Supporting information

NMR spectra for products identification-
In order to obtain an NMR spectrum a sample of the isolated product was placed in an NMR tube and dissolved in DMSO-d$_6$. $^1$H-NMR spectra were recorded with Bruker DRX-400 instrument.

Fig. A1. $^1$H-NMR spectrum for isolated CMF (5-chloromethyl furfural). CMF have been isolated and purified using column chromatography. After dichloromethane, used as the mobile phase, was evaporated, a few micrograms of pure CMF were placed in NMR tube. Then DMSO-d$_6$ was added as the NMR solvent, and the spectrum was examined with Bruker DRX-400 instrument.
Fig. A2. $^1$H-NMR spectrum for isolated BMF (5-bromomethyl furfural). BMF have been isolated and purified using column chromatography. After dichloromethane, used as the mobile phase, was evaporated, a few micrograms of pure BMF were placed in NMR tube. Then DMSO-d$_6$ was added as the NMR solvent, and the spectrum was examined with Bruker DRX-400 instrument.

UV-vis spectra and calibration –
Calculation of CMF molar absorption coefficient was based on its absorption band at 279nm. The slope of the Beer-Lambert equation for CMF solutions, 10-40e$^{-5}$M, in DCE is the molar absorption coefficient for CMF. Since $A = C \times \varepsilon \times l$, where $A$ is the absorption, $C$ is the concentration, $l$ is the optical length path and $\varepsilon$ is the molar absorption coefficient, we could calculate the molar absorption coefficient to be $\varepsilon = 16070$ M$^{-1}$ for CMF (see Fig. A3). The same principle was applied for BMF. UV-vis absorption of isolated and purified BMF was measured (at 286nm) at different concentrations, 10-40e$^{-5}$M, so its molar absorption coefficient could be calculated using Beer-Lambert law. We have found that for BMF $\varepsilon = 18777$ M$^{-1}$ (see Fig. A4).
Fig. A3. UV-vis spectrum and calibration curve for CMF. From the right UV-vis spectra of CMF at different concentrations, and from the left the calibration curve for molar absorption coefficient determining ($\varepsilon = 16070 \text{M}^{-1}$). The calibration was performed on isolated and purified CMF dissolved in 1,2-dichloroethane.

Fig. A4. UV-vis spectrum and calibration curve for BMF. From the right UV-vis spectra of BMF at different concentrations, and from the left the calibration curve for molar absorption coefficient determining ($\varepsilon = 18777 \text{M}^{-1}$). The calibration was performed on isolated and purified BMF dissolved in 1,2-dichloroethane.