



mountains2016

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I International
Conference on Research
for Sustainable Development
in Mountain Regions

Book of Abstracts



**I International Conference on Research for Sustainable
Development in Mountain Regions: Book of Abstracts**

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ValorNatural®: a Project and a Platform

Isabel C.F.R. Ferreira¹, Maria Filomena Barreiro², Luís S. Pais²

¹*Mountain Research Centre (CIMO), Polytechnic Institute of Bragança, Bragança, Portugal,* ²*Laboratory of Separation and Reaction Engineering (LSRE), Associate Laboratory LSRE/LCM, Polytechnic Institute of Bragança, Bragança, Portugal*

The use of synthetic additives (preservatives and colourants), in the food and cosmetic industries, is a current major concern, from both the human health and environmental points of view. Although considered a promising safer alternative, the use of natural additives still faces some drawbacks and limitations. A specific problem is the difficulty to find abundant natural sources, preferably based on sustainable cultivation, and adequate green and environmental friendly extraction technologies. Additionally, huge volumes of residues from the forestry and food industries, currently considered as low-value by-products, are underexploited in applications such as energy production and/or as compost. This context is emphasized also by an increasing consumer' awareness and interest in "chemopreventive nutrition", being highly receptive to functional foods with specific health-promoting components (nutraceuticals). The challenge to full exploit the potential of these high added value ingredients derived from natural sources, including mountain matrices, requires the development of integrated multidisciplinary solutions that will consider issues from cultivation to extraction, separation and stabilization processes. All the implemented strategies must be supported by reliable and expedite chemical and biological analysis and methodologies for final products validation. Furthermore, the economy of mountain regions, typically with high levels of diversity in natural matrices (e.g., mushrooms and plants), will strongly benefit from the development of new products based on natural ingredients. Herein, it will be presented ValorNatural®, which is a project aiming at developing and demonstrating extraction and separation methodologies, suitable to be scalable for industrial use, for the production of functional ingredients (preserving, flavouring, colouring and bio-active agents) for the food and cosmetic industries, from sustainable natural sources. Case studies developed by the research group will be discussed. Furthermore, a platform to support companies working in this field, under development in the Brigantia EcoPark (The Science and Technology Park of Bragança), will be also presented.



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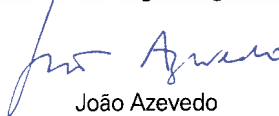
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Isabel C.F.R. Ferreira, Maria Filomena Barreiro, Luís S. Pais, Mountain Research Centre (CIMO), Polytechnic Institute of Bragança, Bragança, Portugal, Laboratory of Separation and Reaction Engineering (LSRE), Associate Laboratory LSRE/LCM, Polytechnic Institute of Bragança, Bragança, Portugal

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On behalf of the Organizing Committee,



João Azevedo

