Production of di- and triglycerol using acetate salts as catalysts

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Glycerol has appeared as a renewable bio-resource for the synthesis of polyglycerols which have various application fields. Di- and triglycerol have been used as useful additives for food additives, cosmetic, and pharmaceutical emulsifiers. The etherification reaction of glycerol was carried out in the presence of alkali metal-acetate salt as catalysts. Alkali metal-acetate salts showed high catalytic activities with corresponding selectivities for diglycerol and triglycerol. The effects of the amount of catalyst, reaction time, and reaction temperature for the etherification of glycerol were investigated.