

## Beauty Mask: Market and Environment

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### Abstract

Beauty Masks represent a niche of the cosmetic market that has shown a booming growth in the last years. This category of cosmetics is formulated as a cream, gel, lotion, serum, sheet, etc, containing active ingredients useful to quickly improve the skin face appearance. In particular, the sheet masks are generally made by non-woven tissues imbued of active ingredients with the main function of hydrate the skin, slowing down wrinkles, fine lines and aged spots. The consumer request is prevalently oriented vs. products made possibly by natural ingredients skin-friendly and environmentally-friendly. This paper shows the possibility to realize non-woven tissues which, made by fibers, of natural oligosaccharides and chitooligosaccharides, such as chitin and lignin able to bind and release active ingredients, may be used as smart Beauty Masks. Differently from the actual in-commerce sheets, these innovative cosmetics, made by the use of waste materials, are free of preservatives, emulsifiers, colors, fragrances, chemicals and globally biodegradable.

**Keywords:** Oligosaccharides; Chitin nanofibrils; Nanolignin; Non-woven tissues; Face beauty masks; Prestige care market; Sustainability

### Introduction

Asia is actually the dominant player in global skincare sales, amassing 51% of the world's value sales and 6% of compound annual growth rate (CAGR) between 2012-2017, according to the data presented recently by Euromonitor [1]. Among the products, "facial" is the more used family of skincare treatments (i.e., for the "face"), including products such as creams, lotions, peels and masks, performed normally in beauty salons and in spa (Figure 1).

About the facial mask, the consumers of Asia-Pacific (ASEAN) are the biggest users and innovators of this cosmetic category, with around 63% of the total sale. It is, in fact, a specific product that has been included as part of their regular skincare routine regimes. In this niche-market, EU makes up 16%, while USA is setting 8% only [2], also if the customers of these countries are beginning to use the Facial Masks as a routine skincare basis.

However, the consume of this specialized product is rapidly expanding, so that worldwide it became the fastest growing segment in personal care regimen. Consequently, the facial mask selling is booming with a CAGR of around 10%, while skincare market currently has growth at around 5.2% from the year 2000 to 2019 [3].

But how is it made and which is the Facial mask use?

The mask, formulated as cream, ointment, lotion, serum, or sheet, is just a vehicle that delivers "actives" to the skin with the main scope to quickly improve its appearance and quality. This category of cosmetics, packed in different ways and by different materials, is selected according to skin type, so that for example clay and mud masks suit oily skin, while cream-based masks seems to work best on dry skin.

The sheet mask, made generally by tissues, is another primary segment introduced in the market with different innovation as, for example, "one-minute face mask", having the main function to hydrate and calm the skin quickly and easily. It comprises of different types of fabric which includes cotton, non-woven, hydrogel, bio-cellulose and others. However, being a key target category, the sheet mask-niche represents the most challenging cosmetic product in an open market that has to sustain continually the consumer interest by new products development, new packagings, innovative positioning claims, and ingredients. This market, in fact, has to match different facial mask formats and formulations, able to deliver maximum efficacy [4,5]. At this purpose, the origin of ingredients used and the maintenance of environmental surroundings' safeguarding became highly shaped by consumer choice. Thus, the consumer- manufacturer cooperation has enforced a sense of mutuality between all the supply chain partners to diminish the impact of carbon footprint. At this purpose, Eco-label



**Figure 1:** Face treatment into the spa (By courtesy of Imprees Esteem, Malaysia).

has been discussed as an effective tool for promoting a sustainable development and environmentally-friendly product information from the producer to the consumer, who day by day wishes to protect her/himself from the increasing air pollution (Figure 2).

Rinsing aging population, and growing trend in personal beauty enhancer' products are, therefore globally booming the sheet face masks market. In addition, increasing skincare awareness among young generation, specifically in Asia-Pacific region, together with the rise in male grooming products, are driving the growth of this market also. Consumers, in fact, rather than look youngest want to simply look good for their actual age. The real interest is to appear "healthy, happy and well aged" in a clean Planet. As a consequence, it is mandatory to control the safeness and effectiveness of these new products, verifying also the impact they could have on health, market and environment.

### The Market

Facial mask represents an important and increasing segment of the prestige beauty care market, connected with educated smart consumers tacking for one minute product, possibly characterized for its safeness and effectiveness, [1]. Its global market value evaluated US\$ 27.12 billion in 2015, is expected to grow at a CAGR between 6.46% to 8.97%, reaching the value of US\$ 37.80 billion by 2020 [5,6]. This interesting growth is due to the specific characteristics of the adopted formulations, able to influence the skin well-being.

About the regions and as previously reported, Asia consumers are known to be the biggest users of facial masks, being included as part of their regular skincare routine treatments. According to Mintel' data [2], the Asia-Pacific area is identified at present as among the world's largest facial care markets, and in 2017, the facial mask segment has registered a retail value of US\$ 15.8 Billion in China and US\$ 13.5 Billion in Japan. South Korea is already one of the top three markets with US\$ 6.6 billion.

The dominant player for the facial mask, therefore, remains Asia, with an amazing 63% of the global world's value sales, 28% of which in China, 12% in Taiwan 10% in South Korea, 7% in Hong Kong, and 6% in Japan. It seems, therefore, a realistic prevision that this cosmetic

category will achieve a compound growth rate (CAGR) of over 13% between 2012-2017.

Moreover, Asia has gained the title of "world largest sheet mask Innovator" because of the beauty item' ability to offer consumers different skincare benefits, in a convenient manner, and in a short turnaround time. Consequently, consumers are curating their own facial mask routines, according to skin type, life style and product offering.

It has been forecast that, in the future, the trend of this specialized cosmetic product will continue to gain strength driving [1-3,6,7]. The necessary condition will be to maintain the positioning claims with the active ingredients, chosen to match different facial mask formats, delivering maximum efficacy. Additionally, with the customer demand oriented in 2017 to personalize all cosmetic products, it will be necessary to have more connections with educated and smart consumers, giving them answer to the changing life-style values, instead to offer custom formulations only.

It is again to underline that consumers are paying a lot more attention to the product impact on the planet environment, so that climate change calls are more drastic than even before. Thus "premiumization" of the facial mask offering, in term of efficacy and respect of the environment, will play a big part in this year and the year ahead. Sustainability and awareness around environment footprint, in fact, will impact decisions around the type of materials and active ingredients used to make both sheet and packaging which should be reused or recycled (Figure 3). A global innovation with innovative ingredients and smart technologies, therefore, will be necessary to produce masks skin-friendly and environmentally-friendly for the global market necessities and the consumer' requests.

According again to Mintel [2], 53% of Chinese females agree that the facial masks natural-made are the best first-aid skin care products to be used all the day around, while three in four Chinese consumers use sleeping masks in the evening. It is also interesting to know that in Asia, a growing number of men are experimenting with skincare and cosmetic products which would have typically been used by women. Consequently, it will be necessary to better understand the key differences that lie in consumer usage also.

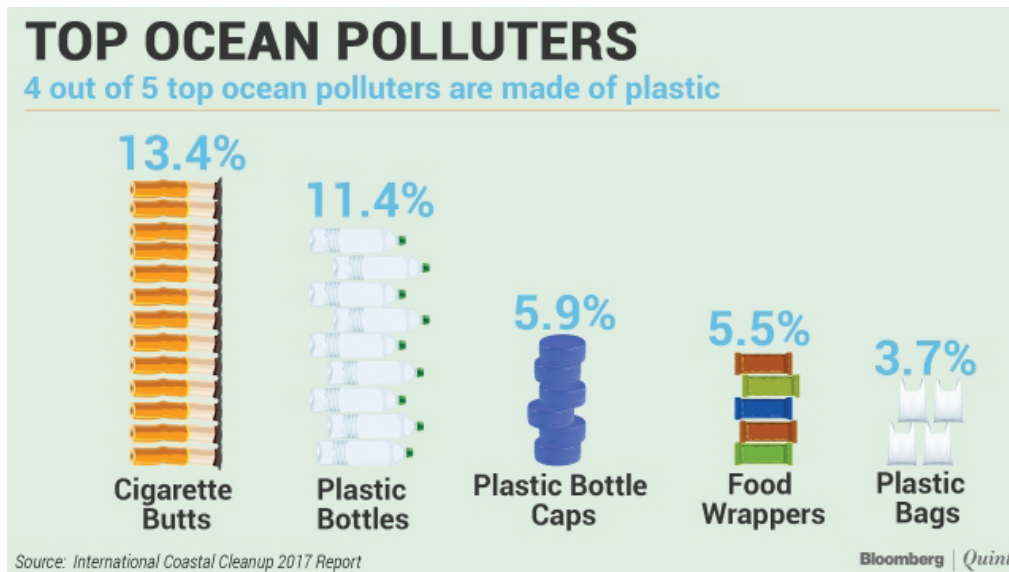


Figure 2: The main causes of pollution in land and oceans.



Figure 3: Sustainability of packaging material is another request of consumers who are thinking to the resource efficiency, possible at zero waste.

But what the market in EU, USA, South America and India? As reported previously American and European consumers are increasingly interested in facial skin care mask with a variety of anti-aging benefits, looking for natural products to be used: in USA, UK and Italy, for the face; in Spain for eyes and lips [7]. Moreover, 54% beauty consumers of UK, 74% of Spain, 44% of USA, 54% of Brazil, and 24% of India are looking for natural products, possibly made by advanced technologies with zero waste.

About the market, the sales of prestige facial skincare masks have grown in USA, UK, Italy and Spain during the 12 months between July 2013 and June 2014 [7,8]. This growth helped to drive 2% value increases for overall facial skincare sales in both US and UK, and

contributed to offset the same segment in Italy and Spain. As an example in 2017 the British women spent £1.15 billion on facial skin care [2].

However, future projections reveal that Asia will continue to lead both care and mask sales with a global value of 51% and more.

### The Sheet Mask Fabrics

They are produced using a variety of fabric types. The most common and less expensive mask fabrics are mass manufactured and made from coarse fibers, while the more advanced ones are produced by natural polymers, through sustainable biotechnological processes [8,9]. The most gentle and easy-to-use sheet is made of cotton pulp,

hydro gel and bio-cellulose, all soaked in active ingredients used to pamper and brighten the skin tone, providing to relax and soothe its structure, possibly reducing fine lines and wrinkles [9]. However, due to the presence of water and the many ingredients, used as food from the microorganisms, all these sheets need the use of preservatives, while for the contemporary use of oily compounds different emulsifier compounds are utilized. Finally to increase the consumer acceptance and the aesthetic appearance, fragrance, colors and other chemicals are often added.

In any way, the first component of any sheet mask is the tissue, while the second is represented from different active ingredients.

Tissue is necessary to prolong the contact with the skin and permit the most easy and fast release and penetration of the soaked ingredients, which in turn have to assure the effectiveness of the Mask [9]. The tissue-mask, fitted in the face for about 20/30 minutes, has made with cut opens at the nose, eyes and mouth to permit breathe during its use, also for their itching effects they could cause on skin, because of the presence of preservatives emulsifiers and fragrances.

The selected ingredients, imbibed into the mask and released to the skin are necessary to provide their designed activity, bringing a glowing appearance to all the face.

As previously reported, the major factors driving the global growing of the facial mask market, first of all in Asia-Pacific (APAC), Africa and Latin Americas, include the use of thin natural fibers. Its increasing use is due to the rising economic growth, the changing life styles, and rising trend of consumer's preference together with their changing behavior towards natural beauty products made by innovative technologies [2,6-9]. Consequently, local manufacturers in Africa and APAC, are focusing on new products' development and innovation, in order to develop a local customer base over the years [2,7].

Just to remember, APAC includes countries such as China, India, Japan, South Korea and rest of Asia Pacific, while Africa includes countries such as UAE, South Africa and Middle East, while Latin America comprises of countries such as Brazil and Argentina.

In any way, the sheet face masks have gained popularity among the urban population of nearly every country in the World, because inexpensive, with a texture that feel and behave like paper, and being easy to use with few time consuming. In addition they should have also the capacity to replenish moisture to the skin, regenerating their cells [6-9].

## Urbanization and Aging

About the urbanization problem and according to the WHO Report [10], 54% of the today's global population is urbanized and by 2050, 70% of the world's population will be living in towns and cities. Thus, the protection against the city' air pollution and UV rays are seen as an essential function across all the cosmetic categories, so that 67% of consumers globally believe that spending less time in the sun and protecting the skin from pollutants by the right product can help them look younger [11,12]. Environmental aggressors such as UV Rays and micro/nano-particulate recovered both outdoor and indoor (Figure 4), in fact, can cause the skin' collagen/elastin breakdown in the skin, accompanied by phenomena of hyper-pigmentation, Inflammation and dehydration. The breakdown of important components of the native Extracellular Matrix (ECM) increase fine lines, wrinkles and age spots provoking the premature aging [13,14]. Thus, the prevalent consumer' request is the possibility to buy innovative Face mask formulations, able to neutralize the negative effects of smokes, gas, particulate, heavy metals, ozone, free radicals and UV rays, present

especially in the urban areas. This request is based on products having moisturizing and anti-aging activities, being also on-the-go and speed use, possibly at low cost and made by natural ingredients [15].

Among the products, simplicity of using a single product remains the greatest benefits requested from consumers. Moreover, they are looking to a facial sheet mask able not only to maintain a younger appearance for a longer time, but also to provide multiple benefits to supplement or replace their daily skin care. This is due to a population more aged year by year, also if the new generation consumers seem to be more concerned about their look than the older generations, due first of all to their increased living standard and incomes rise [16]. The global anti-aging market, in fact, is projected to grow from US\$ /9.1 billion in 2018 to 36.9 billion in 2022, according to Euromonitor Data [1].

Thus, in 2015, 901 million people on Earth were aged 60 years or older. This number is projected to grow by 56% through 2050, eventually totaling 2.1 billion, according to the United Nation Report [17].

However, aging induces various skin related problems or defects such as wrinkles, fine lines, aged spots, etc. Thus, various medical treatments for curing these disorders are being developed to improve the skin appearance, which represents also the same reason for the skin care and cosmetic industry' research investments. It is, therefore, estimated that the sales of dermatological products will surpass US\$ 13 billion by the end of 2018, with the same high CAGR reported for anti-aging cosmetic and over-the-counter products.

In conclusion, the aging population combined with the growing health awareness, the increasing concerns about skin (i.e. irritation, skin allergies, wrinkling, aged spots and acne), and a growing demand for natural face masks, are the factors that are driving the growth of this niche market, dominated from the APAC region, followed from EU and North America, as previously reported.

## Environment, Waste and Sustainability

Today, it is well known that polluted air and water impact negatively on human health, by the toxic contaminants coming from industry and land cultivation [18]. One of the objectives of European policy, in fact, is to reduce the negative impact of the Environment waste, ameliorating the public health and ensuring the most efficient use of resources, particularly the natural ones [19].

Respecting the environment is, therefore, another of the consumers' request worldwide because of the sea and land disasters always more frequent and under the eyes of all. Thus, the customers are paying a lot more attention on the planet and climate changing, looking also for a true zero-waste during all the beauty and personal care supply chain [20]. For this reason in 2019, consumers on the one hand are continuing to focus on well and nice packaged products; on the other hand they will also be drawn to brands that place a wider focus on reducing waste, allowing products/materials to be recovered, regenerated, and reused, rather than disposed of [19].

About waste material it is to remember, for example, that 30% of the food produced for human consumption globally is lost or wasted along the food supply chain (~1.3 billion tons/year!). Thus, it has been calculated that if food waste was a Country it would be the third largest greenhouse gas emitter after USA and China (Figure 5) [21]. Meanwhile the world's population is predicted to reach 9.1 billion by 2050, an increase of 70% in food availability and the use of waste material is required [21-23]. Thus, reducing loss and waste throughout the food

## HUMAM EXPOSURE TO NP IN PERSPECTIVE

- INDOOR emissions represent 50-80% of human exposure to NP (10,000 to 240,000 np/mL air)
- OUTDOOR emissions : Polluted Air 10,000 to 50,000 NP/ mL air
- EMISSION SOURCES

Burning natural gas



Candles, toasters



Oven roasts, pan frying



Source: Nohynek, 2011 modified.

Figure 4: Outdoor and Indoor particulate can breakdown the collagen/elastin' skin fibers.

If global food waste was a country, it would be the third largest greenhouse gas emitter after the US and China

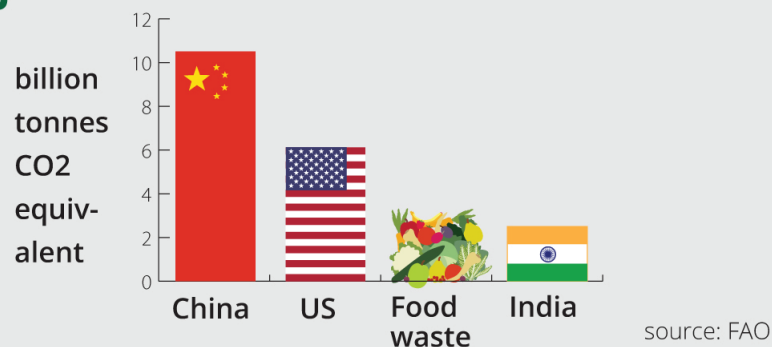


Figure 5: The global food waste in the world.

supply chain and recycle and reuse its active ingredients' content, should be considered an effective solution. This new way of living, will reduce the environmental impacts of agriculture, improving food and nutrition security for consumers who have also to change their mind-set on the food use and consume. Additionally, while global plastic waste arrived to 275 million metric tons in 2010 [24], 26% of total plastic production (311 million tons) is used for packaging purposes with 4,500 billion units of bottles produced yearly. On the contrary and unfortunately, glass, paper and metal has progressively declined (Figure 6) [25].

In this market, the beauty industry produces 120 billion units of packaging per year with a CAGR close to 6% so that by 2050 it's estimated that there will be 12 billion of plastic in landfills generated by the cosmetic field alone (Figure 7) [26]. Thus, global packaging market for cosmetics industry is expected to be driven by the growth in the end-use segments such as skin care, hair care, baby care, etc. Moreover, the widespread use and the growing variety of cosmetic products for men is expected to boost the growth of this market, as well as the aging population is driving the recent surge in cosmeceuticals with the industrial need for cosmetic bulk packaging market.

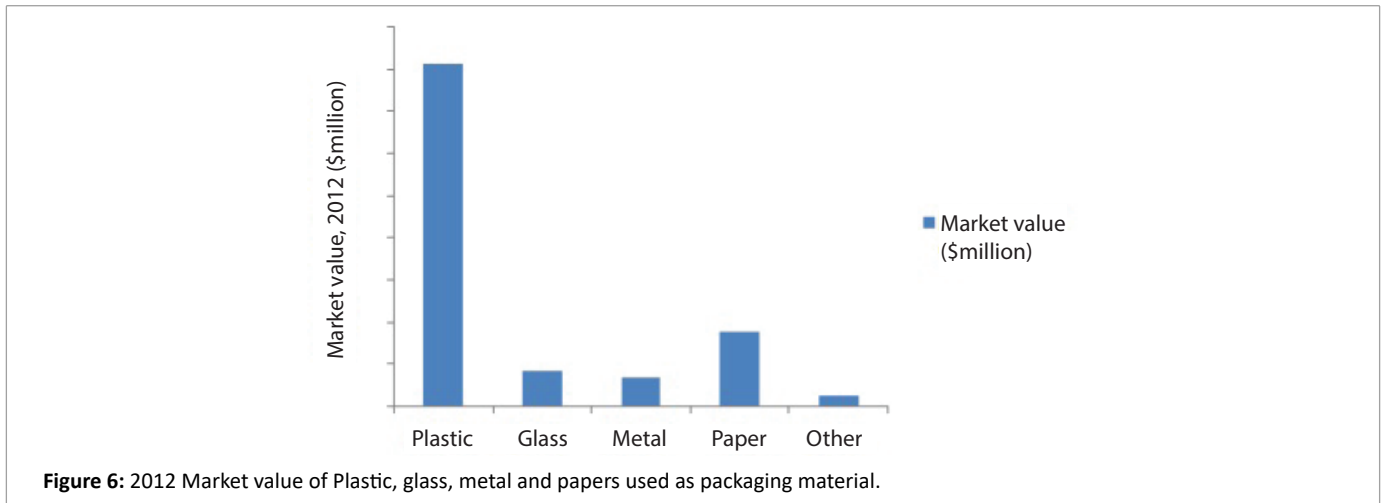


Figure 6: 2012 Market value of Plastic, glass, metal and papers used as packaging material.



Figure 7: Plastic waste from land into oceans (by the courtesy of Jambeck, et al. [25]).

Regarding the regions, China is expected to have the highest growth for the flourishing demand for *premium* cosmetics and consequently of packaging waste as well as Europe is expected to grow rapidly owing to huge industrial investments into Research and Development.

It is to underlie, however, that since 2017 there has been a revived interest in sustainability focused specifically on packaging and natural raw material obtained from waste. A number of strategies, therefore, are advancing to address the consequential waste, including substituting to alternative materials, investing in the development of bio-based plastics, designing packs to make them easier to process in recycling, and improving recycling and processing of plastic waste. In conclusion, sustainability has become a key motivator for industry and consumers [27]. This is also the aim of the European Research Project Polybioskin [28-30].

### Innovation in Facial Sheet Beauty Masks by Smart Carriers

The Polybioskin project has been organized with the goal to produce

industrially: baby/feminine diapers, facial beauty masks and advanced medications.

The materials used are biodegradable and bio-based polymers derived from waste feed stocks, such as polysaccharides (cellulose, starch, chitin, chitosan lignin etc) and biopolyesters (polylactic acid (PLA) and polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs) obtained by sustainable technologies [31-34].

Particularly, one of the Facial Beauty Mask studied during the first part of the project, has been made by electrospun fibers which, realized by water-soluble polymers embedded by chitin nanofibril-biolignin (CN-LG) micro/nanoparticles (NPs), have been bound to active ingredients, previously selected as safe and effective anti-aging agents (unpublished data). The CN-LG complex has been selected as innovative carrier because of its own interesting activity shown recently as anti-inflammatory, immunomodulatory, and cicatrizing agent [35-39]. Moreover on the one hand, chitin is completely metabolized from the human and environment enzymes to produce glucosamine, acetyl glucosamine and/or glucose compounds to be used as energy from the cells.

## Chitin and Lignin

On the other hand the polyphenol lignin is active as antioxidant and antibacterial molecule [38-40]. About chitin, it is interesting to remember its enzymatic degradation process. The enzyme chitinase, in fact, activated by human macrophages, has shown the preference to hydrolyze acetylated units (i.e., chitin) *versus* no acetylated ones (i.e., chitosan), providing new insight into what kind of compound may be more useful as carrier for the formulation of drugs, cosmeceuticals, and/or food [41]. Moreover, when this polymer is used in its nanodimension (i.e., chitin nanofibril) as delivery carrier, it can entrap/adsorb or load multiple active ingredients, controlling their release and having also the ability to target molecules with specific receptors on the cell surface [36-40]. Thus, chitin and its derivatives exhibit biodegradability and biocompatibility, which can accelerate the development of biological materials, also for its antibacterial and immunomodulatory activity, able to regenerate the skin structured layers, as previously reported.

However, it is to remember that chitin as natural compound found in the outer skeleton of insects, fungi, yeasts, and marine invertebrate including the sea sponges, is the second abundant polysaccharide on the Planet after cellulose [42]. It is an amino-polysaccharide polymer consisting of N-acetyl glucosamine units connected by of Beta-1,4-glycoside bonds that, with its high global production, represents a major contribution to pollution in coastal areas [43]. Every year, in fact, more than 1.5 million tons of chitin is available as residues from the fishing industry, while it is estimated that only 10,000 tons are used worldwide for food, cosmetics, and biomedical applications [44]. Thus, the necessity of a major utilization of this natural polymeric biomass by more eco-physiological strategies and processes able to recovery not only chitin, possibly at its nano-dimension but also proteins and calcium carbonate (Figures 8,9) [44]. Moreover, it will be necessary to control its degradation and applications in drug delivery, wound healing, dietary fiber and wastewater treatment as such, or to complex it with bio-lignin to form micro/nanoparticles, to be used as innovative carriers (Figure 10) [23,29-34].

On the other hand nano-sized lignin, as matrix polymer of wood, is a complex of phenolic heteropolymers which, associated with polyoses

in the plant cell wall, is linked to the cellulose elementary fibrils. It is chiefly a low cost by-product of the paper and pulp industry, acting as multifunctional barrier with antibacterial and antioxidant properties [45]. Additionally, lignin is a bio-reasorbent for environmentally harmful metal ions [46], able to protect the skin against the UV radiation and air pollution also [47]. However, the NPs of this polyphenol polymer, being non-toxic and biodegradable are suitable for drug delivery as well as stabilizers of cosmetic and pharmaceutical formulations. This is the reason why nanochitin/nanolignin-based complexes have been used as the main carrier of natural active ingredients. As previously reported [29-36], this smart fibrous carrier on the one hand is able to load and carry the selected ingredients bound on the surface of its fibers. On the other hand the non-woven tissues, made by sugar-like fibers embedded by selected active ingredients, have shown to be effective as *active aging* mean (data not reported). This is the tissue used to make the innovative Facial, Beauty Mask realized by the Poybioskin EU research project ([www.polybiokin.eu](http://www.polybiokin.eu)). The active ingredients, selected together with the non-woven tissue made by water soluble oligosaccharides into which the ingredients are bound, are therefore used to give effectiveness to this smart Beauty Mask. This innovative *active aging* cosmeceutical (Figure 11), made of natural ingredients and realized by advanced technologies could be considered a new smart product in line with the actual consumer' requests and dreams. It is not only totally natural and biodegradable with zero waste, but also safe for the skin, lips and eyes, being free from any chemicals, easy to use, and produced at low cost.

## Conclusive Remarks

Currently the Facial Beauty Masks are continuously growing worldwide majorly driven by the demand of anti-aging and dehydrated skin, which strongly influence the consumers' purchase decisions. This cosmetic niche-market is expected to grow significantly because of the rinsing aging population and growing trend in personal beauty enhancer products. This is the reason of the Sheet Face Mask' booming, specifically if made by innovative technologies, natural raw materials, and innovative regenerative formulations [48]. This particular product is, therefore, evolving as a new trend in the cosmetic industry through celebrity endorsements and extensive marketing



Figure 8: The use of waste from shrimps to produce Chitin (by courtesy of Ning Yan and Xi Chen [44]).

### SHELL BIOREFINERY

Crustacean shells contain three primary chemicals that have many industrial uses. Developing a sustainable way to refine them could add billions of dollars to the bioeconomy.

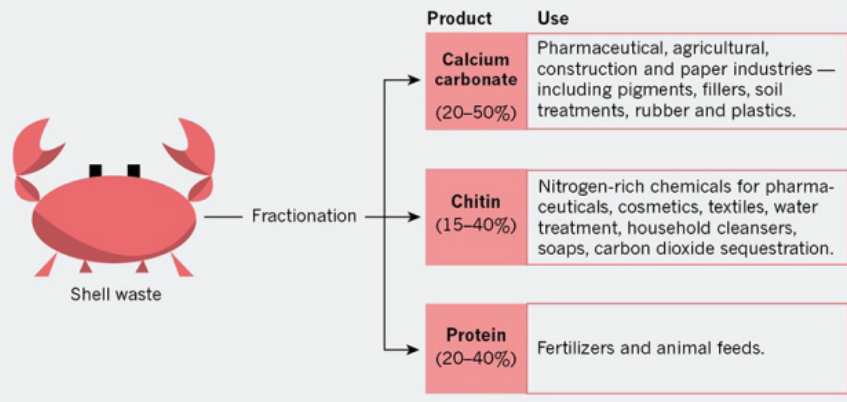


Figure 9: Active ingredients obtainable from Chitin waste by a better extraction process (by courtesy of Ning Yan and XI Chen [44]).

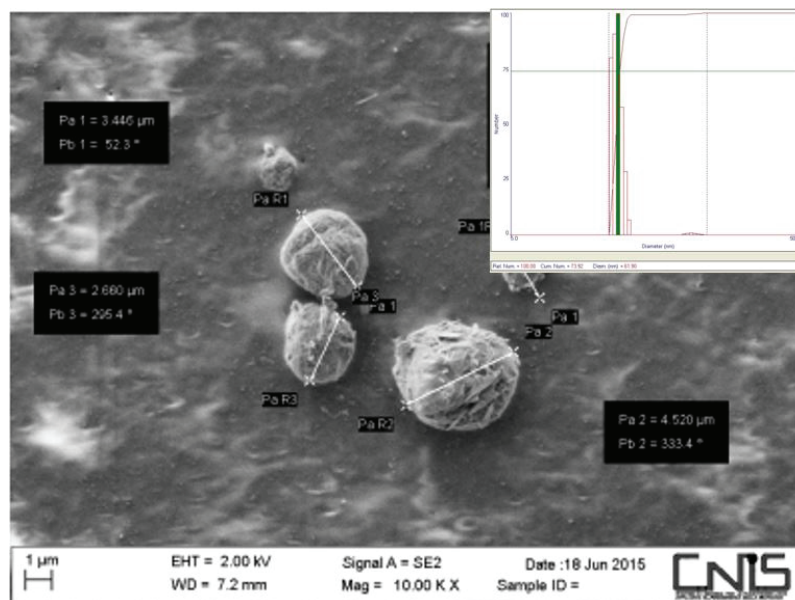


Figure 10: Mean size of Chitin-Lignin micro/nanoparticles at SEM at Zetasizer (source Morganti lab).

campaigns on the social media websites, being considered a new way to maintain a beauty appearance [49]. However, aging cosmetics for elderly moves from the anti-aging claim to *active aging*, in line with the pursuit of healthier life styles (Figure 12) [50,51]. On the other hand, the new wellness positioning in skin care boosted further adoption levels among young, who are not concerned with anti-aging properties as such, but more with acquiring prevention and health. For all these reasons, the natural sheet masks, such as the chitin-lignin-based reported [32,36, 39], could be considered from the consumers innovative and smart *cosmeceuticals* more beneficial than other beauty products, being active as antipollution also. Naturally their safeness and effectiveness will depend from the adopted formulation, which has to be based on the use of the right carrier, embedded by the right active ingredients, selected for obtaining the designed activity, desired from the consumer. By the experience of our group and the first

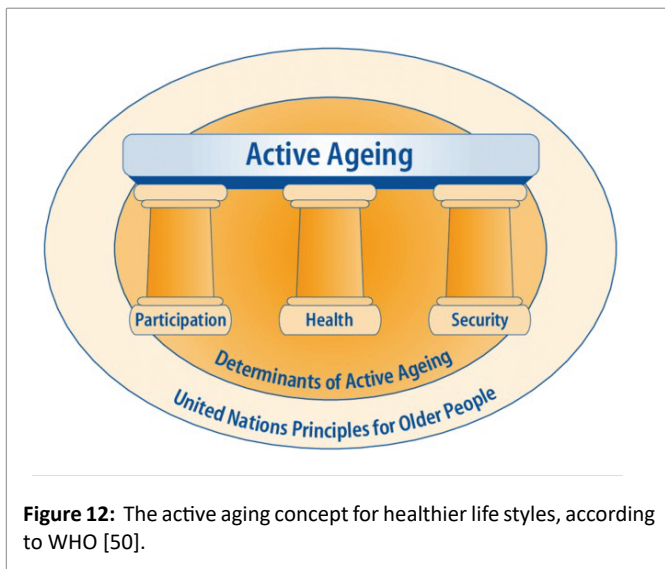
obtained results, the natural polysaccharides selected for making the non-woven tissues by the electrospinning technology, seem to be the ideal polymers to produce an innovative *active aging* Facial Beauty Mask, following the *active aging* concept [50,51]. Its cosmeceutical effectiveness seems due to the obtained fibers organization/disposition and the active ingredients bound to their structure. On the other hand, the safeness shown is probably due to its natural composition and facility they have to be metabolized by the human and environmental enzymes, without the production of toxic secondary compounds [52].

At this purpose, the latest research from Mintel reveals, for example, that 69% of Chinese consumers agree that the daily use of cosmeceuticals can prevent skin sensitivity, 74% underline that it is essential the use of safe and effective ingredients, while 44% prefer and consider safer formulations with fewer ingredients [15,19,21].





**Figure 11:** Lab-sample of Active aging masks (source: Morganti lab).



**Figure 12:** The active aging concept for healthier life styles, according to WHO [50].

The proposed and reported chitin-lignin Face Beauty Mask seems to be in perfect line with the consumer requests within the prestige beauty market that registered a growth sales of this specific cosmetic product by 22.8% in 2015 and by 25% for natural brands [53]. Customers, infact, are exploring new products and experimenting new lines in different ways with an increasing interest in facial masks showing an anti-aging and antipollution activity, so that the US prestige Beauty Industries reached US\$17.7 billion in 2017 with a 6% increase over 2016 [54]. Moreover, natural-based masks have become a major motivation for consumers in trying new products and aspiring for greater life quality [48].

However, people living in the cities, who are the majority of consumers, are requesting that the cosmetic label has to be transparent on the quality of the product and the obtainable healthy benefits. It is also considered important to underline the importance to use natural and biodegradable ingredients, reporting “what’s in” and not only “what’s out” from the formulations! [49].

In conclusion the innovative facial masks, with its realization in progress, will be produced by the exclusive use of waste materials, from the formulation’ ingredients to the packaging polymers used, all compounds necessary to preserve the natural raw materials for the incoming generations. In addition they will be skin-friendly and environmentally-friendly, totally biodegradable and produced, if possible, at zero-waste [54].

This is our objective and the main goal of the Polybioskin EU Research pro- ject also.

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### Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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