impact.

**Desizing:** Enzymes, particularly amylases, effectively remove sizing agents (like starch) from raw fibers, ensuring cleaner and more uniform textiles.

This process is gentler on the fabric compared to traditional chemical methods, preserving fiber strength and quality.

**Bleaching:** Enzymes like cellulases and laccases are used in bleaching processes, promoting fiber whitening and reducing the need for harsh chemicals.

Laccases, for example, are used in dyeing with natural or chemical precursors.

Catalase degrades excess hydrogen peroxide, a common bleaching agent, reducing the need for reducing agents or extensive rinsing.

#### **Denim Finishing:**

- Cellulases are widely used in denim processing for bio-polishing and bio-stoning, creating a softer texture and unique finishes without harsh physical treatments.
- This process reduces pilling, improves color retention, and produces stronger, longer-lasting fabrics.

#### **Dyeing:**

- Enzymes can be used in dyeing processes with natural or chemical precursors.
- Laccases, for example, are used in dyeing with natural dyes.

#### **Other Applications:**

- **Scouring:** Enzymes can help remove impurities and natural waxes from fibers.
- **Effluent Treatment:** Enzymes play a role in treating textile wastewater, reducing pollution and promoting sustainability.
- **Wool Modifications:** Proteases are used for wool modifications.
- **Improved Product Quality:** Enzyme-based processes lead to higher quality finished products with reduced chemical load, water consumption, and energy consumption.
- **Reduced Environmental Impact:** The use of enzymes in textile processing significantly reduces the environmental impact by minimizing chemical usage, water consumption, and energy consumption.

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