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## REVIEW



# Pathways for Sustainable Utilization of Waste Chicken Eggshell

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## ABSTRACT

Chicken eggshell is one of the most common wastes generated from households, restaurants and other food processing outlets. Waste Chicken Eggshells (WCES) also constitutes an environmental nuisance and ends up discarded at dumping site with no consideration of further usage. The main constituent of WCES is calcium carbonate from which calcium or calcium oxide can be extracted for various applications. This current effort reviews recently published literature on the diverse applications of WCES. The considered utilization avenues include catalysts for biofuel production, construction industry, wastewater purification, industrial sector, food industry, medical, and agricultural applications. The specific areas of application apart from the transesterification reactions include cement additives and replacement in concrete, asphalt binder, adsorbent of metals and dyes, production of hydroxyapatite, food supplement and fortification, dentistry, therapeutics, bone formation, drug delivery, poultry feeds as well as organic fertilizer. For most of the identified applications, the WCES is subjected to pretreatment and other modification techniques before utilization. The conversion of WCES to valuable products is a cost-effective, safe, environmentally friendly, non-toxic and viable means of waste disposal and utilization. More investigations are needed to further explore the benefits derivable from this bioresource.

# **KEYWORDS**

Waste chicken eggshells; catalysts; food supplements; medical applications; waste utilization; biofuel production

#### Nomenclature

%	Percentage
rpm	revolution per minute
°C	Degree centigrade
wt%	Weight percent

# **1** Introduction

The utilization of food wastes for various applications has been recognized as one of the strategies for reducing the cost of production and the market price of some products. By definition, food wastes are any edible and allied inedible parts detached and discarded from the food value chain either at households,



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retail, or food service sectors. The wastes can either be processed, semi-processed, unprocessed, or raw food meant for human consumption. The edible parts of food are the parts that are meant for human consumption while the inedible parts, including bones, shells, peels, etc., are those that are discarded as wastes [1].

The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) estimated that the total edible food waste, globally, is 1.3 billion tonnes with a carbon footprint of 3.3 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalence per annum which is equivalent of about 1.4 hectares of land and  $250 \times 10^3$  m<sup>3</sup> of water annually [2]. Unconsumed foods have negative social, economic, and sanitary impacts and have been estimated to contribute 8–10% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, globally [1]. The Sustainable Development Goals aim to reduce global food wastes by half by the year 2030 [3]. This is to prevent food losses and save humanity from hunger. Reducing food waste will guarantee more food gets to the consumers, reduce malnutrition and hunger, mitigate the emission of GHGs, improve food security, relieve pressures on land and water, enhance sanitation and a boost to effective waste management systems. Chicken eggshells are generated when raw or boiled chicken eggs are broken and used as foods in households, restaurants and other food processing outlets. Waste Chicken Eggshells (WCES) constitute an environmental nuisance when they are inappropriately discarded at dumping sites with no consideration of further usage.

#### 2 Chicken Eggs and Eggshells

The global production of chicken eggs increased from 73.9 million metric tonnes in 2016 to become 82.17 million metric tonnes in 2019 with China accounting for about 42.88% of the total egg production in 2019. China, the United States of America, India, Indonesia, and Brazil jointly produced 66.67% of the global egg production in 2019. Among African countries, Nigeria, South Africa, Morocco, Egypt, and Algeria top the egg production chart [4]. Fig. 1 shows the chicken egg production in some selected countries from 2013 to 2019.



Figure 1: Chicken Egg production in some selected countries between 2013–2019 adapted from [4]

Characteristically, a fresh chicken egg is made up of three parts, i.e., the shell, egg white and egg yolk. Consumption of chicken eggs has continued to increase among various strata of the population due to its high protein content and many industrial applications. The risk of adults developing cardiovascular disease from the consumption of eggs is been overshadowed by the urge for essential nutrients contained in chicken eggs. Chicken eggs are rich in protein and essential amino acids needed for growth [5]. The many applications of chicken eggs in the food, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical industries have further increased its

consumption among the population. WCES are the 15<sup>th</sup> source of food pollution and a major cause of environmental pollution. An estimated 250,000 tonnes of waste eggshell are generated and added to the landfill without any pretreatment. These waste eggshells are dumped in the landfills, they are non-biodegradable and provide a habitat for fungal growth, offensive odour and mosquito breeding thereby causing avoidable diseases [6,7]. An average chicken egg weighs about 60.9 g and consists of 11% shell, 63% albumen, and 27% yolk by weight [8]. Fig. 2 shows the structure and cross-section of a chicken egg. The eggshell, which has three layers, is a protective covering for the egg against harm and bacteria but allows the exchange of moisture and air.



Figure 2: Structure and cross-sectional view of chicken eggshell [9]

Typically, chicken eggshell is chemically composed of 94% calcium carbonate (CaCO<sub>3</sub>), 1% magnesium carbonate, 1% calcium phosphate with the balance made up of water and other insoluble proteins [10,11]. The high percentage of calcium in chicken eggshells accounts for its high mechanical strength and makes it a valuable raw material for diverse applications. Waste eggshells are generated daily from the consumption of eggs in households and industrial concerns. With time, the increasing volume of waste eggshell generated and discarded indiscriminately has attracted the attention of environmentalists and researchers to investigate how the wastes can be converted into useful products. Traditionally, without any form of modification, WCES has been used to clean cooking pots, feed birds, make bone broth and used as fertilizer to grow vegetables. But much more than that, various investigations have been conducted on the use of eggshells as catalysts, in wastewater treatment and purification, concrete enhancement and environmental remediation.

Earlier, Hamideh et al. [7], Hamada et al. [12–15] reviewed the applications of eggshells in cement replacement in concrete, as a catalyst for biodiesel production, as adsorbent and wastewater decontamination, respectively. The various interventions on the use of WCES by Waheed et al. [11], Perez-Lopez et al. [16–18] are acknowledged. Despite all these completed studies on the application of WCES, the relevant question to ask, which serves as the motivation and basis for this work, is whether enough has been investigated and reported about this valuable biowaste? The current effort specifically focuses on the applications of WCES in diverse fields. The identified avenues of utilization for WCES are studied and interrogated using a compilation of the recent applications of WCES in various fields. Also, this contribution aims to shed more light on the recent efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle WCES for catalytic, wastewater treatment, pharmaceutical, mechanochemistry, environmental remediation and

material science applications. The current effort is limited to the applications of WCES as reported in the last five years.

## **3** Application of Waste Chicken Eggshells

Primarily, WCES is not produced to be used as food for human or animal consumption. As said earlier, the fact that an average chicken egg contains about 11% of the weight of WCES and is produced in large quantities makes researchers interested in how to put this important resource into use. Chicken eggshells are readily available for collection in large quantities from households, restaurants and food outlets, hatcheries, poultry farms, cake bakers, and other industries that use chicken eggs as raw materials. Calcium, the major constituent of chicken eggshells, has been found to possess abundant mechanical strength and is a major dietary requirement for adults. The presence of elements like boron, copper, iron, molybdenum, sulphur, silicon and zinc also makes chicken eggshells a potential raw material for many applications [11,19]. Many of the important applications of waste chicken eggshells are highlighted in this section.

### 3.1 Catalytic Applications

The need to reduce the production cost and, ultimately, the market price of biodiesel has escalated the search for cheap and readily available materials with high calcium content to serve as a replacement for commercial calcium oxide (CaO). Catalytic synthesis of biodiesel is one of the approaches to meet the ever-increasing request for biodiesel. Biodiesel, which is generated through the transesterification of feedstocks such as edible oils, waste cooking oil (WCO), waste animal fats, recovered fats, etc. in the presence of catalysts and alcohol (methanol, ethanol) is a sustainable alternative for fossil-based diesel fuel. The continuous use of fossil-based diesel fuel in compression ignition (CI) engines has caused poor engine performance, increased emission of carbon dioxide  $(CO_2)$  and other poisonous gases which negatively impact human health, exacerbate global warming and accelerate environmental degradation [20-22].

CaO is among the oxides of alkaline earth metals with high basicity which is utilized as a heterogeneous catalyst for commercial biodiesel synthesis. Advantages of CaO derived from WCES as a candidate for large-scale catalytic biodiesel production include its availability, low cost, low solubility in biodiesel, high biodiesel yield, low energy consumption, strong basicity, less water needed for washing, ease of separation, high reusability and less impact of the environment [21,23,24]. The few drawbacks in the application of waste chicken-derived CaO like its low surface area, leaching, and possible contamination when exposed to water have not diminished its acceptance for catalytic biodiesel production [25].

The preparation protocol for the conversion of WCES catalysts is as shown in Fig. 3. The discarded chicken eggshells are collected and washed with clean water to get rid of all the impurities adhering to the body of the shells, dried in the oven, pulverized into fine particles and sieved with the appropriate mesh sizes. The grinding is to boost the surface contact area and enhance the catalytic performance of the WCES material [26]. The powdered material, which consists of mainly CaCO<sub>3</sub>, can be used at this stage or subjected to further modification to improve its performance. Calcination is one of the modification techniques applied to heterogeneous catalysts to enhance their performance. During calcination, the WCES powder is heated to a temperature of about  $800^{\circ}C-900^{\circ}C$  to thermally decompose CaCO<sub>3</sub> to CaO and CO<sub>2</sub> as shown in Eq. (1) [27,28].

$$CaCO_3 \rightarrow Heat \rightarrow CaO + CO_2$$
 (1)

Recent researches on the deployment of CaO obtained from WCES as a catalyst for large-scale biodiesel production revealed chicken eggshells as a promising biowaste with catalytic applications. To verify the effect of calcination on the performance of catalyst derived from WCES, Kamaronzaman et al. [29]

experimented with an uncalcined and calcined catalyst for the conversion of WCO into biodiesel and reported that calcined catalyst yielded 100% more than the uncalcined catalyst. This is in agreement with the submission of Farooq et al. [30] to the effect that calcination increases the active sites on the contact surface of the heterogeneous catalyst and consequently enhances its catalytic activity and performance.



Figure 3: Flowchart for converting waste chicken eggshells to catalyst

Catalyst derived from WCES was used in the conversion of WCO and other feedstocks into biodiesel under mild temperatures resulting in high product yield [31,32]. These processes have proved to be cost-effective, easy to achieve, and commercially viable (Table 1). Similarly, Lani et al. [33–36] successfully employed CaO derived from WCE to synthesize biodiesel from WCO. They employed statistical and optimization techniques (Taguchi, response surface methodology, central composite design) and reported that the deployment of these techniques can boost the biodiesel yield by optimizing the production parameters.

Apart from the use of WCES for catalytic biodiesel production, the production of bioethanol is also catalyzed by CaO extracted from WCES. Liu et al. [37] and Hu et al. [38] utilized WCES in the hydrolysis of cellulose to bioethanol. The authors reported over 60% product yield under mild production conditions. Similarly, calcium nanoparticle derived from WCES has been used to improve anaerobic digestion of palm oil mill effluent into biogas. The WCES powder was modified by calcination and applied to improve catalytic biogas production [39]. Raheem et al. [40] extracted CaO from WCES for the catalytic gasification of lipid-extracted microalgae biomass. It was reported that the addition of the

CaO derived from WCES enhanced the gasification reactions with evidence of increased  $H_2$  production and reduced generation of carbon monoxide (CO) and CO<sub>2</sub>.

Feedstock	Catalyst modification	Cale para	ination meters	Characterization technique	Production method		Reaction conditions		BY (%)	Outcome	Ref.		
		T (°C)	Time (h)			C (wt %)	M: O	R (h)	Rtp (°C)	Ssp (rpm)			
WCO	Non				Transesterification	5	20:1	2	65	-	16		[29]
WCO	Calcination	1000	4		Transesterification	5	20:1	2	65	-	32.76	Calcination led to 100% improved product yield	[29]
Date seed oil	Calcination	800– 1000	2	XRD, BET, TGA, and TPD- CO2	Transesterification	5	12:1	1.5	65	na	93.5	Improved yield of 93.5%	[30]
Eucalyptus oil	Calcination	900	4	XRD, TGA, SEM, FTIR, BET	Transesterification	6	6:1	2.5	65	na	95	Calcination improved biodiesel yield	[31]
Waste chicken fat	Calcination	1000	4	SEM	Transesterification	2	6:1	2	65	250	90.5	Improved catalyst morphology led to increased product yield	[32]
WCO	Calcination	600– 1000	1–5	FTIR, XRD	Transesterification	5	15:1	6	65	-	92.81	The highest yield achieved at optimal calcination conditions of 900°C and 3.5 hours	[33]
WCO	Calcination	ns	ns		Esterification and transesterification	1.62	1:1	2	65	-	96	WCES produced 96% biodiesel yield	[34]
WCO	Calcination	900	1	SEM, BET	Esterification and transesterification	1.5	12:1	1	60	-	96.23	WCES produced high quality biodiesel from WCO	[35]
WCO	Calcination	850	3	SEM, XRD, FTIR	Transesterification	1.5	10:1	0.9	60	300	96.07	High quality products with ASTM standards	[36]
WCO	Calcination	600	3	SEM, XRD, FTIR	Transesterification	3	12:1	1.5	65	400	93.1	High quality and high yield with ASTM standards	[36]

Table 1: Outcomes of application of WCE for catalytic biodiesel production

Note: Waste cooking oil = WCO, Temperature = T, Catalyst = C, Methanol:Oil; M:O, Reaction time = Rt, Stirring speed = Ssp Reaction temperature = Rtp, Biodiesel yield = BY.

Key conclusions:

- WCES can be converted into catalysts for biofuel production.
- Calcination improves the performance and catalytic activity of WCES in biodiesel synthesis.

• The economic and environmental benefits of utilization of WCES make it a viable alternative to commercial CaO.

#### 3.2 Construction Applications

Rapid population growth, rising urbanization, higher disposable income and increasing infrastructural development across nations have caused a steady rise in activities in the construction industries over the past few decades. Concrete, consisting of cement, fine or coarse aggregates and water, is the most frequently and extensively used composite material in the building and road construction industries. Cement is a binder and when used in conjunction with water, sets, hardens, adheres, and binds fine or coarse aggregates together. Global cement production has increased from 3.31 billion tons in 2010 to about 4.1 billion tonnes in 2020, with China contributing more than half to the total global cement production in 2020 (Fig. 4) [41,42]. A total of 4.42 billion tonnes is projected to be consumed, worldwide, in 2021, representing a growth rate of about 3% since 2018 [43].



**Figure 4:** Cement production status (a) Global cement production from 2010 to 2010. (b) Country by country cement production in 2020. Compiled and developed from [41,42]

The overdependence on natural raw materials like limestone (CaCO<sub>3</sub>), bauxite, clay, or rock for cement production has led to increased cost of production, depletion of reservoirs of these materials, and exacerbated environmental degradation. The exploitation and extraction of limestone, silica, and alumina have continued to damage the landscape, disrupt the ecosystem, pollute the air, and contaminate aquatic and terrestrial habitats [44]. There have been concerns in the cement manufacturing industry about the increased energy consumption and emission of GHGs during cement production. For example, the cement industry consumes nearly 2% of the world's primary energy and about 5% of the total industrial energy, globally [45]. Also, the cement industry contributed 3% to the global GHG emission in 2018. About 4050 metric tons of cement was produced in 2018 with 0.5 ton of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted per ton of cement [46].

The majority of the energy consumption and emission occurs during the production of clinker, a component of cement, and thermal breakdown of  $CaCO_3$  to CaO. It is estimated that between 50% and 60% of  $CO_2$  emission is produced during the decomposition of  $CaCO_3$  to CaO. If there is no deliberate strategy implemented to arrest the current rate of emission, the  $CO_2$  emission from the cement industry is predicted to reach 2.34 billion tonnes by 2050 [45]. One of the strategies to stem the tide of high energy consumption and  $CO_2$  emissions from the cement production process without compromising production capacity is to find a sustainable replacement for natural  $CaCO_3$ . WCES have been proposed as a viable option, to take advantage of their vast availability and abundant  $CaCO_3$  and CaO content, as aforementioned. Aside from the fact that  $CaCO_3$  occurs naturally in WCES, the conversion of WCES to CaO generates less  $CO_2$  than what happened during the production of clinker. Besides, lime, which constitute almost 60%–65% of cement, is found in abundance in WCES, about 63.8%–96.87% [27,47].

The preparation techniques for the conversion of WCES to CaO powder involve washing and drying to remove all the dirt on the body of the shells, crushing and sieving into fine particles, and high temperature  $(700^{\circ}C-900^{\circ}C)$  calcination to convert the CaCO<sub>3</sub> to CaO [48]. Avenues for the utilization of WCES powder for construction applications include cement manufacturing, cement additive, concrete aggregate, and ceramic materials. The application of pulverized and calcinated WCES has been observed to reduce the production cost, improve the physical and mechanical properties, and lessen its environmental impact [49].

Documented research outcomes have shown that fragmentary replacement of Portland cement with calcinated WCES powder improves mechanical strength, compressive strength, flexural strength, and engenders better workability of the concrete [50-54]. In another research, Jaber et al. [55-57] compared the thermal insulation, hardness, water absorption, hydration, compressive strength and flexural strength of concrete prepared with WCES and that prepared with Portland cement. They reported an improvement in the tested properties of the concrete prepared with WCES. Outcomes of similar research conducted by Razali et al. [49], Pliya et al. [58,59] on the use of WCES as a partial replacement for fine aggregates and Portland cement were reported and well documented. Francis et al. [60] examined the impact of the addition of chicken eggshell powder on the compressed concrete and reported that addition of WCES led to improvement in the density, compressive strength, and durability of the concrete. The effect of the addition of various percentages of WCES to asphalt was investigated by Wang et al. [61-63] who revealed improved strength, hardness, and thermal stability of the bitumen. Table 2 is a compilation of the outcomes of some researches on the application of WCES as cement additive and partial concrete replacement.

Area of application	% WCES added	% CaO in WCES	Effect of addition on WCES on concrete	Ref.
Cement additive	0%, 10%, 20%, and 30%	50.7	Improved mechanical strength	[50]
Cement additive	0%, 5%, 10%, and 15%	55.7	Improved mechanical strength	[51]
Cement additive	ns	ns	Higher compressive strengths	[52]
Cement additive	0%, 5%, 10%, 15%, and 20%	ns	Improved compressive strength	[53]
Cement additive	0%, 5%, 10%, 15%, and 20%	ns	Improved compressive strength Enhanced flexural strength Better workability	[54]
Partial cement replacement	0% to 20%	ns	Improved compressive strength, Improved hardness Less thermal insulation Less water absorption	[55]
Partial cement replacement	10% and 20%	52.75	Accelerated cement hydration.	[56]
Partial cement replacement	0%, 5%, 10%, 15%, and 20%	ns	Improved compressive strength and flexural strength	[57]
Concrete additive	0%, 10%, 20%, 30%, and 40%	64.83	Improved density Improved compressive strength Better durability	[60]
Concrete replacement	0%, 10%, 20%, 30% and 40%	93.7	Improved compressive strength. The accelerated rate of carbonation	[49]
Portland cement mortar replacement	0%, 5%, 10%, 15%, and 20%	98.3	Improved compression and flexural strength Better hydration rate	[58]
Replacement of cement in concrete	0, 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, and 25%	ns	Improved compressive and flexural strength of concrete	[59]
Partial replacement of asphalt	0%, 5%, 10%, and 15%	ns	Improved consistency, hardness, and thermal stability of bitumen	[61]
As asphalt mixture	0, 3, 6, 9, 12%, 15%, 20%, 25% and 100%	ns	Higher density, higher stability, lower flow, and higher tensile ratio value	[62]
As asphalt binder	0%, 3%, 6%, 9%, and 12%	ns	Better moisture-damage and high rut resistance properties	[63]

 Table 2: Effects of application of WCES in the construction industry

Note: ns = not stated.

Key conclusions:

- WCES is a viable resource that can be utilized in the construction industry to substitute limestone in cement production.
- CaO powder derived from WCES is a good replacement for Portland cement.

- Mechanical properties, strength, durability, thermal stability and functionality of concrete could be improved with the inclusion of fine aggregates of WCES.
- The addition of WCES powder advances the stability, density, and durability of asphalt.
- The utilization of WCES in the construction industry guarantees waste minimization, reduces landfill wastes, ensures conversion of waste to useful materials, and decelerates environmental degradation.

## 3.3 Wastewater Purification Applications

Though approximately 70% of the Earth's crust is covered with water, lack of access to safe water is a major environmental problem, exacerbating malnutrition, and a leading cause of cholera, diarrhea, typhoid, dysentery, and other infectious diseases. In 2017, about 1.23 million deaths were recorded as a result of unsafe water sources globally [64]. Water resources have been under enormous stress due to industrialization, urbanization, rapid population growth and uncontrolled utilization for industrial and agricultural applications [65]. Accessibility to good water has been impaired over the last few decades partly due to the impact of pollution of ground and surface water by wastes from households and industries, alike. Untreated effluents that are toxic, acidic and carcinogenic generated from industries are frequently discharged into the environment and impairs terrestrial and aquatic life. Consumption of water contaminated with heavy metals like lead, chromium, copper, zinc, carbon dioxide, dye, etc., can have negative effects on humans. For example, the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned that exposure to lead can cause behaviour and learning difficulties in children; reduced development of the fetus and premature birth in pregnant women; and hypertension, renal impairment, and cardiovascular problems in adults [66]. With the rate of water pollution, contamination, and wastewater generation, water purification is the only respite to ensure healthy living and sustenance of life.

Various physical, chemical, and biological technologies have been deployed to decontaminate and purify wastewater but the adsorption method is more frequently applied due to its low cost, simplicity, flexibility, efficiency, and versatility in removing deadly contaminants. Available information from published literature lends credence to the utilization of activated charcoal and other biowastes to get rid of organic and inorganic pollutants from wastewater [67,68]. WCES is an emerging low-cost, environmentally friendly, and effective adsorbent with the potential to purify ground and wastewater. Also, CaO derived from WCES has low moisture content and its surface area can be increased by mechanical and thermal modification techniques. During the process, collected WCES is cleaned, ovendried and crushed into fine particles, to increase the surface area. The WCES is later subjected to high-temperature calcination to convert the CaCO<sub>3</sub> in the WCES to CaO. Though Mittal et al. [14], Carvalho et al. [15], and Tamjidi et al. [69] had reviewed the use of eggshells for water purification, the current intervention is focused specifically on the application of WCES for wastewater treatment and purification.

Daraei et al. [70–73] investigated the use of WCES powder for the removal of adsorbates like chromium, nitrate, oxalic acid, and heavy metals from ground and wastewater. They reported the efficacy and the applicability of WCES in removing the adsorbate. The application of WCES powder as an adsorbent for the elimination of lead has been well demonstrated by many researchers in recent years. Wang et al. [74] successfully used biochar developed from WCES powder low-cost adsorbent for the remediation of contaminated water while Jalu et al. [75] used CaO extracted from WCES as adsorbent for water decontamination. Their efforts were successful as up to 97% of the lead pollutant were removed. Other researchers also utilized WCES ground into fine powder for the adsorption of nickel [76], copper (II) [77], cadmium [78], and other metal ions [79] from wastewater. The authors reported high removal efficiency thereby reinforcing the performance of WCES powder as an economical, effective, and environmentally benign adsorbent for wastewater treatment.

WCES has also been demonstrated as an efficient and effective adsorbent for the removal of dyes from the ground and wastewaters. Wastewater from textile, food and beverages, cosmetics, pharmaceutical, etc., industries contain synthetic dyes that are difficult to remove. Water polluted with synthetic dyes is poisonous, mutagenic, carcinogenic and their ingestion can cause acute health and ecological worries [80]. Rápó et al. [81] explored the excellent adsorbent capability of WCES to remove Remazol dye from wastewater and reported that the toxic dye was oxidized to  $CO_2$  and water with a removal efficiency of about 99%. A similar approach was adopted by Hevira et al. [82] and Thakur et al. [83] when they extracted CaO from WCES for the elimination of cationic and anionic dyes. These investigations undoubtedly demonstrate WCES as a cost-effective, safe, non-toxic, and ecologically friendly adsorbent for the removal of dyes from wastewater. In all these cases, the adsorptive capability of WCES powder in the process mechanism was demonstrated with the effective absorber of the impurities and contaminants. Table 3 contains some of the applications of WCES for wastewater decontamination and purification.

Adsorbate	Preparation and modification technique	Outcome	Ref.
Chromium	Grinding and sieving	Fast and effective removal of the hazardous Cr(VI) ions from ground and wastewater	[70]
Nitrate	Grinding and sieving	Removal of 95% nitrate from groundwater	[71]
Oxalic acid	Grinding and sieving	WCES successfully absorbed oxalic acid from the wastewater	[72]
Chromium	Grinding, sieving, and calcination	Effective removal of chromium from wastewater	[73]
Lead	Grinding sieving, and carbonization	Successful remediation and removal of lead from contaminated groundwater	[74]
Lead	Grinding, sieving, and chemical	97.07% lead was absorbed from contaminated water	[75]
Nickel	Grinding, sieving, and chemical	Adsorption efficiency of 91.5% was achieved	[76]
Copper (II)	Grinding, sieving, and calcination	More than 85% removal efficiency was recorded	[77]
Cadmium	Grinding and sieving	About 73% of the pollutants were adsorbed	[78]
Aluminum, iron (II), and zinc	Grinding and sieving	Removal efficiency of 100%, 74%, and 59% was achieved with aluminum, iron (II), and zinc	[79]
Remazol dye	Grinding and sieving	Removal efficiency of about 99% was reported	[81]
Cationic and anionic dyes	Grinding, sieving, and chemical	92.34% of Methylene Blues and 64.34% Indigo Carmine was adsorbed	[82]
Cationic and anionic dyes	Grinding and sieving	Removal efficiency of 98% of Brilliant Green and 78% of Phenol Red was achieved	[83]

 Table 3: Effects of application of WCES for wastewater treatment and purification

Key conclusions:

- WCES is a resource for water decontamination, purification, and removal of adsorbates.
- No significant modification is required for the application of WCES as an adsorbent.

- Diverse adsorbates, including heavy metals and synthetic dyes, can be effectively adsorbed from ground and wastewater using CaO extracted from WCES.
- WCES is a low-cost, non-toxic, readily available and environmentally friendly adsorbent for effective ground and wastewater purification.

# 3.4 Industrial Applications

The scarcity and high cost of raw materials have led to the use of waste materials for various industrial applications. WCES is one of the viable resources that has been used frequently as raw materials for the production of various products. Due to the high CaCO<sub>3</sub> content of WCES, which can easily be converted to CaO, industrialists have used WCES as a substitute for the production of ceramics, biphasic bone, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), lithium-sulfur (Li-S) batteries, plastic, and coating pigments for ink-jet printing paper. The process of extracting CaCO<sub>3</sub> from WCES includes washing the collected chicken eggshells with chlorinated water, drying and crushing clean dried shells. The crushed shells are subjected to further milling and sieving until a fine powder WCES, rich in CaCO<sub>3</sub>, is achieved [84].

The WCES collected from various sources are subjected to mechanical or chemical modification techniques to improve their performance for a particular application. The mechanical modification method may include cleaning, removal of the membrane, drying, pulverization, sieving to convert the WCES into a fine powder. When WCES is pulverized into fine particles, it increases the surface area of the material and enhances its catalytic properties. The thermal treatment may include high-temperature calcination or carbonization in a furnace under air or nitrogen. The WCES powder is characterized by x-ray fluorescence (XRF), x-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS), thermogravimetric analysis (TGA), Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR), transmission electron microscopy (TEM), scanning electron microscope (SEM), x-ray diffraction (XRD), differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET), inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer (ICP-MS), etc., to ascertain the elemental composition, thermal, and spectroscopic behaviour. This is intended to validate the suitability and appropriateness of this resource for various industrial applications. Table 4 shows some of the industrial applications of WCES.

Area of industrial application	Preparation/ modification technique	Characterization techniques	Outcome	Ref.
Coating pigment of metals	Mechanical	XRF, SEM, XRD, EDX	Unform coating at the desired thickness	[85]
Coating pigment for ink-jet printing paper	Mechanical and thermal	TGA, FTIR	The enhanced optical density of coated coloured paper	[86]
Manufacturing of Li- S batteries	Mechanical and thermal	XRD, SEM, TGA, BET,	Improved capability and cycling performance Li-S battery	[87]
Production of battery electrode and supercapacitor	Mechanical and thermal	XRD, SEM, TEM, BET, XPS	Effective production of battery electrode and supercapacitor	[88]
Production of UV protectant	Mechanical	FTIR, SEM	WCES contains UV-protective additives and raw materials for polystyrene and sunscreens.	[89]
Shielding material	Mechanical	Radiographic analysis	A good shielding material in diagnostic x-rays and an alternative to lead.	[90]
Production of hydroxyapatite	Mechanical and thermal	TGA, XRD, SEM	Effective production of hydroxyapatite	[91]

**Table 4:** Industrial applications of WCES

For example, CaCO<sub>3</sub> extracted from WCES was demonstrated to be a suitable coating agent to prevent corrosion and protect welded carbon steel joints. Bakar et al. [85] adopted electrophoretic deposition for the coating of carbon steel with CaCO<sub>3</sub> derived from WCES. Similarly, CaCO<sub>3</sub> obtained from WCES was used as coating pigments for ink-jet printing paper. The outcome of the research showed an improved optical density of some coloured inks like cyan, magenta, and yellow of the coated paper [86]. In another application, the effect of N and S co-doped mesoporous carbon synthesized from WCES for the modification of the separator for high-performance Li-S batteries was investigated. The researchers explored the good surface area, mesoporous hollow structure, and the efficient electrochemical active sites of the WCES powder to improve the capability and cycling performance of the battery [87]. In the same vein, calcined WCES has been used for the low-cost production of a battery electrode and supercapacitor [88].

Fecheyr-Lippens et al. [89] explored WCES for the protection of two regularly used synthetic polymers (polystyrene and nylon) from ultraviolet (UV) degradation and reported that unprocessed WCES contains UV-protective additives for the protection of photodegradable materials. The outcome of the investigation further revealed WCES as a novel, cost-effective, durable, and ecologically benign protector of synthetic polymers from UV light and performed better than titanium dioxide (TiO<sub>2</sub>) and other inorganic additives. They concluded that WCES is an effective UV-protectant, a suitable replacement for TiO<sub>2</sub>, and sustainable raw material for the manufacturing of polystyrene and sunscreens. In another research, Alipio [90] investigated the potential of WCES for the manufacturing of shielding material against X-rays. The researcher concluded that WCES is a sustainable and low-cost alternative to lead as a shielding material against diagnostic X-rays. CaO derived from WCES has also been employed as a raw material for the synthesis of hydroxyapatite, a key constituent of human hard tissues like bones and teeth. The result of the research showed WCES as a cost-effective, sustainable, and readily available basic material for the production of inorganic biomaterials like hydroxyapatite [91]. These applications have made WCES a viable, low-cost, readily available, and environmentally friendly raw material for the production of useful products. It is also an avenue for waste minimization, landfill reduction, and waste management towards better sanitation strategies.

Key conclusions:

- WCES powder may be modified by mechanical or thermal techniques to improve its performance.
- Areas of application include metal and printing paper coating, production of UV protectants, Li-S batteries, battery electrodes, shielding material, hydroxyapatite, and energy storage.

# 3.5 Application as Food for Human Consumption

Chicken eggshells are among the top natural sources of calcium that are cheap, readily available, and accessible to rural households. Calcium is the most common mineral in the human body and an important component of nutrition. At every stage of human life, calcium is needed for strong bones and teeth, contributes to blood clotting, neurotransmission, helps in regulating blood pressure and proper functioning of the muscular tissues [92]. Hypocalcemia, a condition of calcium deficiency, can lead to muscle problems, extreme fatigue, osteopenia and osteoporosis, depression, nail and skin problem, and severe premenstrual syndrome. The daily calcium Recommended Intake (RI) for different age groups varies across various countries. For example, the average RI for calcium in some African countries is 238 mg/day in Uganda, 479 mg/day in South Africa, 636 mg/day in Nigeria and 760 mg/day in Cameroon. In Asia, the figure varies from 313 mg/day in Thailand to 794 mg/day in Singapore and among European countries, the figure varies from 728 mg/day in Belgium to 1,233 mg/day in Iceland [93]. Generally, the United States' Office of Dietary Supplements, National Institutes of Health, has put

the RI for calcium for different age groups to 200 mg/day for 0–6 months, 1,000–1,300 mg/day for adults, including pregnant and breastfeeding women [94].

Available information from previous researches put calcium content in WCES at between 35,000 mg/100 g and 40,000 mg/100 g [95]. Also, an average of one teaspoon of calcium powder, which is equivalent to about 2.21 g of calcium in the mode of CaCO<sub>3</sub> and about 750–800 mg of calcium, can be extracted from a chicken eggshell to meet the daily RI for an adult. Calcium extracted from WCES is more readily absorbed by human cells with an absorbance rate of about 90% and better than the calcium gotten from limestone, coral shells, and other synthetic sources [96,97]. However, the CaCO<sub>3</sub> derived from WCES is converted to calcium citrate (Ca(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O<sub>7</sub>)), as shown in Eq. (2), by reacting with citric acid and used for food fortification [7,84]. Fig. 5 presents the process flowchart for the production of calcium citrate from WCES for food applications [84].

$$CaCO_3 + 2H(C_6H_6O_7) + H_2O \rightarrow Ca(C_6H_6O_7) + CO_2 + H_2O$$
 (2)



Figure 5: Flowchart for the preparation of calcium citrate for food production from WCES adapted from [80]

The process of extracting calcium from WCES includes washing the collected WCES under running water, soaking the clean shells in warm water to remove the membrane, boiling the clean shells at 100°C for about 10 min, drying the boiled shells in a clean oven at 90°C for 10 min and grinding of the ovendried shells using mechanical grinder. Grinding and sieving operations of the WCES powder will continue until a uniform fine particle powder is achieved. The dry WCES powder is stored in a clean airtight glass container and used for human consumption.

Many researchers have taken the advantage of the high concentration of calcium in WCES powder to fortify various food products with calcium. In separate researches, Platon et al. [98–100] added calcium powder derived from WCES for the production and fortification of bread and subjected the products to sensory evaluation, textural analysis, and nutritional properties analysis and compared with bread samples not fortified with WCES powder. The bread fortified with WCES powder was found to have more calcium content, better shelf life, physicochemical properties, more nutritional contents, more pleasant flavour, and better acceptability when compared with unfortified bread. Similar results were obtained when wheat flour was fortified with 3%, 6% and 9% WCES powder for the production of chocolate cakes. WCES powder supplementation with the recipe led to more nutritional contents and better physicochemical characteristics than unfortified cake. As the percentage of WCES powder supplementation increased, the calcium content, bulk density, moisture content, and ash content increased [101].

The pattern of results is not limited to bread and cakes alone. The fortification of muffins [102], yogurt [103], and soy milk jelly candy [104] with calcium derived from WCES powder improved the calcium content, protein content, shelf life, and general acceptability of the products. The impact of WCES-derived calcium supplementation of beef sausage [105], chokeberry and cranberry fruit juices [106], and pizza and spaghetti [107], showed enhanced nutritional contents, better sensory attributes, and wider acceptability by the consumers when compared with unfortified products. The consensus among investigators showed a positive and encouraging outlook for calcium supplementation and fortification to meet the nutritional need of the consumers at a lower cost, using natural supplements. Studies are ongoing on the suitability of chicken eggshell membrane for food fortification [96]. To meet the RI, particularly among populations with low calcium intake, calcium derived from WCES is used for food production and food fortification as shown in Table 5.

Food product	Degree of fortification	Effect on the product	Ref.
Bread	0–2% (w/w) of ingredients	<ul> <li>↑ Nutritional value, shelf life, flavor, and appearance, physico-chemical properties</li> <li>↓Acidity</li> </ul>	[98]
Bread	0–3% (w/w) of ingredients	<ul> <li>↑ Calcium content, water absorption, dough stability, acceptability.</li> <li>↓ Hardness</li> </ul>	[99]
Bread	2% (w/w) of ingredients	↑ Calcium content, shelf life, nutritional properties, rheological characteristics, quality of bread	[100]
Chocolate cakes	3–9% (w/w) of wheat flour	↑Calcium content, bulk density, moisture content ↓Fat	[101]

Table 5: Application of WCES in food production and fortification

(Continued)

Table 5 (contin	ued)		
Food product	Degree of fortification	Effect on the product	Ref.
Muffin	8 g/500 g and 16 g/ 500 g wheat flour	↑Calcium contents, sensory characteristics, nutritional benefits, and acceptability	[102]
Yogurt	0.1–0.5% (w/w) of ingredients	↑Calcium content, textural properties, and sensory attributes	[103]
Soy milk jelly Candy	0–0.8% of total ingredients	↑Calcium content, moisture content, ash content, protein content, flavor, better taste, shelf life	[104]
Beef sausage	0–0.6% (w/w) of ingredients	$\uparrow$ Acceptability, physical appeal, flavor, chewiness, and color	[105]
Fruit Juices	0–2% (w/w) of ingredients	↑ Calcium content, taste, micro and macro minerals ↓Acidity and total organic acids	[106]
Pizza and spaghetti	500 mg Ca/person	↑Texture and flavor.	[107]

Note:  $\uparrow =$  increased/improved,  $\downarrow =$  reduced.

Key conclusions:

- The use of WCES powder for food production and fortification ensures waste recovery in the food sector, enhances food preservation and improves the nutritional enrichment of food with calcium.
- Food items fortified with calcium derived from WCES meet nutritional requirements, improved physicochemical properties, better sensory, and wider acceptability among the population.
- Food supplementation with calcium derived from WCES powder is a veritable and cost-effective way of achieving food security.
- Research gaps still exist in the deployment of chicken eggshells membrane powder for the fortification of diverse food products.

# 3.6 Medical Applications

Apart from its utilization as food supplements, calcium has been extracted from WCES and used as a sustainable substitute for synthetic calcium for various dental, pharmaceutical, and other medical applications. Some of the factors advancing the medical application of WCES include its unrestricted availability, unhindered accessibility, biocompatibility, ease of application, inability to transmit disease, and ease of bone renewability [108]. This section will highlight the preparation of hydroxyapatite from WCES, applications of WCES in bone regeneration, teeth rehabilitation, as well as preventive and curative medicine.

Hydroxyapatite ( $Ca_{10}(PO_4)_6(OH)_2$ ) is a useful inorganic biomaterial for various medical, adsorptions, and catalytic applications [109]. The medical applications of hydroxyapatite include efficient repair, regeneration, and replacements of skin, tissue, and gums, remediation of various orthopedic and dental defects as well as local drug delivery systems. However, from a cost, mechanical properties and environmental sustainability standpoint, the production of hydroxyapatite from waste materials will reduce pollution, ensure better sanitation and potentially reduce the cost of the product. In this wise, the use of food wastes, animal bones, fish scales, mollusc shells, seashells, oyster shells, and other biowastes raw materials for the production of hydroxyapatite has gained acceptance and wide patronage [110,111]. Synthesizing hydroxyapatite from WCES will reduce cost, serve as a viable way of disposing of chicken eggshell wastes and ensure good mechanical properties of the product. Besides, hydroxyapatite derived from WCES is highly effective, displayed greater bone formation and better orthopedic regenerative ability. Due to the high usability and many applications of hydroxyapatite, various techniques and approaches have been adopted for its production.

The use of hydrothermal, microwave irradiation, wet precipitation, sol-gel, solid-state reaction, mechanochemical, combustion, emulsion, pyrolysis, biomimetic, etc., and the peculiarities of each method, have been well reported in the literature [109,111–113]. Various characterization techniques, including TGA, DSC, FTIR, XRD, ICP-MS, SEM, TEM, and mechanical tests have been employed to test the suitability of different materials for the production of hydroxyapatite [111]. Eqs. (1), (3), and (4) show the chemical reactions for the synthesis of hydroxyapatite from WCES while Fig. 6 shows the flowchart of the production process [84].

$$CaO + H_2O \rightarrow Ca(OH)_2 \tag{3}$$

$$10Ca(OH)_2 + 6H_3PO_4 \rightarrow Ca_{10}(PO_4)_6(OH)_2 + 8H_2O$$
(4)



Figure 6: Flowchart for the synthesis of hydroxyapatite from WCES for medical applications adapted from [84]

The biomedical application of WCES was investigated by researchers when WCES powder was utilized as a low-cost abrasive material to reduce the surface roughness of artificial teeth, re-mineralize enamel surface lesion, and protect the enamel. They deployed various characterization techniques for the investigation and reported the capability and efficacy of calcium derived from WCES powder to reduce surface roughness, re-mineralize, and offer improved protective covering of the enamel, and ultimately leads to better oral health at a reduced cost [114–116] (Table 6). In a similar vein, CaCO<sub>3</sub> from WCES powder has been used as bio-fillers to improve the mechanical properties of the denture to arrest the

challenges associated with tooth loss which has been exacerbated by poor dental hygiene. In separate researches, Mohammed [117] and Kareem Burhan et al. [118] assessed the impacts of the addition of WCES powder as bio-composite on denture cleansers. They reinforced certain denture cleansers with different percentages of composites derived from WCES, tested the mechanical properties of the denture and compared their results with unreinforced cleansers. They reported that cleansers reinforced with WCES bio-composites showed improvement in the mechanical properties (ultimate tensile strength, impact, modulus of elasticity, elongation percentage at break, fracture toughness, impact strength, flexural strength) when compared with unreinforced cleansers.

In the pharmaceutical industry, the application of WCES powder as a cheap pharmaceutical excipient has been established [119]. CaCO<sub>3</sub> extracted from WCES was found to be within the required purity and pharmacopeial limits to be used as a cost-effective alternative pharmaceutical excipient and preparation of tablets containing  $CaCO_3$ ,  $Ca(C_6H_6O_7)$ , and calcium bis-glycinate [119,120]. Than et al. [121] and Habib et al. [122] undertook studies for the release of acetaminophen and aceclofenac tablets, respectively, by integrating WCES powder as a pharmaceutical excipient and compared the results with commercially available excipients. They both concluded that WCES powder is effective as tablet excipients and can be employed as a diluent or drug release controlling agent for prompt and sustained release of the drugs at a cheaper cost compared with the synthetic excipients. The application of CaCO<sub>3</sub> derived from WCES for drug release and medications for the therapeutic intervention against cancer, inflammation, and bone regeneration has been investigated [123]. After their studies, Jayasree et al. [124] reported that the carbonated apatite nanocarrier system derived from WCES enhanced cell adhesion, useful as a bone drug, and was effective in drug loading, drug carrier, and drug delivery system. In a similar study, Verma et al. [125] confirmed the suitability of carbonated apatite nanocarriers derived from WCES for the treatment of osteosarcoma, prevention of post-cancer inflammation, and guarantee bone reparation and regeneration.

Applications	Characterizat	ion	Outcome	Ref.
	Technique	Implications		
Dentistry	SEM, surface roughness	Surface condition	• Reduce the surface roughness of artificial teeth	[114]
Dentistry	XRF	XRF shows Ca concentration of 98%	• Remineralization of enamel carious lesions	[115]
Dentistry	SEM, TEM, FTIR, XRD	Surface geometry, particle size, shape and distribution	• Remineralization and protection of enamel lesions	[116]
Dentistry	XRD, ultimate tensile strength, impact, modulus of elasticity, elongation percentage at the break, fracture toughness, impact strength	Tensile strength, modulus of elasticity, impact strength and fracture toughness	<ul> <li>64% increment in ultimate tensile strength, 13% increment in modulus elasticity</li> <li>6% elongation percentage</li> <li>75% impact strength</li> <li>81% fracture toughness.</li> </ul>	[117]
Dentistry	SEM, flexural strength	Surface geometry, strength	• 30% flexural strength	[118]
Pharmaceutical	Dissolution studies	Degree of hydrophobicity	• Economically and environmentally effective tablet excipient.	[121]

Table 6: Application of chicken eggshells powder in medical and allied fields

(Continued)

Table 6 (continued)

Applications	Characterizat	ion	Outcome	Ref.
	Technique	Implications		
			• Application as diluent or drug release controlling agent	
Pharmaceutical	Physical evaluation, <i>In-Vitro</i> release studies	Degree of surface modification	• WCES is a low-cost pharmaceutical excipient for the prompt and sustained release of drugs.	[122]
Drug delivery	FTIR, EDS	Surface modification	<ul> <li>Enhanced cell adhesion</li> <li>Applied as bone drug</li> <li>Effective in drug loading, drug carrier, and drug delivery system</li> </ul>	[124]
Therapeutics	XRD	Elemental composition	<ul> <li>Effective treatment of osteosarcoma</li> <li>Prevention of post-cancer inflammation</li> <li>Ensure bone repair and regeneration.</li> </ul>	[125]
Bone formation and regeneration	XRD, SEM, FTIR, TGA	Elemental composition particle size, thermal behaviour	• Stimulate bone formation, bone regeneration, and bone graft replacements	[126]
Bone formation and regeneration	TEM, histomorphometric analysis	Microscopic and macroscopic evaluation	<ul> <li>Speedy healing in surgical defects</li> <li>Bone formation and regeneration</li> <li>Used as a graft in maxillofacial reconstruction.</li> </ul>	[127]

The field of tissue engineering has benefitted from the new knowledge on the application of WCES powder to heal bone defects caused by trauma, tumor resections, and congenital disease. Li et al. [126] developed calcium citrate from WCES and applied it to heal fractured bones of some patients. The authors corroborated the capability of nano-calcium citrate to promote new bone formation, bone regeneration, and bone graft replacements. A similar study by Salama et al. [127] further authenticated the application of WCES powder as a viable, safe, cheap, biodegradable, and biocompatible material with the capability for new bone formation and bone regeneration which can speed up recuperation in surgical defects and function as a graft in maxillofacial reconstruction. The utilization of WCES powder in the development of medications, dentistry, therapeutics, drug delivery, bone formation and regeneration and other medical applications is inexpensive, environmentally friendly, and a natural source of calcium. However, to avoid hypercalcemia and its attendant health consequences, the calcium concentration in the blood serum should be properly monitored. Going forward, the justification for the preference of amorphous CaCO<sub>3</sub> over crystalline compounds in bone grafting and osteogenesis should be investigated.

Key conclusions:

- Hydroxyapatite derived from WCES powder is suitable for medical, dentistry, therapeutics, skin regeneration and repair, replacement of skin, tissue, and gums, remediation of orthopedic and dental defects as well as local drug delivery systems.
- Overconsumption of calcium from WCES should be avoided to guide against the over-concentration of calcium in the bloodstream.
- More researches are needed on the advantages of amorphous CaCO<sub>3</sub> over the crystalline compound in bone grafting and osteogenesis.

## 3.7 Agricultural Applications

One of the areas of applications of WCES is the agricultural sector for the production of fertilizers and poultry feeds. Eggshells collected from various sources can be converted to powder form and applied for agricultural and horticultural purposes. The processes for the preparation of WCES for use in the agricultural and horticultural sectors are similar to that of other aforementioned procedures which include washing of the collected WCES, drying and grinding into fine powder. In this case, there is no need for calcination as the CaCO<sub>3</sub> is applied directly without decomposing it to CaO. The preference for CaCO<sub>3</sub> derived from WCES over other natural sources of calcium is due to its purity and non-toxic nature. The application of crushed or powdered WCES contributes to plant vegetative growth and fruit yield more substantially than commercial fertilizer, in many cases. To enhance its solubility, WCES can be treated and dissolved into acetic acid to convert it into liquid as organic fertilizer. Besides, new methods for the conversion and application of CaCO<sub>3</sub> derived from crushed WCES as organic fertilizers for various plants have been patented lately and documented in the literature [128]. The outcomes of the application of crushed WCES as organic fertilizer for cayenne pepper, cowpea, and sweet basil showed that the plants performed better in terms of growth, root length, and leaf quality more than the plants where commercial fertilizer was applied (Table 7). The authors recorded increased yield as a result of the application of WCES powder [129–131].

Application	Experimental procedure	Outcome	Ref.
Organic fertilizer	0, 45, 60, 75, 90, and 105 g added to soil sample	$\uparrow$ 139–282% vegetative growth rate of the plant	[129]
Organic fertilizer	0, 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 g eggshell to soil sample	↑Vegetative growth and yield of cowpea plants	[130]
Organic fertilizer	Soil diluted with eggshell powder	↑Growth in sweet basil more than commercial fertilizer	[131]
Poultry feed	Eggshell added to poultry daily diet	↑Growth rate, performance and egg quality.	[132]
Poultry feed	Eggshell added to the hens' diets	↑Egg production, egg quality ↑Calcium, and phosphorous in the serum ↑Bone mineral density	[134]
Poultry feed	WCES powder added to the daily diets	↑Egg production, egg weight and egg quality	[135]

Table 7: Application of chicken eggshells powder in agriculture

Note:  $\uparrow$  = increased/improved.

Chicken eggshells are also a source of proteins and minerals for animals. The Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) has approved the use of calcium from chicken eggshells to be included in the animal feed so that the animals can meet their daily calcium need. The enrichment of animal feeds with calcium derived from WCES helps in bone development and enhances the egg-laying capability of fowls due to the presence of phosphorous in the eggshell [96,132]. However, to eliminate any traces of contaminations by the microbial pathogens, the eggshells must be subjected to thermal treatment before pulverization to powdered form.

In an experiment, Okpanachi et al. [133] incorporated WCES into the diets of poultry layers and measured its effects on the performance, haematology, and quality of the egg. They reported that the birds witnessed improved growth rate, feed conversion rate, and better quality of the eggs. This was evident by the increased yolk width, albumen weight, and total egg weight. They attributed these improvements to the presence of calcium and phosphorous in the WCES used to fortify their feeds. Calcium extracted from WCES was added to the diets of old laying hens for seven weeks. The fowls recorded improved egg productivity, more calcium and phosphorous in the serum, better egg quality (egg weight, albumen height, yolk colour, shell strength, and shell thickness), and superior bone mineral density. The noticed improvements were traced to the addition of WCES to the hens' diets [134]. A similar study by Neijat et al. [135] also recorded an improved egg quality, egg weight, and egg productivity of egg-laying hens fed with diets fortified with crushed WCES. This further confirms the utilization of crushed WCES to improve the nutrients, bone and eggshell strength, and overall egg productivity of hens at reduced cost thereby contributing to food security and a cleaner environment.

Key conclusions:

- Application of crushed WCES as organic fertilizer improves the vegetative growth and yield of plants.
- Crushed WCES subjected to high-temperature treatment is used in animal feeds production.
- WCES is a source of nutrients bone development, improved egg productivity and egg quality of egglaying hens.
- The utilization of WCES in the agricultural sector will ensure improved soil fertility, better egg quality and productivity, contribute to food security and contribute to a cleaner environment.

# 4 Limitations and Prospects of Chicken Eggshell Applications

Though WCES has many advantages and applications, certain obvious limitations are militating against its utilization. The textural properties of WCES inhibit its preparation and manipulation processes thereby limiting its applications. The high impact strength and toughness of WCES prevent sufficient development of active surface area and pores. This condition reduces the specific surface area available for catalytic activity and impedes its utilization as a catalyst. One of the ways to counter this limitation is to subject the WCES powder to a well-controlled method of synthesis to ensure optimal specific surface area with substantively developed pores. This is one of the reasons why it is important to subject WCES to various modification techniques to adjust the specific surface area, make more pores and channels available, and proper positioning of the active catalytic surfaces [136].

The low toxicity and substantial efficacy of Ca derived from WCES are never in doubt and have made the resource a viable ingredient for various medical and pharmaceutical applications. However, investigations are continuing on the effectiveness of calcium-containing supplements for the management of osteoporosis and bone fracture. There is a likelihood of reappearance of cardiovascular and gastrointestinal cases as well as renal calculi when calcium derived from eggshells was used [137]. Also, ingestion of calcium supplements without corresponding normalizing calcium metabolism has been discovered to result in severe consequences in certain cases. More detailed investigations are still needed on the benefits of amorphous  $CaCO_3$  on bone grafting and osteogenesis. Some studies have shown the preference of crystalline  $CaCO_3$  over the amorphous compound. The application of more detailed structural characterization parameters on microscopic, mesoscopic, and molecular scales are recommended [138]. There are technological challenges in separating the eggshell membrane from the shell. This has resulted in the limitation in the investigation of the applications of eggshell membranes and the shell, separately. The deployment of cryo-grinding and homogenization is being proposed.

In terms of the physical consumption of WCES, it must be stressed that swallowing large fragments of eggshells might injure the throat and oesophagus. Chicken eggshells must be pulverized into a fine powder before consumption. Also, chicken eggshells may be contaminated with bacteria like Salmonella enteritidis. To incapacitate the bacteria, eggshells must be boiled before consumption. Chicken eggshells may contain some amount of aluminum, lead, cadmium, mercury and other toxic metals. The consumption of these metals impacts human health and predispose consumers to serious health challenges. These gravely limit the utilization of WCES for food fortification and supplements. The processing of WCES to utilizable form is not totally carbon neutral. The thermal decomposition of CaCO<sub>3</sub> to extract CaO also yield  $CO_2$  and contributes to global emission.

Going forward, significant opportunities exist for the modification and deployment of chicken eggshells for various applications. There is increased interest in the use of tools of mechanochemistry to advance the application of WCES. The broad application of ball milling in WCES for the formation of nanophase, synthesis of bioceramics and production of composite materials need to be further investigated. A recent breakthrough by Sari et al. [139] where calcined WCES powder was deployed to catalyze the biogas production process needs to be further explored.

## **5** Conclusions

The increased development of the egg industry in recent decades due to population explosion and increased nutritional awareness has also given rise to the generation of more chicken eggshells. Waste chicken eggshell is a natural resource with significant hidden and untapped potentials. Bearing in mind that WCES is one of the most generated food wastes and the 15th leading cause of environmental pollution, the utilization for myriads of applications will ensure the sustainable development of our planet. This review showcases the utilization of chicken eggshells in biodiesel synthesis, construction industry, wastewater purification, soil remediation, food supplements, and fortification, as well as therapeutics and pharmaceutical applications. The fact that a substantial number of publications on the utilization of waste chicken eggshells were published in the last few years indicates the level of interest the subject has attracted among various researchers globally.

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