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International Conference on
EXTRACTION METHODS
for **Valorising Fibers** from
FOOD & AGRO-PROCESSING WASTE
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Near-Infrared Spectroscopy applications for fiber quantification and characterization as a strategic tool for waste valorization in food and feed systems

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ENFiber

European Network for Valorising Food
Processing Waste into Sustainable Fibers



Funded by
the European Union

INTRODUCTION



Transition towards a
circular economy



Valorisation strategies
require...

PRECISE, REAL-TIME CHEMICAL PROFILING

...to drive the sustainable transformation of
residues into **valuable resources**.



Do valuable resources meet **standards of the food and non-food industries?**

*Without understanding the exact **chemical composition** of the initial waste
stream, integrated **recovery efforts** risk **inefficiency** or **failure**.*



A comprehensive **determination of fiber fractions** is essential prior to processing

NEAR INFRARED SPECTROSCOPY

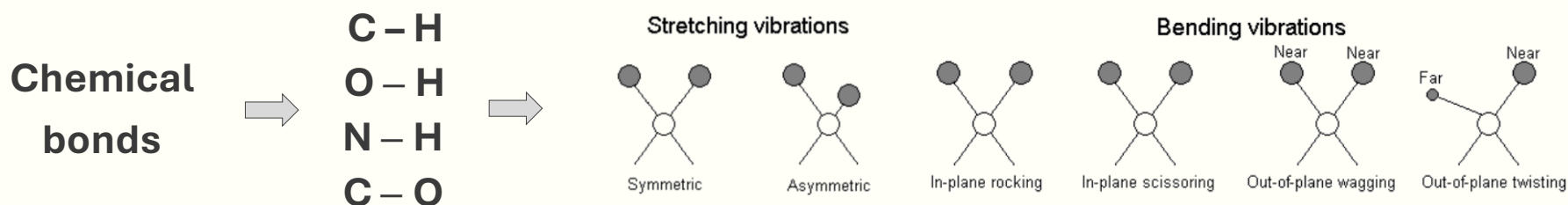
Key tool in the valorisation strategy. Rapid, non-destructive determination of fiber fractions.

INTRODUCTION

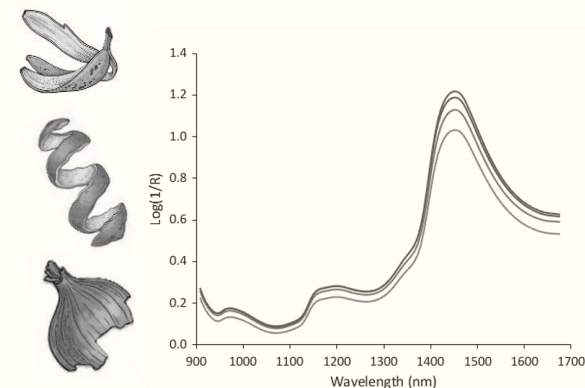
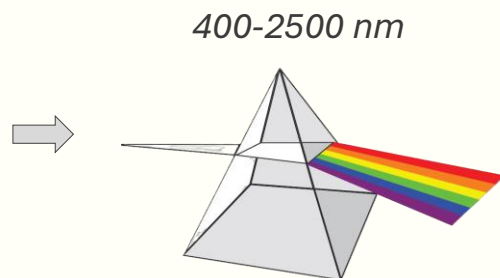
NEAR INFRARED SPECTROSCOPY

(Shenk et al., 2001)

Based on the **absorption** that occurs when **near-infrared radiation** vibrates at the same specific **frequency** as the **molecular bonds** within the analysed sample.



NIR devices



OBJECTIVE

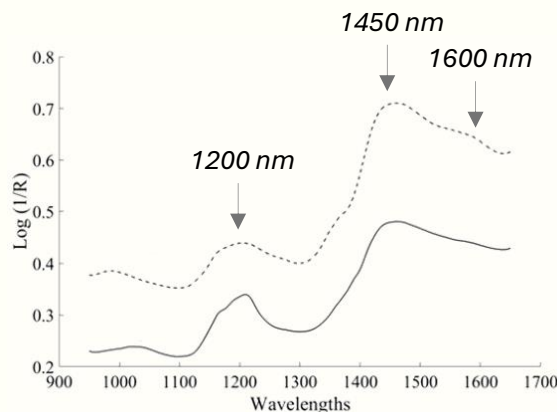
The **objective** of this work is to provide a **comprehensive review** of the research conducted by the Department of Animal Production and the Department of Bromatology and Food Technology of the **University of Cordoba (Spain)**, with particular emphasis on the optimisation of **NIR applications for fiber analysis across the food and feed value chains**.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

1. Spectral analysis and spectral repeatability

Spectra visualization

Identification of bands and spectral anomalies



- 1200 nm, second overtone absorbance of C-H
- 1450 nm, first overtone absorbance O-H
- 1600 nm, first overtone absorbance of O-H

C-H, O-H, N-H

SUGARS, LIPIDS, WATER, PROTEINS, FIBERS...

RMS

Assurance of
spectral data quality

Similarity between different spectra of a single sample

Shenk and Westerhaus (1991)

$$RMS_{j,k} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n D_{ij}^2}{n}} \quad STD_k = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^N (RMS_j)^2 / (N-1)} \quad STD_{limit} = 1.036 \times \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^{k=m} \frac{STD_k^2}{m}}$$

MATERIAL AND METHODS

2. Structure of the population and spectral outliers

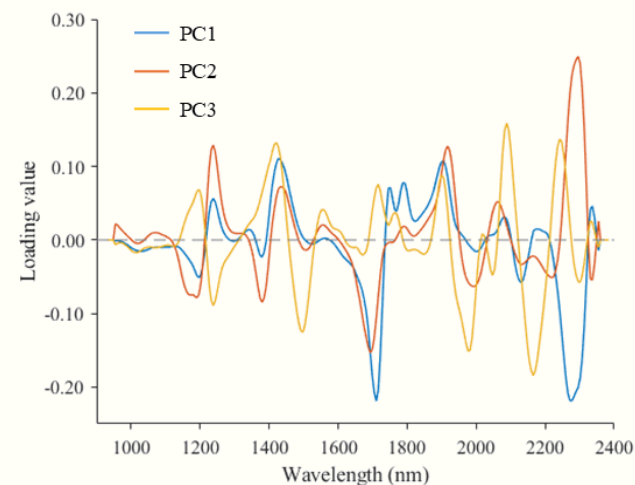
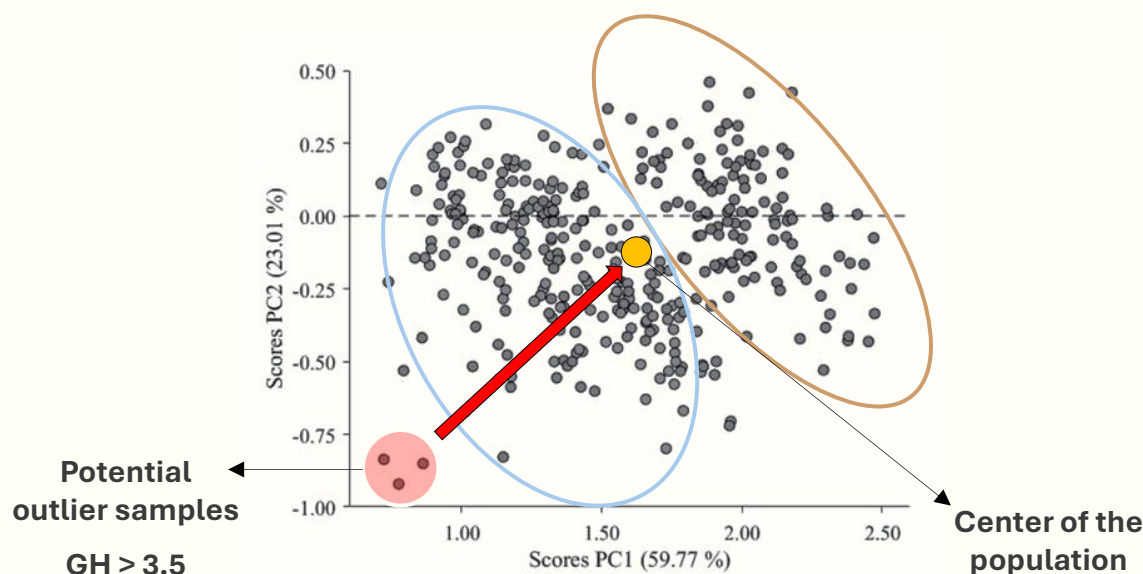
Data dimensionality reduction - Principal components analysis (PCA)

- PCA scores and loadings plot analysis, groups and trends.
- Distance of each sample to the center of the population.

Mahalanobis distance (GH)

$$GH_{\text{threshold}} = 3.5$$

Shenk and Westerhaus (1995)



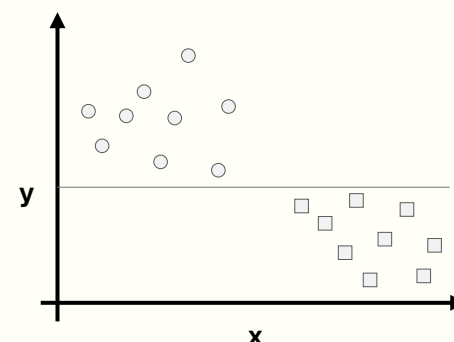
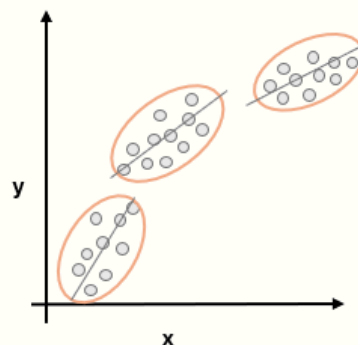
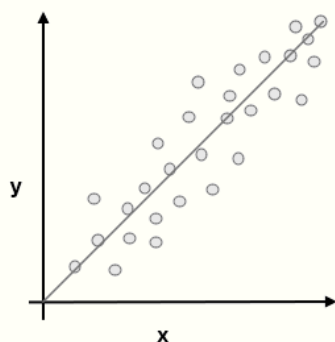
MATERIAL AND METHODS

3. Calibration of quantitative and qualitative models

- Calibration and validation groups.
- Linear and non-linear approaches for quantitative and qualitative models.
 - Partial Least Squares Regression (PLSR)
 - Local Regressions (LR)
 - Partial Least Squares Discriminant Analysis (PLSDA)

Optimization through cross-validation

SECV, R^2_{cv} , RPD_{cv} , NER



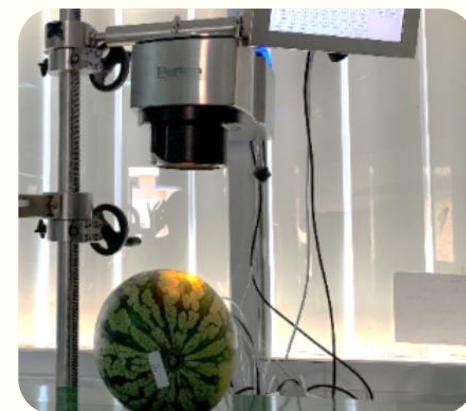
4. External validation

Protocol: Windham et al. (1989)

SEP, Bias, SEP(c), R^2_p , RPD_p , Slope

MATERIAL AND METHODS

5. Applications

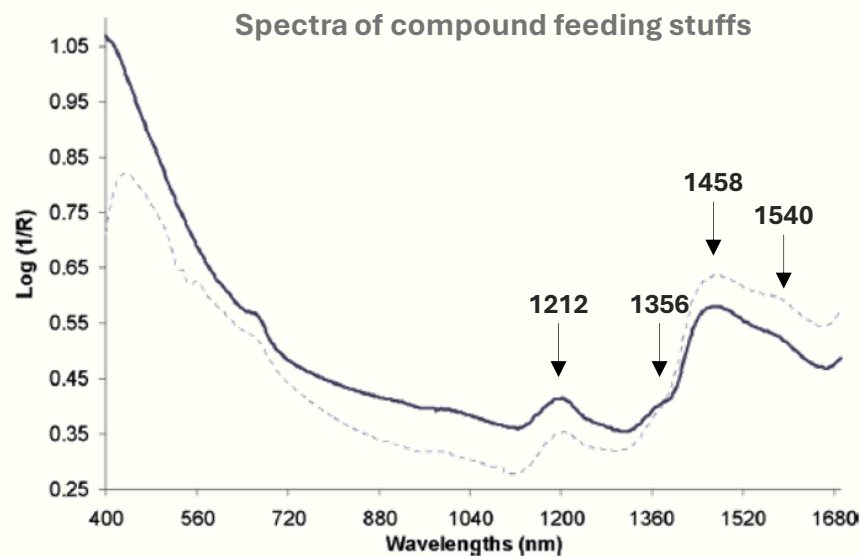


RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

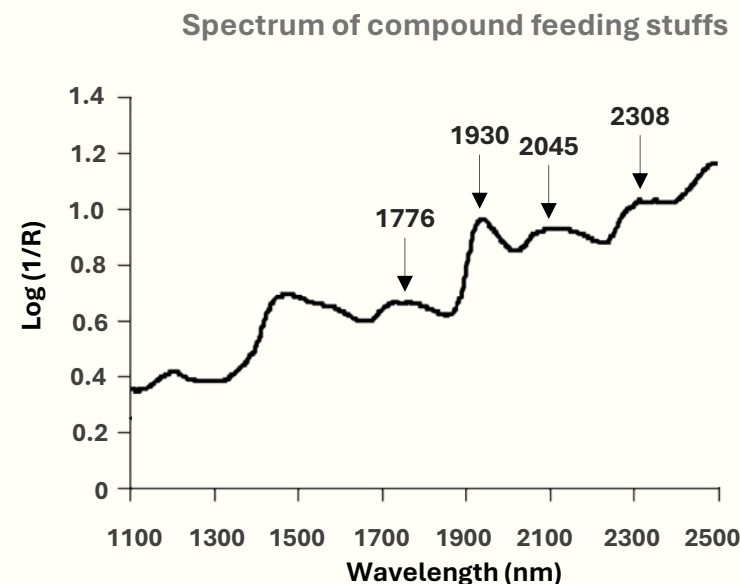
Most important fiber-related absorption bands

Spectral band	Molecular bond vibration
1212 nm	C-H stretching
1356 nm	C-H stretching
1458 nm	C-H and O-H stretching
1540 nm	O-H stretching

Spectral band	Molecular bond vibration
1776 nm	C-H and C-H ₂ stretching
1930 nm	O-H asymmetric stretching
2095 nm	C-H & O-H stretching
2308 nm	C-H ₂ bend & O-H stretching



Fernández-Ahumada et al. (2008)



Pérez-Marín et al. (2004)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

WILEY Online Library

Journal of
Food Quality

PREDICTION OF NEUTRAL AND ACID DETERGENT FIBER
CONTENT OF GREEN ASPARAGUS STORED UNDER
REFRIGERATION AND MODIFIED ATMOSPHERE CONDITIONS BY
NEAR-INFRARED REFLECTANCE SPECTROSCOPY
[A. GARRIDO](#) [M.T. SÁNCHEZ](#) [G. CANO](#) [D. PÉREZ](#) [C. LÓPEZ](#)

Calibration models on asparagus (*Asparagus officinalis*).

Garrido-Varo et al. (2001)

- Study of changes of the fiber content during harvesting and cold storage.
- Foss-NIRSystems 6500 SY-II monochromator (400 to 2498 nm, every 2 nm)
- Linear approach for quantitative models, Modified PLSR.

Calibration statistics for the equations obtained for the prediction of NDF and ADF for green asparagus stored under refrigeration conditions

Constituent	N	Math treatment	SECV	r ² _{cv}	RPD
NDF	46	0,0,1,1	0.91	0.98	7.19
	48	1,4,4,1	1.07	0.97	5.99
	48	1,5,5,1	1.07	0.97	6.01
	46	2,4,4,1	0.84	0.98	7.81
	46	2,5,5,1	0.84	0.98	7.80
ADF	50	0,0,1,1	0.64	0.97	5.91
	51	1,4,4,1	0.62	0.97	6.07
	51	1,5,5,1	0.62	0.97	6.07
	50	2,4,4,1	0.60	0.97	6.32
	50	2,5,5,1	0.60	0.97	6.38

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

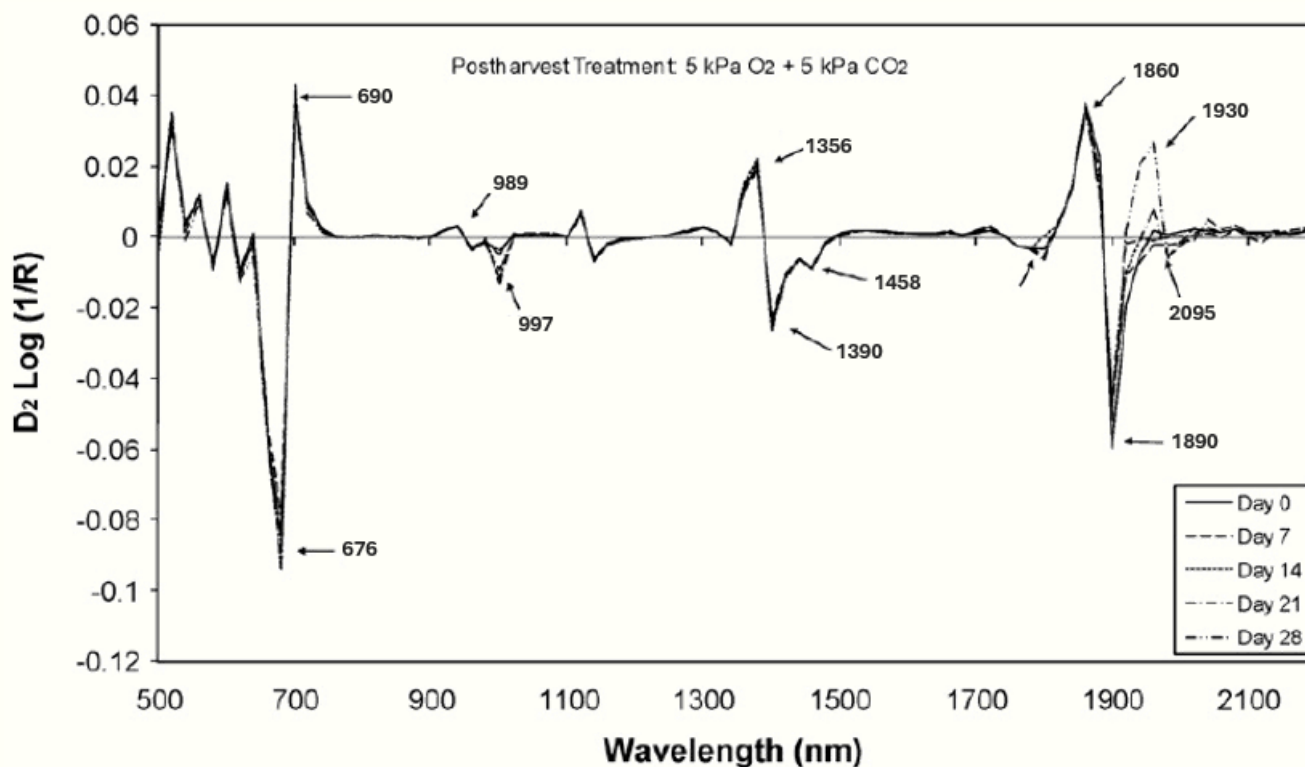
Asparagus classification by fiber content.

Sánchez et al. (2009)

Use of near-infrared reflectance spectroscopy for shelf-life discrimination of green asparagus stored in a cool room under controlled atmosphere

María-Teresa Sánchez ^a, Dolores Pérez-Marín ^b, Katherine Flores-Rojas ^a,
José-Emilio Guerrero ^b, Ana Garrido-Varo ^b

- Foss-NIRSystems 6500 SY-II monochromator (400 to 2498 nm, every 2 nm)
- Discrimination of asparagus by shelf-life. Changes in O-H absorptions (fiber)



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Calibration models on forage.

Fernández-Cabanás et al. (2023)

- Calibration models on neutral (NDF) and acid detergent fiber (ADF).
- Foss-NIRSystems 6500 SY-II monochromator (400 to 2498 nm, every 2 nm)
- Linear (PLSR) and non-linear (LR) approaches for quantitative models.

PLSR, prediction statistics

Constituent	Statistic	Value
NDF	SEP	3.42
	Bias	-0.21
	SEP _(c)	3.42
	Slope	0.94
	R ² _p	0.45*
ADF	SEP	4.00
	Bias	-0.17
	SEP _(c)	4.01
	Slope	1.03
	R ² _p	0.64

LR, prediction statistics

Constituent	Statistic	Value
NDF	SEP	3.11
	Bias	-0.19
	SEP _(c)	3.11
	Slope	0.98
	R ² _p	0.55*
ADF	SEP	3.70
	Bias	-0.06
	SEP _(c)	3.71
	Slope	1.07
	R ² _p	0.70

*Exceed validation limits. Protocol: Windham et al. (1989)

 Spectrochimica Acta Part A: Molecular and
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Volume 285, 15 January 2023, 121922



Optimisation of the predictive ability of NIR models to estimate nutritional parameters in elephant grass through LOCAL algorithms

Victor M. Fernández-Cabanás ^a✉, Dolores C. Pérez-Marín ^b✉, Tom Fearn ^c✉,
Joadil Gonçalves de Abreu ^d✉

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Data transfer between NIR devices.

Pérez-Marín et al. (2022)

- Data library transfer (NIR benchtop to portable devices) for fiber prediction.
- Instrumental standardization Shenk and Westerhaus (1989) algorithm.



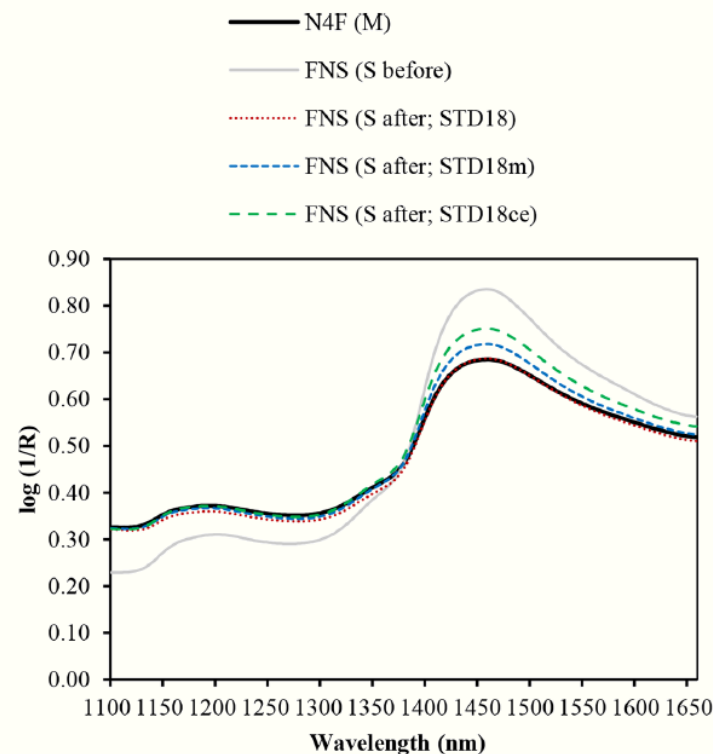
J. Dairy Sci. 105:2380–2392

<https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2021-21032>

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Transferring a large data library of fresh total mixed rations from a benchtop to 2 portable near-infrared spectrometers for on-farm real-time decisions

Dolores Pérez-Marín,¹ Begoña de la Roza-Delgado,² J. Antonio Entrenas,^{1*} Mar Garrido-Cuevas,¹ and Ana Garrido-Varo¹



CONCLUSIONS

1. The application of **NIR spectroscopy** in plant-based matrices like asparagus demonstrated that this technology enables **accurate quantification of fiber fractions (NDF and ADF)** achieving strong predictive performance.
2. **NIR spectroscopy** has also proven effective in **discriminating samples according to fiber content**, due to spectral variations, particularly those associated with O–H functional groups.
3. Within forage matrices, the adoption of **non-linear modelling approaches enhances predictive performance** relative to conventional linear methods for the determination of **NDF** and **ADF**. This finding highlight the importance of selecting appropriate chemometric strategies when analysing complex matrices.
4. The successful **transfer of data libraries** from benchtop instruments to portable devices demonstrates that predictive accuracy for **fiber** can be preserved following instrumental standardisation. This constitutes a significant step towards practical, **real-world implementation, enabling real-time analysis** at the point of waste generation or processing, and thereby facilitating efficient fiber valorisation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Vega-Castellote, M. & Pérez-Marín, D.

*Thank You
For Your Attention*

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Processing Waste into Sustainable Fibers



EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



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