

Plant-synthesized CuO and ZnO Nanoparticles: Versatile Applications and Characterization

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Abstract: Nanotechnology has lately arisen as a revolutionary technology, highlighting exclusive qualities owing to heterogeneous sizes and shapes. This manuscript focuses on synthesizing, characterizing, and applying copper oxide (CuO) and zinc oxide (ZnO) NPs derived from various plant parts. These include leaves, peels, roots, seeds, fruits, and flowers. Plant-derived procedures for nanoparticle synthesis alleviate environmental pollution and minimize manufacturing costs. Furthermore, it facilitates the rising demand for green-synthesized nanoparticles. In this study, we investigate the biochemical mechanisms underlying the plant synthesis of CuO and ZnO NPs, with particular attention to their biomedical and environmental applications. Characterization techniques such as Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM), X-ray diffraction (XRD), and Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM), among others, were used to assess the physical and chemical properties of the NPs. Eventually, we analyze future directions for research, containing potential advancements in synthesis techniques and the investigation of new applications to boost the sustainability and performance of these NPs. The findings represent that green synthesis nanoparticles are more cost-effective, environmentally friendly, and superior compared to synthetic nanoparticles.

Keywords: green synthesis; plant synthesis; copper oxide nanoparticles; zinc oxide nanoparticles; biogenic synthesis.

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1. Introduction

ZnO NPs possess several advantageous characteristics, such as UV-blocking efficiency, high stability, and photocatalytic activity, which have made them indispensable across any domains [1–3]. ZnO NPs are utilized in the electronics field to produce varistors, gas sensors, and piezoelectric devices [4]. The photocatalytic properties of ZnO NPs enable their use in environmental remediation and wastewater treatment, notably by breaking down pollutants under UV light [5]. Conversely, CuO NPs are underscored for their potential catalytic characteristics and antimicrobial activity. Copper oxide nanoparticles are profoundly utilized in catalysis, facilitating several chemical reactions associated with oxidation and reduction processes [6,7]. The antimicrobial properties of the NPs are highlighted as a promising feature for applications in medicine, notably for improving drug delivery systems and antimicrobial coatings [8].

Conventional techniques for synthesizing nanoparticles often involve physicochemical approaches that use hazardous chemicals and generate toxic by-products that pose significant

environmental and health risks [9]. Enormous urbanization, industrialization, and population growth have heightened environmental concerns, necessitating the development of eco-friendly, sustainable synthesis pathways [10]. Green synthesis, notably by using plant extracts, has appeared as a pivotal alternative. Plant-based synthesis of NPs offers several advantages, such as the use of readily available, non-toxic reducing agents [11]. Numerous phytochemicals present in plant extracts, such as terpenoids, flavonoids, and phenolics, can significantly reduce metal precursors for NP formation while also providing stabilizing effects. The process not only minimizes the dependence on expensive and hazardous chemicals but also reduces the ecological footprint of NPs synthesis [12].

The mechanisms underlying the fundamental plant-extracted synthesis of CuO and ZnO nanoparticles are complex and not yet fully understood [13,14]. However, it is well established that biological molecules, such as enzymes, proteins, and polysaccharides, play a critical role in stabilizing and reducing metal ions [15,16]. For example, in the matter of ZnO NPs synthesis, the existence of organic compounds over plant extracts can simplify the nucleation and the growth of ZnO nanoparticles, inducing the design of particles with acceptable morphologies and sizes [17]. Likewise, for CuO nanoparticles, plant extracts can allow an appropriate environment that allows the reformation of Cu ions into metallic copper, which afterward oxidizes to form CuO NPs. The interaction between various biomolecules and metal ions is significant for managing the shape, size, and stability of the synthesized NPs [18].

The plant synthesis of CuO and ZnO NPs demonstrates various potential advantages. Firstly, the usage of plant extracts remarkably decreases the toxicity compared to traditional chemical synthesis techniques. This is particularly essential, given the increasing regulatory scrutiny of the use of toxic chemicals in NP production [19]. Additionally, the eco-friendly features of green synthesis systems enable the recycling of the most expensive metal salts from waste streams, thereby promoting sustainable resource management. Furthermore, the biogenic production of nanoparticles often yields materials with increased bioactivity due to the presence of natural stabilizing agents, which can ameliorate interactions with biological systems [20,21]. In addition, the versatility of plant-mediated synthesis makes it a practical choice for the mass production of NPs. The worldwide availability of many plant species led to the exploration of several sources for NPs production, contributing to diverse applications customized to specific needs [22,23].

Characterization of the chemical and physical properties of plant-synthesized CuO and ZnO nanoparticles is essential for understanding their behavior and applications. Strategies, such as scanning electron microscopy (SEM), transmission electron microscopy (TEM), UV-Vis spectroscopy, and X-ray diffraction (XRD), are commonly employed to measure the morphology, size, crystal structure, and optical characteristics of plant-synthesized NPs [24,25]. The shape and size of nanoparticles remarkably determine their reactivity and performance in different applications. For instance, smaller NPs often exhibit greater surface reactivity, thereby contributing to the development of antimicrobial activity [26–28]. Studies have shown that biogenic silver NPs exhibit 20 times greater antimicrobial activity than chemically synthesized counterparts. Likewise, the unique characteristics of CuO and ZnO NPs produced over green methods can lead to improved efficacy in applications such as environmental remediation and drug delivery [29].

Despite having potential progress in the synthesis of CuO and ZnO NPs, there remains a relative lack of widespread studies elucidating the biosynthesis and potential applications of other metallic and semiconductor nanoparticles. Future studies should focus on exploring the

mechanisms of NPs formation and optimizing synthesis conditions to improve the yield and uniformity of the synthesized particles. Furthermore, the significant applications of CuO and ZnO nanoparticles remain enormous and warrant further exploration. In biotechnology, these NPs can be used in drug delivery methods, where their unique properties facilitate targeted delivery of therapeutic agents. In addition, their antimicrobial properties can be used in several medical applications, such as wound dressings and coatings for medical devices. Finally, the plant-based synthesis of CuO and ZnO NPs represents a sustainable and environmentally friendly approach to producing nanoparticles, while retaining the natural properties of plant extracts. Researchers can make NPs with desired properties and improved bioactivity. As the field continues to unfold, the essential applications of these NPs will certainly expand, enabling revolutionary solutions to current challenges across many industries. The main objective of the study is to thoroughly define plant-synthesized nanoparticles from various plant parts (Figure 1), including their utilization, such as antibacterial, antibiotic, biomedical, photodegradation, antioxidant, antidiabetic, antimicrobial, anti-fungal, photocatalytic, photovoltaic, anti-arthritis, anti-inflammatory, larvicidal, insecticidal, anticancer, anti-dandruff, and dye removal agents. Furthermore, their characterization has been described in detail, including sizes and characterization strategies.

This study highlights, for instance, the mechanisms of plant-based synthesis of CuO and ZnO NPs, the characterization and application strategies of ZnO and CuO NPs, and future directions and applications.

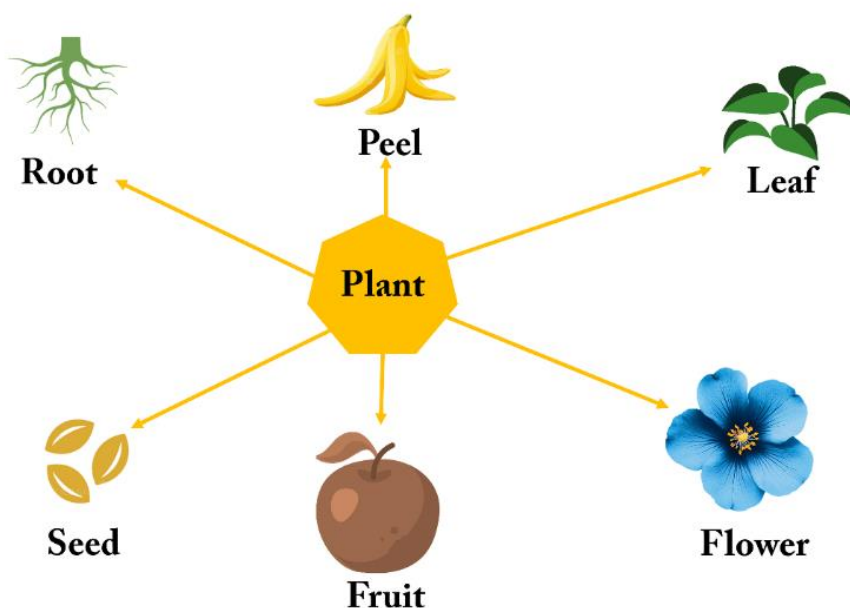


Figure 1. Sources of plants to synthesize CuO and ZnO nanoparticles.

2. Mechanisms of Plant-based CuO and ZnO NPs Synthesis Process

The synthesis of CuO and ZnO NPs using plant sources is a revolutionary, sustainable method that leverages plants' natural capabilities to manufacture NPs. This technique leverages green synthesis methods, including enzymatic reduction, metal ion absorption, and biomolecular stabilization, to produce NPs with the required attributes and also enhances environmental safety [30,31]. The primary and most important phase in plant-based synthesis is the absorption of metal ions from the culture medium via plant roots. Research has shown that different plants can successfully take up metals, such as Cu and Zn [32,33].

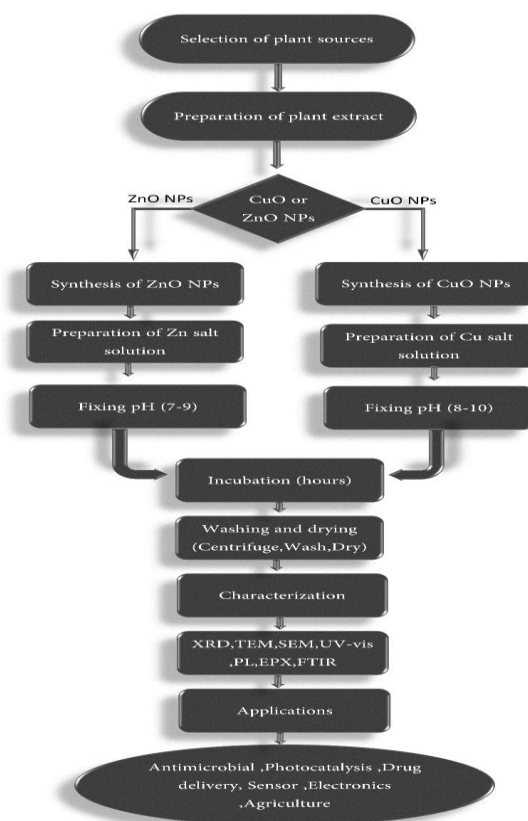


Figure 2. Strategies to synthesize CuO and ZnO nanoparticles (NPs).

After absorption, these metal ions are moved to different plant counterparts, where they sustain bioreduction. It is also facilitated by plant enzymes, like reductases, which transform metal ions into NPs [34,35]. Moreover, phytochemicals present in plant-derived materials, including terpenoids, phenols, and flavonoids, play a pivotal role in stabilizing the synthesized NPs and reducing metal ions[36].

After synthesis, the NPs are balanced by biomolecules, hindering clusters and securing stability in suspension. Capping agents derived from plant sources enhance the exclusive surface features of NPs by controlling their functionality, shape, and size. For example, the presence of polyphenols in plant extracts has been shown to enhance the antioxidant properties and stability of AgNPs [37–39].

Nonetheless, the sizes and morphologies of the NPs can be affected by various reaction parameters, such as the concentration of the reaction precursor, the plant species, and the pH of the medium. Many plant species exhibit different efficiencies in synthesizing NPs, which are mediated by their specific biochemical substances. For example, studies have demonstrated that leaf extracts from specific plants, including *Aloe vera* and *Coriandrum sativum*, can synthesize NPs with desired shapes and sizes, shifting from spherical to rod-like structures [40–42]. The synthesized NPs have numerous applications with unique attributes. For instance, plant-based Ag NPs have shown potential antimicrobial activity against various pathogens, making them applicable in medical and agricultural applications, among others[43]. Likewise, Au NPs synthesized using plant extracts have been analyzed for use in drug delivery systems and biosensors, owing to their biocompatibility and ease of functionalization [44–46].

After all, plant-based synthesis of NPs represents a pivotal alternative to traditional chemical methods, enabling greener, more sustainable practices. The mechanisms in Figure 2 that underpin this method are complex and involve multiple biological and biochemical interactions, underscoring the potential of plant-based methods for nanomaterial synthesis.

Ongoing studies into the optimization of these strategies and the properties of plant-mediated NPs will further increase their utilization in many fields, such as medicine, agriculture, and environmental science.

3. Characterization and Application Strategies of ZnO and CuO Nps

3.1. ZnO Nps.

ZnO and CuO NPs have attracted significant attention in recent years for their unique properties and versatile applications. In general, ZnO NPs are characterized by their wide bandgap (about 3.37 eV), higher exciton binding energy, and strong UV absorption, making them suitable for applications in photonics and optoelectronics as UV-blocking agents in sunscreens [47,48]. In addition, their biocompatibility, antibacterial coatings, and drug delivery [49–51]. There are some studies that mainly plant-mediated ZnO NPs synthesized by using different plant counterparts. *Passiflora caerulea* (leaf) is used to synthesize ZnO NPs, using $Zn(O_2CCH_3)_2 \times 2(H_2O)$ precursor, characterized by UV–vis, XRD, FT-IR, SEM, EDAX, and AFM techniques Figure 3. Moreover, we obtained 30–50 nm-sized ZnO NPs from that particular plant leaf. We explored in Table 1 some of the plant-synthesized NPs with their application and characterization. ZnO NPs are essential in environmental remediation, according to recent studies, as they reduce organic contaminants via radiation and other mechanisms [52–54].

Table 1. Key features of CuO nanoparticles.

| Plant, Source | Precursor | Conditions | Size | Morphology | Characterization | Application | Key Effects | Ref |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|-----------------|--|---|--|------|
| <i>Passiflora caerulea</i> , leaf | $Zn(O_2CCH_3)_2 \times 2(H_2O)$ | stirred for 1 h | 30–50 nm | Spherical | UV–vis, XRD, FT-IR, SEM, EDAX and AFM | Biomedical capability | Showed potential in biomedical applications | [55] |
| <i>Cassia fistula</i> , leaf | $Zn(NO_3)_2 \times 6H_2O$ | heated at $400 \pm 10^\circ C$ | 5–15 nm | Irregular | TEM, UV–vis and XRD | Photodegradation, antioxidant, and antibacterial activity | Potential bactericidal activity on <i>Klebsiella aerogenes</i> , <i>Escherichia coli</i> , <i>Plasmodium desmolyticum</i> , and <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> , photodegradation against MB, and antioxidant activity for free radical scavenging | [56] |
| <i>Pongamia pinnata</i> , leaf | $Zn(NO_3)_2 \times 6H_2O$ | stirred for 2 h | 100 nm | Spherical | XRD, UV–vis, DLS, SEM, TEM, FT-IR, and EDX | Antibacterial activity | ZnO NPs have shown higher antibacterial activity against Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria | [57] |
| <i>Agathosma betulina</i> , leaf | $Zn(NO_3)_2 \times 6H_2O$ | Heated at $100^\circ C$ for 2 hours | 15.8 nm | Quasi-spherical | TEM, EDS, XRD, IR, and Raman | | Demonstrated a proficient nonlinear current-voltage exponential result | [58] |
| <i>Azadirachta indica</i> , <i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i> , <i>Murraya koenigii</i> , <i>Moringa oleifera</i> , and <i>Tamarindus indica</i> , leaf | $Zn(NO_3)_2 \times 6H_2O$ | heated at $120^\circ C$ for 2 h | 27-54 nm | Spherical | FT-IR, XRD, UV–Vis, SEM, TEM and EDX | Antioxidant and antidiabetic activity | <i>Tamarindus indica</i> exhibited significant antidiabetic and antioxidant activity as compared to others | [59] |
| <i>Ocimum Tenuiflorum</i> | $ZnNO_3$ | Heated at $70^\circ C$ until boiling | 13.86 nm | hexagonal | XRD, SEM, and FTIR | Lasers, luminescent material, and paints | It can be applied to lasers, luminescent material, paints, and so on | [60] |

| Plant, Source | Precursor | Conditions | Size | Morphology | Characterization | Application | Key Effects | Ref |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|------------------|--|--|--|------|
| <i>Zingiber officinale</i> , root | ZnCO ₃ | Heated at 57°C | 23-26 nm | Spherical | FTIR, EDX, SEM and XRD | Antimicrobial activity | showed potential antimicrobial activity against <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> , <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> , <i>Candida albicans</i> , and <i>Penicillium notatum</i> , such pathogenic organisms | [61] |
| <i>Matricaria chamomilla</i> L. (flower), <i>Olea europaea</i> (leaf), and <i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i> M. (fruit) | ZnO | Stirred for 4 hours | 48.2, 65.4, and 61.6 nm, respectively | Cubic structures | UV-Vis, FTIR, XRD, TEM, SEM and EDS | Antibacterial activity | Antibacterial activity of <i>Olea europaea</i> synthesized ZnONPs on <i>Xanthomonas oryzae</i> pv. <i>Oryza</i> (Xoo) had a higher inhibition zone of 2.2 cm at 16.0 mg/ml as compared to other plant-extracted nanoparticles, and these biosynthesized nanoparticles were also efficient in bacterial leaf blight diseases for rice amelioration. | [62] |
| <i>Euphorbia hirta</i> , leaf | ZnNO ₃ | Heated at 60- 90°C | 20 -25 nm | Spherical | UV-vis, FT-IR, XRD, and SEM | Antimicrobial Activity and Anti-fungal Activity | The highest antimicrobial activity was shown with the inhibition of <i>Streptococcus aureus</i> , with a zone of around 29 mm. The highest anti-fungal activity was demonstrated by <i>Arthrogyrposis cuboida</i> with a zone of inhibition of 29 mm | [63] |
| <i>Carica papaya</i> , leaf | Zn(O ₂ CCH ₃) ₂ x 2(H ₂ O) | Heated under 60°C for two hours, pH =8 | 50 nm | Spherical | FESEM, EDS, TEM, PXRD, FT-IR, and UV-Vis | photocatalytic and photovoltaic activity | Exhibited complete dye (MB) degradation within 180 min under UV light scattering | [64] |
| <i>Tectona grandis</i> (L.), leaf | ZnNO ₃ | Stirred for 10 min | 50–150 nm | Spherical | FTIR, UV-Vis, DLS, FT-Raman, FESEM, TEM and PXRD | Anti-bacterial, anti-arthritis, and antioxidant activity | Anticancer activity conducted against osteoblast MC3T3-E1 cancer cells showed a significant reduction in size | [65] |
| <i>Lippia adoensis</i> , leaf | Zn(O ₂ CCH ₃) ₂ x 2(H ₂ O) | Stirred for 2 h | 18.5-26.8 nm | Spherical | XRD, SEM-EDS, TEM, UV-Vis and FTIR | Antibacterial Activity | It is effective against both Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria, with 14mm and 12 mm inhibition rates | [66] |
| Orange fruit, peel | ZnNO ₃ | Stirred for 60 min | 10–20 nm | spherical-like | TEM, FTIR, and XRD | Antibacterial activity and bactericidal activity | Strong antibacterial activity against <i>Escherichia coli</i> (<i>E. coli</i>), <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (<i>S. aureus</i>), and bactericidal activity against <i>S. aureus</i> | [67] |
| <i>Evolvulus alsinoides</i> , leaf | Zn(O ₂ CCH ₃) ₂ | Stirred at 50°C for 10 minutes | 100 nm | spherical | FESEM, HRTEM, XRD, UV-Vis and FT-IR | Medicine and industries | It is estimated that the ZnO NPs can be used in industrial applications, medicine, and health care. | [68] |
| <i>Phyllanthus niruri</i> , leaf | Zn(O ₂ CCH ₃) ₂ x 2(H ₂ O) | Titred with leaf extract for two h, pH=12 | 17.2 nm | spherical | XRD, SEM, EDAX, TEM, FT-IR and UV-vis | Photocatalytic and antioxidant activity | The NPs demonstrated significant photocatalytic activity over sunlight and hindered oxidative damage | [69] |
| <i>Mimosa pudica</i> , leaf, and coffee powder | Zn(O ₂ CCH ₃) ₂ | Stirred overnight | 27.14 Å and 46.94 Å | nanocrystal line | DTA-TGA, XRD, and DRUV-Vis | Photocatalytic activity | Showed higher photocatalytic activity when DRUV-Vis band gap 2.88eV and 3.10eV for <i>Mimosa pudica</i> , coffee powder, respectively | [70] |

| Plant, Source | Precursor | Conditions | Size | Morphology | Characterization | Application | Key Effects | Ref |
|---|--|--|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|------|
| | | | respectably | | | | | |
| <i>Vitex negundo</i> , leaf | Zn (NO ₃) ₂ x 6H ₂ O | stirred for five hours | 60 nm | Spherical | XRD, FT- IR, UV-vis, SEM, EDX, and DLS | Antibacterial activity | Significant antibacterial activity against <i>E. coli</i> and <i>S. aureus</i> | [71] |
| <i>Trifolium pratense</i> , flower | ZnO | stirred for four hours at 90 °C | 60–70 nm | | UV-Vis, XRD, FT-IR, SEM, and EDX | Antibacterial activity | Showed efficacy of ZnO-NPs against clinical and standard strains of <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , and <i>E. coli</i> | [72] |
| thyme plant, leaf | Zn(NO ₃) ₂ x 6H ₂ O | Heated and stirred at room temperature for an hour | 39.4–51.86 nm | spherical | UV-Vis, FTIR, FEZEM, EDX and XRD | | By 450°C calcination temperature, the plant-synthesized ZnO NPs showed higher quality than other temperature-synthesized NPs | [73] |
| <i>Fumaria officinalis</i> and <i>Peganum harmala</i> , leaf | | | 19.55 nm and 25.10 nm | Irregular rods and dispersed spherical | UV-vis FT-IR, XRD, and SEM | Antioxidant and antibacterial activity | To obtain good results as an antioxidant and antibacterial agent, we should use a higher concentration of approximately 400 µg/mL of ZnO NPs | [74] |
| <i>Cucumis maderaspatanus</i> , leaf | (Zn (NO ₃) ₂ x 2H ₂ O | heated at 60°C for 2 h, ultrasonication (US) | 15–25 nm | spherical | XRD, FTIR, XPS, SEM, and EDAX | Photocatalytic and antibacterial activity | ZnO-US exhibited 100 % suppression within 120 min & 90 % pollutant mineralized, whereas ZnO-60 and ZnO-RT, non-heated, demonstrated results of 80 % and 48 %, respectively | [75] |
| <i>Tagetes erecta</i> , leaf | Zn(O ₂ CCH ₃) ₂ x 2(H ₂ O) | During four hours heated at 70°C | 29 nm | nanorod and nanoflower | XRD, FTIR, SEM, EDX, and UV-Vis | | It is a cost-effective and non-toxic nanomaterial that has a wide range of biological and pharmaceutical applications. | [76] |
| <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> , <i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i> and <i>Anethum graveolens</i> | Zn(O ₂ CCH ₃) ₂ x 2(H ₂ O) | Stirred at 90°C | 10-19 nm | spherical | XRD, UV-vis and TEM | Larvicidal activity and insecticidal agent | ZnO-NPs exhibited the highest insecticidal effect for River oak (<i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i>) as compared to <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> and <i>Anethum graveolens</i> | [77] |
| <i>Ficus benghalensis</i> , leaf | ZnSO ₄ | Stirred at 40°C | 60 nm | spherical | EDX, SEM-EDX, XRD, FTIR, and UV-vis | Wastewater treatment | Showed long-term chromium-contaminated wastewater absorption | [78] |
| <i>Rhus coriaria</i> , fruit | Zn(C ₂ H ₃ O ₂) ₂ x 2H ₂ O | Heated at 70°C for 2 hours | 20.51 ± 3.90 nm | Spherical and hexagonal | UV-Vis, XRD, TEM, EDX and FT-IR | Anticancer activity | Showed promising anti-tumor activity against two breast cancer cells, MCF-7 and MDA-MB-231. IC ₅₀ values for MCF-7 were 35.04–44.86 µg/mL, and for MDA-MB were 55.54–63.71 µg/ mL | [79] |
| <i>Citrus limmeta</i> , peel | Zn(C ₂ H ₃ O ₂) ₂ | | 16.58 nm | spherical | UV-vis, XRD, FT-IR, HR-SEM and EDX | Antibacterial and antioxidant Activity | The nanopriming results showed complete elimination of soft and brown rot infections in comparison to non-primed potato tuber slices. against plant pathogenic bacteria (<i>Erwinia carotovora</i> , <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> , <i>Clavibacter michiganensis</i>) | [80] |
| <i>Eclipta prostrata</i> , leaf | ZnNO ₃ | Heated at room | <100 nm | agglomerated rod | SEM and FT-IR | Antimicrobial activity | Gram+ + and Gram – bacteria, along with fungi, | [81] |

| Plant, Source | Precursor | Conditions | Size | Morphology | Characterization | Application | Key Effects | Ref |
|--|--|--|------------|---|--|--|---|------|
| | | temperature for 2 hours | | | | | demonstrated antimicrobial activity | |
| <i>Nigella sativa</i> , seed | Zn(NO ₃) ₂ | stirred for thirty minutes | 43 nm | irregular and large, smooth, uniform, and non-uniform | XRD, SEM, UV-Vis, and FTIR | Anticancer activity | biomedical sciences, particularly in anticancer activity, significant antitumor/anticancer activity towards HepG-2 cells. | [82] |
| Shilajit, powder | ZnNO ₃ | Heated at 60°C | 75-400 nm | Spherical | UV-Vis, FTIR, XRD, SEM and EDAX | Anticancer activity | Shilajit ZnO NPs have significant cytotoxic effects against cervical cancer cells | [83] |
| <i>Piper betel</i> , leaf | ZnNO ₃ | Stirred at room temperature for 48 hours | 45.8-68 nm | spherical to irregular | UV-vis, XRD, Zeta potential, and SEM | Used as a plant growth parameter | Demonstrated excellent nano-fertilization | [84] |
| green tea, leaf | zinc acetate dihydrate | stirred for an hour | | | UV, FTIR, and XRD | anti-dandruff shampoo | Demonstrated potential antifungal activity against <i>Malassezia furfur</i> | [85] |
| <i>Salvadora persica</i> , leaf | Zn(NO ₃) ₂ x 6H ₂ O | Heated at 60°C | 32-68 nm | hexagonal and rod-shaped | SEM, EDX, FTIR, XRD and UV-Vis | Dye removal activity | Efficient as methyl orange dye removal | [86] |
| <i>Vernonia amygdalina</i> , leaf | Zn(C ₂ H ₃ O ₂) ₂ x 2H ₂ O | Reacted for two hours | | spherical or elliptical | XRD, FTIR, UV-vis, SEM, and EDX | Antimicrobial activity | The ZnO NPs used as a gentamicin against clinical pathogens | [87] |
| <i>Strobilanthes hamiltoniana</i> , leaf | Zinc acetate | at 60°C for an hour | 10–50 nm | spherical, rod-like, or hexagonal | UV, XRD, FTIR, FESEM, EDX, HR-TEM and SAED | Antibacterial, antioxidant, and anti-cancer activity | Showed promising anti-cancer activity against HepG2 (IC ₅₀), antioxidant activity, and antibacterial effectiveness against fungal and bacterial pathogens | [88] |
| <i>Citrus sinensis</i> , fruit peel | Zn(NO ₃) ₂ x H ₂ O | Heated at 60°C for 1 hour | 31.2 nm, | wurtzite hexagonal | XRD, FTIR, UV-Vis, and EDX | Antibacterial activity | The prepared nanoparticles exhibited bactericidal activity, effectively inhibiting bacterial growth and generating discernible zones of inhibition The antimicrobial potential of the synthesized ZnO NPs was evaluated against two bacterial strains, <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> and <i>Escherichia coli</i> Synthesized ZnO NPs can be applied as a potential antibacterial agent | [89] |

3.2. CuO NPs.

CuO NPs have demonstrated proficient efficacy in catalyzing and reducing harmful dyes in wastewater treatment and other applications, with a focus on pollution control and related actors [90–92]. Again, encapsulation of the CuO and ZnO NPs into their composite materials has been meticulously designed to improve the mechanical and thermal properties of polymers, and their suitability for advanced synthesized materials is significant [93,94]. Synergistic results have been observed when combining these NPs with other important substances, including metal-organic and graphene structures, which have also caught the attention of current researchers, revealing enhanced sensor performance and photocatalytic activity [95,96]. Despite their potential applications, the toxicity of CuO and ZnO NPs must be thoroughly determined. Research has shown that interactions with biological methods can

contribute to cytotoxicity and oxidative stress, prompting deeper studies to identify safer alternatives and techniques to reduce hazardous substances [97,98].

However, CuO NPs demonstrate a smaller bandgap (about 1.2 eV), enabling them to absorb visible light appropriately. This characteristic has manufactured CuO NPs as efficient candidates for photocatalysis and solar energy applications [99]. Moreover, their semiconducting features activate their usage in electronic devices and gas sensors [100,101]. Both CuO and ZnO NPs can be manufactured using various methods, such as sol-gel processes, chemical vapor deposition, and hydrothermal methods, thereby enabling the desired size and morphology, which, in turn, increases their functional properties [102–112].

We have some CuO research in which, for example, *Catha edulis* (leaf) is used to produce CuO NPs applied as an antibacterial agent with the help of the $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ metal precursor, using XRD, SEM-EDS, TEM, UV-Vis, and FTIR techniques. Several plants have been used to manufacture CuO NPs, as shown in Table 2, along with their applications and different characterization methods. In the end, the versatile properties of CuO and ZnO NPs make them indispensable in several fields, from electronic applications and environmental applications to biomedical engineering. Ongoing research into their synthesis, toxicity, and functionalization is important for fully supporting their use in practical applications Figure 4.

Table 2. Key features of CuO nanoparticles.

| Plant sources | Precursor | Conditions | Morphology | Size | Characterization strategies | Application | Key Effects | Ref |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|--|--|-------|
| <i>Catha edulis</i> , leaf | $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ | stirred at 80°C | spherical | Precurs and plant; (1:10, 3:10, and 1:2), 28.10 nm, 25.30 nm, and 18.20 nm, respectively | XRD, SEM-EDS, TEM, UV-Vis and FTIR | Antibacterial Activity | CuO NPs (1: 2) ratio with the smallest size (18.2 nm) demonstrated the best antibacterial activity | [113] |
| <i>Allium Sativum</i> | $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ | Heated at 70°C for 2-3 hours | spherical, oval-shaped | 20-50 nm | FTIR, XRD, UV-Vis, SEM, and HRTEM | Antimicrobial, antioxidant, and anti-larvicidal activity | Anti-larvicidal activity, anti-inflammatory activity, antimicrobial activity against <i>Anopheles subpictus</i> , egg albumin, bacteria, and fungi, respectively | [114] |
| <i>Calotropis gigantea</i> , leaf | $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ | 400°C for 2 hours | spherical | 20-30 nm | FESEM, EDX, TEM, XRD, and FTIR | solar cells | CuO NPs-based counter electrode exhibited potential electrocatalytic activity without any harmful chemicals | [115] |
| <i>Plectranthus amboinicus</i> , leaf | $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ | Stirred for 3-4 hours at 70°C | spherical, circular-shaped | 5–30 nm | XRD, FTIR, UV-Vis, DLS, FESEM, EDAX, and HRTEM | Antimicrobial activity, Anti-diabetic activity, Anti-larvicidal activity, Antioxidant activity, and Anti-inflammatory analysis | The antimicrobial acts on bacteria and fungi. Antioxidant activity: free-radical scavenging. The anti-inflammatory activity of the protein as well as denaturation in egg albumin. The anti-diabetic activity on α -Amylase. The anti-larvicidal activity on mosquito larvae. | [116] |
| <i>Catha edulis</i> , leaf | $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ | pH = 11 | | 1-8 nm | FT-IR and UV-Vis | Antibacterial Activity | Exhibited efficient antimicrobial activity against two human pathogens, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> and <i>Escherichia coli</i> | [117] |
| <i>Lantana camara</i> , flower | $\text{Cu}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_2$ | stirred at 65 °C | rod-shaped, spherical | 13-28 nm | SEM, HRTEM, TEM, SAED, and XRD | catalytic activity | Significant yield catalyst and reusable up to the fifth generation. | [118] |
| <i>Jasminium sambac</i> , leaf | $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ | dried at 60°C for 2 hours | irregular | 13.4 nm | UV-Vis, SEM, XRD, FTIR, and EDX | photocatalytic activity | Got 97% MB (Methylene Blue) dye degradation within 210 minutes, powerful | [119] |

| Plant, sources | Precursor | Conditions | Morphology | Size | Characterization strategies | Application | Key Effects | Ref |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|-----------|--|---|---|-------|
| | | | | | | | photocatalytic activity in wastewater remediation | |
| <i>Aloe vera</i> , leaf | copper nitrate | stirred at 100-120°C | versatile and spherical | 20 nm | SEM-EDS, FTIR, UV-Vis, XRD and TEM | Antibacterial activity | Showed proficient antibacterial activity against three bacterial fish pathogens (<i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i> and <i>Aeromonas hydrophila</i> , <i>Flavobacterium branchiophilum</i>) | [120] |
| <i>Moringa Oleifera</i> , leaf | CuSO ₄ x 5H ₂ O | dried at 100°C for 1 h | Nanorods | 25.93 nm | XRD, UV-Vis, EDS, EIS, SEM, and GCD | Supercapacitor and energy storage | Significant applications as a supercapacitor and other energy storage | [121] |
| <i>Spinacia oleracea</i> , leaf | CuSO ₄ | stirred at 80°C | oval, spherical, hexagonal, and cubical | 20-80 nm | UV-Vis, FT-IR, and X-Ray diffraction | Bactericidal, antifungal, and larvicidal activity | Showed excellent bactericidal activity to <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> , <i>Escherichia Coli</i> , <i>Proteus</i> , <i>Klebsiella</i> , and significant antifungal activity to <i>A. flavus</i> , <i>Rhizopus</i> , and <i>A. fumigant</i> and larvicidal activity to <i>Culex. Quinquefasciatus</i> | [122] |
| <i>Sesbania grandiflora</i> , leaf | CuSO ₄ | stirred at 60°C | needle-shaped | 33 nm | UV-Vis, UV-Vis DRS, FTIR, XRD, SEM, and EDAX | Anti-diabetic, Cytotoxic, Anti-Microbial, and Anti-Inflammatory | Demonstrated significant antidiabetic, antioxidant, protein degradation-inhibiting, and anti-microbial characteristics | [123] |
| <i>Punica granatum</i> , peel | Cu(CH ₃ -COO) ₂ x H ₂ O | pH 10 at 60 C | well-dispersed and spherical | 35.80 nm | XRD, FTIR, SEM | Antibacterial activity | Demonstrated bacterial strain to <i>Escherichia coli</i> | [124] |
| <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> , leaf | anhydrous copper sulfate | Vibrated room temperature for 2 hours | Spherical, | 88 nm | FTIR, XRD, SEM, DLS | dye removal | Applied to banish methyl orange dye from aqueous solutions | [125] |
| <i>Cedrus deodara</i> , leaf | copper sulfate pentahydrate | 150 rpm for two hours | Spherical | 20 nm | SEM, XRD, UV-Vis, TEM and FTIR | Antibacterial activity | The CuO nanoparticles were tested to inhibit the growth of human pathogenic strains with the help of the disc diffusion method against <i>E. coli</i> and <i>S. aureus</i> . It is noted that the formed CuO nanoparticles showed efficient antibacterial activity, especially against <i>E. coli</i> , with a maximum inhibition zone of 29 mm | [126] |
| Ephedra Alata, aerial parts' powder | CuSO ₄ x 5H ₂ O | Boiled at 90°C | octahedral crystal clusters and spherical | 15.21 nm | XRD, UV-Vis, FTIR and FESEM-EDX | Antifungal, antibacterial, and photocatalytic activity | Bio-synthesized CuO-NPs exhibited higher Antifungal, antibacterial, and photocatalytic activity than chemically synthesized CuO-NPs | [127] |
| <i>Ixoro coccinea</i> , leaf | CuSO ₄ x 5H ₂ O | kept the mixture at room temperature overnight | Spherical | 80–110 nm | FTIR, SEM, TEM, and UV-visible spectrophotometer | | Cost-effective and environmentally friendly | [128] |
| <i>Gloriosa superba</i> L., leaf | cupric nitrate | 400 ± 10°C | Spherical | 5–10 nm | XRD, SEM, TEM, and UV-vis | Antibacterial activity | Exhibited significant antibacterial activity against both gram-positive (<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>) and gram-negative (<i>Klebsiella aerogenes</i> , <i>Pseudomonas desmolyticum</i> , and <i>Escherichia coli</i>) bacteria, respectively | [129] |

| Plant, sources | Precursor | Conditions | Morphology | Size | Characterization strategies | Application | Key Effects | Ref |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|------------|-------|---|---------------------------------------|--|-------|
| <i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i> , fruit | $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \times 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ | stirred the mixture for 30 min at 25°C | spherical | 20 nm | TGA/DTA, UV-Vis, DRS, XRD, FTIR, BET, TEM, FESEM/EDX, and PSA | Cytotoxic and photocatalytic activity | Showed great performance in damaging cancer cells and is an effective photocatalyst for removing pollution | [130] |

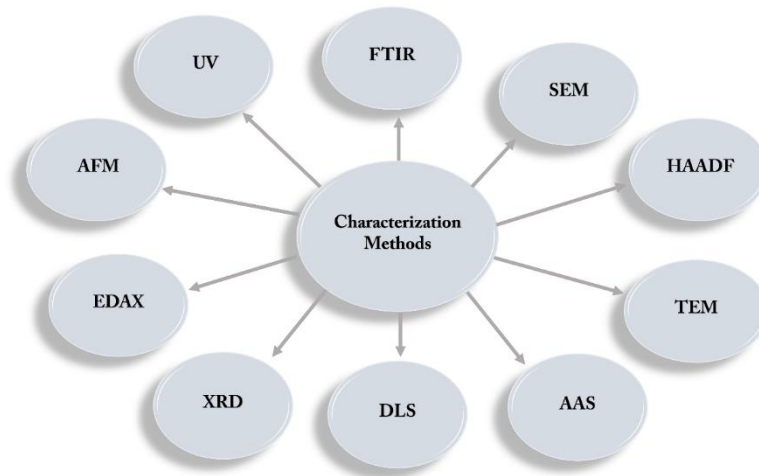


Figure 3. Various characterization methods.

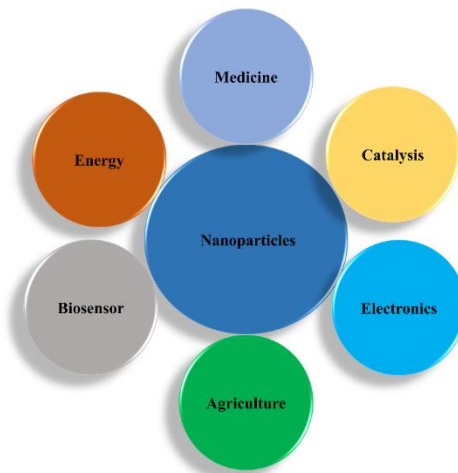


Figure 4. Applications of Nanoparticles in versatile fields.

4. Future Directions and Applications

With the continuous advancement of nanotechnology, the green synthesis of ZnO and CuO NPs promotes an exciting prospect for future research and applications. Numerous key directions have been pursued to enhance the impact of these biogenic NPs across various fields. A deep realization of the mechanisms underscoring the green synthesis of CuO and ZnO NPs is important for optimizing production methods. Future studies should focus on describing the specific roles of various phytochemicals involved in the reduction and stabilization of metal ions. Visualizing how entities, including pH, temperature, and extract concentration, affect the size and morphology of nanoparticles can lead to standardized protocols that enhance the reproducibility and scalability of synthesized nanoparticles. Implementing advanced characterization strategies, such as HRTEM and dynamic light scattering DLS, will yield a more transparent analysis of the NPs’ characteristics, enabling numerous applications [131–134].

While many plant species have demonstrated efficiency in synthesizing CuO and ZnO nanoparticles, a broader study of biodiversity could reveal additional effective raw materials.

Scrutinizing useless or novel plant extracts, such as medicinal herbs and agricultural waste ingredients, can lead to a sustainable method of repurposing biomass [135,136]. Moreover, research should evaluate the suitability of integrating these extracts into industrial systems, supporting a circular economy that reduces waste by enabling cost-effective NP synthesis [137,138].

The biomedical applications of CuO and ZnO NPs are particularly promising, as they are environmentally friendly and offer dormant antimicrobial and therapeutic properties. Future research could focus on developing NP-based drug delivery systems that enhance the bioavailability and potential of several therapeutics, particularly for treating infectious diseases and cancer [139–142]. Modification of NPs with specific targeting ligands or the use of biocompatible polymers can improve their selectivity and reduce potential side effects. In addition, a deeper study of the interactions between these NPs and biological systems will promote insights into their behavior *in vivo*, clearing the way for clinical applications and so on [143–146].

The role of CuO and ZnO NPs in environmental remediation represents another potential area for future research. Their photocatalytic properties make them ideal candidates for breaking down pollutants in water [147]. Investigating the potential of these nanoparticles to reduce pollutants, such as pharmaceuticals and heavy metals, will improve our understanding of their environmental effects [148–150].

Moreover, predicting their incorporation into filtration methods or catalytic converters could ameliorate their empirical utility in addressing many pollution challenges.

Encapsulation of CuO and ZnO nanoparticles into smart materials can improve various sectors, including energy, electronics, and textiles. Their unique features offer the development of flexible electronics, sensors, and antimicrobial coatings [151–156]. Future research should assess the applicability of these NPs with advanced technologies, including 3D printing and nanocomposite materials, to develop multifunctional strategies. In addition, their potential uses in energy applications, for example, solar cells and batteries, could open new doors for sustainable energy [157–159].

As the applications of plant-synthesized nanoparticles expand, establishing standardized protocols and regulatory frameworks is important. Future research should examine the need for safety evaluations and environmental impact analyses to ensure the appropriate use of CuO and ZnO NPs. The development of guidelines for their characterization, synthesis, and application will encourage greater acceptance and simplify their integration into many industries. Collaboration among many researchers, industry stakeholders, and regulatory bodies will be essential to address these challenges [160].

The complex characteristics of NPs synthesis and application require multifaceted research practices. Cooperation among chemists, environmental scientists, biologists, and engineers can lead to groundbreaking research and widespread studies that express multiple features of NPs research. Collaborating with industry can also help translate research gaps into field applications by promoting technological advancements and market value [161–164].

The future of plant-synthesized CuO and ZnO NPs is bright, with amorous approaches to explanation that prioritize increasing their utility and impact across many fields. By emphasizing mechanistic realization, expressing raw material resources, and focusing on new applications in drug delivery, smart materials, and environmental remediation, researchers can activate the full potential of these green nanomaterials. The basement of innovative frameworks and multifaceted collaboration will, overall, make it easier to responsibly develop and apply

CuO and ZnO NPs by contributing to sustainable solutions for combating global challenges. As the body of research on green synthesis continues to grow, these contributions are expected to improve citation rates and knowledge within the scientific community by positioning the work at the forefront of nanotechnology advancements.

5. Conclusion

Nanotechnology has caught the eye and brought revolutionary changes across various fields, such as medicine and agriculture. It is also a major concern that the methods of synthesis for these nanoparticles are vital to examine due to environmental contamination. Chemical synthesis methods are environmentally harmful and pose greater risks to human health. That is why this study demonstrated various ways to synthesize CuO and ZnO NPs from plant sources and their characterization methods, thereby securing the environment from various contaminants and reducing financial expenses through cost-effective green synthesis methods. Because nanotechnology is most effective due to its unique properties and sizes, it performs better than other chemically synthesized materials. Moreover, it is easier to manufacture NPs from natural resources than from chemically synthesized materials, particularly from various plant sources. If we use plant-based synthesis, called green synthesis, the methods here are cost-effective and environmentally supportive, and won't damage the environment in terms of global temperature. That is why this study will help readers gain comprehensive knowledge of plant-mediated CuO and ZnO NPs, with their effective characterization and applications. However, there are still some challenges in synthesizing NPs, including the need for proper instruments and reduced production. Future studies should focus on reducing the amount of metal precursor and on elucidating the exact mechanism.

Author Contributions

Conceptualization, J.S.; methodology, J.S.; software, J.S.; validation, J.S.; formal analysis, J.S.; investigation, J.S.; resources, J.S.; data curation, J.S.; writing—original draft preparation, J.S.; writing—review and editing, J.S.; visualization, J.S.; supervision, J.S.; project administration, J.S.

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Conflict of interest

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