

# The Impact of Metal/Metal Oxide Nanoparticle Formation Through Green Synthesis from Plants and Microbes: A Thorough Analysis

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The control of an atom and molecules, and its manipulations, gave rise to concept of nanotechnology domain. The formation of metal and metal oxide nanoparticles via green synthesis methods using plants and microbial systems, emphasizing their synthesis techniques and potential applications. The environmental and economic advantages of biogenic reduction processes, which leverage microbial enzymes, fungi, and plant extracts to produce nanoparticles, as opposed to traditional chemical and physical synthesis methods. The current comprehensive review focuses mainly on the green synthesis of metal and metal oxide nanoparticles using plants and microbes, from the synthesis process and parameters to their latest applications in industrial and biomedical fields. Microbe-mediated synthesis utilizes various bacteria and fungi, such as *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Aspergillus niger*, and *Fusarium oxysporum*, to produce nanoparticles like Ag, Au, and ZnO with specific biomedical applications. Similarly, plant-based synthesis involves phytochemicals from plants generate nanoparticles for antimicrobial and anticancer purposes. Microwave-assisted green synthesis, highlighting its efficiency in enhancing reaction kinetics and controlling nanoparticle characteristics. The applications of green-synthesized nanoparticles are vast, including their use in medical diagnostics, drug delivery systems, antimicrobial coatings, and environmental remediation. Meanwhile, limitations of green synthesis, includes challenges in resource availability, uniformity of nanoparticle properties, reproducibility, scalability, and potential toxicity need to focus. Yet, there are a number of obstacles that seriously restrict the use of green synthesis techniques, including the availability of resources, consistency of nanoparticle characteristics, repeatability, scalability, and possible toxicity. Addressing these obstacles and optimising the advantages will advance the safe and sustainable use of green-synthesised nanoparticles in both scientific and industrial fields.

**Keywords:** Nanoparticle; Green synthesis; Silver nanoparticle; Gold nanoparticle; Metal oxide nanoparticle.

## 1. Introduction

The current lively hood is trying to bring miniaturization everywhere which give rise to “Nano era.” Every spheres of technology has benefited due to nano science in varying form. The nanotechnology was used in ancient time without proper subject knowledge. Anyhow, the silver (AgNp) or gold (AuNp) nanoparticle (Np) aesthetic beauty is evidenced by Lycurgus cup back in fourth century AD [1]. In 1676 industrial applications of colloidal particle was reported, the colloidal gold application can be noted from 1718 [2]. In 1959, Prof. Richard Feynman entitled the famous coats on a conference “There is Plenty of Room at Bottom” that develop into nano science concept [3]. Nanotechnology is the sophisticated technological advancement of the twenty-first century when it comes to the scientific community's understanding of the molecular properties of atoms and their assembly at the nanoscale dimension range from 1-100nm [4]. The recent advances in this field have let scientists change the nanoparticles' physical, chemical, and biological properties [5]. A comprehensive inventory of all the possible uses for nanotechnology is too big and varied to get into here, but one of its most significant contributions will surely be the creation of novel and efficient medical therapies (nano-medicine) [6-8]. Nanoparticles can now be used in a wide range of fields, including drug delivery, image contrast agents, diagnostic applications, and dental implant material alloys [9–10].

The nanoparticles differ in size, shape, and internal structure. It can be spherical, cylindrical, tubular, conical, hollow core, spiral, flat, etc., and its diameters vary from 1 nm to 100 nm. The surface could have a consistent shape or show variations. Certain kinds of nanoparticles are made up of one or more loose or clumped crystal solids. These can be crystalline or amorphous [11–12]. In an effort to increase quality and lower manufacturing costs, a multitude of synthesis techniques are being created or refined. In order to enhance the optical, mechanical, physical, and chemical properties of nanoparticles, certain techniques are altered to produce specialised nanoparticles. Better nanoparticle characterization and subsequent applications are the result of significant advancements in instrumentation.

There are several physico and chemical approaches are being used for synthesising the nanoparticles. However, the method applied to produce nanoparticles by means of biogenic reduction of the metal precursors should be eco-friendly, less expensive as the same time the purity of the nanoparticles is a highly important concern as free from chemical contamination for several medical applications [13-14]. Biological approaches to synthesising nanoparticles employing microbes, enzymes, fungi, and plant extracts are environmentally benign alternatives to chemical and physical methods [15–16] (Figure 1). In this review, which concentrates on the advancements and outlines the green synthesis of nanoparticle processes that involve using plant extracts and other natural products and are therefore comparatively more environmentally friendly ways to synthesise nanoparticle.

## 2. Green synthesis- development timeline

In 1990 “Green Chemistry in Emerald” by Cathcartin was 1<sup>st</sup> report about “Green” effort in synthetic chemistry field [17]. In ancient time, the biologically prepared nanoparticle like Ayurvedic bhasmas was there in ancient time, these can be prepared in nanometer scale by two ways, the Putapaka and Kupipakwa technique which are the earliest examples of nanoparticle in the application of medical field [18]. Ayurveda nanoparticle preparation follows two routes; initially is in the form of chemical synthesis involving organic and inorganic chemical along with solvents, strong reagent, and reducing agents. The other one is green synthesis routes which involving an environmental friendly and safe synthesis manner [19–20]. Green synthesis methods in nanoparticles preferred due to its cost effective and eco-friendly nature which is always lucrative for biomedical and pharmaceutical application. Green chemistry has different advantages like safe reagent/solvent use for synthesis purpose, process of energy-efficient conversions, nanoparticles synthesis by biological process, Synthesis of nanoparticle that is eco-friendly and safer for future application [20, 21]. Synthetic method incorporates all material used in the process in to final product that has less or no toxic nature to humans and environments. Chemical product designed to preserves the efficiency of functions which will reduce toxicity.

Substance in chemical processes should be chosen to decrease the potential for chemical accident, which includes release, explosion, and fire [22]. Some of nanoparticle by green synthesis is given below which is better than nanoparticles produced by normal route by its special effect. Magnetic nanoparticle based on Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (Iron (II, III) oxide) made by One-pot solvo-thermal process using reducing agent ethylene glycol where synthesis time is 30 minutes [23]. Facile reduction leads to airstable nanoparticle formation, Co Reductions of p-nitrophenol -p-aminophenol by sodium borohydride catalyst; surfactant used is cobalt sulfate using tetrabutyl ammonium bromide and reductant as sodium borohydride [24]. AuNp and AgNp nanoparticle prepared by Calcium alginate gel bead using a stabilizer and reductant, Green photochemical method is useful for biopolymer-based solid phase, catalyst used are efficient, ease of preparation, environmental-friendly, cost-effective and stable [25]. Ag nanoparticles by using cow milk as reductant. Protein in cow milk reduces Ag<sup>+</sup> ion; it is efficient phyto-pathogen inhibitor; simple, fast, easily available and less expensive [26]. AuNp synthesised by reducing agent as Amine and stabilizer Control the formation of structures during synthesis [27].

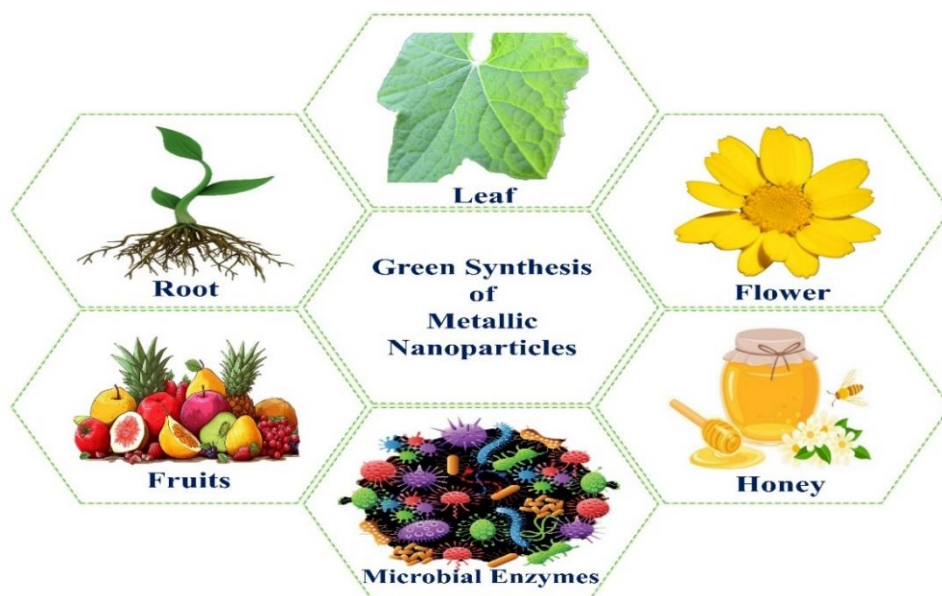


Figure 1 Sources of metallic/Metal oxide nanoparticle for green synthesis process

### 3. Different roots of green synthesis

#### 3.1. Microbe-mediated Green Synthesis

Microbes are the first life forms on Earth, and they are the source of all other kinds of life. They remained the most common type of life on Earth for billions of years, long before any plants or animals existed [28, 29]. Because of their genetic diversities, presence of ubiquitous, easiness of availability, screening, cultivation and maintenance, and tailoring the functional and structural property nanoparticles microbes were consider as the fair choice for green synthesis of nanoparticles [20]. Since the diverse biocatalyst presence in microbe has made the method most appropriate and selective. Inorganic materials are generated either extra or intra cellular by unicellular and multicellular microorganisms [30]. In the attempt to create novel materials, microbes such as fungus and bacteria that possess the capacity to regulate the creation of metallic nanoparticles [15]. The use of microbial resources in nanoparticle synthesis is comparatively favourable because the proteins released by microbes improve the stability of the nanoparticles. Moreover, the vital enzyme and protein were present in microbes as a large amount as reducing agent influences the fast bio-reduction for nanoparticle synthesis [31, 32].

Microbes possess multiple reductase enzymes that transform metal salts into metal nanoparticles through processes of accumulation and detoxification [33]. Recent studies have demonstrated the ability of bacteria to produce AgNp and AuNp nanoparticles. These bacteria include *Pseudomonas deppenii*, *Visella oriza*, *Bacillus methylotrophicus*, *Bhargavaea indica*, and *Brevibacterium frigoritolerans*. Microorganisms of other different genera, including *Lactobacillus*, *Bacillus*, *Pseudomonas*, *Streptomyces*, *Klebsiella*, *Enterobacter*, *Escherichia*, *Aeromonas*, *Corynebacterium*, *Weissella*, *Rhodobacter*, *Rhodococcus*, *Brevibacterium*,

Trichoderma, Desulfovibrio, Sargassum, Shewanella, Plectonemaboryanum, Pyrobaculum, and Rhodopseudomonas have also been known to synthesise metal nanoparticles [34, 35]. The microbe mediated nanoparticle’s details are given in Table 1.

Table 1 Microbe mediated metal/metal oxide nanoparticle’s green Synthesis

Species	Microbial Source	Nanoparticle	Application	References
Fungi	Fusarium oxysporum	AgNp	–	[36]
	Aspergillus niger	AgNp	Antibacterial activity	[37]
	Fusarium solani	AgNp	Antimicrobial agent	[38]
	Verticillium luteoalbum	AuNp	–	[39]
	Fusarium oxysporum	ZrNp	Space application as quantum dots	[40]
	Trichoderma viride	AgNp	Antibacterial activity	[41]
	Aspergillus fumigates	ZnONp (Zinc Oxide)	Industrial, medical and agricultural sectors	[42]
	Rhizopus oryzae	MgONp (Magnesium oxide)	Agricultural pesticides	[43]
	Rhizopus stolonifer	AgNp	Antifungal	[44, 45]
	Penicillium fellutanum	AgNp	Antibacterial	[46]
	Coriolus versicolor	AgNp	–	[47]
	Phaenerochaete chrysosporium	AgNp	–	[48]
	Fusarium oxysporum	AgNp	Antibacterial, Antitumor	[49]
Yeast	Schizosaccharomyces pombe	CdSNp (Cadmium sulphide)	–	[50]
	Pichia jadinii	AuNp	–	[51]
	Yarrowia lipolytica	AuNp, AgNp	Antibacterial	[52, 53]
	Saccharomycetes. cerevisiae	AgNp	–	[54]
Bacteria	Pseudomonas aeruginosa	AuNp	Bioremediation	[50]
	Bacillus subtilis	AgNp& AuNp	Antimicrobial against clinical pathogens isolated	[55, 56]
	Escherichia coli	CdSNp	Antimicrobail	[57]
	Bacillus cereus	AgNp	Antibacterial activity	[58]
	Pseudomonas stutzeri	AgNp, AuNp	Antimicrobail	[59, 60]
	Rhodobacter sphaeroides	AgNp	–	[61]
	Streptomyces aizuneusis	AgNp	Antifungal, Anti-larval	[62]
Virus	Tobacco mosaic virus	AgNp, AuNp	-	[63, 64]
	Bacteriophage	AgNp, AuNp	Anti-biofilm	[65, 66]
Algae	Chlorella vulgaris	AuNp	Antimicrobial	[67]
	Scenedesmus sp.	AgNp	–	[68]
	Spirulina platensis	AuNp, AgNp	Anti micorbial and Anti oral pathogen	[69, 70]
	Sargassum wightii	AuNp, AgNp	Antibacterial, Anticancer	[71, 72]

3.2. Plant Based Green Synthesis

A usual approach in green synthesis of nanoparticles is use phytochemical from plant extract, carbohydrate, and biomolecule as capping or reducing agent for nanoparticle’s preparation [73]. Among all common bio-reductant, plant extract seems to be more useful than other biology resource. Plant-based method is a simple technique where plant extract is mixed with a metal salt, and reactions finish in minute to a few hours at room temperature (Figure 2). A solution of metal salt is reduced into its nanoparticle [74]. By using plant extracts, growth of *Nanotechnology Perceptions* Vol. 20 No. S10 (2024)

size of nanoparticles can be controlled by changing conditions of the synthesis like reducing agents pH, concentrations, reactant mixing ratio and temperature [75].

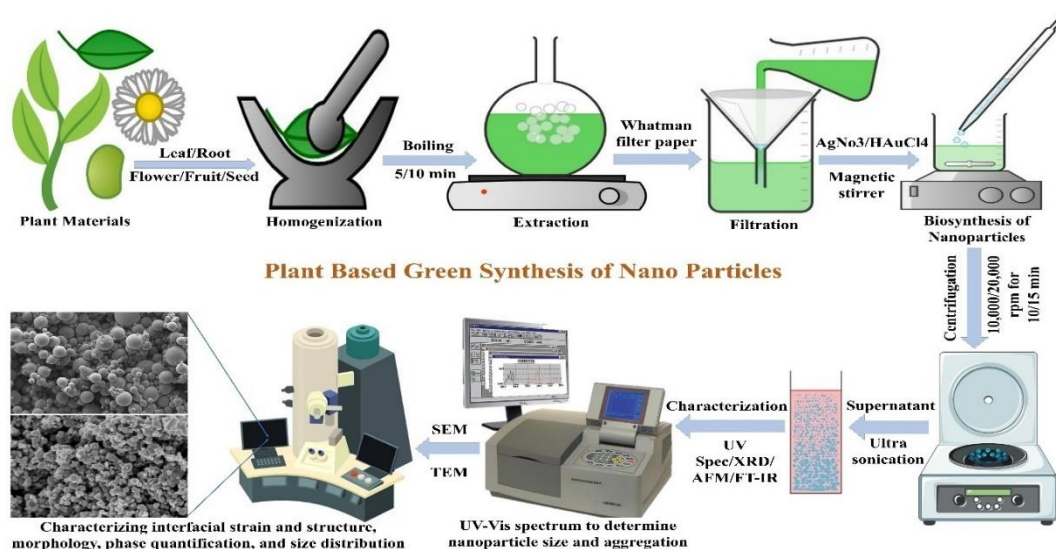


Figure 2 Plant based Green synthesis of nanoparticle general concept

Apart from their exceptional efficacy in green synthesis, plant-based nanoparticles also have a significant impact on other fields. They act as catalyzed processes that break down harmful contaminants in the aquatic environment for water treatment [76, 77]. Green synthesised nanoparticles are also scientifically important for their medicinal uses, including antibacterial, antifungal, anti-cancer, and illness treatment. Nanoparticles have demonstrated significant value in diagnostics and drug delivery to treat cancer and other major diseases [78–80]. The development of biomedical technologies and environmental cleanup is significantly aided by biosynthesized nanoparticles. Few of plant mediated green synthesis of nanoparticle details in Table 2.

Table 2 Plant green synthesis of metal/metal oxide nanoparticles

S.No	Plant	Nanoparticles	Application	References
1	<i>C. pumilio</i>	AgNp	Anti-aging	[81]
2	<i>A. hispidum</i> (Bristly starbur)	CuONp (Copper oxide)	Antibacterial	[82]
3	<i>A. vulgaris</i> (Mugwort)	AgNp	Antifungal	[83]
4	<i>P. undulata</i> (False feabane)	AuNp, AgNp	Antimicrobial, Antioxidant, and Cytotoxic Activities	[84][51]
6	<i>A. hispidum</i> (Bristly starbur)	CuONp, AgNp	Antibacterial	[82][85]
7	<i>Averrhoa bilimbi</i>	AuNp, AgNp	Antioxidant	[86, 87]
8	<i>C. intybus</i> (Chicory)	AgNp	Antimicrobial, Anticancer	[88]
9	<i>Aristolochia bracteolata</i> lam	AgNp, ZnONp	Antimicrobial	[89, 90]
10	<i>Leucas aspera</i>	AgNp	Antimicrobial	[91]
11	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> (the neem tree)	CuONp, AgNp	Antimicrobial	[92, 93]
12	<i>Moringa oleifera</i>	AgNp	Antibacterial	[94]
13	<i>Cinnamomum zeylanisum</i>	AgNp and AuNp	Antibacterial	[95]
14	Olive leaf's	AgNp	Antibacterial	[96]



15	Jatropha Latex	AgNp, TiO <sub>2</sub> Np (Titanium dioxide)		[97, 98]
16	Tabernaemontana divaricate	ZnONp, AgNp	Antimicrobial	[99, 100]
17	Azadirachta indica	AgNp	Antimicrobial	[101]
18	Mangifera indica	AgNp, AuNp	Antimicrobial, Anticancer	[102, 103]
19	Alpinia katsumadai	AgNp	Antibacterial, Antioxidant	[104]
20	Budleja globosa	AgNp	-	[105]
21	Citrus sinensis	AgNp, AuNp	Anticancer, Antioxidant	[106,107]
22	Crocus sativus L.	AgNp, AuNp	Antibacterial, Antitumor	[108, 109]
23	Citrus limon	AgNp	Antimicrobial, Anti-bacterial	[110, 111]
24	Citrus limetta	AgNp	Antibacterial	[112]
25	Daucus carota (Carrot)	AgNp	Antibacterial	[113]
26	Malus Pumila (Red apple)	AgNp	Antibacterial	[114]
27	Amaranthus Tricolor L.	AgNp	Antibacterial	[115]
28	Lycopersicon esculentum	AgNp, AuNp	Anticancer	[116]
29	Hibiscus rosa sinensis	AgNp, AuNp, ZnONp	-	[117, 118]
30	Zingiber officinale	AgNp, AuNp	Antioxidant	[119, 120]

### 3.3. Microwave- assisted Green Synthesis

Green chemistry can decrease reaction's time and temperature. Compared to traditional heating methods, microwave heating has several advantages since it increases reaction kinetics and heats up quickly, which in turn leads to faster reaction rates and cleaner, higher-yielding products [121]. Microwave heating is crucial to the synthesis of nanoparticles because it improves the nucleation process, which is the first step in the creation of nanoparticles, by maintaining a regulated high temperature [122, 123]. As opposed to conventional heating, microwave heating has already been shown to manufacture nanoparticles with a greater degree of crystallinity and to provide producers with more control over the morphology and size of the nanostructures they create (Figure 3) [124, 125].

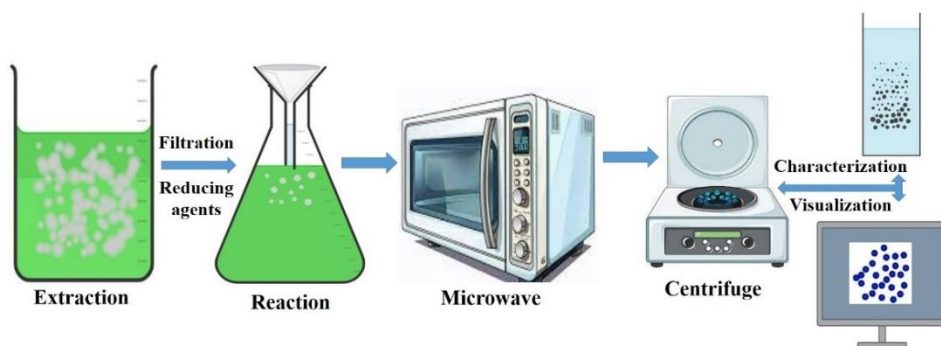


Figure 3 Microwave based green synthesis of nanoparticle illustration

Microwaves use an electromagnetic wave type that is pure energy radiating in forms of a wave propagating at light speed. Microwave propagations happen at low speed within condensed matter, than in the air/vacuum, where there is lower light speed [126, 127]. Microwave assisted nanoparticle synthesis depends on time and power, which have to be adjusted. Microwave can also assist with hydrothermal synthesis tools. The commonly used microwave frequencies in nanoparticle's preparation range from 2 to 45 GHz, in which dielectric parameter dependent

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on temperature strongly [128]. The transfer of energy between microwave and matter is much complicated. The efficient parameter includes dielectric loss (current loss), dielectric polarization, magnetic loss (induction /eddy currents), magnetic heating, and 2<sup>nd</sup> order of effect [129]. Microwave mediated nanoparticles examples are given below:

- i. AuNp by Psidium guajava Treatments of leaf extracts in gold chloride solutions followed by microwave-assisted route for suppressing enzyme actions [130].
- ii. AgNp nanoparticles by Streptomyces pigment-mediated microwaves assisted synthesis [131].
- iii. ZnONp nanoparticles by Chemical-mediated Microwave-assisted hydrothermal method [132].
- iv. CuONPs synthesized by the microwave combustion method using Moringa oleifera and Punica grantum[133].
- v. Green synthesis of silver nanoparticles from Fraxinus excelsior leaf extract using microwave [134].
- vi. A microwave-assisted green synthesis approach was applied to create the AgNp, Ag<sub>2</sub>ONp, and Ag<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Np combination [135].

#### **4. Applications of green synthesised nanoparticles**

Green-synthesized nanoparticle such as AgNp, CuNp, AuNp and magnetite nanoparticle can be used in wastewater treatment in heavy metal polluted industrial area. Usually, they implemented in removing heavy metals from wastewater and are also used in optoelectronic, electronic, energy catalytic, magnetic, and structural application [136, 137]. In automotive industries, nanoparticles were implemented in lightweight constructions, paintings and coating for windscreen and car body[138]. In textile, nonwoven industry, and fabric, nanoparticle is used in surface-processed textile and smart clothing's., nanoparticles are used in food areas for package of material, storage life sensor, additive, and fruit juice's clarifications [139, 140]. In construction industry, nanoparticle are used as flame retardant, thermal insulating agent, and as surface-functionalized building material for floor tile, wood, and roof tile, groove mortar and facade coating[20][143]. In household, nanoparticle is used as ceramic coating for odor catalyst, irons, and glass cleaner, floor, ceramic, and window [144–146].

#### **5. Biomedical field / diagnostics field**

The nanoparticles application in medicines and diagnostic areas are large , and this include use as marker for biology screening test (e.g., gold /semiconductors particle), contrast agent for MRI, and antimicrobial coating and composite material for antibacterial surface and medical device. They are made used in preparations of sunscreen, as antimicrobial agent, thermal sprays coating prostheses, in cancer therapies, and implant. They are found also in cosmetic industry, lipstick, skin cream, and toothpaste. Example of nanoparticle in medical field is Liposome PEG-stabilized liposomal system which are used as antifungal, anticancer, antibiotic drug, anesthetic and anti-inflammatory drug along with gene medicine delivery



[147, 148]. Metal nanoparticle because of their ideal physicochemical & optical property, are used largely for interactions with biological and chemical material [14]. Example Plant-mediated synthesised Ag nanoparticle used for detecting interaction between biotin and streptavidin. AgNpare used in Optical and chemo biosensors. Most importantly, nanoparticle shows anti-oxidant and antimicrobial applications such as ZnONp defence against pathogenic fungi (*Penicillium expansum* and *Botrytis cinerea*) [149, 150].  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{CeO}_2$ ,  $\text{MgO}$ , and  $\text{ZrO}_2$ Np against UTI pathogen, namely, *Enterobacter* sp., *Pseudomonas* sp., *Klebsiella* sp., *Proteus morganii*, *E.coli*, and *S. Aureus* [151]. Au nanoparticles were used in DPPH assay, nitric oxide radical scavenging, superoxide radical scavenging, and hydrogen peroxide scavenging studies are done with *Lemna minor*-mediated nanoparticles [152]

## 6. Limitations

### 6.1. Resource availability

The reductant and stabilizer which used don't meet sometimes the demand- supply ratios, that is, the interactions of solvent or media for growth of microbes or for plant extracts extraction. So, possibly particular combinations of these 2 inputs may not give the needed yield [153].

### 6.2. Uniformity

Similar kind of plants or microbial source, or non-biological source, which are used for nanoparticle synthesis shows deviation in shape, size, and other characteristics. Relying on that alternative ways for long-term applications is not fully guaranteed as a fair good way since alternative synthesis route may not always been justified [154, 155].

### 6.3. Reproducibility

There is a limitation on getting consistency of similar nanoparticle's property by giving the same resource. When employing biological source for nanoparticles synthesis, attainment of targeted property is non controllable, but chemical method can control such areas [156, 157].

### 6.4. Large-scale production

Pilot-scale nanoparticle's synthesis faces the large scale applicability challenge. Even innovative technique like sol-gel, combustion, sonochemistry, coprecipitation method, hydrothermal, and microwave-assisted methods meet with qualitative drawback in material formed in terms of crystalline quality and physical property, which are not encountered often in large scale study[20][158].

### 6.5. Toxicity

Even if there are different methods for eco-friendly green synthesis of nanoparticle that is stable for a long time period, a complete toxic-free nanoparticle which is on the environment and human safer side is a long distant dream. Reports states that many nanoparticle have toxicity against microbe (fungi and bacteria), which indicate their effects on single cell [159]. Enough data of study of exposures of such nanoparticle in high animal and on humans is still pending. The eco-toxicological view is also addressed seldomly. Thus, most of experiments and nanoparticles research data have to get more focus on to this context.

## 7. Conclusion

In order to maximize the benefits that green synthesis technologies offer to society and individuals, it is imperative to strike a balance between their applications and restrictions. Although the nanoparticles generated by this method exhibit stability and economy, they also offer promising advantages, such as environmental safety and easy integration into biological systems. The use of renewable raw materials increases the potential for creating these green-synthesised nanoparticles in a variety of disciplines. Despite recent developments, there are still obstacles to overcome such as the availability of resources, consistency of nanoparticle characteristics, repeatability, scalability, and potential toxicity issues. In order to fully utilise green-synthesised nanoparticles in a variety of scientific and industrial applications, it is imperative to address these obstacles. Green synthesis has the potential to become a more scientifically recognized and sustainable solution for future uses if it finds the right balance.

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