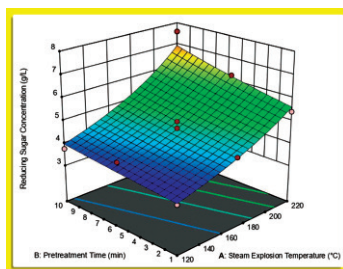


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## About the Cover

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The image shows a 3D surface plot of reducing sugar concentration against steam explosion temperature and pretreatment time in the optimization of the steam explosion of banana pseudostem—a low-cost, readily available agricultural residue. The steam explosion temperature had the strongest positive impact on the production of reducing sugars, the yield of which increased by 90% after dilute acid pretreatment. Hence, with improved digestibility of banana pseudostem, sequential pretreatment was proven effective in producing enzymatic hydrolysates for the production of polyhydroxybutyrate—a suitable biodegradable alternative to non-renewable, petroleum-based plastics. To learn more, go to page 285–297.

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The Circulation Staff  
Science and Technology Information Institute  
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Science and Technology Information Institute  
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