

Review



Applications of Green Synthesis of Nanoparticles Using Microorganisms in Food and Dairy Products: Review

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Abstract: The swift progression of nanotechnology has transformed the food and dairy industries through the facilitation of functional foods, nutraceuticals, and antimicrobial systems. This review examines the environmentally friendly synthesis of nanoparticles (NPs) through the utilization of microorganisms, offering a sustainable and biocompatible alternative to traditional physical and chemical approaches. This study primarily aims to investigate the contemporary trends, mechanisms, and microbial species associated with NP biosynthesis, as well as to evaluate NPs' techno-functional applications in food and dairy processing. The specific objectives encompass analysis of the synthesis pathways-both intracellular and extracellular-utilized by bacteria, fungi, yeasts, and algae. Additionally, an evaluation of the physicochemical properties and biological activities (including antibacterial, antioxidant, and antifungal effects) of synthesized NPs will be conducted, alongside the identification of their potential applications in food preservation, packaging, and fortification. The review emphasizes notable advancements in laboratory-scale applications, especially concerning yogurt fortification, biofilm suppression, and antimicrobial food coatings. Nonetheless, commercial application is constrained by issues related to scalability, purification, stability, regulatory adherence, and toxicity evaluation. Future investigations ought to focus on enhancing bioreactor systems, leveraging microbial consortia, utilizing food and agricultural waste as substrates, and implementing omics technologies to elucidate biosynthetic mechanisms. Furthermore, the standardization of synthesis protocols and the improvement of regulatory frameworks will be crucial in closing the divide between experimental achievements and NPs' application in industry. In a nutshell, the microbial-mediated green synthesis of NPs offers a promising pathway for the advancement of safe, sustainable, and functional innovations within the food and dairy sectors.

Academic Editors: Navid Aslfattahi, Kumaran Kadirgama, Lingenthiran Samylingam and Mohammad Reza Chalak Qazani

Received: 1 April 2025 Revised: 13 May 2025 Accepted: 16 May 2025 Published: 18 May 2025

Citation: Al-Sahlany, S.T.G.; Niamah, A.K.; Verma, D.K.; Prabhakar, P.; Patel, A.R.; Thakur, M.; Singh, S. Applications of Green Synthesis of Nanoparticles Using Microorganisms in Food and Dairy Products: Review. *Processes* 2025, *13*, 1560. https://doi.org/ 10.3390/pr13051560

Copyright: © 2025 by the authors. Submitted for possible open access publication under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (https://creativecommons.org/license s/by/4.0/). **Keywords:** green synthesis; nanoparticles; microorganisms; food and dairy applications; biocompatibility; nanoencapsulation; sustainable nanotechnology

1. Introduction

Nanotechnology has significant potential to revolutionize food systems by enabling the development of innovative products and expanding their range of applications, including bioactive compounds (BACs), nutraceuticals, functional food and dairy products, and pharmaceutical foods [1–9]. This technology offers advanced methods for detecting pathogens in milk and milk products, thereby enhancing the quality and safety standards of dairy products [7,9–12]. In the domain of food and dairy processing, nanoencapsulation is utilized to incorporate nano-sized elements and nutritional supplements, including proteins and antioxidants, along with additives such as flavors and colors, into functional foods [8,13]. This methodology effectively masks undesirable tastes and off-flavors, creates protective barriers, facilitates controlled release, and improves the bioavailability of various vitamins and their precursors.

Additionally, nanotechnology is being utilized to address food-related health challenges, including diabetes and obesity, and to develop specialized nutritional diets tailored for specific demographic groups, especially older people and individuals with diverse lifestyles [4,14–17]. Furthermore, it enhances the sustainability of food production systems [3]. This technology facilitates the creation of devices designed for precise nutrient delivery through nutritional nano therapy [2,18,19], as well as the development of advanced systems for controlled nutrient release via nanoencapsulation [13]. The development of nanoscale enzymatic reactors signifies a novel application, enabling the incorporation of new food products via fortification [1,20,21]. Furthermore, electrospun nanofibers are garnering significant interest as materials for packaging and encapsulation, offering structured polymeric films with improved functionality [13,22–25]. Thus, nanotechnology represents a multidisciplinary domain that investigates innovative approaches to address issues at the molecular and atomic scale through the manipulation of materials at the nanoscale [4,9,25–27]. Nanotechnology involves the investigation, creation, production, and incorporation of intricate and accurately defined structures. The increasing prevalence of nanotechnology has led to significant advancements in sectors such as agriculture [28–30], food production [4,22,25,31], and healthcare [4,26,32]. The emergence of antibiotic resistance in bacterial populations represents a significant challenge within global health systems.

Within the last decade, nanoparticles (NPs) have come to represent highly effective nanomaterials utilized in the earlier specified fields [24], exhibiting significantly enhanced biological properties such as antioxidant [33–35], antibacterial [34–40], antifungal [33,40–42], antiviral [43,44], and anticancer [35,39,44] effects. Additionally, NP formulations enhance the delivery and dispersion of BACs and water-insoluble components [2]. The synthesis of green NPs using biological extracts is being increasingly recognized for its environmentally sustainable and economically viable processing methods, scalability, and, crucially, its applications in various fields, including the food [1,2,4,6], environment [45–47], biological [40,43,48], and healthcare and medical sectors [4,47,49–53]. The green synthesis of NPs employs various biological sources, including bacteria [41,54,55], yeast [56–60], fungi [57,58,61], algae [58,62–65], plants [48,66–69], and agro-industrial waste [70,71]. The characteristics of the NPs generated from these biological sources are subsequently examined in terms of size, morphology, chemical composition, and stability within a medium.

NPs are materials with minuscule dimensions, generally ranging from 1 to 100 nm in diameter, and display distinct properties when contrasted with their micron-scale counterparts (1–100 μ m) [4,18,24,27,72]. The nanoscale dimensions and high surface-area-to-volume ratio of NPs provide significant benefits, such as heightened chemical reactivity, improved energy absorption, and enhanced biological mobility [18,24,26,27]. A range of established methodologies are utilized for the synthesis of NPs, encompassing chemical, physical, and environmentally sustainable (green) synthesis techniques [73–75]. This last method is frequently favored because of its ability to attain elevated purity levels, a manageable morphology, and a significant yield. The techniques employed include plasma chemical processes [76], vapor deposition [77–79], microwave irradiation [80], pulsed laser techniques [81,82], sonochemical reduction [82–84], ultrasound irradiation [74], and gamma radiation [85,86].

The techniques developed for NP synthesis present distinct advantages and limitations, contingent upon the specific physicochemical properties of the NPs and their intended applications. Plasma chemical processes facilitate the generation of NPs that are both highly pure and uniformly sized via ionized gas-phase reactions [76]. However, scalability poses a challenge due to the intricate requirements of the instrumentation involved [76,87]. Vapor deposition techniques, such as chemical vapor deposition (CVD) and physical vapor deposition (PVD), offer atomic-level precision and are widely utilized in the semiconductor and coating industries [77–79,88]. Nevertheless, their elevated costs and reliance on vacuum processes restrict their use in the synthesis of bulk NPs. Microwave irradiation provides a swift and energy-efficient method that improves reaction kinetics and crystalline quality; however, achieving uniform scalability continues to pose challenges [80,89]. Pulsed laser techniques, including pulsed laser ablation in liquid (PLAL), enable the surfactant-free production of ultrapure NPs [81,82]. However, their limited yield and elevated operational costs confine their use to specialized applications [82,90,91]. Sonochemical reduction, facilitated by acoustic cavitation, enables straightforward synthesis under ambient conditions while providing a degree of control over morphology; however, the reproducibility and uniformity of particles may fluctuate between different batches [82–84]. Gamma radiation techniques employ ionizing energy for the synthesis of NPs without the need for reductants, presenting benefits in biomedical and sterile contexts. Nonetheless, issues pertaining to radiation safety and necessary infrastructure limit their application to regulated environments [86]. Consequently, the choice of synthesis method must be methodically aligned with the targeted characteristics of the NPs, the scale of production, and the particular industrial or biomedical application.

In contrast, chemical synthesis, a commonly employed technique, utilizes reducing agents in various environments, including polyol, microemulsions, thermal decomposition, and electrochemical reactions [71,73,92,93]. Nonetheless, both physical and chemical synthesis methodologies encounter obstacles, such as the necessity for high-purity materials, strict compliance with procedural protocols, significant financial expenditure, and possible biological risks associated with toxic byproducts. In contrast, green synthesis methods offer a sustainable and biocompatible alternative by utilizing natural reducing agents sourced from nonpathogenic or non-toxic microorganisms, such as bacteria [94–97], fungi [98–100], yeast [58,101], and extracts derived from plants [48,67,68]. Green synthesis presents significant benefits in terms of environmental impact and technical efficiency, as it reduces reliance on the toxic chemicals and harsh synthetic conditions traditionally used in NP fabrication [40,48,102,103].

In recent years, the synthesis of metallic NPs through eco-friendly methods has been increasingly incorporated food waste, especially in regions like West Asia. West Asia is commonly known as the Middle East. Turkey, Iran, Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon represent

West Asian nations where such research and applications are presumably taking place, informed by the regional agricultural context and existing evidence [70,104–106]. These regions generate significant quantities of agricultural and food waste, thus providing a substantial and sustainable source of natural reducing agents for the synthesis of NPs. For example, extracts obtained from botanical sources, such as fruit peels, leaves, seeds, and vegetable byproducts, have effectively enabled the production of various metallic NPs [69–71,104,106]. In a comparable context, various tropical countries with significant agricultural waste have utilized substances like papaya leaves, orange peels, and coffee grounds for the eco-friendly production of metallic NPs [71,106]. These organic sources contain a wealth of BACs, such as polyphenols, flavonoids, and antioxidants, which facilitate the reduction of metal ions and contribute to the stabilization of the resulting NPs.

Through the critical discussion in the preceding paragraphs based on the integration of results and findings from the previously published scientific literature, it can be inferred that there exist specific research gaps and a deficiency of consolidated papers presented on a singular platform. Such a compilation could provide valuable information aimed at aiding scientists in improving their critical thinking and analytical perspectives concerning their scientific projects and experimental endeavors. Consequently, this review paper aims to address various aspects to fill these research gaps and fulfill the requirements identified by the scientific community in the preceding discussion. This study seeks to outline current trends in the use of green nanotechnology, with a particular emphasis on the development of functional dairy products utilizing NPs produced via environmentally sustainable techniques. This study aims to thoroughly examine the synthesis of NPs utilizing biological sources, including bacteria, fungi, yeast, algae, and agro-industrial waste, highlighting their environmentally friendly and sustainable characteristics in contrast to conventional physical and chemical approaches. Furthermore, the review emphasizes the utilization of agricultural and food waste, especially in areas such as West Asia, as viable sources of natural reducing agents for the synthesis of metallic NPs. The paper further investigates the role of microbially synthesized NPs in improving food safety, quality, shelf life, and functionality within food packaging, preservation, nutrient delivery, pathogen detection, and quality enhancement in dairy products such as milk, yogurt, cheese, and meat. The discussion encompasses potential risks such as toxicity, environmental impacts, and consumer perception, while emphasizing the necessity for regulatory frameworks and safety assessments to guarantee safe implementation. Additionally, the paper aims to delineate future research developments, encompassing progress in synthetic biology, cohesive bioreactor systems, AI-enhanced optimization, and the utilization of waste-derived substrates to enhance the scalability, safety, and sustainability of NP applications within food systems.

2. Synthesis of Green Nanoparticles

NPs undergo comprehensive investigation through various physical and chemical methodologies (Figure 1); however, they exhibit unpredictability, high costs, and the potential to produce hazardous byproducts. Table 1 presents a comparative analysis of the high-cost factors associated with using physical and chemical methodologies for NP synthesis, emphasizing aspects such as equipment, energy consumption, material requirements, scalability, and operational complexity. Each method undergoes an assessment focused on its cost determinants, accompanied by estimated cost ranges where relevant and substantiated. A variety of synthetic methodologies have been employed to produce NPs with diverse morphologies and dimensions. As a result, the primary principle directing this research initiative is to carefully synthesize nanostructured particles using a methodology that is both efficient and mindful of environmental sustainability [107]. The literature has extensively documented that resources linked to green synthesis

can function as bioresearch centers, enabling the synthesis of metallic and metal oxide NPs via a biomimetic approach that emulates natural processes [40,48,102]. A diverse array of microorganisms, such as bacteria, fungi, and actinomycetes [41,54,55,57,58,61,108], as well as extracts obtained from plants [48,66-69], have been recognized as effective and environmentally sustainable precursors for the successful synthesis of NPs aimed at particular applications [40,43,46-48,51-53]. Figure 2 demonstrates that biological sources such as plants and microorganisms (including bacteria, fungi, algae, and yeast), along with various waste materials, are utilized for the environmentally sustainable synthesis of green NPs. These biological agents provide a sustainable and non-toxic alternative to traditional chemical and physical methods for NP synthesis, in accordance with the principles of green chemistry and environmental sustainability [44,68,70,107].

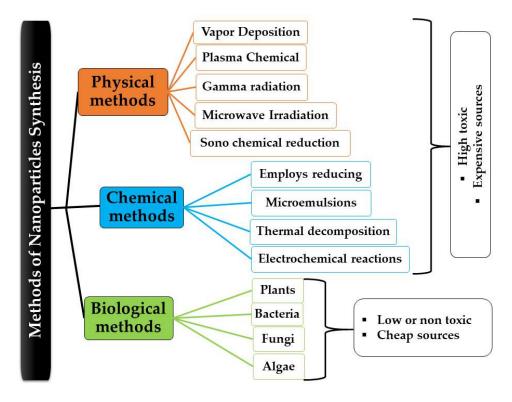


Figure 1. Overview of nanoparticle synthesis techniques ranging from conventional physical and chemical approaches to eco-friendly biological methods employing microorganisms and plant extracts for reduced toxicity and environmental impact.

Method	Equipment Cost	Energy Cost	Material Cost	Scalability	Operational Complexity	Overall Cost Summary	References
(A) Physical Methodo	logies						
Vapor Deposition (CVD/PVD)	Very High (USD 100,000– USD 1M+ for reactors, vacuum systems)		High (volatile precur- sors, high-purity sub- strates)		High (skilled op- erators, mainte- nance)	Very High (equipment, en- ergy)	[77,79,88,109]
Plasma Chemical (PECVD, RF Plasma)	High (USD 50,000–USD 500,000 for plasma gener- ators, chambers)		Moderate to High (pure gases, precursors)	Moderate (energy, equip- ment limits)	High (complex systems, skilled labor)	High (plasma systems, energy)	[76,110,111]
Gamma Radiation	Extremely High (USD 500,000–USD 2M for Co-60 facilities)	Moderate (tacility	Moderate (precursors affordable, radioactive waste costly)	Low (safety, infrastructure limits)	Very High (safety, regulatory com- pliance)	Extremely High	[85,86]
Microwave Irradia- tion	Moderate (USD 10,000– USD 100,000 for reactors)	High (rapid heating, short duration)	surfactants)	High (fast reactions, simple setups)	Moderate (precise control systems)	Moderate to High (energy, equipment)	[80,112,113]
Sonochemical Reduc- tion	Low to Moderate (USD 5000–USD 50,000 for ul- trasonic systems)	Moderate (acoustic cavi- tation)	Low to Moderate (re- ducing agents, precur- sors)	High (one-step, eco-friendly)	Low (simple sys- tems)	Low to Moder- ate (equipment, energy)	[82–84,114]
(B) Chemical Methodo	ologies						
Chemical Reduction (Reducing Agents)	Low (USD 1000–USD 10,000 for lab setups)	Low (ambient/moderate temperatures)	Moderate (reduc- ing/capping agents, e.g., NaBH ₄ , PVP)		Low to Moderate (waste disposal)	Low to Moder- ate (materials, waste)	[115–117]
Microemulsions	Low (USD 1000–USD 10,000 for lab equipment)	Low (room temperature)	High (surfactants, sol- vents, e.g., AOT)	Low (material costs, com- plex processing)	Moderate (wash- ing, purification)	Moderate to High (surfac- tants, pro- cessing)	[118,119]
Thermal Decomposi- tion	Moderate (USD 5000–USD 50,000 for furnac- es/autoclaves)	High (200–500) °C heat-	Moderate (metal pre- cursors, e.g., alkoxides)	Moderate (energy, material limits)	Moderate (safety for high tempera- tures)	Moderate to High (energy, equipment)	[120,121]
Electrochemical Re- actions	Low to Moderate (USD 1000–USD 20,000 for cells, electrodes)		Moderate (electrolytes, noble metal electrodes)		Moderate (elec- trode mainte- nance)		[92,93]

Table 1. Comparative cost analysis of physical and chemical methods for nanoparticle synthesis.

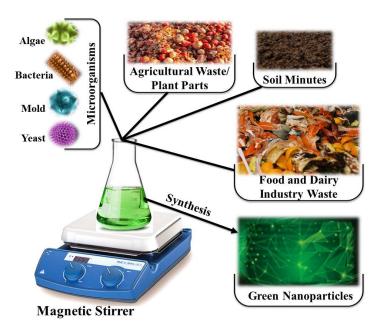


Figure 2. Various biological sources such as plants, microorganisms (bacteria, fungi, algae, and yeast), and different wastes are utilized for the eco-friendly synthesis of green nanoparticles, offering a sustainable alternative to conventional chemical methods.

The mechanism of green synthesis for NPs primarily takes place in aqueous solutions, rather than employing other chemical solvents [102], thus entirely eliminating the introduction of hazardous substances that may present considerable threats to environmental and human health (Figure 1). To enhance the stability of NPs synthesized via green methodologies, various capping agents are utilized [44,48,68,70]. A prominent example is polysaccharides like dextran, which is composed of glucose molecules that can differ in length [122]. These agents are recognized for their affordability, intrinsic stability, biodegradability, and non-toxic properties. Amino cellulose fiber was utilized in the synthesis of zinc oxide NPs (ZnO-NPs), serving effectively as both a reducing agent and a stabilizing agent in the process [123]. The nitrogen group in the amino cellulose acted as a functional group that was indirectly involved in the formation of NPs, especially during the crucial reduction phase of the synthesis process. A significant advantage associated with the utilization of biological molecules as stabilizing agents in the NP synthesis process is the enhancement of biocompatibility, especially when compared to NPs generated through other methods [124]; this characteristic renders biocompatible NPs suitable for a variety of important applications across multiple fields, including the agriculture, food, health, and biomedical sectors [20,125-129].

3. Formation of Nanoparticles

The biogenic synthesis of NPs through the utilization of bacteria [34,108,130], fungi (molds) [131,132], yeast [133], and algae [64,132,134] represents a sustainable and environmentally friendly approach compared to traditional methods. This process harnesses microbial metabolic processes to synthesize biocompatible NPs suitable for various applications. Recent developments highlight the utilization of various microorganisms, such as *Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Aspergillus niger, Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, and *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*, in the synthesis of metallic NPs (Ag and Au), metal oxide NPs (TiO₂ and ZnO), and semiconductor NPs [60,94,130,132–136]. Recent investigations emphasize the synthesis of NPs using microalgae, the implementation of sustainable purification techniques, and the utilization of renewable resources. Advancements in technology encompass both intracellular and extracellular synthesis mechanisms, where extracellular

methods facilitate the collection of NPs [130,134,137,138]. The process of purification is complex, necessitating several stages, including centrifugation, filtration, dialysis, and chromatography, to eliminate biological contaminants such as proteins and polysaccharides [137,139,140]. Innovative approaches, including magnetic separation, NP immobilization on solid substrates, and enzyme optimization, effectively tackle challenges related to scalability and purity [138,141,142]. Utilizing advanced characterization techniques such as transmission electron microscopy (TEM), scanning electron microscopy (SEM), X-ray diffraction (XRD), and Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) facilitates accurate quality control of NPs [137,138].

Furthermore, various challenges arise, including intricate purification processes, especially for intracellular NPs, necessitating multiple stages (centrifugation, dialysis, and chromatography) to eliminate biological contaminants [132,140,143]. The scalability of such processes is adversely affected by the variability in NP size and shape, as well as fluctuations in microbial growth at the industrial scale [134,140]. NP aggregation, potential toxicity to non-target organisms, insufficient mechanistic insights, and the elevated costs associated with enzymes and equipment present significant challenges to widespread adoption [36,139,144]. In order to address the challenges outlined previously, a range of solutions can be considered, including the prioritization of extracellular synthesis, the implementation of advanced separation techniques such as magnetic separation and nanofiltration, and the automation of purification processes to improve overall efficiency [132,139,140,145,146]. Enhancements in scalability can be achieved via the optimization of bioreactors, the utilization of microbial consortia, and the implementation of standardized protocols [132,147,148]. The stability of NPs is examined through the use of polymeric matrices, natural stabilizers, and surface functionalization [58,142,145]. The mitigation of toxicity can be achieved through the application of biodegradable NPs and controlled release systems [36,139,141,144,146]. Additionally, the utilization of omics technologies and waste-based media contributes to cost reduction and enhances mechanistic understanding [132,143,149]. A comprehensive summary in Table 2 delineates the challenges and corresponding solutions associated with the biosynthesis of NPs utilizing bacteria, fungi, yeast, and algae, with a particular emphasis on the complex purification process and other pertinent issues involved.

Challenge	Description	So	olutions	References
Complexity of Purification	Intracellular NPs necessitate cell lysis and a se- ries of procedures, such as centrifugation and filtration, to achieve the isolation of pure NPs. Extracellular synthesis produces NPs that con- tain biological impurities, such as proteins and lipids, which require complex purification pro- cesses.	synthesis recovery stance, by fungi suc <i>fellutanun</i> Utilize so tion meth magnetic filtration. Employ e rification cellulase fectively Deploy a tion syste	ophisticated separa- hodologies such as c separation or nano-	
Scalability Issues	Synthesis conducted at the laboratory scale	Enhance	bioreactor configu-	[151,152]

Table 2. Challenges and solutions in the microbial biosynthesis of nanoparticles concerning purification, scalability, and stability for sustainable applications.

	demonstrates effectiveness; however, the transi- tion to industrial-scale production is impeded by the variability in NP size, shape, and yield, which is influenced by fluctuating microbial growth conditions.	 rations through continuous observation of pH levels, thermal conditions, and ox- ygen concentration. Employ microbial consortia, such as bacteria–algae sys- tems, to achieve improved yield. Establish standardized pro- tocols for cultivation and synthesis to guarantee uni- formity. 	
NP Stability and Ag- gregation	NPs may aggregate as a result of insufficient capping or environmental conditions (such as pH and ionic strength), which diminishes their effectiveness in applications such as water puri- fication.	 Secure NPs on polymeric or graphene-derived matrices to inhibit aggregation. Employ polysaccharides or proteins derived from mi- croorganisms as natural cap- [153,154] ping agents. Modify NP surfaces with ligands or surfactants throughout the synthesis process. 	
Toxicity and Envi- ronmental Concerns	NPs such Ag-NPs and TiO ₂ have the potential to exhibit toxicity towards non-target organisms, including algae and fish, thereby presenting significant ecological risks. Insufficient purifica- tion processes can result in the presence of haz- ardous residues.	 Formulate biodegradable NPs (e.g., nanocellulose de- rived from algae) to mitigate environmental persistence. Perform extensive nanotoxi- cology investigations to guarantee safety. Encapsulate NPs within en- zyme-sensitive carriers to fa- cilitate controlled release mechanisms. 	54]
Mechanistic Under- standing	The limited understanding of NP formation mechanisms, including specific enzymes and pathways, impedes the optimization of NP size, shape, and functionality.	 Utilize omics technologies (genomics, proteomics, metabolomics) to clarify un- derlying mechanisms. Employ rigorously defined model organisms (e.g., <i>Chla- mydomonas reinhardtii, Sa.</i> <i>cerevisiae</i>) for in-depth mechanistic investigations. Implement precise genetic alterations to improve syn- thesis efficiency. 	156]
Cost and Infrastruc- ture	Enzymatic functionalization and purification necessitate the use of costly enzymes and spe- cialized equipment, such as ultracentrifuges. Algae-based systems require expensive photo- bioreactor technology.	 Utilize agro-wastes or wastewater as substrates for microbial growth to reduce expenses. Implement enzyme immobi- lization or recycling tech- niques to decrease overall enzyme expenditures. Cultivate algae in wastewater or marine environments to reduce infrastructure re- quirements. 	155]

A critical discussion in the following sections presents the biosynthesis of NPs utilizing bacteria, fungi (molds), yeast, and algae as sustainable and eco-friendly alternatives to conventional methods.

3.1. By Bacteria

There are two methodologies for synthesizing NPs utilizing bacterial cells, as follows: intracellular and extracellular processes. Nonetheless, the precise mechanical process underlying the production of NPs remains unidentified [69,149,153,157,158]. However, it is hypothesized that their formation occurs through the initial entrapment of metal ions either on the bacterial cell surface or within its interior [54,69,71,153,158,159]. Secondly, the ion is subjected to multiple enzymatic processes (reduction reactions) facilitated by bacterial enzymes [54,86,106,155,159]. The extracellular production method is typically favored due to its more straightforward purification process and higher yield in comparison to intracellular synthesis [160]. Bacteria function as a reducing agent in the presence of ionic solutions, such as those containing silver or gold, during the synthesis of NPs [52,86,159,161]. The bacterial metabolic enzymes nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NADH) and nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate hydrogen (NADPH) facilitate the transfer of an electron to the metal atom, thereby enhancing its stability [149,155,159]. Following the proliferation of bacterial cells, the synthesis of NPs commences. The synthesis of NPs during the reduction phase of silver metal ions is critically dependent on a key enzyme. This process involves the electron transfer mechanism facilitated by NADH and NADH-dependent nitrate reductase (NADH-DNR) present in *Bacillus* spp., highlighting the complex biochemical interactions at play [54,149].

The bacterial-mediated biosynthesis of metallic NPs through a pathway reliant on the enzyme nitrate reductase [159] is illustrated in Figure 3. Nitrate ions (NO₃⁺) are taken up by the bacterial cell, prompting the activation of nitrate reductase, an intracellular enzyme that employs NADH as an electron donor, transforming it into NAD⁺ while releasing electrons (e⁻) [155,159]. These electrons are subsequently transferred through NADH-DNR to facilitate the reduction of metal ions (M⁺) into their zero-valent metallic state (M⁰), resulting in the formation of metallic NPs [68,159,162]. This method exemplifies an environmentally sustainable approach for the synthesis of NPs, utilizing bacterial enzymatic systems under standard conditions [46]. The NPs produced may be classified as either intracellular or extracellular, contingent upon the specific bacterial species and metal precursor utilized [58].

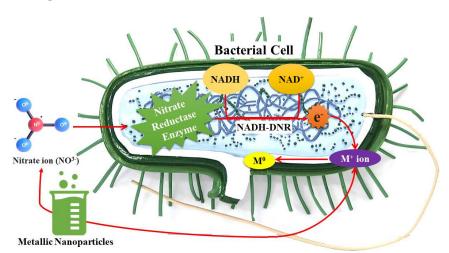


Figure 3. Schematic representation of bacterial nanoparticle synthesis. During bacterial growth, metal ions (M^+) are reduced to their elemental form (M^0) through microbial redox reactions, leading to the formation and accumulation of metallic nanoparticles around or within the cells.

In 1999, *Ps. stutzeri* was utilized for the production of NPs through the accumulation and aggregation of silver ions on the bacterial outer membranes [163]. Silver ions aggregated within the bacterial cell membrane due to their interaction with hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) generated by the bacteria [163–165]. This reaction transformed the gas into a non-toxic compound suitable for bacterial utilization. Nitrate reduction enzymes and cofactors are integral to the process of reducing silver NPs (Ag-NPs) in bacterial systems. Certain proteins have been identified as participants in the reduction of silver nitrate (AgNO₃), resulting in the formation of Ag-NPs [40,66,153,155,164–166].

Cell-free culture supernatants obtained from seven bacterial strains, namely *Phaeocystis antarctica, Ps. proteolytica, Ps. meridiana, Arthrobacter kerguelensis, A. gangotriensis, Bacillus indicus,* and *Bhargavaea cecembensis,* were utilized for the biosynthesis of Ag-NPs with sizes ranging from approximately 6 to 13 nm (refer to Table 3). The NPs demonstrated stability for a duration of eight months when stored in a dark environment. The synthesis and subsequent stability of the Ag-NPs were found to be affected by variables including temperature, pH, and the particular bacterial species from which the supernatant originated [58,159,161,167]. It was observed that the supernatant of A. kerguelensis did not promote the production of Ag-NPs at the temperature optimal for the synthesis of these NPs by *Phaeocystis antarctica* [52,157,159,168]. As a result, this study presents substantial evidence indicating that the components found in cell-free culture supernatants that facilitate the synthesis of Ag-NPs differ among various bacterial species.

Bacterial Species	NPs	Size	Characterization Methods	Applications	Utilization at Commercial Scale and/or Laboratory Scale of NPs	Future Prospects	References
Aeromonas hydrophila	ZnO-NPs	57 nm	UV–Vis spectroscopy, XRD, FTIR, AFM, NC-AFM and FESEM with EDX	Antibacterial and an- tifungal	ZnO-NPs produced through the utilization of <i>A. hydrophila</i> demon- strated significant antibacterial and antifungal properties in la- boratory settings, suggesting their potential applicability in the do- mains of food preservation and safety.	Nonetheless, additional inves- tigation and advancement are required to convert these dis- coveries into applications at a commercial scale, guarantee- ing effectiveness, safety, and adherence to regulatory standards in practical food and dairy product conditions.	[36,126,127,169–171]
Bacillus subtilis	Fe3O4-NPs + Au-NPs	18 nm + 20 nm	UV–Vis spectroscopy, FTIR, SEM, EDX and XRD	Antibacterial	The synthesis of Fe ₃ O ₄ -NPs and Au-NPs mediated by <i>B. subtilis</i> offers a promising approach for the development of antimicrobial agents in food and dairy applica- tions. The combined incorporation of these NPs in food and dairy ap- plications represent a developing field of study, which is predomi- nantly conducted at the laboratory level.	Although laboratory studies have indicated their potential, additional research is neces- sary to evaluate their safety, efficacy, and scalability for commercial applications.	[172–174]
B. paramycoides	Ag2O-NPs	25–70 nm	UV–Vis spectroscopy, X-ray, and SEM	Inhibition of bio- film-forming bacteria	The application of Ag ₂ O-NPs syn- thesized using <i>B. paramycoides</i> in inhibiting biofilm-forming bacteria within food and dairy products remains at the laboratory research stage. There was no evidence of their commercial-scale utilization in these industries. The promising antibacterial and antibiofilm properties of <i>B. paramy- coides</i> -synthesized Ag ₂ O-NPs in- dicate potential for future applica-	However, further research is necessary to assess their safe- ty, efficacy, and feasibility in real-world food systems. Studies focusing on their in- teraction with food matrices, potential toxicity, and regula- tory compliance will be crucial steps toward commercial adoption.	[170,175,176]

Table 3. Important studies on different bacterial species as biological nanofactories to produce metal nanoparticles for different applications in food and dairy products.

					tions in the food and dairy indus- tries.		
Bifidobacterium bifidum	TiO2-NPs	81 nm	SEM, and (AFM)	Antibacterial	The utilization of <i>B. bifi- dum</i> -mediated TiO ₂ -NPs in food and dairy products is currently confined to laboratory research, with no significant commercial application documented. The an- tibacterial properties of TiO ₂ -NPs mediated by <i>B. bifidum</i> showed significant promise in laboratory environments, suggesting poten- tial applications for improving food safety.	Nevertheless, owing to safety considerations, compliance with regulatory standards, and various technical obsta- cles, their application in com- mercial food and dairy prod- ucts has not yet been achieved. Additional investigations and thorough risk evaluations are crucial to assess the practicali- ty of incorporating these na- nomaterials within the food sector.	[18,170,177]
Lactobacillus gasseri	ZnO-NPs	22 nm	UV–Vis spectroscopy, TEM, SEM, DLS, FTIR, and XRD	Yogurt fortification	The application of ZnO-NPs pro- duced through <i>L. gasseri</i> for the enhancement of yogurt is pres- ently confined to laboratory re- search. Although encouraging outcomes have been documented, there is currently no substantiation for application at a commercial scale. As a result, laboratory inves- tigations demonstrated that ZnO-NPs synthesized by <i>L. gasseri</i> can improve the nutritional and antimicrobial characteristics of yogurt.	However, additional research and development are neces- sary to facilitate the transition from laboratory settings to commercial-scale production.	[20,21,178,179]
Lacticaseibacillus rham- nosus	TiO2-NPs	3–7 nm	UV–Vis spectroscopy, FTIR, XRD, TEM, SEM, EDX, DLS, and zeta po- tential	Biocontrol of mold strains	The utilization of <i>L. rhamno-sus-synthesized</i> TiO ₂ -NPs for the biocontrol of mold strains in food and dairy products is predominantly confined to laboratory conditions. Although encouraging outcomes were documented in controlled experiments, commercial-scale implementation has not	Subsequent investigations must prioritize the enhance- ment of production capacities, the evaluation of long-term safety parameters, and the analysis of effects on food quality and human health to promote the integration of this technology within the food	[41,180,181]

					yet been achieved. Laboratory studies showed the efficacy of <i>L.</i> <i>rhamnosus</i> -mediated TiO ₂ -NPs in inhibiting mold proliferation and lowering mycotoxin concentra- tions. However, advancing to commercial-scale applications ne-	and dairy sectors.	
Pseudomonas aeruginosa	ZnO-NPs	6–21 nm	UV–Vis spectroscopy, FTIR, TEM, and XRD	Antimicrobial	cessitates thorough assessments. The utilization of ZnO-NPs pro- duced via <i>Ps. aeruginosa</i> for anti- microbial applications in food and dairy products is predominantly confined to research, with no no- table commercial-scale applica- tions documented. ZnO-NPs demonstrated significant antimi- crobial efficacy against a range of foodborne pathogens in controlled laboratory environments, sug- gesting their potential utility in enhancing food preservation and safety measures.	Nonetheless, the shift from experimental investigation to market application necessi- tates the resolution of regula- tory challenges, the assurance of consumer safety, and the advancement of economically viable, scalable synthesis tech- niques. Ongoing investigation and cooperation among re- searchers, industry partici- pants, and regulatory authori- ties are crucial for the imple- mentation of ZnO-NPs in the food and dairy industries.	[10,94,135,170,182,183]
Nocardiopsis dassonvillei	Ag-NPs	29 nm	UV–Vis spectroscopy, FTIR, and TEM	Antimicrobial, anti- oxidant, insecticidal, and anticancer	The biosynthesis of Ag-NPs using <i>N. dassonvillei</i> predominantly re- mains within the realm of labora- tory research. Their integration into commercial food and dairy applications has not been achieved, primarily due to unre- solved concerns regarding safety, regulatory compliance, and scala- ble production methods.	Despite their potential for en- hancing food and dairy preservation, transitioning from laboratory findings to re- al-world applications requires rigorous safety assessments, the development of cost-effective and scalable synthesis protocols, and tar- geted research focusing on food matrix interactions and functionality. Future studies should aim to address these critical gaps to facilitate the safe and effective incorpora-	[161,163,170,184–186]

						tion of <i>N. dassonvillei</i> -derived Ag-NPs in food and dairy systems.	
Oscillatoria limnetica	Fe2O3-NPs	-	UV–Vis spectroscopy, FTIR, SEM, EDX and XRD	Antimicrobial, antifungal, and anti- oxidant	The utilization of <i>O. limneti-</i> <i>ca</i> -mediated Fe ₂ O ₃ -NPs in food and dairy products is presently confined to laboratory research ac- tivities. These NPs exhibited sig- nificant antimicrobial, antifungal, and antioxidant properties in vitro. However, their application at a commercial scale within the food industry remains unachieved. At the laboratory scale, <i>O. limnetica</i> -mediated Fe ₂ O ₃ -NPs exhibited considerable potential for antimicrobial, anti- fungal, and antioxidant applica- tions in food and dairy products, with proven effectiveness against pathogens, fungi, and oxidative processes.	Nonetheless, the implementa- tion of commercial-scale ap- plications is obstructed by regulatory, scalability, and safety challenges. Continued investigation is essential to tackle these obstacles, facili- tating the implementation of practical applications, includ- ing active packaging and for- tification in dairy products. Currently, these NPs are con- sidered a promising yet pre- dominantly experimental ap- proach for enhancing food safety and preservation.	[1,97,170,187,188]
Serratia marcescens	Ag-NPs	14–20 nm	EDX and FTIR	Antibacterial and biofilm inhibition	At the laboratory scale, Ag-NPs derived from <i>S. marcescens</i> exhib- ited considerable potential for ap- plications in antibacterial and bio- film inhibition within food and dairy environments, demonstrat- ing effectiveness against critical pathogens and biofilms. Nonethe- less, the implementation of their commercial-scale application has not been achieved, mainly owing to challenges related to regulation, scalability, and safety.	Current investigations must prioritize the integration of laboratory achievements with market feasibility, especially by tackling safety issues and creating functional applica- tions such as disinfectants or active packaging for dairy products.	[189–191]
Streptomyces spp.	Ag-NPs	11–63 nm	UV–Vis spectroscopy, XRD, FTIR, SEM-EDX, and TEM	Antimicrobial, and antioxidant	At the laboratory scale, Ag-NPs derived from <i>Streptomyces</i> spp. ex- hibited considerable potential for	Future investigations should prioritize the enhancement of NP stability, undertake thor-	[55,170,192,193]

antimicrobial and antioxidant ap-	ough toxicity assessments, and
plications in food and dairy prod-	establish regulatory frame-
ucts, demonstrating effectiveness	works to facilitate commercial
against foodborne pathogens and	implementation, potentially in
oxidative spoilage. Nonetheless,	antimicrobial coatings or nat-
the implementation of commer-	ural preservative systems for
cial-scale applications is con-	the food and dairy sectors.
strained by regulatory limitations,	
challenges in scalability, and safe-	
ty considerations related to the re-	
lease of Ag+ ions.	

The synthesis of NPs by bacteria represents a novel technological advancement that yields a significant quantity of NPs. However, this approach encounters several challenges, including the purification process, which is intricate, necessitating multiple steps and considerable effort to achieve pure particles. Furthermore, there is a limitation in the ability to regulate the size of the NPs produced. The primary obstacle lies in the production and purification of these particles at an industrial scale. To address the previously identified challenges, several strategic solutions have been proposed (Table 2). Emphasis on extracellular synthesis, along with the adoption of advanced separation techniques, such as magnetic separation and nanofiltration, and the automation of purification processes, can significantly enhance overall process efficiency. Scalability improvements can be achieved through the optimization of bioreactors, incorporation of microbial consortia, and implementation of standardized protocols. To enhance NP stability, approaches such as the use of polymeric matrices, natural stabilizers, and surface functionalization are commonly employed. Toxicity reduction is facilitated through the development of biodegradable NPs and the incorporation of controlled release systems. Moreover, the integration of omics technologies and the utilization of waste-derived media will contribute to cost reduction while simultaneously providing deeper mechanistic insights.

3.2. By Fungi (Molds)

The formation of NPs through fungal processes closely resembles the particle synthesis mechanisms employed by bacteria, encompassing both intracellular and extracellular methodologies [58]. NPs are synthesized through the combination of metallic precursors and fungal metabolites, which encompass various compounds, including cyclosporine, griseofulvin, lovastatin, and mevastatin, as well as oxidation-reduction enzymes such as acetyl-CoA carboxylase (ACCases), NADH, NADPH, and peroxidases [155,194,195]. Metabolic products facilitate the conversion of metal ions into a reduced state, resulting in the synthesis of NPs (Figure 4).

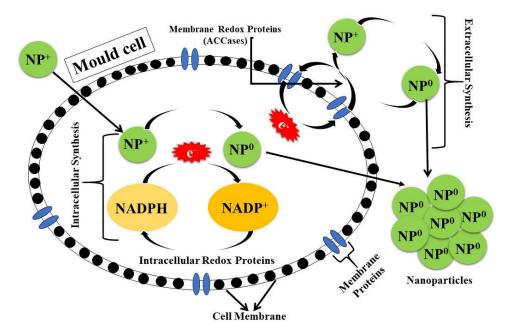


Figure 4. Biosynthesis of nanoparticles by molds via intracellular and extracellular routes offers an eco-friendly, cost-effective, and scalable approach for producing metal nanoparticles with potential applications in food, medicine, and environmental sectors.

In the intracellular approach, metallic precursors are introduced into the fungal growth medium, where the activity of reducing enzymes facilitates the synthesis of NPs [155]. In both methodologies, the synthesized NPs can be isolated from metabolites through centrifugation, chemical washing, and filtration techniques. Fungi exhibit significant resistance to agitation and flow forces within bioreactors, thereby enhancing their application in the production of NPs ((A) in Table 4). A variety of fungal species have been utilized for the synthesis of NPs, including *A. flavus* [101,196,197], *A. fumigatus* [198,199], *A. niger* [136,200–202], *Fusarium pseudonygamai* [203], *Penicillium solitum* [204], *P. citrinum* [61], *Rhizopus arrhizus* [61], and *Trichoderma viride* [99,205].

Table 4. Important studies on metal nanoparticle synthesis from diverse fungal species, including molds (A) and yeasts (B), which show wide-ranging applications, with emphasis on food and dairy products due to their biocompatibility and eco-friendly production methods.

(A) Molds							
Mold Species	NPs	Size	Characterization	Applications	Utilization at Commercial Scale and/or Laboratory Scale of NPs	Future Prospects	References
Aspergillus flavus	Se-NPs	100 nm	UV–Vis spectros- copy, FTIR, FESEM, EDX, XRD, and Zeta potential	Antifungal	propriate for use as preserva- tives or for selenium enrich- ment in dairy products. Com- mercial scaling necessitates the optimization of bioreactors and purification processes to achieve cost-effective, food-grade Se-NPs suitable for applications in packaging, ad- ditives, or functional foods	strains, the implementation of smart packaging solutions, and the explora- tion of probiotic synergy, all under- pinned by the use of sustainable media such as agricultural by-products. Challenges encompass the assurance of aflatoxin-free production, the attainment of regulatory approval, and the execution of long-term safety studies. The increasing demand for natural preservatives and functional foods suggests that Se-NPs have the potential to transform dairy preserva- tion and enhance nutritional value, contingent upon standardization and	[6,8,44,59,101,167,170,197,206–208]
A. fumigatus	ZnO-CuO NPs	85–92 nm	UV–Vis spectros- copy, DLS, HR-TEM, SEM, and XRD	Antifungal	their antimicrobial and anti- fungal properties demonstrated efficacy in controlling patho- gens such as <i>E. coli</i> and <i>Asper</i> -	Future prospects encompass genet- ically optimized synthesis, biode- gradable intelligent packaging, and nanosensors designed for the detection of mycotoxins. The incorporation of artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things has the potential to enhance efficiency in production processes and improve quality control measures. It is	[8,16,42,129,170,209–211]

					1 0 1 0 0	essential to address issues related to	
					, ,	toxicity, sensory effects, and consumer	
						skepticism. Through enhancements in	
					, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	safety and scalability, these NPs have	
						the potential to transform food safety,	
					such as cheese and yogurt, as	sustainability, and preservation,	
					well as in active packaging ma-	5 0 1	
					terials. However, challenges	synthetic additives.	
					persist regarding production		
					costs, stability, and the attain-		
					ment of regulatory approval.		
					Ag-NPs produced by A. niger	Future prospects encompass intelli-	
					provide environmentally sus-	gent packaging solutions, synergistic	
					tainable antimicrobial alterna-	formulations incorporating natural	
					tives for use in the food and	antimicrobials, and customized appli-	
						cations for dairy products. Progress in	
						fungal synthesis, genetic modification,	
					such as <i>E. coli</i> and spoilage	and AI-enhanced optimization indi-	
					· · · ·	cates potential for scalability. Clear	
			UV-Vis spectros-	Antimicrobial,	improving preservation and	regulatory frameworks and compre-	
A. niger	Ag-NPs	9–50 nm	copy, FTIR, XRD,	anticancer, and		· ·	8,136,161,164,165,168,170,201,202,210,212]
			SEM, and TEM	antiangiogenic		sential for mitigating toxicity concerns	
						and addressing consumer skepticism.	
					settings enhanced the shelf life	The sustainable synthesis and innova-	
					of dairy products such as	tive applications of Ag-NPs, such as	
					cheese and milk; however,	edible coatings, have the potential to	
					widespread adoption is con-	transform food safety practices, in	
					strained by financial considera-	accordance with clean-label trends,	
					tions and regulatory frame-	assuming that cost and regulatory	
					works.	challenges are addressed.	
					Se-NPs produced by <i>F. ox-</i>	Future prospects encompass intelli-	
						gent packaging solutions, eco-friendly	
			TEM, XRD, UV–Vis	Anniningai and	applications in food and dairy,		
Fusarium oxysporum	Se-NPs	42 nm	spectroscopy, FTIR,	in-vivo biodistri-		by-products, and tailored nutritional	[6,30,167,170,207,213–215]
1 изинит охузронит	00-1113	42 1010	and PL spectrome-	bution	antioxidant, and nutritional	approaches. Regulatory approval ne-	[0,00,107,170,207,210 210]
			ter	Cation	characteristics. At the laborato-	1 0	
					ry scale, Se-NPs demonstrated the ability to inhibit pathogens		

			such as <i>Listeria</i> and fungi, ex- tend shelf life through antioxi- dant activity, and enrich prod- ucts with bioavailable Se. Commercial applications en- countered obstacles related to yield, cost, and safety; however, their applications may encom- pass active packaging, food additives, and Se-enriched dairy products such as yogurt.	The integration of Se-NPs with probi- otics or alternative NPs may improve their effectiveness. Progress in fer- mentation techniques and biosafety measures, potentially through genetic engineering, is expected to facilitate widespread implementation in the food and dairy sectors.	
Penicillium oxalicum SiO2-NPs 20–50 nm	TEM, FTIR, XRD, and DLS	Phytotoxicity, heavy metal bio- remediation, and photocatalytic activity against crystal violet and Ribazol black dye	proving biodegradable pack- aging films and functioning as anticaking agents or flavor car- riers. They have the potential to substitute synthetic silica (E551) in dairy powders and enhance packaging barriers, thereby prolonging shelf life. Their challenges encompass regula- tory obstacles, expenses associ- ated with scalability, and con- sumer apprehensions regarding nanotechnology.	systems, targeted nutrient delivery mechanisms, and effective mycotoxin management, utilizing environmen- tally friendly synthesis methods de- rived from agricultural waste. Progress in toxicology, uniform characterization methods, and bioreactor technology are essential for commercial imple- mentation. Although SiO ₂ -NPs show potential for enhancing sustainable food systems, it is essential to conduct thorough investigations into their long-term health and environmental effects to guarantee safety and market feasibility, thereby establishing them as gutting-edge solutions for the dairy	[25,170,216–220]
P. polonicum Ag-NPs 54 nm	UV–Vis spectros- copy, FTIR, XRD, and TEM	Antimicrobial and seed germination advancements	Ag-NPs produced by <i>P. po-</i> <i>lonicum</i> exhibit significant po- tential for applications in the food and dairy sectors, attributed to their strong anti- microbial characteristics and	Future developments encompass in- telligent packaging integrated with sensors, low-dose coatings specifically designed for dairy products, and syn- ergistic antimicrobial approaches that combine silver NPs with probiotics or essential oils. Innovations in bioreactor	[33,100,161,168,170,217,221,222]

					5	design and the utilization of sustaina-	
					, ,	ble nutrient sources have the potential	
						to reduce costs. Additionally, the im-	
					gens such as Salmonella and	plementation of standardized proto-	
						cols may facilitate regulatory compli-	
					for applications in biodegrada-	ance, thereby establishing <i>P. po</i> -	
					ble packaging and dairy	lonicum-derived Ag-NPs as a signifi-	
					preservation. From a commer-	cant advancement in ensuring food	
					cial perspective, there is poten-	and dairy safety.	
					tial to improve active packaging		
					or to disinfect equipment;		
					however, challenges related to		
					regulatory approval and scala-		
					bility persist. Concerns regard-		
					ing safety, such as cytotoxicity		
					and environmental effects, ne-		
					cessitate thorough evaluation.		
					ZnO-NPs produced through		
					the action of <i>T. asperellum</i> ex-		
					hibit potential utility in the food	Future developments encompass in-	
					and dairy sectors. At the labor-	telligent packaging solutions, dairy	
					atory scale, these environmen-	products enhanced with probiotics,	
					tally friendly NPs demonstrat-	and sustainable production methods	
					ed antimicrobial properties	utilizing genetically modified fungal	
					against E. coli, St. aureus, and	strains. Notwithstanding challenges	
					fungi, positioning them as	related to scalability and consumer	
Trichoderma			UV-Vis spectros-	Antibiofilm and	suitable candidates for food	acceptance, ZnO-NPs have the poten-	
asperellum	ZnO-NPs	3–9 mm	copy, FTIR, XRD,	antibacterial	packaging and preservation	tial to revolutionize food safety and	[36,125,128,129,170,209,223-225]
uspereitum			SEM, and TEM	antibacteriai	applications. They improved	nutrition. Progress in toxicology, en-	
					shelf stability and enriched	vironmentally friendly synthesis	
					products with bioavailable Zn.	methods, and international regulatory	
					Commercial scaling encounters	frameworks will facilitate their inte-	
					obstacles such as suboptimal		
					yields, elevated costs, and reg-	gration, presenting considerable mar-	
					ulatory challenges; however,	ket opportunities within high-end	
					the implementation of bioreac-	food industries.	
					tor systems and the utilization		
					of waste-based substrates will		

					anhanca faasihility	
T. viride	Ag-NPs	1–50 nm	UV–Vis spectros- copy, SEM and TEM	Antimicrobial	enhance feasibility.Ag-NPs produced by <i>T. viride</i> exhibit potential for use in the food and dairy sectors owing to their antimicrobial characteris- tics. At the laboratory scale, sodium alginate films were utilized to enhance the shelf life 	[13,99,161,168,170,205,226,227]
(B) Yeasts						
Candida albicans	Se-NPs	100 nm	UV–Vis spectros- copy, FTIR, FESEM, EDX, XRD, and Zeta potential	Antifungal	Se-NPs produced by <i>C. albicans</i> Future prospects encompass genetic present significant potential for engineering, hybrid synthesis utilizing applications in the food and dairy industries, attributed to their antimicrobial, antioxidant, and nutritional characteristics. plementation of long-term toxicology Studies conducted at the labor- studies and adherence to standardized atory scale indicated successful protocols. Se-NPs correspond with the synthesis, with Se-NPs exhibit- ing inhibitory effects on patho- gens such as <i>E. coli</i> , thereby prolonging shelf life. The pathogenic characteristics of the and consumer acceptance challenges,	[6,34,59,81,101,207,214]

					yeast necessitate rigorous pu- rification measures to address safety concerns. Commercial scalability encounters obstacles, such as regulatory constraints and competition from non-pathogenic microorgan- isms, exemplified by <i>Bacillus</i> <u>spp.</u> Ag-NPs and ZnO-NPs pro- duced by <i>P. fermentans</i> present	thereby establishing them as an emerging yet promising technology within food systems.	
Ag-Nl Pichia fermentans and ZnO-N		-	UV–Vis spectros- copy, XRD, and FE–SEM–EDX	Antibiogram	effective antimicrobial agents for applications in the food and dairy industries. Laborato- ry-scale investigations validat- ed their effectiveness against pathogens such as <i>E. coli</i> and <i>Listeria</i> , facilitating food preservation and the develop- ment of active packaging solu- tions. Spherical NPs that were stabilized by microbial en- zymes exhibited synergistic interactions with antibiotics, specifically aimed at multi- drug-resistant strains. The uti- lization of commercial applica- tions is constrained by factors such as expense, reproducibil- ity, and regulatory frameworks; however, potential uses en- compass antimicrobial coatings and packaging films.		[13,14,30,36,48,56,129,161,168,170]
Rhodotorula glutinis Ag-Nl	Ps 15	5 nm	UV–Vis spectros- copy, DLS, FTIR, XRD, EDX, SEM, TEM, and AFM	Antifungal and cytotoxicity activi- ties	Ag-NPs synthesized by <i>R. glu- tinis</i> offer eco-friendly, antimi- crobial solutions for the food and dairy industries. Labora- tory studies confirmed their	Future prospects include bionano- composite films, synergistic antimi- crobial blends, and sensors for spoil- age detection. Advances in bioreactor design and genetic engineering could	[30,40,57,131,161,168,170,228–230]

					shelf life by inhibiting spoilage. Commercially, they were used in antimicrobial films and equipment coatings, but scaling faces challenges like cost, regu- latory hurdles, and stability.	enhance production efficiency. While less toxic than chemical Ag-NPs, long-term safety and resistance risks need study. With regulatory clarity and sustainable practices, <i>R. gluti- nis</i> -synthesized Ag-NPs could revolu- tionize food safety and preservation.	
Rhodotorula muci- laginosa	Ag-NPs	13 nm	UV–Vis spectros- copy, DLS, FTIR, XRD, EDX, SEM, TEM, and AFM	Antifungal and cytotoxicity activi- ties	Ag-NPs produced by <i>R. muci- laginosa</i> exhibit potential for applications in the food and dairy industries, attributed to their antimicrobial characteris- tics and environmentally sus- tainable synthesis methods. At the laboratory scale, these Ag-NPs demonstrated inhibi- tory effects on pathogens such as <i>St. aureus</i> and <i>E. coli</i> , facili- tating applications in food preservation, dairy safety, and antimicrobial packaging. In commercial applications, these materials were utilized in packaging and disinfectants; however, challenges related to scalability, cost, and regulatory compliance (such as those im- posed by the FDA and EFSA) remain significant.	Future prospects encompass intelli- gent, biodegradable packaging solu- tions, synergistic formulations incor- porating natural antimicrobials, and the synthesis of bioremedia- tion-integrated processes utilizing deceased biomass. Issues such as tox- icity, environmental consequences, and microbial resistance necessitate the optimization of low-dose applica- tions and the education of consumers. The progress in genetic engineering and the automation of bioreactors suggests that Ag-NPs derived from <i>R</i> . <i>mucilaginosa</i> have the potential to transform food safety practices, while also supporting sustainability objec- tives and tackling worldwide spoilage issues.	[40,57,131,161,168,170,228,229]
Saccharomyces cere- visiae	Se-NPs	34–125 nm	UV–vis spectros- copy, TEM, DLS, FTIR, and XRD	Antiradical, anti- radical, and an- ti-inflammatory	Se-NPs produced by <i>Sa. cere-</i> <i>visiae</i> demonstrate potential utility in the food and dairy sectors. Laboratory investiga-	Future prospects encompass sustaina- ble production, advanced packaging solutions, and personalized nutrition, utilizing the eco-friendly synthesis	[6,8,59,60,126,170,207,208,214,215]

	tions demonstrated their anti- capabilities of <i>Sa. cerevisiae</i> . Advance-	
	bacterial properties (e.g., ments in bioreactor design and genetic	
	against <i>E. coli</i> and <i>St. aureus</i>), modification have the potential to en-	
	antioxidant capacity (up to hance yield and ensure standardiza-	
	48.5%), and nutritional ad- tion. Through additional safety and	
	vantages. Dairy products such mechanistic investigations, Se-NPs	
	as enriched yogurt and food have the potential to transform dairy	
	packaging were enhanced to fortification and enhance food safety,	
	prolong shelf life. Se-NPs en- effectively tackling global selenium	
	counter obstacles in terms of deficiency and advancing sustainabil-	
	scalability, control over particle ity objectives.	
	size, and obtaining regulatory	
	approval; however, they remain	
	a feasible option for functional	
	foods and animal feed applica-	
	tions.	
	Se-NPs produced by Y. lipolytica	
	demonstrate potential utility in	
	the food and dairy sectors. In	
	laboratory settings, these sub-	
	stances demonstrated antimi-	
	crobial properties against Future prospects encompass intelli-	
	pathogens such as <i>E. coli</i> and <i>C.</i> gent packaging systems, tailored nu-	
	albicans, impeded biofilm for- tritional solutions, and eco-friendly	
	mation, and acted as bioavaila- manufacturing processes that utilize	
	Antimicrobial, ble sources of selenium for nu- food waste. Progress in metabolic en-	
XRD, zeta poten-	antioxidant and tritional enhancement Their gineering and regulatory harmoniza-	
Yarrowia lipolytica Se-NPs 110 nm tial, FESEM, EDX,	inhibition of bio- antioxidant characteristics and tion may position Se-NPs as a funda-	[6,126,167,170,207,231,232]
FTIR, and DLS	film Generally Recognized as Safe mental component of environmentally	
	(GRAS) designation endorse sustainable, health-oriented dairy	
	their application in dairy products, while also offering	
	products such as yogurt and cross-industry applications in	
	cheese. Se-NPs have the poten- nutraceuticals.	
	tial to improve food packaging,	
	prolong shelf life, and enrich	
	animal feeds, utilizing the ca-	
	ě –	
	pability of <i>Y. lipolytica</i> to utilize	
	inexpensive substrates. Chal-	

expenses regulatory obstacles	lenges encompass production	
chpended, regulatory obstacled,	expenses, regulatory obstacles,	
and consumer approval.	and consumer approval.	

The synthesis of Ag-NPs utilizing the fungus *Macrophomina phaseolina* has been reported. The reduction of silver ions was facilitated by the exoenzymes located on the surface of the mold cells [98,155,165]. In another investigation, extracellular proteins and polysaccharides facilitated the reduction of gold ions (Au⁺³) present in AuCl₄ via electrostatic interactions, aided by the presence of positively charged lysine. The transport of Au⁺³ ions into the cell was observed to occur via ionic pathways across the cell membrane, followed by reduction facilitated by cytoplasmic oxidation-reduction enzymes [155,233]. *M. phaseolina* exhibited elevated oxidation-reduction enzyme activity compared to other fungi, facilitating the synthesis of Au-NPs and Ag-NPs. This characteristic is economically advantageous, as it requires a reduced amount of enzymes to produce Au-NPs and Ag-NPs [226,233,234]. The production of NPs through fungal methods is hindered by challenges related to low yield, necessitating purification processes to achieve pure particles. These processes elevate production expenses.

3.3. By Fungi (Yeasts)

Yeasts, classified as unicellular eukaryotic microorganisms, exhibit a notable capacity to absorb and concentrate considerable amounts of hazardous metallic cations from their environment [58,60,144,235]. This ability is linked to their extensive cell surface area and substantial cytosolic volume, which, together, enhance the efficient uptake of these toxic elements [144]. These eukaryotic organisms demonstrate a wide range of advanced detoxification processes, such as chelation, bioprecipitation, and biosorption, which, together, make them highly effective as bio-factories for the production of metal NPs from metallic precursors via different biochemical pathways [58,60,236]. The inherent differences in the detoxification mechanisms utilized by various yeast species significantly influence the production of bio-metal NPs, which exhibit a diverse array of tunable characteristics, such as particle size, morphology, and chemical composition [60,144]. These variations result in a range of physicochemical properties that can be customized for specific applications. As a result, the capacity of these microorganisms to modify their detoxification mechanisms not only increases the adaptability of the synthesized metal NPs, but also creates a wide range of opportunities for their application across various domains, such as nanotechnology and environmental remediation [60]. Baker's yeast (Sa. *cerevisiae*) was employed to synthesize highly stable Ag-NPs, utilizing yeast extract as both a reducing and coating agent for the synthesized nanoparticles due to the presence of numerous reducing enzymes within the yeast extract [59,155,237]. Lead NPs (Pb-NPs) were synthesized through the adsorption technique on the external surfaces of Rhodotorula mucilaginosa in acidic conditions, resulting in particle sizes ranging from 10 to 20 nm [57,238]. Various yeast strains were employed to synthesize NPs from a range of metal ions, including lead, silver, gold, and others ((B) in Table 4).

3.4. By Algae

Algae are eukaryotic organisms characterized by their significant ability to absorb and concentrate heavy metals, subsequently transforming them into various forms. Due to these unique characteristics, algae have been employed in the synthesis of NPs composed of various metals [49,58,63,239]. The biosynthesis of NPs commences with the formulation of an initial metal ion solution that is subsequently combined with algal extracts [58,65]. The BACs found in algae extracts, including pigments, fats, starches, unsaturated oils, and proteins, effectively neutralize the charge of the ionic solution to a state of zero valence [63,240–242]. The biosynthesis of natural products by algae occurs in three distinct stages. The initial phase, referred to as the activation stage, involves the reduction of metal ions facilitated by oxidation-reduction enzymes that are secreted by algal cells [155]. This phase induces a modification in the chromatic properties of the solution. The second stage involves the growth phase, during which metal ions aggregate to produce NPs of various geometries and dimensions that exhibit stability. During the third stage, the NPs are acquired in their definitive configuration [49,58,65,241,242]. The biosynthesis of particles is influenced by variables such as temperature, pH, solution concentration, and the method of stirring [58,236]. The biosynthesis of NPs from algae can take place either within the cells (intracellularly) or outside the cells (extracellularly) [63,65,155,239]. The intracellular approach is contingent upon the concentration of ion dosage in the growth medium and the production of NADH or NADPH-dependent reductase enzymes during metabolic activities, including nitrogen fixation, respiration, and photosynthesis (Figure 5).

The algae-mediated green synthesis of metal NPs offers an eco-friendly, sustainable, and cost-effective alternative to conventional chemical methods [48,58,65,239]. The biosynthesis process is depicted in Figure 5, which typically involves the following three sequential stages: activation, growth, and termination [63]. During the activation stage, metal ions (M⁺) are absorbed by the algal biomass through interactions with functional groups such as hydroxyl, carboxyl, and amino groups present on the cell surface [66,243]. In the growth stage, intracellular enzymes-particularly NADH or NADPH-dependent reductases-facilitate the reduction of metal ions to their zero-valent forms (M⁰) [58,63,155,158]. A variety of algal-derived biomolecules, including proteins, polysaccharides, carboxylic acids, amino acids, and tyrosinated peptides, contribute to reduction and stabilization processes [65]. This intracellular transformation is complemented by the termination stage, wherein BACs such as polysaccharides, phenolics, and pigments act as capping agents, promoting biomineralization and ensuring NP stability [58,63,239]. Additionally, extracellular synthesis pathways also play a significant role, wherein metabolites secreted by algae reduce and cap metal ions outside the cell, a process that can be optimized using magnetic stirring for an enhanced dispersion and yield [65,239,244]. This dual mechanism of intracellular and extracellular synthesis not only enhances NP stability and functionality, but also supports broad applicability in the biomedical, agricultural, and environmental domains due to the biocompatibility and low toxicity of the synthesized metal NPs [52,58,64,158].

The intracellular synthesis of gold NPs (Au-NPs) was accomplished by incubating chloroauric acid with *Rhizoclonium fontinale* algae at a temperature of 20 °C for a duration of 72 h [245]. A noticeable change in the coloration of the algal thallus from green to purple indicated the successful biosynthesis of Au-NPs. Furthermore, incubation of the gold metal solution with the biomass did not lead to any change in color, indicating the absence of intracellular enzymes or metabolites participating in the bio-reduction process [155,245]. In another experiment, gold/cellulose NPs (Au/cellulose-NPs) were synthesized using *Chlorella vulgaris* [246]. The synthesized Au/cellulose NPs were evaluated using UV–Vis spectroscopy, TEM, zeta potential analysis, and FTIR. Au/cellulose NPs have been employed in the treatment of lung cancer cells, leading to a notable enhancement in the relative expression of tumor suppressor genes when compared to control cells [246].

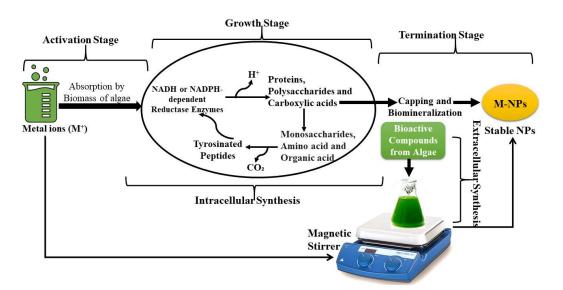


Figure 5. Schematic diagram illustrating the dual mechanism of metal nanoparticle synthesis by algae through intracellular and extracellular pathways. In intracellular synthesis, metal ions penetrate algal cell walls and are reduced by intracellular biomolecules, leading to nanoparticle formation inside the cells. In extracellular synthesis, algal-secreted enzymes and metabolites in the surrounding medium reduce metal ions externally, resulting in the formation of nanoparticles outside the cells.

The extracellular synthesis pathway occurs when metal ions bind to the surfaces of algal cells, where a range of metabolites—such as proteins, lipids, RNA, DNA, polysaccharides, pigments, and enzymes-aid in their reduction at these surfaces [155]. The extra-cellular synthesis pathway offers significant benefits, particularly in the ease of purifying NPs [58,247]. Nonetheless, it is crucial to perform specific preliminary treatments, including the washing and homogenization of algal biomass, to ensure optimal results. The dimensions, morphology, and aggregation of NPs are influenced by several variables, such as pH, temperature, and metal concentration. An elevated pH level inhibits the agglomeration of NPs by augmenting the reductive capacity of functional groups present in metals [58,236,248]. An elevated pH level (greater than 7) enhances the stability of NPs generated externally to the cell by facilitating the interaction between metal ions and the amino acids located in the cell wall [249]. The extracellular synthesis of Au-NPs utilizing Spirulina maxima polysaccharides at different concentrations of chloroauric acid H[AuCl4] was evidenced by the detection of a surface plasmon resonance (SPR) peak at 530 nm, suggesting the participation of proteins, enzymes, and biomolecules in the algal-mediated formation of NPs [240]. Algae, as photosynthetic organisms, exhibit a remarkable capacity to thrive across diverse aquatic environments [241,242]. Their significance in nanotechnology is underscored by their exceptional ability to facilitate the biosynthesis of various metal NPs and metal oxides [240]. This capability is primarily due to their rapid growth rates, ease of cultivation and manipulation, and a biomass accumulation rate that is, on average, ten times more accelerated than that of higher terrestrial plant species [241]. A diverse array of algal strains have undergone extensive investigation and analysis regarding their capacity for the eco-friendly synthesis of various NPs, thereby underscoring the adaptability and prospective applications of these organisms in the progression of sustainable nanomaterials production (Table 5).

Table 5. Some key studies reporting on the involvement of algal species in the biosynthesis of metal nanoparticles, emphasizing their distinct properties and various applications with emphasis on food and dairy products.

Algae Group	Algae	NPs	Location	Size	Characterization Methods	Applications	Utilization at Commercial Scale and/or Laboratory Scale of NPs	Future Prospects	References
Brown algae	Dictyota indica	Pd-NP	's Extracellular	19 nm	UV–Vis spectros- copy, SEM, TEM, XRD, and FTIR	Heavy metal removal	Pd-NPs produced from <i>D. indica</i> demonstrate environmentally sus- tainable potential for applications in the food and dairy sectors. In labor- atory settings, these PdO-NPs exhib- ited antimicrobial activity (55.2–99% inhibition) and antioxidant proper- ties, making them suitable for food preservation and pathogen control, particularly against pathogens such as <i>E. coli</i> in dairy products and pro- cessing, as well as in the catalytic synthesis of food additives. They	 Future prospects encompass intelligent pack- aging, functional dairy products, and sustaina- ble processing, utilizing the catalytic and anti- microbial properties of Pd-NPs. Investigations should focus on toxicity assessment, synthesis optimization, and the establishment of con- sumer confidence. The synthesis of Pd-NPs from <i>D. indica</i> has the potential to transform food safety and quality, in accordance with the principles of green nanotechnology and the circular economy. 	[53,161,170,250–252]
_	Ecklonia cava	Ag-NF	Ps Extracellular	43 nm	UV–Vis spectros- copy, FTIR, XRD, and TEM	Antimicrobial, antiox- idant, and anticancer	characteristics suitable for applica- tions in the food and dairy sectors. Laboratory investigations revealed the green synthesis of spherical NPs that exhibit activity against <i>E. coli</i> and <i>St. aureus</i> , making them suitable for active packaging and prolonging shelf life. The application of Ag-NPs in commercial settings is constrained by factors such as scalability, cost	materials, and the implementation of intelligent packaging solutions, all in accordance with sustainable trends. Nonetheless, challenges arise from toxicity risks, environmental issues, and delays in regulatory processes. Although environmentally sustainable, it is essential to examine their safety and economic feasibility closely. Progress in high-throughput synthesis	31,46,62,65,132,161,168, 70]

	52 01 70
The microbial synthesis of ZnO-NPs	
utilizing F. vesiculosus provides en-	
vironmentally sustainable alterna-	
tives for applications in the food and	
dairy sectors. At the laboratory scale,	
Fu/ZnO-NPs and their algi-	
nate-coated variants demonstrated	Testano ano ante en comune a intelli contra el
significant antibactorial officacy	Future prospects encompass intelligent pack-

F	ucus vesiculosus	ZnO-N Ps Extrace	llular 12–17 nm	FTIR, TEM, XRD, and zeta potential	Antibacterial	utilizing <i>F. vestculosus</i> provides en- vironmentally sustainable alterna- tives for applications in the food and dairy sectors. At the laboratory scale, Fu/ZnO-NPs and their algi- nate-coated variants demonstrated significant antibacterial efficacy against pathogens such as <i>E. coli</i> and <i>St. aureus</i> , thereby improving food packaging and dairy preservation methods. Nonetheless, the issues of low yields and the optimization of synthesis processes continue to pose significant challenges. ZnO-NPs are utilized in commercial applications such as antimicrobial packaging and as GRAS additives in dairy products. However, challenges related to scalability, cost, and regulatory is- sues, including cytotoxicity and NP migration, hinder their widespread adoption.	Future prospects encompass intelligent pack- aging solutions, enhanced functional dairy products, and optimized synthesis processes utilizing bioreactors or extremophilic microor- ganisms. Progress in safety evaluations and sustainable methodologies, utilizing <i>F. vesicu-</i> <i>losus</i> as a renewable resource, has the potential to enhance commercialization, revolutionizing food preservation and aligning with environ- mentally friendly technology trends.	[30,36,38,125,129,170,224]
C	Gelidiella acerosa	Au-NPs Extrace	llular 5–117 nm	HRTEM, UV– visible, SEM, and XRD	Antidiabetic, antibac- terial, and antioxidant	Au-NPs produced from <i>G. acerosa</i> present environmentally sustainable applications in the food and dairy sectors. At the laboratory scale, these Au-NPs demonstrated antibacterial activity against <i>St. aureus</i> , possess antioxidant properties, and show potential for biosensing applications in the detection of contaminants such as pathogens in dairy products. Challenges encompass issues related to size uniformity and concerns re- garding toxicity. They have been investigated for applications in an- timicrobial packaging and colori- metric sensors aimed at improving food safety and extending shelf life; however, regulatory challenges and issues related to scalability hinder widespread adoption.	Future prospects encompass advanced packag- ing technologies, multiplex biosensors, and the delivery of nutraceuticals in dairy products, all facilitated by sustainable biorefineries. Ad-	[52,102,170,233,253–257]

5	argassum myriocys- tum	- Ag-NPs	Extracellular	20 nm	UV–Vis spectros- copy, XRD, SEM, and TEM	Antibacterial, anti- cancer, and photocata- lytic activity	co-molecules, guarantees environ- mental sustainability. Scalable pro- duction in bioreactors for commer- cial applications, along with the integration into biodegradable films, offers potential cost-effective solu- tions; however, challenges arise re- garding regulatory compliance and consumer skepticism.	Future developments encompass intelligent packaging solutions, targeted antimicrobial agents, and eco-friendly production methods through algal cultivation, all contributing to food security and the principles of circular economies. Nonetheless, the issues of toxicity, microbial resistance, and environmental con- sequences necessitate meticulous oversight. Advancements in safety and technology suggest that Ag-NPs derived from <i>S. myriocystum</i> have the potential to revolutionize food preservation, contingent upon the resolution of regulatory and market challenges.	[35,45,107,161,170,228,25 8]
	S. polycystum	Ag-NPs	Extracellular	100 nm	UV–Vis spectros- copy, FTIR, XRD, SEM, and TEM	Antimicrobial	atory scale, these Ag-INPs, character- ized through UV–Vis spectroscopy, FTIR, and SEM, demonstrated inhib- itory effects on pathogens such as <i>E</i> .	Future prospects include the development of intelligent packaging systems, the application of targeted antimicrobial agents, and the implementation of sustainable bioreactors, utilizing the plentiful resources of seaweed. Nonetheless, the incluse of targeted antimicrobial	[35,50,161,170,228,258]

Turbinaria conoide	Au-NPs and Ag-NPs	Extracellular	2–17 nm 2–19 nm	FTIR, XRD, FESEM, EDX, and HRTEM analysis	Antimicrofouling	Au-NPs and Ag-NPs produced through the utilization of <i>T. conoides</i> present potential applications in the food and dairy sectors. At the labor- atory scale, Ag-NPs demonstrated significant antimicrobial and antibi- ofilm properties against pathogens such as <i>E. coli</i> , facilitating their ap- plication in active packaging, food preservation, and coatings for dairy equipment. Au-NPs ranging from 2 to 19 nm were appropriate for ap- plications in biosensing and nutrient encapsulation. Applications at a commercial scale encompassed nano-enhanced packaging and qual- ity control sensors; however, chal- lenges such as toxicity, regulatory obstacles, and issues related to scalability continue to exist.	worldwide market integration, corresponding with the increasing demand for environmen-	[13,26,52,102,126,170,254, 255,259–261]
Stoechospermum marginatum	ZnO-N Ps	Extracellular	80–126 nm	UV–Vis spectros- copy, HPLC, and FTIR	Antidengue	ZnO-NPs produced from <i>S. mar-ginatum</i> provide environmentally sustainable alternatives for applications in the food and dairy sectors. In laboratory settings, the antimicrobial, UV-blocking, and zinc-enhancing characteristics contributed to food preservation, packaging, and nutritional enhancement, effectively inhibiting pathogens such as <i>E. coli</i> and strengthening dairy products. ZnO-NPs were utilized in commercial applications such as antimicrobial packaging for cheese and yogurt, nutrient fortification in milk, and coatings in dairy processing to mitigate biofouling. Challenges encompass scalability, financial implications, and regulatory obstacles necessitating toxicity assessments.	 aging integrated with nanosensors, targeted zinc delivery mechanisms, and eco-friendly wastewater management solutions. Innovations in synthetic biology and machine learning have the potential to enhance synthesis processes, whereas aquaculture plays a crucial role in maintaining a sustainable supply of seaweed. Comprehensive studies on long-term safety and environmental impact are assential for evaluate. 	[36,126,170,200,262–264]

Red algae	Acanthophora spicif- era	ular 20 nm	FTIR, XRD, PDI, and zeta potential	Antioxidant, antibacterial, and anti- cancer	 tified as spherical with a diameter of less than 20 nm through XRD and TEM, these particles demonstrated biocompatibility. Au-NPs have the potential to enhance pathogen con- trol in dairy processing, active packaging, and colorimetric sensors for contaminant detection. However, challenges related to reproducibility, stability, and regulatory compliance impede their scalability. 	Future developments encompass intelligent packaging, biosensors, and functional dairy products, utilizing their environmentally sus- tainable synthesis. Progress in algal biorefiner- ies and the establishment of regulatory frame- works may enhance sustainability and promote adoption, positioning AuNPs as novel solutions for food security and quality assurance, subject to additional toxicological investigations.	30,102,170,233,255,265– 267]
	<i>Amphiroa</i> spp. Ag-NPs Extracel	ular nm	UV–Vis spectros- copy, FTIR, XRD, and SEM	Antioxidant, antimi- crobial, and cytotoxic Activities	biocompatible characteristics. At the laboratory scale, Ag-NPs were syn- thesized in an environmentally friendly manner using algal extracts, domonstrating offsetiueness against	combinations, and the implementation of smart packaging systems for real-time quality moni- toring. The progression of regulations and the enhancement of consumer knowledge will	40,43,84,165,170,228,268]

<i>Gelidium amansii</i> Ag-NPs Intracellular 27–54 UV–Vis spectros- nm SEM	Ag-NPs produced through the use of <i>G. amansii</i> present significant poten- tial for applications within the food and dairy sectors, attributed to their antimicrobial and antioxidant char- acteristics. In laboratory settings, Ag-NPs demonstrated efficacy against pathogens such as <i>E. coli</i> and shelf life of dairy and food products via coatings or packaging applica- tions. They were utilized in active packaging films to improve the preservation of seafood and dairy products; however, regulatory issues restricts their direct application in food. Scalable and environmentally sustainable synthesis utilizing algae facilitates economical production; however, it faces challenges related to toxicity, environmental repercus- sions, and consumer acceptance.	is, and en- ability. Com- ies and the [40,55,73,161,164,168,12 otocols are 228,236,275] allenges and enhancing
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Microbially synthesized SiO2-NPs by	
G. crassa present potential applica-	
tions within the food and dairy sec-	
tors. Applications at the laboratory	
scale encompassed antimicrobial	
packaging, enzyme immobilization	
for the hydrolysis of lactose, nutrient future prospects encompass the optimization of delivery systems, and biosensors	
delivery systems, and biosensors	
designed for the detection of con-	

Gracilaria crassa	SiO2-N Ps	Extracellular	20–50 nm	UV–Vis spectros- copy, FTIR, XRD, SEM, Tg, and zeta potential	Antioxidant	designed for the detection of con- taminants. In commercial applica- tions, these SiO ₂ -NPs functioned as anti-caking agents, stabilizers, and integral components in intelligent packaging systems designed to pro- long shelf life. The green synthesis approach utilizing <i>G. crassa</i> extracts is environmentally sustainable, em- ploying algal BACs to facilitate the processing of silica precursors. Challenges encompass scalability, the necessity for regulatory approval owing to potential toxicity concerns, and considerations regarding cost-effectiveness.	Future prospects encompass the optimization of synthesis through machine learning, the im- plementation of sustainable packaging utilizing biopolymers, and the integration of a circular economy through waste valorization. The inte- gration of SiO ₂ -NPs with additional biogenic NPs has the potential to improve antimicrobial efficacy. Comprehensive safety evaluations and consumer awareness are essential for market acceptance, establishing these SiO ₂ -NPs as rev- olutionary for food safety and preservation.	[102,170,216,218,219,276– 278]
G. edulis	Ag-NPs	s Extracellular	62 nm	UV–Vis spectros- copy, FTIR, XRD, and SEM	Antioxidant, antibacterial, and anti- cancer	ical NPs exhibit efficacy against pathogens such as <i>E. coli</i> and <i>St.</i>	Ongoing investigation into the secure and	[40,53,161,168,170,228,27 9]

<i>Lemanea fluviatilis</i> Au-NPs Intracellular	5–15 copy,	Vis spectros- , FTIR, XRD, S, and SEM	Antioxidant	Au-NPs produced through L. fluviat- ilis provide environmentally sus- tainable alternatives for applications in the food and dairy sectors. At the laboratory scale, these spherical Au-NPs, ranging from 5 to 15 nm, demonstrated antioxidant, antimi- crobial, and fluorescent characteris- tics, making them suitable for bio- sensing contaminants or enhancing the shelf life of products such as yogurt. Challenges encompass low yield, issues with reproducibility, and the necessity for toxicity testing. Au-NPs have the potential to im- prove antimicrobial packaging, func- tional foods, and quality control sensors in commercial applications. However, challenges related to cost, scalability, and regulatory approval from organizations such as the FDA must be addressed. Future prospects encompass intelligent pack- aging solutions, the nanoencapsulation of nu- trients, and the sustainable production methods utilizing bioreactors or waste-to-value systems. Improvements in safety data, economical syn- tional foods, and quality control sensors in commercial applications. [102,132,170,226,233,254, thesis methods, and consumer acceptance are safety, dairy processing, and veterinary appli- cations, in accordance with trends in sustainable food technology. tional foods, and quality control sensors in commercial applications.
<i>Kappaphycus alvarezii</i> Ag-NPs Extracellular 1	2 nm copy, TEM, F	Vis spectros- 7, FTIR, XRD, FESEM-EDX, zeta potential	-	The synthesis of Ag-NPs utilizing <i>K</i> . <i>alvarezii</i> demonstrates potential for applications in the food and dairy sectors, attributed to their antimicro- bial characteristics and environmen- tally friendly nature. At the labora- aging systems, synergistic formulations incor- tory scale, these Ag-NPs revealed theorating natural antimicrobials, and sustainable ability to inhibit pathogens such as <i>E</i> . <i>coli</i> in edible coatings and packaging films, thereby prolonging the shelf thesis techniques alongside AI optimization has <i>active</i> packaging and equipment sanitization, utilizing the scalability of <i>K. alvarezii</i> . Challenges encompass regulatory obstacles, concerns re- garding toxicity, and the need for standardization.

ia	Anabaena variabilis Ag-NPs Extracellular	11–15 nm	UV–Vis spectros- copy, FTIR, XRD, SEM, and TEM	Antibacterial and an- tifungal	Ag-NPs synthesized by <i>A. variabilis</i> offer promising applications in food and dairy products due to their eco-friendly, antimicrobial proper- ties. At the laboratory scale, Ag-NPs inhibited pathogens like <i>E. coli</i> and <i>St. aureus</i> , enhanced food packaging, and purified water. Commercially, they were used in antimicrobial coatings for packaging and dairy equipment, extending shelf life and ensuring hygiene. Challenges in- clude scalability, regulatory hurdles, and potential environmental risks. ZnO-NPs produced through <i>A.</i> <i>platensis</i> present potential applica-	ical studies and standardized production are	50,55,168,170,228,282,28 3]
Cyanobacteria	<i>Arthrospira platensis</i> ZnO-N Ps Extracellular	30–55 nm	UV–Vis spectros- copy, FTIR, EDX, XRD, and TEM	Antimicrobial and anticancer	tions in the food and dairy sectors. Ir laboratory settings, green synthesis utilizing metabolites from <i>A. platensis</i> demonstrated antimicrobial proper- ties against pathogens such as <i>E. coli</i> and <i>St. aureus</i> . These NPs are well-suited for applications in bio- degradable packaging and nutrition- al ophancement. The potential for	Future prospects encompass precision synthe- sis, intelligent packaging solutions, and sus- tainable methodologies such as biomass recy- cling. Long-term safety studies are essential for obtaining regulatory approval and ensuring [consumer acceptance. Interdisciplinary research will improve the role of ZnO-NPs in functional foods, probiotics, and plant-based dairy, effec- tively addressing nutritional and preservation	1,21,70,95,106,125,126,12 9,170,182,263]

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Cylindrospermum stagnale	CuO-N Ps	Intracellular	12 nm	UV–Vis spectros- copy, FTIR, SEM, and TEM	Antimicrobial, anti- cancer, and larvicidal	CuO-NPs produced from <i>C. stagnale</i> exhibit potential for applications in the food and dairy sectors, attributed to their antimicrobial and antioxidant characteristics. At the laboratory scale, these CuO-NPs, measuring 12.21 nm, demonstrated inhibitory effects on pathogens such as <i>E. coli</i> and <i>C. albicans</i> , indicating potential applications in active packaging or preservation for dairy products, including cheese. They have the potential for commercial scalability in applications such as antimicrobial applications such as antimicrobial sustainable synthesis; however, they necessitate toxicological assessments and the establishment of consumer confidence. Achieving a balance between effectiveness and safety, while also considering environmental consequences, is including cheese. They have the potential for commercial scalability in applications such as antimicrobial coatings or biodegradable films, which could improve shelf life. Nev- ertheless, high-dose toxicity, scala- bility expenses, and regulatory ob- stacles present significant challenges.
Phormidium spp.	CuO-N Ps	Extracellular	22 nm	UV–Vis spectros- copy, FTIR, XRD, SEM, TEM, and AFM	Antioxidant, antimi- crobial, anti-inflammatory, and dye degradation	CuO-NPs produced by <i>Phormidium</i> spp. provide environmentally sus- tainable alternatives for applications in the food and dairy sectors. In laboratory settings, the antimicrobial aging, hybrid NPs, and eco-friendly production and antioxidant properties observed (e.g., 94% bacterial inhibition and 90% radical scavenging) facilitate their application in active packaging and preservation, thereby prolonging the shelf life of products such as cheese. Challenges to commer- cial-scale adoption include low yield, toxicity issues, and stringent regula- tions; however, optimizing bioreac- tors and utilizing biocompatible coatings are suggested to improve viability.

Synechocystis spp	. Ag-NPs Extracellula:	10–35 nm	UV–Vis spectros- copy, FTIR, XRD, and TEM	Antimicrobial, antiox idative, an- ti-inflammatory, and diabetic	 strated significant antimicrobial efficacy against pathogens such as <i>E. coli</i> and <i>St. aureus,</i> making them appropriate for applications in food packaging and dairy preservation. Ag-NPs were produced through the reduction of silver ions mediated by pitrate reductase, which guarantees 	Future prospects encompass genetic engineer- ing aimed at enhancing yields, the development of intelligent packaging solutions, and the crea- tion of synergistic formulations incorporating natural preservatives. Solar-powered bioreac- tors with sustainable design may improve production efficiency. Nonetheless, challenges such as toxicity, expense, and consumer ac- ceptance persist. Through enhanced synthesis and comprehensive safety evaluations, Ag-NPs derived from <i>Synechocystis</i> spp., have the po- tential to transform food safety and prolong shelf life.
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4. Analytical Techniques for Confirming Microbially Synthesized Nanoparticles

The confirmation of NPs produced through microbial approaches depends on a range of complementary analytical techniques (Table 6), with each of them providing distinct information regarding their physicochemical properties.

Technique **Information Provided** Strengths Best Use Case Weaknesses Fast, cost-effective, Limited specificity, inter-Initial confirmation of NP SPR, preliminary size UV-Vis non-destructive ference synthesis High resolution, direct Costly, complex prepara-Detailed morphological TEM Size, shape, crystallinity visualization analysis tion Surface morphology, elemental Wide field of view, 3D Lower resolution, prepa-Surface and elemental SEM composition (with EDS) imaging ration artifacts studies Size distribution in sus-Hydrodynamic size, polydisper-Non-invasive, rapid, so-Interference, no morpho-DLS sity lution-based logical data pensions Crystallinity and phase Non-destructive, precise Bulk analysis, no mor-XRD Crystal structure, phase crystallinity data confirmation phology Identifies capping agents, Qualitative, complex Surface chemistry and FTIR Surface functional groups stabilization non-destructive spectra Specific, integrates with Limited sensitivity, no Compositional verifica-EDS Elemental composition SEM/TEM structural data tion

Table 6. Comparative overview of analytical techniques for characterizing microbially synthesized nanoparticles.

Sources: [73,130,160,288–293].

UV–Vis spectroscopy is frequently the first technique utilized, identifying SPR peaks—generally observed at approximately 420–450 nm for Ag-NPs and 520–550 nm for Au-NPs [160,290]. This method offers a swift, economical, and non-invasive initial confirmation of NP formation [160,293]. Nonetheless, it exhibits a lack of specificity attributed to possible spectral overlap with microbial biomolecules and provides restricted insights regarding morphology or composition [160,290].

TEM provides high-resolution imaging that is essential for assessing NP size, shape, and crystallinity, frequently enhanced by selected area electron diffraction (SAED) [288,292]. This method is regarded as optimal for conducting detailed morphological analysis, such as confirming the presence of spherical AgNPs synthesized by *Bacillus* species [292,293]. Its limitations encompass elevated operational costs, complex sample preparation processes, and the analysis of limited sample areas, which may not adequately represent the overall heterogeneity of the sample [160].

SEM, often integrated with energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS), offers three-dimensional surface imaging alongside elemental composition analysis [291,292]. This method is especially effective for visualizing NP distribution on microbial cells or within biofilms [130]. SEM provides a wider field of view in comparison to TEM; how-ever, it exhibits a reduced resolution for NPs that are smaller than 5–10 nm [160,291,292]. Furthermore, the necessity for sample coating could lead to the introduction of imaging artifacts.

Dynamic Light Scattering (DLS) evaluates the hydrodynamic size and polydispersity index (PDI) of NPs within colloidal suspension [160,290]. This method is a non-invasive and rapid approach that is appropriate for assessing the size distribution of NPs and their colloidal stability, specifically for Ag-NPs derived from *Escherichia coli* [73,290]. Nonetheless, DLS frequently presents an overestimation of particle size as a result of solvation shells and is prone to interference from leftover microbial debris. XRD is utilized to ascertain the crystalline characteristics and phase composition of NPs, such as determining the face-centered cubic (FCC) structure of AgNPs [160,288,289]. This non-destructive technique provides comprehensive structural information; however, it necessitates larger sample quantities and demonstrates a reduced efficacy in characterizing amorphous NPs [288–290]. Morphological data are supplied.

FTIR serves as a method for identifying surface functional groups that play a role in the stabilization of NPs, including proteins or polysaccharides that cap AgNPs synthesized by *F. oxysporum* [73,160,289]. While qualitative in nature, FTIR provides insights into the mechanisms of capping and stabilization [160,290]. The interpretation of complex spectra resulting from microbial biomolecules can present significant challenges.

EDS, when combined with SEM or TEM, facilitates qualitative and semi-quantitative elemental analysis, confirming the existence of particular elements (e.g., silver in AgNPs) [130,160,292]. EDS delivers a high specificity; however, it exhibits a limited sensitivity for trace elements and does not provide insights into crystalline structure or morphology.

Therefore, a critical conclusion can be drawn regarding several aspects of these analytical techniques, including resolution and detail, cost and accessibility, sample preparation, and their complementary nature. TEM provides the highest resolution for morphological and crystallographic analysis, establishing it as the benchmark for NP characterization. SEM offers additional surface imaging capabilities; however, its effectiveness diminishes when analyzing very small NPs. DLS and UV-Vis spectroscopy provide less comprehensive information but are highly effective for swift, solution-based analysis. Regarding cost and accessibility, UV-Vis spectroscopy and DLS are the most economical and readily available options, making them suitable for routine monitoring. The utilization of TEM, SEM, and XRD is constrained by the necessity for costly equipment and specialized knowledge, thereby restricting their application to laboratories with substantial financial resources. Sample preparation for UV-Vis spectroscopy and DLS involves minimal steps, making it suitable for the analysis of NPs in microbial media. TEM and SEM require intricate preparation processes, which may introduce artifacts, whereas XRD and FTIR are non-destructive techniques that necessitate adequate sample quantities. In terms of complementary nature, no single technique offers complete characterization. TEM can ascertain size and morphology, XRD validates crystallinity, FTIR detects the presence of capping agents, and EDS establishes compositional elements. A variety of techniques are commonly utilized for thorough NP characterization, including UV–Vis spectroscopy for preliminary screening, TEM/SEM for imaging, XRD for assessing crystallinity, and FTIR/EDS for conducting chemical analysis.

5. Nanomaterial Applications in Food and Dairy Products

The integration of nanotechnology within the food and dairy industry represents a significant transformation in this domain. NPs are utilized in the processing of food and dairy products to yield high-quality and health-safe outcomes [6,7,15,17,23,24,229]. Table 7 delineates the various types of nanomaterials used, the microorganisms utilized in their synthesis, and their specific applications within food and dairy products. Furthermore, the characteristics of the active compounds present in dairy products may be altered as a result of the diminutive scale of NPs. Nonetheless, various issues have been highlighted regarding the possible risks associated with the application of nanotechnology in food and dairy products, underscoring the necessity of verifying the safety of these products prior to their commercialization [6,7,15,26,126,145,160].

 Table 7. Applications of microbial-synthesized nanomaterials in enhancing food and dairy product quality, safety, and shelf life.

Application	Nanomaterial Type	Microorganism(s)	Specific Use in Food/Dairy	References
	Ag-NPs	Pseudomonas stutzeri, F. oxysporum	Antimicrobial films for milk, cheese, and yogurt to extend shelf life by inhibiting pathogens like <i>E.</i> <i>coli</i> and <i>L. monocytogenes</i> .	[31,55,130,133]
Food Packaging and Preserva- tion	ZnO-NPs	Aeromonas hydrophila	Edible coatings for dairy products (e.g., butter, soft cheese) to reduce microbial counts and moisture loss.	[129,294]
	Au-NPs/Ag-NPs	F. oxysporum	Nanosensors in smart packaging for real-time spoilage detection in milk and yogurt (e.g., pH changes, microbial metabolites).	[22,31,32,233,25 5]
	Nanoliposomes/Nanoemulsions	Lactobacillus spp., Brevibacterium casei	Encapsulation of BACs (e.g., ome- ga-3 PUFAs, vitamins) in fortified milk/yogurt for improved stability and bioavailability.	[2,13,130]
Nutrient De- livery and For- tification	Bacterial Nanocellulose	Komagataeibacter xy- linus	Controlled release of probiot- ics/enzymes in fermented dairy (e.g., yogurt) for enhanced gut health.	[130,133]
	Various NPs	Various microbes	Electrospraying for encapsulating heat-sensitive antioxidants in dairy products at room temperature.	[2,13]
Food Safety	Au-NPs	F. oxysporum	Biosensors for detecting pathogens (e.g., <i>Salmonella</i> , <i>listeria</i>) in dairy products like milk and cheese.	[22,26,32,102,23 3,254,284]
and Pathogen Detection	ZnO-NPs /CuO-NPs	Alcaligenes faecalis, Micrococcus yun- nanensis	Antimicrobial coatings on dairy processing equipment to prevent contamination during milk pas- teurization or cheese production.	[130,290,295]
Quality En-	Bacterial Nanocellulose	K. xylinus	Thickener/stabilizer in ice cream and yogurt to improve texture and prevent phase separation.	[26]
	Ag-NPs	Ps. stutzeri	Nanoencapsulation of essential oils in cheese packaging to maintain flavor and provide antimicrobial protection.	[13,31,294]

The improvement of food product and dairy functionality via the incorporation of functional food components has become a significant trend in the market [1,8,55,294,296]. The incorporation of these functional food components can serve to inhibit unwanted microbial proliferation, enhance the taste, color, and flavor of a product, and, most importantly, confer health-promoting benefits [8,55,294,296,297]. A significant proportion of these functional food components demonstrate incompatibility with food matrices as a result of their low solubility in water, restricted oral bioavailability, undesirable sensory characteristics, and vulnerability to chemical degradation [8,296–298].

The utilization of contemporary technologies, including nanocomposites and metal NPs, is essential to address the growing demand for food and dairy products in international markets [9,22,31,290,298,299]. These technologies encompass the enhancement of nutritional value [16], the facilitation of active ingredient delivery [2,13], the improvement of quality [128,298], the innovation of novel packaging technologies [25,172,284], the detection of harmful contaminants [132], the inhibition of detrimental bacteria [14,127,183], and the extension of product shelf life [171,294].

5.1. In Functional Foods

Functional foods are defined as those that, beyond their nutritional value, serve a specific physiological role within the body and may facilitate the delivery or transmission of various BACs, including phenols, short-chain fatty acids, bacteriocins, and other relevant substances [2,8,297,300–302]. Functional foods produced through nanotechnology have the capability to alter the sensory characteristics of food products [13]. For instance, they can decrease the volume of fat emulsion in ice cream, augment its surface area, improve the biological efficacy of the emulsification process, and consequently minimize the quantity of emulsifier incorporated into the ice cream mixture [13,298]. Furthermore, a nano-capsule was engineered to encapsulate phytosterols such as β -carotene and lycopene, serving as a substitute for detrimental cholesterol [13]. Additionally, the development of certain nano-plant oils aims to provide an alternative to cholesterol, thereby mitigating the absorption and accumulation of harmful cholesterol in the bloodstream and the associated health complications [19].

5.2. In Milk

Ag-NPs were synthesized using extracts from the following three species of red algae: Caulerpa racemosa, Jania rubens, and Padina pavonica. The application of these particles served to inhibit the growth of *Listeria monocytogenes* bacteria [303]. The findings demonstrated the significant effectiveness of Ag-NPS from P. pavonica extract. Following a storage period of 28 days, L. monocytogenes bacteria were entirely inactivated in dairy products, including cheese and whey [303]. The enzyme laccase derived from Trametes versicolor was utilized to synthesize NPs incorporating various metals and chitosan. The produced particles were employed to eliminate aflatoxin M1 from milk samples. The findings indicated that laccase-NPs exhibited the greatest adsorption efficiency in relation to M1. The synthesized Fe₃O₄/Cs/MoS₂/laccase NPs achieved the highest removal rate of M1 (68.5%) in milk samples after 1 h of treatment [299]. Selenium NPs (Se-NPs) were synthesized using Lactaseibacillus paracasei bacteria derived from human milk, with a particle diameter ranging from 3.0 to 50.0 nm. The particles demonstrated significant efficacy as an anti-Candida and Fusarium species, effectively targeting pathogenic fungi isolated from animal sources [304]. Nisin derived from Lactococcus lactis was utilized in conjunction with MgO ions for the synthesis of magnesium NPs (Mg-NPs). The particles demonstrated inhibitory effects on pathogenic bacteria found in milk, including E. coli and Staphylococcus aureus [11]. ZnO-NPs were synthesized using the T. harzianum mold and employed for antibacterial and antitumor applications [36,264]. The particles were utilized in soy milk as antimicrobial agents targeting a species of both Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria. The maximum inhibition observed was 14.3 mm for Enterococcus faecalis and 11.6 mm for E. coli [264].

5.3. In Yogurt

With the increasing awareness among consumers about the health-promoting attributes of their dietary selections, the idea of incorporating functional food elements into a range of food and dairy products has come to light [8,235,305]. Yogurt is considered a suitable medium for the integration of functional ingredients due to various factors [235,306]. Methodology for augmenting yogurt with functional components is firmly entrenched in the dairy industry. Nonetheless, the prospective uses of nano-scale functional ingredients in yogurt continue to be a subject of active research [7]. In total, 200 μ g/mL of Fe-NPs, synthesized using *B. subtilis* ML6, was incorporated as a fortifying agent in yogurt. The incorporation of these particles enhanced the sensory characteristics of the resultant yogurt. The incorporation of 200–400 μ g/mL of Fe-NPs was observed to enhance the shelf life of yogurt [5]. Nisin derived from *Lc. lactis* was utilized in the syn-

thesis of NPs. A concentration of 0.125 mg/mL of nisin NPs exhibited significant antibacterial efficacy against methicillin-resistant *St. aureus* and *E. coli* O157:H7. Yogurt that was inoculated with nisin NPs exhibited an extended shelf life compared to yogurt produced without the incorporation of these NPs [12]. In another investigation, ZnO-NPs were synthesized utilizing *Lactobacillus gasseri*. The particles exhibited significant antibacterial efficacy. The incorporation of these particles into yogurt resulted in an enhanced total solids content, as well as improvements in its chemical, physical, and microbial characteristics. The sensory attributes exhibited greater consumer acceptability over a 28-day period of refrigerated storage [178].

5.4. In Cheese

The production of cheese represents a significant sector within the global dairy industry. All varieties of cheese produced exhibit elevated concentrations of solid constituents, encompassing proteins, fats, and carbohydrates [8,210]. Cheese serves as an appropriate substrate for the proliferation of diverse microorganisms [210,276,287]. Nanotechnology has been integrated into the cheese industry to inhibit microbial growth and enhance the shelf life of cheese. A significant number of investigations focus on the development of nano-coatings intended for the encapsulation of produced cheeses [13,210,307]. This research was conducted to investigate the inhibitory effects of both pure nisin derived from Lc. lactis and nisin NPs against A. flavus via inoculation in laboratory-produced Ras cheese. The nisin NPs employed in our investigation exhibited a remarkable biocompatibility and safety for applications in food preservation. Moreover, the sensory characteristics of the Ras cheese treated with nisin and nisin NPs demonstrated a significant degree of overall acceptability [196]. NPs were synthesized utilizing a yogurt starter culture comprising Lb. delbrueckii subsp. bulgaricus, Streptococcus ther*mophilus*, and nickel oxide ions to enhance the preservation of Domiati cheese against enterotoxigenic *St. aureus*. The findings indicated that a concentration of 35 μ g/mL of the particles effectively inhibited St. aureus for a duration of 21 days throughout the cheese ripening process [308]. The prior study aimed to assess the presence of *L. monocytogenes* during the maturation period at temperatures of 5, 10, and 20 °C for artisanal Canastra cheeses utilizing a packaging system based on Ag-NPs. The assessed packaging methodology did not influence the initial pH levels (approximately 5.0) or water activity (aw) (approximately 0.95) during the entire storage period. As a result, the active packaging system being studied failed to demonstrate effectiveness in inactivating L. monocytogenes throughout the storage period of artisanal Canastra cheeses [287].

5.5. In Meat Production

Meat products of diverse varieties represent a significant proportion of food products prevalent in international markets, facing numerous challenges such as a limited shelf life and susceptibility to microbial contamination [309,310]. The application of nanotechnology in the production and preservation of meat represents a groundbreaking advancement [55,309,311]. The previous research focused on examining the impacts of dietary Zn-NPs in conjunction with *B. licheniformis* on the growth performance, carcass characteristics, blood metabolite levels, and population of specific cecal microorganisms in broiler chickens. In summary, the incorporation of Zn-NPs with *B. licheniformis* resulted in enhanced weights of broilers, improved carcass characteristics, and superior meat quality attributes, along with favorable alterations in certain blood indices and a reduction in cecal microbial load [311]. Minced beef exhibits a high rate of perishability attributed to its extensive surface area, which is susceptible to spoilage, coupled with elevated aw levels. Nisin synthesized by *Lc. lactis* was utilized in conjunction with Zn ions to generate NPs. The microbial population decreased from approximately 2 to 4 log CFU/cm² in packed minced beef during a storage period of 15 days at 4 °C [312]. This detailed analysis aimed to investigate the progress of films containing NPs designed to improve the preservation of meat products via advanced packaging techniques. Throughout the film development process, extensive research underscored the application of natural polymers, with a particular emphasis on chitosan. The literature predominantly examines polymeric NPs, with metallic NPs following in frequency, while chicken and beef emerge as the primary products of interest in these studies. The main analyses performed on these products focused on lipid oxidation and the evaluation of antimicrobial effectiveness. Most research findings demonstrate that these films significantly mitigate lipid oxidation, consequently prolonging the shelf life of meat products [309]. A bilayer membrane was developed consisting of chitosan/zein in conjunction with a layer of nisin produced by Lc. lactis, incorporating nano Zn ions for the preservation of carp fillets [230]. The coating procedure demonstrated a reduction of 1.8–2.3 log CFU/g following the tenth day of storage. Additionally, Pseudomonas bacteria represent the predominant fraction of bacterial contamination in the fillets, while the membranes played a role in inhibiting the proliferation of this bacterial species [230]. Synthetic NPs have been employed in conjunction with microorganisms as a facilitator in the production of various types of meat, including beef, poultry, and fish, to enhance preservation and extend shelf life through their roles as antimicrobial agents or antioxidants. The incorporation of these particles into meat products, their integration into biofilm manufacturing, and their application in packaging materials serve to enhance the shelf life of these products.

6. Potential Risks and Threats Associated with the Implementation of Nanotechnology

NPs are synthesized in substantial volumes and subsequently discharged into the ecosystem. During the stages of the manufacturing, processing, transportation, environmental remediation, and disposal of NPs, various potential risks may emerge [15,132,313–315]. These particles influence the health of the human body, as well as that of animals, impacting every organ system within the body [1,4,14,15,126]. Nonetheless, the ultimate outcome of NPs remains uncertain. To thoroughly assess the detrimental impacts of nanotechnology on public health, extensive scientific investigations concentrating on bioavailability, absorption, and in vivo accumulation are necessary [15,313].

Currently, the application of nanotechnology is more prevalent in food packaging than in food processing [31,105,255]. This trend is attributed to the favorable perception of employing nanotechnology in surface packaging, as it does not involve the introduction of NPs into the food system, thereby alleviating concerns associated with this technology [22,23,31,255]. Recent studies suggest that NPs may migrate from packaging materials into food, subsequently entering the bloodstream and accumulating within the body's systems, thereby presenting a potential risk to public health [15,255]. ZnO-NPs and TiO₂-NPs have been observed to induce genotoxic effects in intestinal epithelial cells [129,255,316]. The toxicity of NPs is influenced by various parameters such as the size of the NPs, the viscosity of the solution, the temperature at which they are stored, and the length of the storage period [17]. Furthermore, in fermented dairy products, particularly those that include probiotic bacteria, a detrimental impact of NPs on viable cells is noted, as the majority of these particles impede the growth of microorganisms, resulting in a reduction in the population of these bacteria and a decline in their metabolic byproducts [317].

Considering the numerous uncertainties associated with the applications of nanotechnology, it is essential to perform genotoxicity studies and precise risk assessments. Researchers may identify novel approaches to assess and mitigate the risks associated with nanotechnology, thereby safeguarding both consumers and the environment, through the examination of the behavior, transport pathways, and potential long-term effects of NPs.

6.1. Regulatory Frameworks and Challenges

Microbially synthesized NPs such as Ag-NPs, ZnO-NPs, and TiO2-NPs are being increasingly utilized in food and dairy applications, especially in the areas of packaging and preservation [31,55,284]. Regulatory frameworks worldwide are designed to ensure safety, although they vary in their scope and implementation methods. Within the European Union, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) offers directives regarding the safety evaluation of NPs utilized in food additives, contact materials, and novel foods, emphasizing physicochemical characterization the importance of [170,254,285,318]. Nevertheless, the standardization of testing methodologies for toxicity and migration is still constrained. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the United States oversees NPs under general food safety regulations, lacking specific legislation for nanotechnology. This absence of targeted regulation leads to ambiguities concerning the long-term health implications of these materials [170,254,284]. Australia, via Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ), performs risk assessments for NPs, including TiO₂-NPs, although frameworks for compliance specific to nanotechnology are still in development [29,285]. Significant global challenges encompass the lack of standardized definitions for nanofoods, the inadequacy of methods for migration testing, and the scarcity of data regarding chronic toxicity, bioaccumulation, and genotoxicity [315,319]. To address these regulatory gaps, it is essential to establish harmonized protocols for safety, toxicity, and environmental risk assessments.

6.2. Consumer Perception

The perception of consumers regarding microbially synthesized NPs in food and dairy products is notably shaped by their awareness, perceived advantages, and concerns related to safety.

6.2.1. Benefits Driving Acceptance

Microbially synthesized NPs provide various functional benefits in food systems, particularly through their antimicrobial properties, which improve food safety, extend shelf life, and enhance overall product quality [161,172,184,254,284,298]. For example, Ag-NPs are being progressively integrated into packaging materials due to their effectiveness in inhibiting microbial growth [31]. In a similar vein, smart packaging technologies that incorporate nanosensors are capable of detecting spoilage and contamination in real time [161,192,233,320]. Consumers place significant importance on concrete advantages, including enhanced nutrition and safety, particularly within premium categories such as dairy products [284,315,320]. Studies demonstrate that acceptance tends to rise notably when the perceived advantages, particularly those associated with health, nutrition, and safety, are clearly greater than the potential risks involved [284].

6.2.2. Concerns and Mistrust

Despite their potential, consumer mistrust continues to pose a significant obstacle to the adoption of NP-based food technologies. A considerable segment of the population possesses a limited understanding of nanotechnology, frequently leading to widespread skepticism [15]. In addition to scientific risk data, numerous consumers take into account wider ethical, moral, and social implications when assessing the use of nanomaterials in food. Concerns encompass possible nanotoxicity effects, including oxidative stress, DNA damage, and bioaccumulation within organs. Regulatory actions in specific regions, including the prohibition of certain NPs in various parts of Europe, contribute to increased consumer apprehension [15,315]. The lack of clear and transparent labeling, along with inconsistencies in international regulatory frameworks, leads to a decline in public trust.

6.2.3. Strategies for Enhancing Acceptance

To promote public acceptance, it is crucial to adopt strategies that emphasize transparency and education. This encompasses engaging consumers in the product development process, ensuring the transparent and accurate labeling of NP content, and enhancing public awareness about both the advantages and potential risks [15]. Surveys carried out in nations such as Switzerland highlight the significance of collaboration among multiple stakeholders—including industry, regulators, and academia—to guarantee that NP applications meet consumer expectations and values.

6.3. Environmental Impacts

As an environmentally acceptable substitute for traditional chemical synthesis, NPs produced by microbes such as bacteria, fungus, or plant extracts are a viable option. According to Chavez-Hernandez et al. [321], these environmentally friendly synthesis techniques are in line with sustainability principles and lessen reliance on harmful chemicals. By producing less waste than conventional plastics made from petrochemicals, biodegradable nanocomposites like starch and polylactic acid (PLA) further improve environmental friendliness [75,284,321]. There have been encouraging results in the field of environmental remediation using certain NPs, such as carbon nanotubes (CNTs) and iron oxide (Fe₂O₃). Contributing to cleaner ecosystems and sustainable resource management, these materials efficiently adsorb heavy metals and remove microbiological contaminants from polluted water sources [284,321]. There is, nevertheless, cause for concern about the bioaccumulation and environmental persistence of NPs, even though they have advantages. Soil and water are possible entry points for NPs into the food chain. For example, as shown with copper oxide NPs (CuO-NPs), they can cause pollution and oxidative stress in plants as they degrade, because they release harmful ions such heavy metals [314]. In addition to potentially interfering with biological processes in exposed organisms, non-biodegradable NPs add to particle pollution. Researchers must immediately begin collecting data on the environmental impacts, distribution routes, and ultimate destinations of NPs produced by microbes. Environmental risks can only be fully understood by life cycle assessments (LCAs) and eco-toxicological testing with model organisms (such as plants, soil microorganisms, and aquatic species) [321,322]. Guaranteeing safe and sustainable deployment will need the development of strong regulatory frameworks, as well as standardized processes for NP disposal, monitoring, and risk assessment.

7. Future Perspectives and Directions

To enhance the synthesis of biogenic NPs utilizing bacteria, fungi, yeasts, and algae, researchers must explore novel approaches to address challenges related to purification, scalability, contamination, toxicity, and aggregation. Future directions should focus on utilizing synthetic biology to design microbes for accurate NP synthesis and self-purification. Additionally, the development of integrated bioreactor systems that combine synthesis and purification processes is essential. Employing artificial intelligence to enhance microbial selection and purification workflows is also recommended. The integration of nanotechnology, including lab-on-chip devices and nanostructured supports, has the potential to improve the precision of synthesis and the efficiency of purification processes. Utilizing waste-derived substrates and recyclable purification

media represents a sustainable approach that is consistent with the principles of a circular economy. Standardized protocols, interdisciplinary collaboration, and the investigation of novel microbes, such as extremophiles and marine species, will facilitate scalability and foster innovation. Application-specific NP design, concentrating on biomedical or environmental requirements, guarantees customized solutions, underpinned by stringent regulatory frameworks to promote commercialization.

Recent advancements in nanotechnology have led to notable developments within the food and dairy sectors, facilitating the emergence of innovative solutions designed to enhance food safety, quality, and functionality. One of its notable applications includes the detection and analysis of mycotoxins, pesticide residues, and chemical contaminants within food matrices. Advanced nanoscale sensors and detection platforms enable rigorous quality control and adherence to regulatory standards, thereby ensuring consumer safety and confidence. Notwithstanding these developments, the extensive deployment of nanotechnology within food systems is still in its early phases, requiring additional investigation, risk evaluation, and technological enhancement for widespread application.

One of the most rapidly evolving domains of investigation is food packaging utilizing nanotechnology. The advancement of intelligent packaging systems, utilizing nano-membranes derived from biodegradable, carbon-neutral nanocomposites, and silica-based materials, presents significant potential. Nano-enabled coatings significantly enhance barrier properties, thereby reducing microbial contamination and prolonging product shelf life. Furthermore, the incorporation of nano-sensors into packaging materials facilitates the immediate identification of spoilage, contamination, or chemical alterations, thus reducing food waste and providing significant advantages to both producers and consumers.

The future indicates a trajectory towards the advancement of green nanotechnology, which prioritizes environmentally sustainable methodologies. The utilization of advantageous microorganisms, such as lactic acid bacteria and probiotic yeasts, for the synthesis of NPs presents a promising approach to address potential toxicity issues linked to traditional nanomaterials. These biological nanofactories are capable of synthesizing functional nanostructures that exhibit an enhanced biocompatibility, safety, and efficiency. These advancements are expected to significantly impact food preservation, especially in the realm of fermented dairy products.

Moreover, nanotechnology is anticipated to transform the manufacturing processes of functional foods and enhance precision in drug delivery systems. The application of probiotic bacteria as starter cultures, in conjunction with nanocarriers, will improve the delivery of BACs and probiotics in fermented dairy products. Furthermore, the integration of nanofibers and their customized interactions with food constituents offers significant opportunities for post-processing, enhancements in texture, and the precise release of nutrients and BACs.

The comprehensive modification and optimization of nanotechnology applications within the food sector is crucial to fully harness this potential. Addressing safety, environmental implications, regulatory structures, and consumer acceptance will be crucial. Should these challenges be addressed, nanotechnology is set to emerge as a significant influence in the food and dairy sectors, revolutionizing food processing, preservation, packaging, and the development of functional foods in the foreseeable future.

8. Conclusions

The utilization of green nanotechnology, which involves the microbial synthesis of NPs by various microorganisms such as bacteria, fungi, yeast, and algae, signifies a significant advancement in food and dairy systems. This approach provides sustainable and

innovative solutions aimed at improving safety, quality, and functionality. This review highlights the diverse capabilities of microbially synthesized NPs, including Ag-NPs, ZnO-NPs, and TiO₂-NPs, which demonstrate significant antimicrobial, antioxidant, antifungal, and antiviral activities. The aforementioned attributes facilitate sophisticated applications such as antimicrobial packaging, nanoencapsulation to enhance the bioavailability of BACs, pathogen detection, and the extension of shelf life in dairy products (e.g., milk, yogurt, and cheese) and meat. The utilization of biological resources, such as agro-industrial byproducts from areas like West Asia, is consistent with the principles of a circular economy. This approach minimizes environmental consequences and lowers production expenses in comparison to traditional chemical and physical synthesis techniques.

Notwithstanding these advancements, considerable challenges remain, particularly concerning scalability and purification. Intricate purification methodologies, especially concerning intracellular NPs, along with the variability in NP dimensions and morphology, as well as challenges related to aggregation, hinder production at an industrial scale. The proposed solutions encompass the prioritization of extracellular synthesis, the application of advanced separation techniques such as magnetic separation and nanofiltration, and the optimization of bioreactors through the implementation of standardized protocols. Furthermore, potential hazards including the migration of NPs from packaging into food, bioaccumulation, and genotoxicity (for instance, ZnO-NPs and TiO2-NPs causing damage to intestinal cells) require comprehensive safety evaluations. Global regulatory frameworks, such as those established by the EU's EFSA and the US FDA, exhibit a deficiency in specific guidelines pertaining to nanotechnology. This absence results in inconsistencies that obstruct the process of commercialization. The acceptance of consumers is additionally hindered by a lack of awareness and apprehensions regarding nanotoxicity, highlighting the necessity for clear labeling, public education initiatives, and collaboration among stakeholders.

The environmental implications of green NPs are twofold. Biodegradable nanocomposites and waste-derived substrates contribute to sustainability; however, issues regarding the persistence, bioaccumulation, and toxicity of NPs, such as CuO-NPs inducing oxidative stress in plants, necessitate thorough life cycle assessments and eco-toxicological investigations. Future research avenues encompass the utilization of synthetic biology for the accurate synthesis of nanoparticles, the incorporation of artificial intelligence for the selection of microbial strains, and the advancement of sustainable bioreactor systems. Advancements including intelligent packaging integrated with nanosensors, dairy products enhanced with probiotics, and strategies for waste valorization hold the potential to tackle challenges related to food security and nutritional requirements. Nonetheless, the realization of this potential is contingent upon the establishment of cohesive global regulations, the implementation of standardized testing protocols, and collaborative interdisciplinary initiatives aimed at ensuring safety, scalability, and consumer confidence.

In a nutshell, NPs synthesized through microbial processes present significant potential to transform food and dairy systems by improving safety, nutritional content, and sustainability. Addressing technical, regulatory, and societal obstacles through ongoing research and collaboration will establish green nanotechnology as a fundamental component of advanced food technologies, tackling worldwide issues related to food security and environmental sustainability.

Author Contributions: A.K.N., S.T.G.A.-S., D.K.V., S.S., and A.R.P. have conceptualized, interpreted, corrected, and compiled literature and technically sound final versions of the manuscript; A.K.N., M.T., S.S., and P.P. have compiled the tables for manuscripts; A.K.N., S.T.G.A.-S., D.K.V., P.P., M.T., S.S., and A.R.P. have read the manuscript and provided suggestions and corrections for the final submission. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This research received no external funding.

Data Availability Statement: Not applicable

Acknowledgments: The authors, A.K.N. and S.T.G.A.-S. would like to acknowledge the financial assistance of the Food and Dairy Lab., Department of Food Science, College of Agriculture, University of Basrah.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors state that there are no conflicts of interest.

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this manuscript:

ACCases	Acetyl-CoA carboxylase
AFM	Atomic force microscopy
Ag ₂ O	Silver oxide
AgNO3	Silver nitrate
-	Silver
Ag AOT	Solium bis-2-ethylhexyl-sulfosuccinate
Au	Gold
BACs	
CFU	Bioactive compounds Colony-forming units
CNTs	Carbon nanotubes
CuO	Copper oxide
CVD	Chemical vapor deposition
DLS	Dynamic light scattering
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
DPPH	2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl
E551	Silicon dioxide
EDX	Energy dispersive X-ray
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EU	European Union
FCC	Face-centered cubic
Fe ₂ O ₃	Iron oxide
Fe ₃ O ₄ /Cs/MoS ₂ /laccase-NPs	Iron oxide/Chitosan/Molybdenum disulfide/laccase nanoparticles
Fe	Iron
FESEM	Field emission scanning electron microscopy
FE-SEM-EDX	Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscopy with Energy Disper-
TE-SEMI-EDA	sive X-Ray Spectroscopy
FSANZ	Food Standards Australia New Zealand
FTIR	Fourier-transform infrared
GRAS	Generally Recognized as Safe
H[AuCl4]	Chloroauric acid
H ₂ S	Hydrogen sulfide
HPLC	High-Performance Liquid Chromatography
HRTEM	High-resolution transmission electron microscopy
IC ₅₀	Half-maximal inhibitory concentration
Lb.	Lactobacillus
Lc.	Lactococcus
LCAs	Life cycle assessments
Mg	Magnesium
MgO	Magnesium Oxide
NĂDH	Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide
NADH-DNR	NADH-dependent nitrate reductase
NADPH	Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate hydrogen
NC-AFM	Non-contact atomic force microscopy
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NPs	Nanoparticles
Pb	Lead
PDI	Polydispersity index
Pd	Palladium
PdO	Palladium oxide
PECVD	Plasma-enhanced chemical vapor deposition
PL spectrometer	Photoluminescence spectroscopy
PLA	Polylactic acid
PLAL	Pulsed laser ablation in liquid
Ps.	Pseudomonas
PUFAs	Polyunsaturated fatty acid
PVD	Physical vapor deposition
PVP	Polyvinylpyrrolidone
RF Plasma	Radio Frequency Plasma
RNA	Ribonucleic acid
Sa.	Saccharomyces
SAED	Selected area electron diffraction
SEM	Scanning electron microscope
Se	Selenium
SnO ₂	Tin oxide
SPR	Surface plasmon resonance
St.	Staphylococcus
TEM	Transmission electron microscopy
Tg	Glass transition temperature
TiO ₂	Titanium dioxide
US FDA	United States Food and Drug Administration
UV–Vis spectroscopy	Ultraviolet-visible spectroscopy
XRD	X-ray diffraction
ZnO	Zinc oxide

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