



Novia Sumardi &lt;novia@ft.unsri.ac.id&gt;

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## [Energies] Manuscript ID: energies-1892839 - Review Request

1 pesan

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**Energies Editorial Office** <energies@mdpi.com> 18 Agustus 2022 pukul 15.10  
Balas Ke: Connie Shu <connie.shu@mdpi.com>  
Kepada: Novia Novia <novia@ft.unsri.ac.id>  
Cc: Energies Editorial Office <energies@mdpi.com>, Connie Shu <connie.shu@mdpi.com>

Dear Dr. Novia,

We have received the following paper, submitted to Energies (<https://www.mdpi.com/journal/energies/>).

Type of manuscript: Review

Title: The Use of Different Pretreatment Techniques for Bioethanol Production from Promising Lignocellulosic Biomasses: A Review

We kindly invite you to review this paper and evaluate its suitability for publication in Energies. The article abstract is available at the end of this message.

If you choose to accept this invitation, we would appreciate receiving your comments within 10 days. Please let us know if you are likely to need more time to complete your review.

Please click on the link below to let us know if you will be able to provide a review and access the full manuscript and review report form.

<https://susy.mdpi.com/user/review/review/29636107/jK76PsuX>

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<https://www.mdpi.com/reviewers>.

Please disclose any potential conflicts of interest you might have concerning the manuscript's contents or the authors.

If you are not able to review this manuscript, we kindly ask you to decline by clicking on the above link such that we can continue processing this submission. We would also appreciate any feedback you can provide at this time (i.e., your general impression regarding the quality of this manuscript)

and any suggestions for alternative expert reviewers.

Energies is an open access journal of MDPI. Thank you very much for your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,  
Ms. Connie Shu  
Assistant Editor  
MDPI Branch Office, Beijing  
Suite 305, Zhongjia Mansion, Building No.13,  
Taiyangyuan Community, Dazhongsi East Road,  
Haidian District, 100098 Beijing, China  
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Manuscript details:

Journal: Energies

Manuscript ID: energies-1892839

Type of manuscript: Review

Title: The Use of Different Pretreatment Techniques for Bioethanol Production from Promising Lignocellulosic Biomasses: A Review

Authors: Maria El Hage, Hiba N. Rajha, Zoulikha Maache-Rezzoug, Mohamed Koubaa \*, Nicolas Louka

Abstract: While world energy demand has certainly decreased with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the demand has been significantly

on the rise again since 2021, all as the world's fossil fuel resources are depleting. It is known that these resources emit greenhouse gases (GHG), which are the leading cause for the climate crisis, with the manufacturing and energy sectors as its main culprits. However, an important information to note is the interrelation that exists between energy demand, global warming, and another contributing sector: the agricultural one. The latter impacts global warming through GHG emissions and is conversely affected by the climate crisis in several ways. Additionally, the agricultural sector is a source of various wastes that subsequently affect health, food safety, and the environment. Therefore, a paradigm shift towards more sustainable energy alternatives and waste management technologies is required. One advantageous solution is the energetic valorization of lignocellulosic biomass (LCB) which can also originate from agricultural wastes. The biomass consists of cellulose, hemicellulose, and lignin, which are sources of fermentable sugars that can be used for bioethanol production. However, ease of fermentation requires the pretreatment of the biomass for its successful conversion to bioethanol. Henceforth, this review compares recent pretreatment techniques applied to promising lignocellulosic biomasses.

Keywords: lignocellulosic biomass; pretreatment; energy conversion

Note: We discourage reviewers from recommending citation of their own work when not clearly necessary to improve the quality of the manuscript under review. Please state in your comments to the editor if you recommend citation of your own work and the reason for this recommendation.

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Novia Sumardi &lt;novia@ft.unsri.ac.id&gt;

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## [Energies] Manuscript ID: energies-1892839 - Review Request Accepted

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**energies@mdpi.com** <energies@mdpi.com>

18 Agustus 2022 pukul 16.35

Kepada: Novia Novia <novia@ft.unsri.ac.id>

Cc: Connie Shu <connie.shu@mdpi.com>

Dear Dr. Novia,

Thank you very much for agreeing to review this manuscript:

Manuscript ID: energies-1892839

Type of manuscript: Review

Title: The Use of Different Pretreatment Techniques for Bioethanol Production from Promising Lignocellulosic Biomasses: A Review

Authors: Maria El Hage, Hiba N. Rajha, Zoulikha Maache-Rezzoug, Mohamed Koubaa \*, Nicolas Louka

The review report form can be found here:

<https://susy.mdpi.com/user/review/review/29636107/jK76PsuX>

The review report due date is: 28 August 2022

To ensure your anonymity throughout the peer review process, please do not include any identifying information in your review report either in the comments or in the metadata of any files that you upload. Please check the Guidelines for Reviewers: <https://www.mdpi.com/reviewers>

We look forward to receiving your valuable comments.

Kind regards,

Ms. Connie Shu

Assistant Editor

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Taiyangyuan Community, Dazhongsi East Road,

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Journal [Energies \(https://www.mdpi.com/journal/energies\)](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/energies) (ISSN 1996-1073)

Manuscript ID [energies-1892839](#)

Type [Review](#)

Title [The Use of Different Pretreatment Techniques for Bioethanol Production from Promising Lignocellulosic Biomasses: A Review \(https://www.mdpi.com/1996-1073/15/19/6912\)](https://www.mdpi.com/1996-1073/15/19/6912)

Authors [Maria El Hage](#) , [Hiba N. Rajha](#) , [Zoulikha Maache-Rezzoug](#) , [Mohamed Koubaa \\*](#) , [Nicolas Louka](#)

Abstract While world energy demand has certainly decreased with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the demand has been significantly on the rise again since 2021, all as the world's fossil fuel resources are depleting. It is known that these resources emit greenhouse gases (GHG), which are the leading cause for the climate crisis, with the manufacturing and energy sectors as its main culprits. However, an important information to note is the interrelation that exists between energy demand, global warming, and another contributing sector: the agricultural one. The latter impacts global warming through GHG emissions and is conversely affected by the climate crisis in several ways. Additionally, the agricultural sector is a source of various wastes that subsequently affect health, food safety, and the environment. Therefore, a paradigm shift towards more sustainable energy alternatives and waste management technologies is required. One advantageous solution is the energetic valorization of lignocellulosic biomass (LCB) which can also originate from agricultural wastes. The

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Major [\(/user/review/review/29636107/jK76PsuX?report=21900384\)](/user/review/review/29636107/jK76PsuX?report=21900384) (28 August 2022) (includes author's reply [\(/user/review/review/29636107/jK76PsuX?report=21900384#authorReply\)](/user/review/review/29636107/jK76PsuX?report=21900384#authorReply))  
Accept [\(/user/review/review/29636107/jK76PsuX?report=22432672\)](/user/review/review/29636107/jK76PsuX?report=22432672) (9 September 2022)

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Reviewer 1

Review Report (round1) [\(/user/review/other/29636107/jK76PsuX?report\\_id=21848267\)](/user/review/other/29636107/jK76PsuX?report_id=21848267) (Accept after minor revision)

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Reviewer 2

Review Report (round1) [\(/user/review/other/29636107/jK76PsuX?report\\_id=21894504\)](/user/review/other/29636107/jK76PsuX?report_id=21894504) (Accept after minor revision)

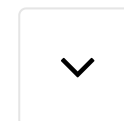
Review Report Form

**Reviewer's Information** (will not be revealed to authors)

Name Dr. Novia Novia

Email [novia@ft.unsri.ac.id](mailto:novia@ft.unsri.ac.id)

Website



<https://sciprofiles.com/profile/noviaunsri>  
(<https://sciprofiles.com/profile/noviaunsri>)

Affiliation Departement of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering,  
Universitas Sriwijaya, Jl. Raya Palembang-Prabumulih KM 32  
Inderalaya Ogan Ilir (OI), Sumatera Selatan, Indonesia 30662

Research aqueous ammonia; hydrogen peroxide; lignin; rice husk; pretreatment;  
Keywords Kinetics; Candida; coconut water (*Cocos nucifera* L.); Phenotypic; dna  
sequencing; bioethanol; Biofuel; cfd modelling; lignocellulosic biomass;  
energy conversion

### Report 1 [Hide Report and Author Response \[ - \]](#)

#### Overall Recommendation

- Accept in present form
- Accept after minor revision
- Reconsider after major revision
- Reject

#### Quality of English Language

- English very difficult to understand/incomprehensible
- Extensive editing of English language and style required
- Moderate English changes required
- English language and style are fine/minor spell check required
- I am not qualified to assess the quality of English in this paper

Is the work a significant contribution to the field?



Is the work well organized and comprehensively described?



Is the work scientifically sound and not misleading?



Are there appropriate and adequate references to related and previous work?





Is the English used correct and readable?



Comments and Suggestions for Authors    Review of the paper entitled: The Use of Different Pretreatment Techniques for Bioethanol Production from Promising 2 Lignocellulosic Biomasses: A Review (with manuscript number: 1892839). The manuscript  
More...

Yes    No

Do you have any potential conflict of interest with regards to this paper?       

Did you detect plagiarism?       

Did you detect inappropriate self-citations by authors?       

Do you have any other ethical concerns about this study?       

Comments for Editors (will not be revealed to authors)    Review of the paper entitled: The Use of Different Pretreatment Techniques for Bioethanol Production from Promising 2 Lignocellulosic Biomasses: A Review (with the manuscript number: 1892839). The manuscript  
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**Author response to report 1:**

Author's Notes    All authors would like to thank the Referees for their meticulous attention and suggestions, which have helped shape this paper. All recommendations, changes, and specific comments were taken into consideration, and the paper was modified accordingly. The text has been edited as recommended. Kindly find below a detailed list of the revisions and comments throughout the text:



**Reviewer #3:**

Review of the paper entitled: The Use of Different Pretreatment Techniques for Bioethanol Production from Promising 2 Lignocellulosic Biomasses: A Review (with manuscript number: 1892839). The manuscript still needs improvement in all parts of the manuscript. Therefore, the manuscript cannot be recommended in its current form. A major revision is required.

**Comment 1:**

Following the title, comparing the different kinds of pretreatment with other biomass is better. Examples of pretreatment are alkali pretreatment, hydrothermal pretreatment, deep eutectic solvents (DESs) pretreatment, ammonia fiber explosion, and so on. However, the manuscript is too simple and discusses pretreatment technology for various biomass. What about the following process to produce bioethanol, such as hydrolysis and fermentation? What are the recommendation and future scope? It should be explained in one heading.

**Response 1:**

We acknowledge that the information could have been divided as proposed in the comment, however, in relation to the number of articles that have been compared, we found their current division to be best, especially since the comparison between different elements was not easily feasible. As for the following processes, we noticed that these most recent experiments have not all carried out hydrolysis and/or fermentation following pretreatment. However, all of them highlight the



potential for bioethanol production following pretreatment. An overall comparison between the experiments that have completed the full process and produced the highest concentrations of bioethanol has been made in a separate paragraph (section 8. Ethanol Production Overview). The following paragraph was added:

“To reiterate, a high ethanol titer equal to 76.92 g/L was obtained from the fermentation of chemically pretreated industrial hemp using NaOH and process optimization [60], just as an ethanol concentration of 70.6 g/L was obtained from chemically and thermally pretreated corn stover using Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> and an autoclave [72]. In contrast, 44.2 g/L of ethanol was produced from the fermentation of chemically pretreated rice straw using NNMO [83], in addition to 43.1 g/L of bioethanol produced following fermentation of chemically treated wheat straw using [TEA] [H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>] [95]. As for sugarcane bagasse, a high ethanol concentration of 77.51 g/L was produced from chemical and optimized thermal pretreatment of the biomass [102]. Among the different pretreatments of barley straw, an ethanol concentration of 50 g/L was obtained from steam-exploded biomass [107], while about 16 g/L were obtained from microwave pretreated rye stillage, 13 g/L of ethanol from bamboo residues, and 75.6 g/L of steam-exploded Eucalyptus sawdust [108,110,114]. These recent experiments highlight once again the efficiency of chemical pretreatment of lignocellulosic biomasses. They also confirm the possibility of obtaining high ethanol concentrations from these biomasses, thus confirming its importance as an alternative energy source.”



**Comment 2:**

The English language must be thoroughly revised throughout the manuscript. All sections (Abstract, Introduction, and so on) should be corrected or rewritten to eliminate numerous stylistic and grammatical errors. The essential lack of critical discussion of the review point makes it difficult to assess the manuscript properly and reduces its value. For review articles, it is better to use citations of at least 100 pieces.

**Response 2:**

All language corrections have been made according to the review form.

Obviously, the more references the wider the review. For the current review, we added other articles and have a total of 115 references cited. More discussion was also added.

**Comment 3:** The author must use “the right template” to write the manuscript. Please download it from the website.

**Response 3:** The template used was downloaded from the website and the fonts were applied according to the type of text and its corresponding style.

**Comment 4:** Although refining lignocellulose wastes are at the top of interest, several issues should be addressed before the manuscript publication.

**Response 4:** All issues raised by the reviewer are inserted.



Overall Recommendation

- Accept in present form
- Accept after minor revision
- Reconsider after major revision
- Reject

Quality of English Language

- English very difficult to understand/incomprehensible
- Extensive editing of English language and style required
- Moderate English changes required
- English language and style are fine/minor spell check required
- I am not qualified to assess the quality of English in this paper

- Is the work a significant contribution to the field? ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
- Is the work well organized and comprehensively described? ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
- Is the work scientifically sound and not misleading? ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
- Are there appropriate and adequate references to related and previous work? ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
- Is the English used correct and readable? ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Comments and Suggestions for Authors

The authors addressed my concerns and carefully revised the article, and I recommended publication as it is.

Yes No

Do you have any potential conflict of interest with regards to this paper?

Did you detect plagiarism?



Did you detect inappropriate self-citations by authors? ( ) (x)

Do you have any other ethical concerns about this study? ( ) (x)

Comments for Editors (will not be revealed to authors) I recommended publication as it is.



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The English language must be thoroughly revised throughout the manuscript. All sections (Abstract, Introduction, and so on) should be corrected or rewritten to eliminate numerous stylistic and grammatical errors. The essential lack of critical discussion of the review point makes it difficult to assess the manuscript properly and reduces its value. For review articles, it is better to use citations of at least 100 pieces.

The author must use “the right template” to write the manuscript. Please download it from the website.

Although refining lignocellulose wastes are at the top of interest, several issues should be addressed before the manuscript publication.

### **Abstract:**

The abstract should focus more on pretreatment methods to produce bioethanol than others.

Line 16: Please change “demand” to “need” and delete “again”.

Line 16: Please delete “its” and add “the”.

Line 19: Please change “important” to “essential piece of”; and “to note is the interrelation that exists” to “is the interrelation”.

Line 22: Please delete “subsequently”.

Line 24: Please delete “advantageous” and add “good”.

### **Introduction**

Line 34: Please change “the burning of fossil fuels, which results in the emission of greenhouse gases (GHG)” to “burning fossil fuels, which results in greenhouse gases (GHG) emission”.

Line 38: Please change “as a result of” to “due to”.

Line 41-42: Please change “has indeed reported that fossil energy demand has declined in 2020 (Figure 1), but also highlighted that the demand” to “reported that fossil energy demand has declined in 2020 (Figure 1), but also highlighted that the demand”.

Line 48: Please change “In order to” to “To”.

Line 48-49: Please change “and they include” to “including”.

Line 49: Please change “All” to “However, all”.

Line 51: Please change “are” to “is”.

Line 54: Please add “the” before “digestion of foods” and delete “present”.

Line 57: Please delete “the”.

Line 59-60: Please change “emit 59 7.1 Gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub> eq yearly, which corresponds” to “7.1 Gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub> eq yearly, corresponding”.

Line 64-65: Please change “11% GHG were emitted by the United 64 States” to “the United States emitted 11% GHG”.

Line 69: Please change “priority of world leaders is to be able” to “of world leaders is”.

Line 71: Please delete “in its turn”

Line 72: effects

Line 73: Many agricultural practices excessively exploit the earth’s natural resources, further to “In addition, many agricultural farming practices excessively exploit the earth’s natural resources,”.

Line 75: Please change “that the planet is facing today, there have” to “facing the planet today, there has”.

Line 77: Please change “an increasing” to rising.



Line 81-82: Please delete “more specifically”.

Line 83-84: Please delete “in itself” or “an”.

Line 85: Please delete “particular”.

Line 89: Please delete “and are”.

Line 94: Please change “was” to “is”.

Line 106: Please change “drawn back” to “due to”.

Line 116: Please change “different to “various other”

Line 118: “techniques”, change “on” to “in”.

Line 119: Please change “taken into consideration” to “considered”.

Line 121: Please add “the” for efficiency of pretreatment.

### **Pretreatment of Hemp Biomass**

Line 135: Please delete “in order”.

Line 138: Please change “with the goal of increasing” to “to increase”.

Line 142: Please delete “of them”

Line 148: Please change “which also enhances” to “enhancing”.

Line 163: Please change “appear to also” to “appear also to”

Line 163: Please change “the course of 24 h at 40°C, and tested four different fungi,” to “24 h at 40°C, and four other fungi were tested,

Line 182: Please delete “were”

Line 185: Please change “be a result of” to “result from”.

Line 192: Please change “were” to “was”

### **Pretreatment of Corn Stover**

Page 4; Line 4: Please change “in order to” to “to”.

Page 4; Line 6: Please change “, but” to “. Still,”.

Page 4; Line 20: Please delete “while”

Page 4; Line 22: Please change “then performed, either” to “performed”.

Page 4; Line 23: Please change “When it comes to” to “Regarding”.

Page 4; Line 35: Please change “which finally resulted” to “resulting”.

Page 4; Line 38: Please delete “which was”.

Page 5; Line 8: Please change “the inclusion of” to “including”.

Page 5; Line 11: Please change “the sugar that is preferential” to “the preferential sugar”.

### **Pretreatment of Rice Straw**

Page 3; Line 3: Please delete “similarly”.

Page 3; Line 4: Please change “prior to” to “before”.

Page 3; Line 13: Please delete “terms of”.

Page 3; Line 16: Please change “to” to “with”.

Page 3; Line 19: Please change “with the most success” to “successfully”.

Page 3; Line 22: Please change “, while” to “. At the same time,”.

Page 3; Line 22: Please change “utilized for the removal” to “used to remove”.

Page 3; Line 26: Please delete “in order”.

Page 3; Line 45: Please change “and” to “. It”.

Page 4; Line 3: Please delete “therefore”

Page 4; Line 5: Please change “It can be concluded” to “Therefore, it can be concluded”.

Page 4; Line 11: Please change “and encourages” to “, encouraging”.

### **Pretreatment of Wheat Straw**

Line 5: Please change “in the removal of” to “removing”.

Line 8: Please change “increasing” to “increased”.

Line 18: Please change “as well as” to “and”.

Line 19: Please change “favorable” to “promising”.

Line 25: Please delete “respectively”.

Line 30: Please add “the” before “concentration of the hydrolyzed sample”.

Line 34: Please delete “the course of”.

Line 49: Please change “with the goal of fermenting” to “to ferment”.

Line 54: Please change “In terms of” to “Regarging”.

Line 55: Please change “The use of” to “Using”.

### **Pretreatment of Sugarcane Bagasse**

Line 10: Please change to “advantages”.

Line 44: Please change “which represents” to “representing”.

Line 46: Please change “has underwent” to “undergone”.

### **Conclusions**

Line 79: Please delete “in order” and change “further confirm” to “confirm further”.

Line 82: Please delete “to be able”



Novia Sumardi &lt;novia@ft.unsri.ac.id&gt;

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## [Energies] Manuscript ID: energies-1892839 - Revised Review Reminder

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**Energies Editorial Office** <energies@mdpi.com> 8 September 2022 pukul 14.34  
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Cc: Energies Editorial Office <energies@mdpi.com>, Bobo Mao <bobo.mao@mdpi.com>

Dear Dr. Novia,

Thank you for accepting to review the revised version of the following manuscript:

Type of manuscript: Review

Title: The Use of Different Pretreatment Techniques for Bioethanol Production from Promising Lignocellulosic Biomasses: A Review

Journal: Energies

Our system indicated that you started your review on 6 September, could you kindly submit your report if it is complete? If you need more time to complete your review please do not hesitate to let us know.

You can submit your comments at the following link:

<https://susy.mdpi.com/user/review/review/29636107/jK76PsuX>

We greatly appreciate the voluntary work of reviewers and would be pleased to respond to any questions or comments. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards,

Ms. Bobo Mao

Assistant Editor

E-mail: [bobo.mao@mdpi.com](mailto:bobo.mao@mdpi.com)

Skype: live:.cid.c26eea1c2a38bfe

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Novia Sumardi <novia@ft.unsri.ac.id>

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## [Energies] Manuscript ID: energies-1892839 - Revised Version Review Request

2 pesan

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**Energies Editorial Office** <energies@mdpi.com> 6 September 2022 pukul 16.53  
Balas Ke: Bobo Mao <bobo.mao@mdpi.com>  
Kepada: Novia Novia <novia@ft.unsri.ac.id>  
Cc: Energies Editorial Office <energies@mdpi.com>, Bobo Mao <bobo.mao@mdpi.com>

Dear Dr. Novia,

You recently kindly reviewed the original version of the following manuscript, submitted to Energies:

Title: The Use of Different Pretreatment Techniques for Bioethanol Production from Promising Lignocellulosic Biomasses: A Review  
Authors: Maria El Hage, Hiba N. Rajha, Zoulikha Maache-Rezzoug, Mohamed Koubaa \*, Nicolas Louka

The authors have now provided a revised version along with a cover letter in which they address the referees' comments.

Please let us know, within 3 days, if you believe the manuscript has been sufficiently improved to warrant publication in Energies. If you need more time to check the revised version, please let the Editorial Office know in advance. Please click on the link below to access the revised manuscript and the review report form:

<https://susy.mdpi.com/user/review/review/29636107/jK76PsuX>

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards,

Ms. Bobo Mao  
Assistant Editor  
E-mail: [bobo.mao@mdpi.com](mailto:bobo.mao@mdpi.com)  
Skype: live:.cid.c26eea1c2a38bfe

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**Novia Sumardi** <[novia@ft.unsri.ac.id](mailto:novia@ft.unsri.ac.id)>  
Kepada: Bobo Mao <[bobo.mao@mdpi.com](mailto:bobo.mao@mdpi.com)>

6 September 2022 pukul 19.05

Dear Ms. Mao  
I would review and send back as soon as possible  
Regards  
Novia  
[Kutipan teks disembunyikan]



Novia Sumardi &lt;novia@ft.unsri.ac.id&gt;

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## [Energies] Manuscript ID: energies-1892839 - Acknowledgement - Review Received

1 pesan

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**energies@mdpi.com** <energies@mdpi.com> 28 Agustus 2022 pukul 10.08  
Balas Ke: Bobo Mao <bobo.mao@mdpi.com>, Energies Editorial Office  
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Kepada: Novia Novia <novia@ft.unsri.ac.id>  
Cc: Energies Editorial Office <energies@mdpi.com>, Bobo Mao  
<bobo.mao@mdpi.com>

Dear Dr. Novia,

A short note to thank you very much for your review of the following manuscript:

Manuscript ID: energies-1892839

Title: The Use of Different Pretreatment Techniques for Bioethanol Production from Promising Lignocellulosic Biomasses: A Review

Authors: Maria El Hage, Hiba N. Rajha, Zoulikha Maache-Rezzoug, Mohamed Koubaa \*, Nicolas Louka

If we decide to ask the authors for revisions, we will send you the revised version soon. To help us improve our services, we kindly ask you to fill in our online survey on the peer-review process at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/reviewerfeedbackmdpi>

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Kind regards,  
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Assistant Editor  
E-mail: [bobo.mao@mdpi.com](mailto:bobo.mao@mdpi.com)  
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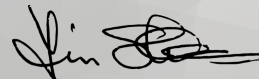
We are pleased to confirm that

*Novia Novia*

has reviewed 1 paper for the following MDPI journal in 2022:

*Energies*

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Dr. Shu-Kun Lin, Publisher and President  
Basel, 28 August 2022



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