

'Coffee waste' could lead to new nutritious foods

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London: The antioxidant effects of coffee by-products are 500 times greater than those found in vitamin C and could be employed to create functional foods with significant health benefits, a new research has found.



Representational image

Coffee silverskin (the epidermis of the coffee bean) is usually removed during processing, after the beans have been dried, while the coffee grounds are normally directly discarded. It has traditionally been assumed that these by-products - coffee grounds and coffee silverskin - have few practical uses and applications. So they end up in landfills causing considerable knock-on effect on the environment.

The new research demonstrates the powerful antioxidant and antimicrobial properties of the coffee grounds and silverskin, which are highly rich in fibre and phenols. "They also contain high levels of melanoidins, which are produced during the roasting process and give coffee its brown colour," said lead researcher Jose Angel Rufian

Henares, professor at University of Granada in Spain.

"The biological properties of these melanoidins could be harnessed for a range of practical applications, such as preventing harmful pathogens from growing in food products," Rufian Henares said. The researchers concluded that processed coffee by-products could potentially be recycled as sources of new food ingredients. This would also greatly diminish the environmental impact of discarded coffee by-products.

The study was published in the academic journal Food Science and Technology.

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