

## Preface

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# 2<sup>nd</sup> Brazilian Symposium on Biorefineries (II SNBr)

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The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brazilian Symposium on Biorefineries (II SNBr) was held in Brasília, Brazil, from 24 to 26 September 2013. II SNBr was co-organized by the Brazilian Association of Chemical Industry (ABIQUM, Brazil) and the Society for Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology (DECHEMA, Germany). The symposium welcomed 200 participants from industry, research institutions, universities, and government, who presented their research on this important theme of chemical sciences and correlated areas such as biology, agronomy, economy, and engineering. This series of meetings started in Brasília in September 2011 as the Brazilian Symposium on Biorefineries (SNBr), organized by the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa), and the 2013 edition was supported by IUPAC.

The program topics of II SNBr ranged from biomass production and availability to conversion processes, analytical technologies, economic and regulatory trends, and sustainability. The symposium comprised 4 plenary lectures and 16 invited lectures, confirming the vitality of this area of bioeconomy and renewable chemistry. From its lectures and discussions, we can summarize:

- Brazil is one of the largest worldwide producers of biomass;
- Brazilian market issues such as a lack of infrastructure and an excessive number of regulatory laws are a serious problem for boosting the bioeconomy in the country;
- sacharidic biomass still remains as the mainly raw material for the biorefineries; however, lignocellulosic biomass is gaining prominence owing to its availability in all regions of the country;
- there is a trend for synergy among chemical, biochemical, and thermochemical processes and their integration in a biorefinery, allied with online monitoring of those conversion processes;
- building blocks are the focus for adding value on a biomass chain and changing petrochemical compounds for green alternatives;
- lignin is a prominent precursor for green chemicals;
- shale gas could be a threat for renewable chemistry based on its lower price;
- technological consortiums are an alternative for a public–private partnership to develop the bioeconomy around the world;
- technological and innovative roadmaps are good tools to evaluate the economic potential for biorefineries and their products;
- the sustainability of biorefineries should be evaluated by means of the social, economic, and environmental impacts in order to construct representative models.

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