



**CATÓLICA**  
CBQF · CENTRE FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY  
AND FINE CHEMISTRY ASSOCIATE LABORATORY

PORTO

# ***Agrofood Byproducts as a Source for New Food Ingredients for Sustainable and Healthier Diets***

**Manuela Pintado**  
**[mpintado@ucp.pt](mailto:mpintado@ucp.pt)**

CBQF – Centro de Biotecnologia e Química Fina – Laboratório Associado, Escola Superior de Biotecnologia, Universidade Católica Portuguesa/Porto



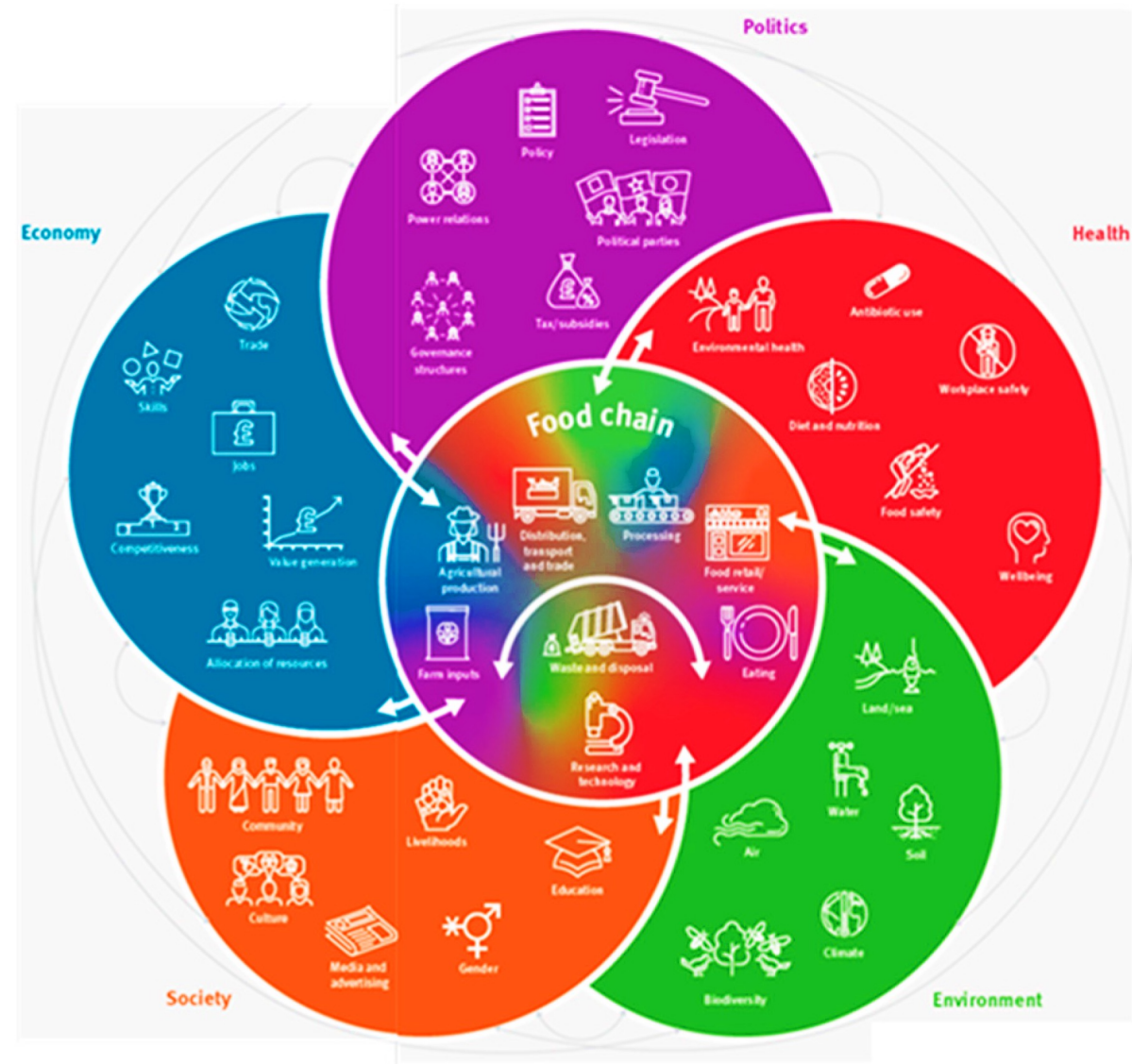
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PORTUGUESA**

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# AGENDA

- Challenges and Needs in the 21st Century
- Agrofood Byproducts and Their Potential as New Food Ingredients
- Nutritional and Functional Benefits
- Processing Techniques Methods
- Examples of Plant Byproducts and Losses
  - Melon, Lemon, Soy meal and Okara, Tomato, Cruciferous Vegetables, Olive Pomace and Okara

# Challenges and needs in the 21st century



Parsons, K.; Hawkes, C.; Wells, R. Brief 2. What is the food system? A Food policy perspective. In *Rethinking Food Policy: A Fresh Approach to Policy and Practice*; Centre for Food Policy: London, UK, 2019

# Challenges and needs in the 21st century

Today around 100 million tonnes of food are wasted annually in the EU

European Commission

50% Food losses and waste by 2030

every year around the globe  
1.3 BILLION TONNES OF

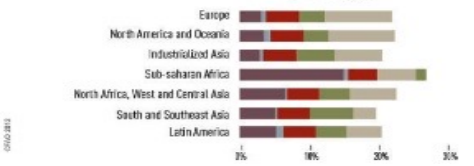
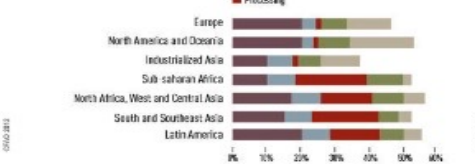
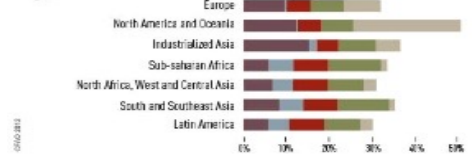
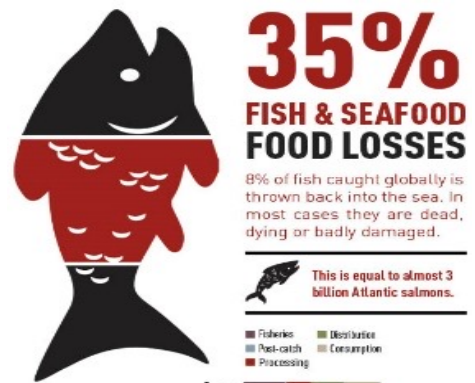
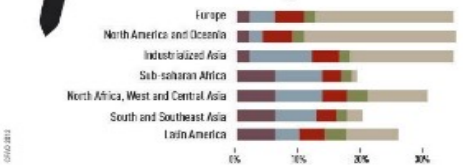
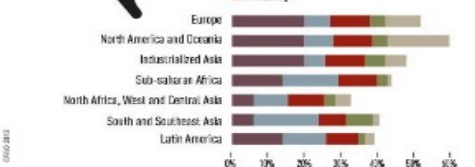
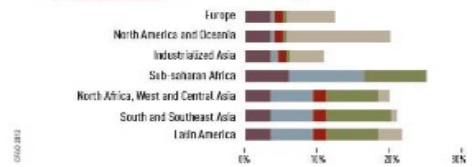
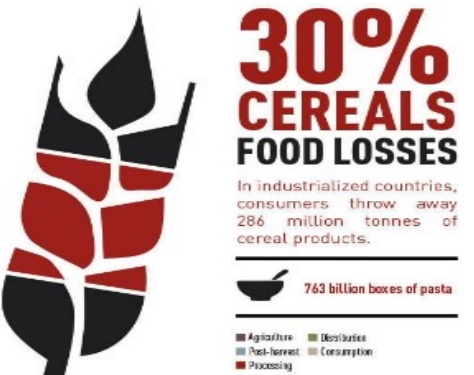


is  
lost or wasted

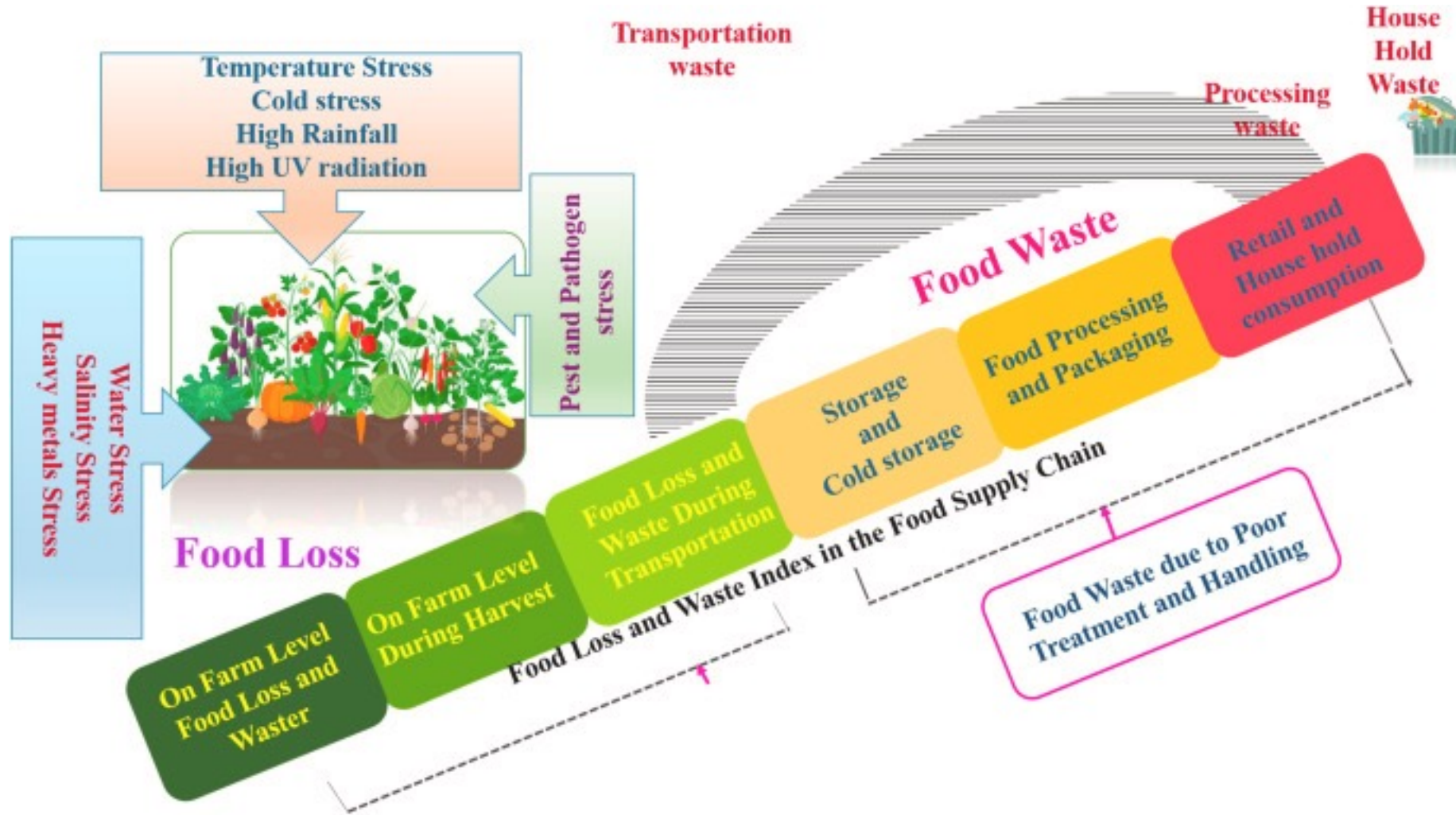
that is

1/3

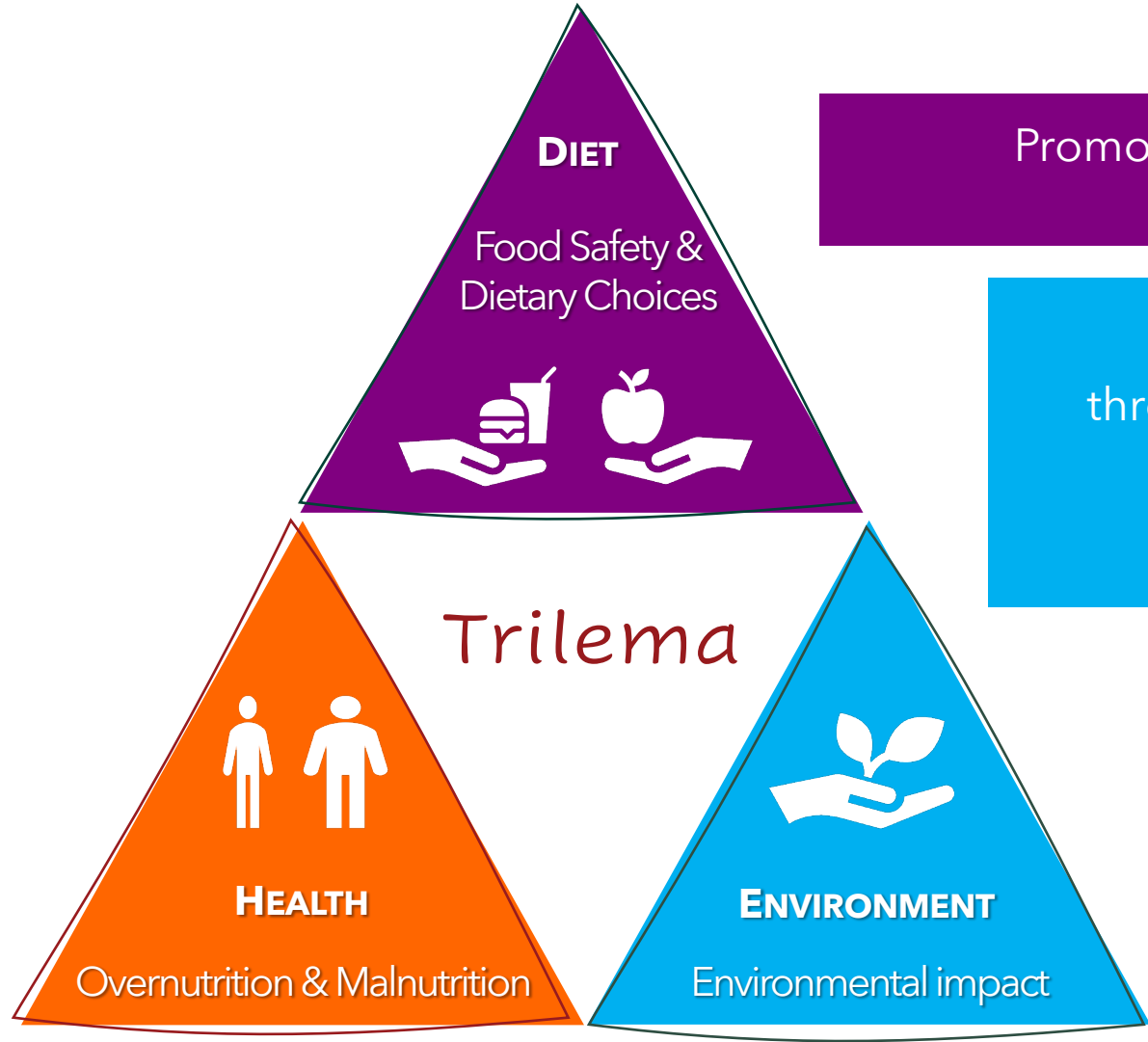
OF ALL FOOD  
PRODUCED FOR  
HUMAN CONSUMPTION



# Challenges and needs in the 21st century



# Challenges and needs in the 21st century



Promote food and nutrition reforms that support diets - Healthy food in optimal quantities

Build policies that support food security for populations throughout their lifetime, including specialized nutrition care for those at risk of or suffering from malnutrition - the foundation for a healthier global population

Develop food systems with adequate production & distribution and, at the same time, long-term sustainable food production

# Clean label

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- Natural ingredients: no artificial flavors, artificial colors, artificial preservatives or synthetic additives
- Simplicity: less chemicals and recognizable ingredients that do not have any artificial chemicals
- Transparency: information on how ingredients are sourced and how products are manufactured
- Minimal processing: processing using techniques that consumers don't understand to be artificial

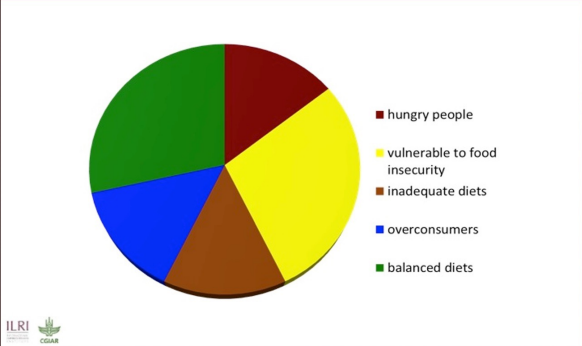


# Agrofood byproducts and their potential as new food ingredients

## Issues

### Dietary Inadequacy

Nutritional divides among 7 billion people today

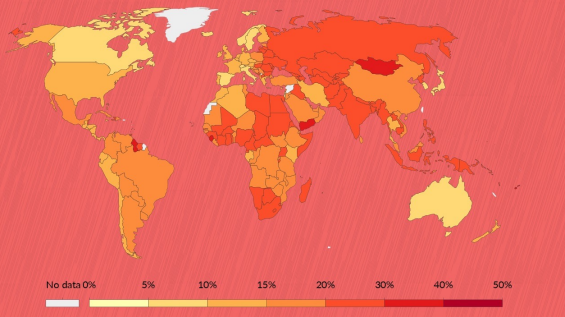


- hungry people
- vulnerable to food insecurity
- inadequate diets
- overconsumers
- balanced diets

ILRI CGAR

### Non-Communicable Diseases

Mortality from non-communicable diseases, 2016  
Mortality from CVD, cancer, diabetes or CRD is the percent of 50-year-old-people who would die before their 70th birthday from any of cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory disease, assuming that s/he would experience current mortality rates at every age and s/he would not die from any other cause of death (e.g. injuries or HIV/AIDS).



No data 0% 5% 10% 15% 20% 30% 40% 50%

Source: World Bank CC BY

Prevention of

Fortified / Enriched foods



Dietary supplements





Consistent with SDG12

Up-Cycling

- Increase of fiber availability
- Increase of antioxidant activity
- Increase of bioactive compounds
- Decrease of anti-nutritional factors


## Food By-Products and Wastes are... Issue & Solution

Potential sources of:-

- Fiber
- Proteins
- Minerals
- Vitamins
- Bioactive compounds



Bioprocessing





## Almond by-products



Hulls



Shells



Skin



## Derived by-products



Pressed almond oil's cake



Almond drink dregs (Okara)

## Food applications



Bread



Biscuits



Jam, biscuits, waffle, bread, almond paste



Gluten-free flour, cookies and extruded snack



Crackers and biscuits

## Nutritional properties



- Fibers, fat, ash, polyphenols content and antioxidant activity



- Fibers, polyphenols content and antioxidant activity
- Enzyme inhibitory effect ( $\alpha$ -glucosidase)



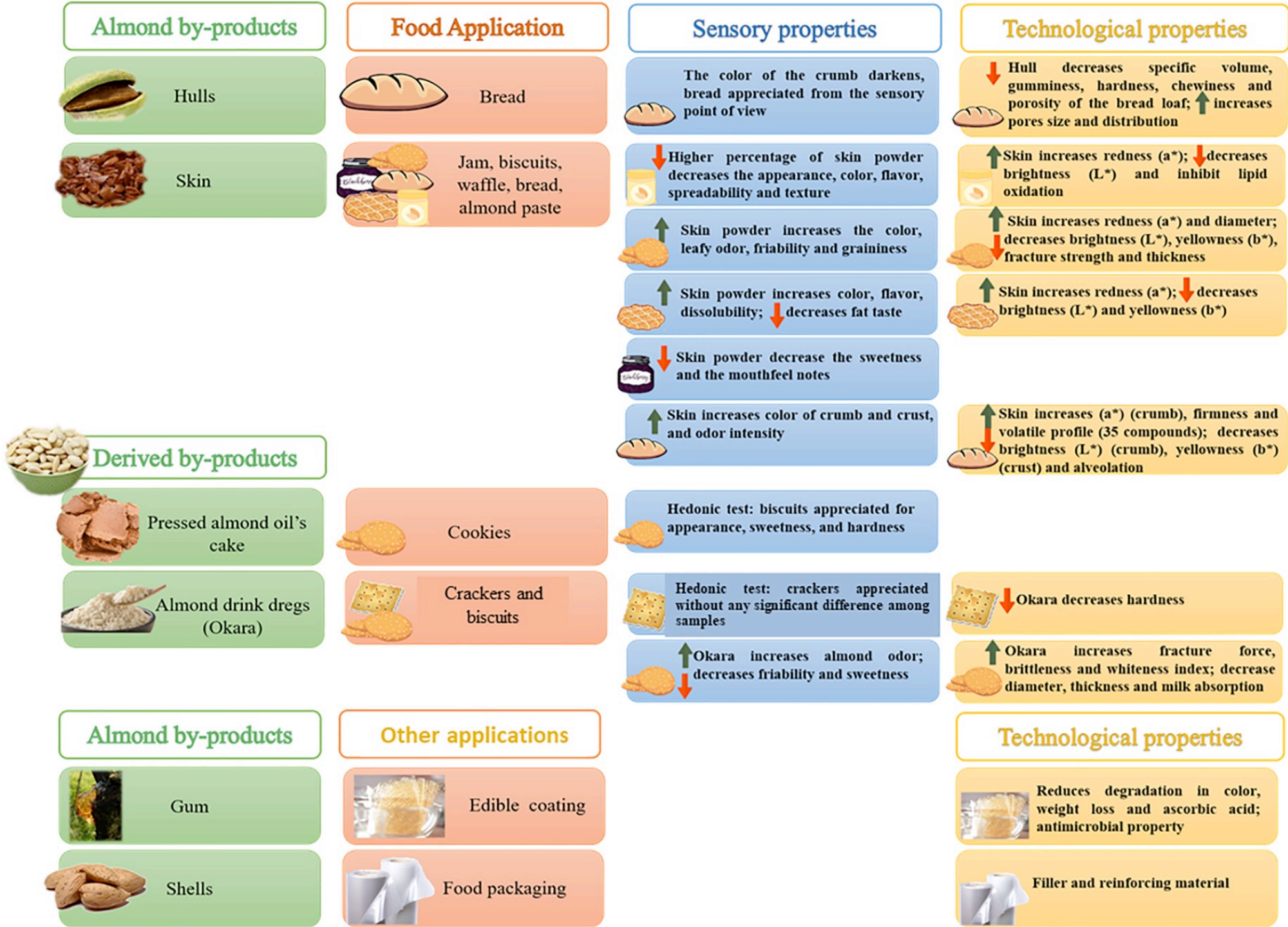
- Fibers, fat, polyphenols and antioxidant activity
  - Enzyme inhibitory effect
- ↓ Carbohydrate, soluble sugar and starch



- Fibers, ash, protein, unsaturated fatty acid (MUFA and PUFA), phenols and flavonoids content
- ↓ Total and reduced sugar



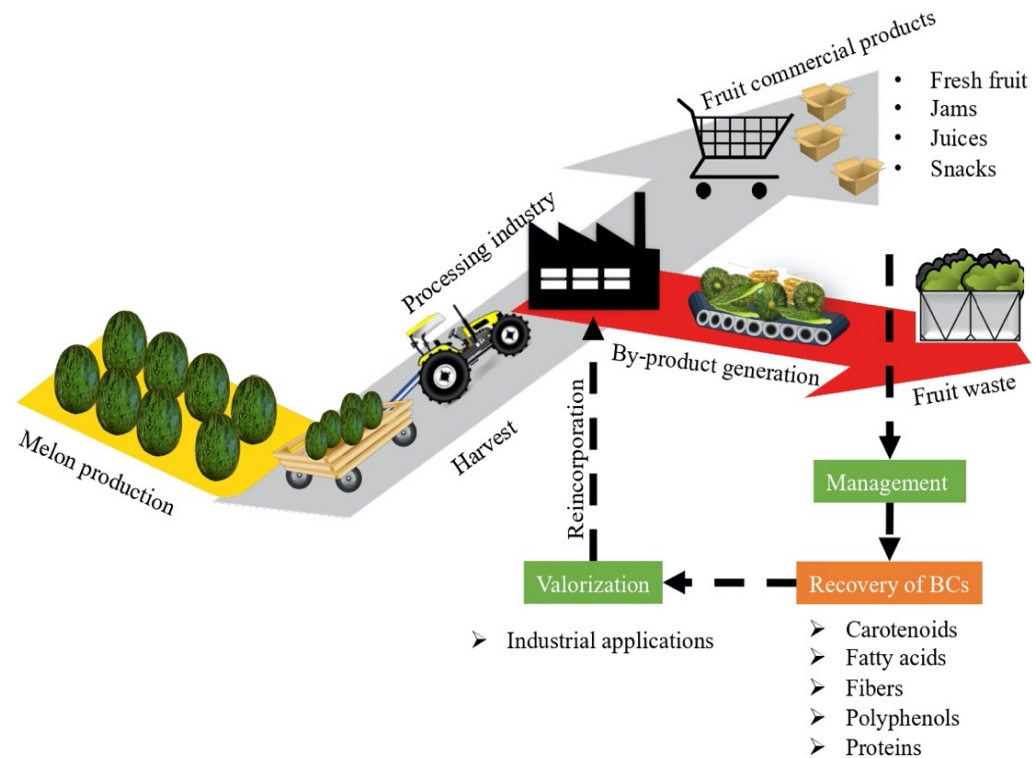
- Fibers, proteins and lipid fraction
- ↓ Triacylglycerol oligo-polymers



# VALORIZATION OF AGRO-INDUSTRIAL FOOD BY-PRODUCTS: AN OPPORTUNITY TOWARDS BIOACTIVES

## Circular Economy

### Agri-Food Cycle



Journal of Environmental Management

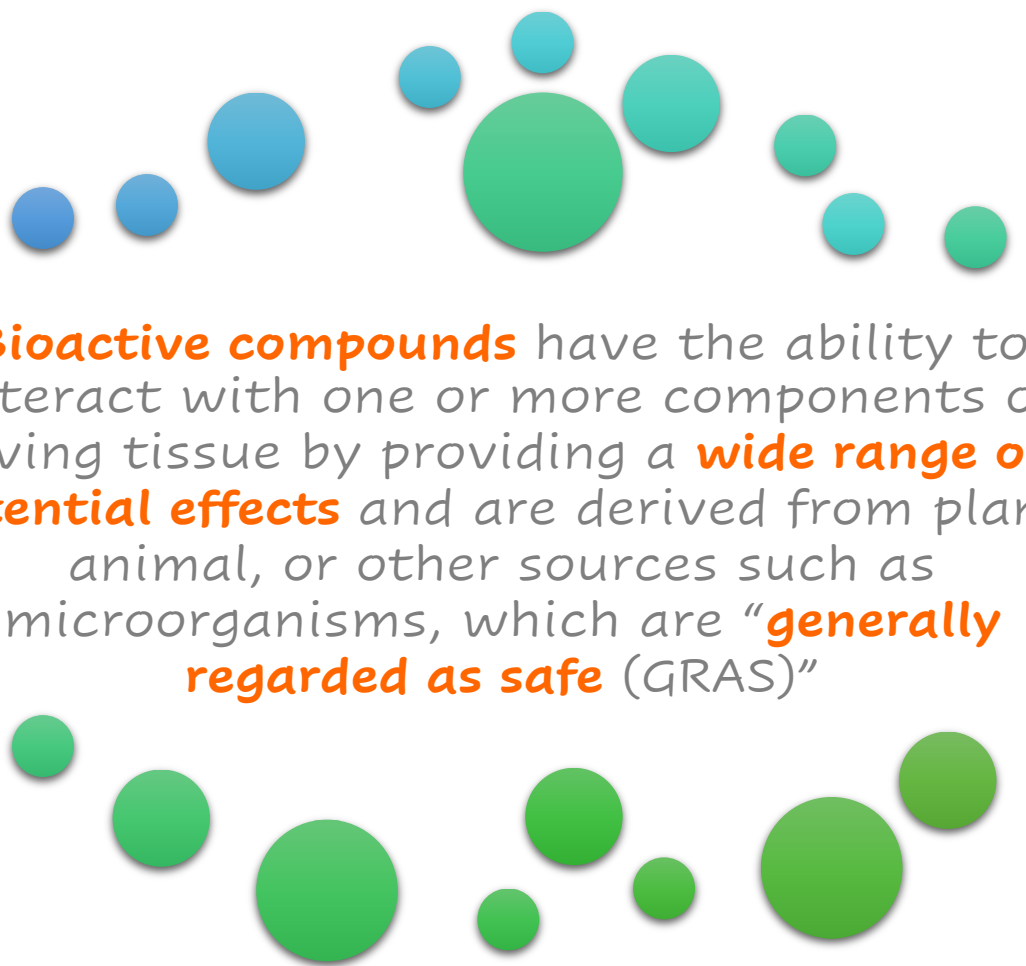
Volume 299, 1 December 2021, 113571




## Valorisation of food agro-industrial by-products: From the past to the present and perspectives

Ricardo Gómez-García<sup>a, b</sup> ✉, Débora A. Campos<sup>a</sup>, Cristóbal N. Aguilar<sup>b</sup>, Ana R. Madureira<sup>a</sup>,  
Manuela Pintado<sup>a</sup> 👤 ✉

# BIOACTIVE COMPOUNDS

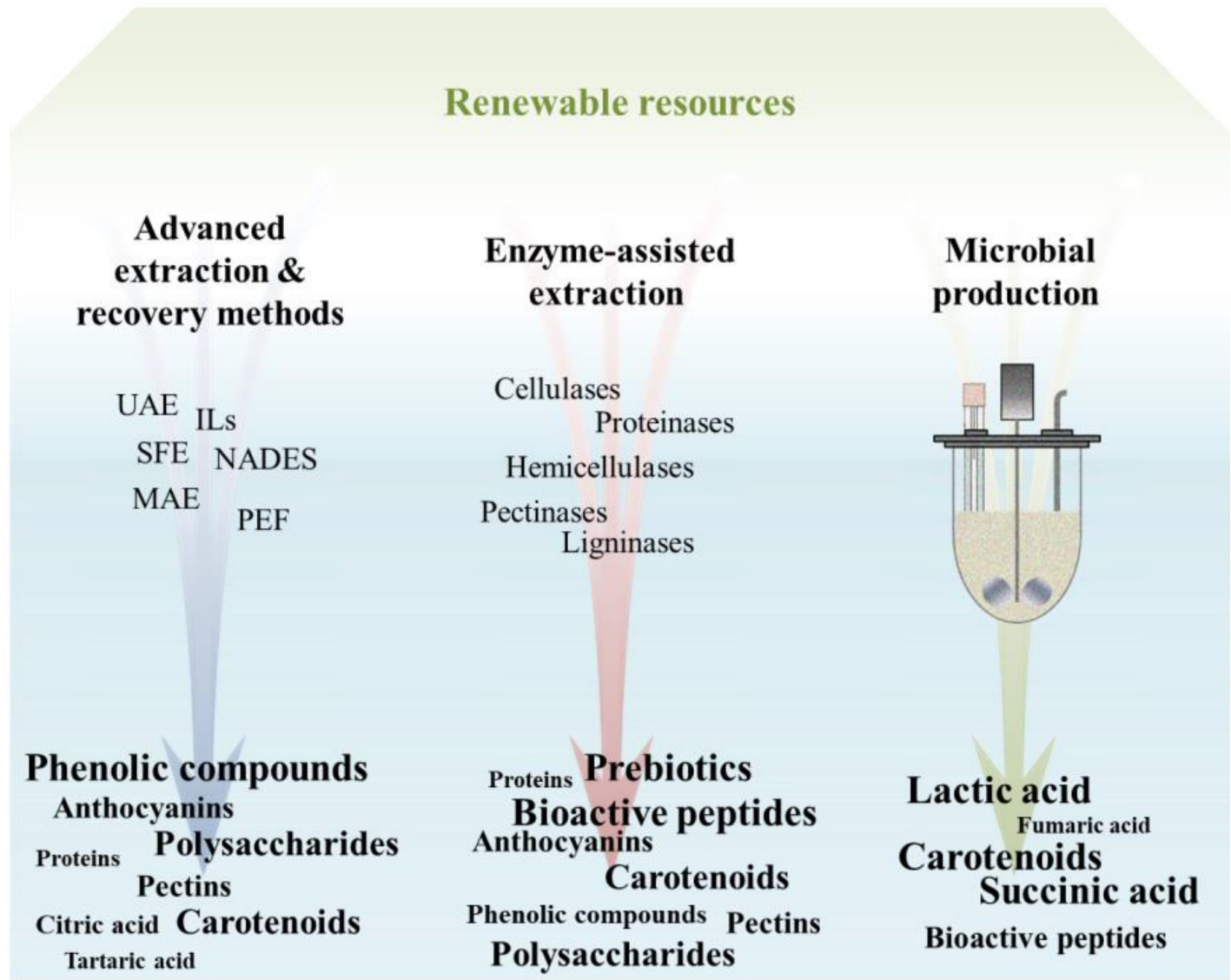


**Bioactive compounds** have the ability to interact with one or more components of living tissue by providing a **wide range of potential effects** and are derived from plant, animal, or other sources such as microorganisms, which are “**generally regarded as safe** (GRAS)”



Various biological and functional activities such as antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antidiabetic, anticancer, antiviral, and antitumor activities.

K. Banwo et al. Food Bioscience 43 (2021)



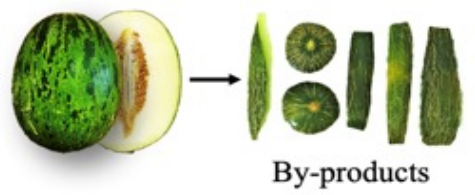
Sustainable Food Systems: The Case of Functional Compounds towards the Development of Clean Label Food Products, Foods 2022, 11, 2796. <https://doi.org/10.3390/foods11182796>

# The Melon (*Cucumis melo* L.) by-products

## Fruit by-products production

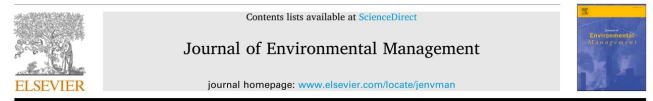


## Melon industrialisation



20 M tonnes of melon by-products  
25-30% residues

## Valorisation



Valorisation of food agro-industrial by-products: From the past to the present and perspectives

Ricardo Gómez-García<sup>a,b</sup>, Débora A. Campos<sup>a</sup>, Cristóbal N. Aguilar<sup>b</sup>, Ana R. Madureira<sup>a</sup>, Manuela Pintado<sup>b,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Universidade Católica Portuguesa, CIQOP - Centro de Biotecnologia e Química Fina - Laboratório Associado, Escola Superior de Biotecnologia, Rua Diego Botelho 1327, 4169-005, Porto, Portugal  
<sup>b</sup> BBG-DIA, Bioprocesses and Bioproducts Group, Food Research Department, School of Chemistry, Autonomous University of Coahuila, Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico

**Circular economy** ✓  
**Zero-waste approach** ✓  
**Bioresource recovery** ✓

## Biofunctional ingredients

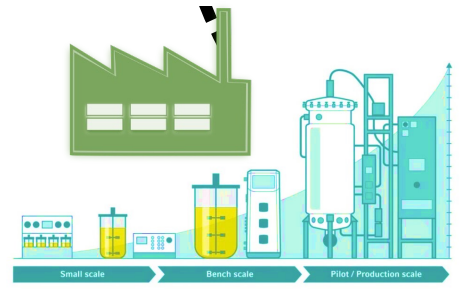


Valorization of melon fruit (*Cucumis melo* L.) by-products: Phytochemical and Biofunctional properties with Emphasis on Recent Trends and Advances

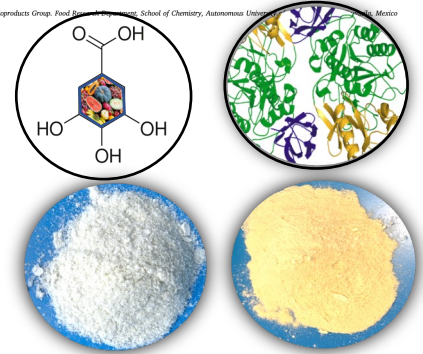
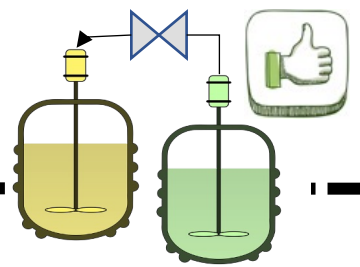
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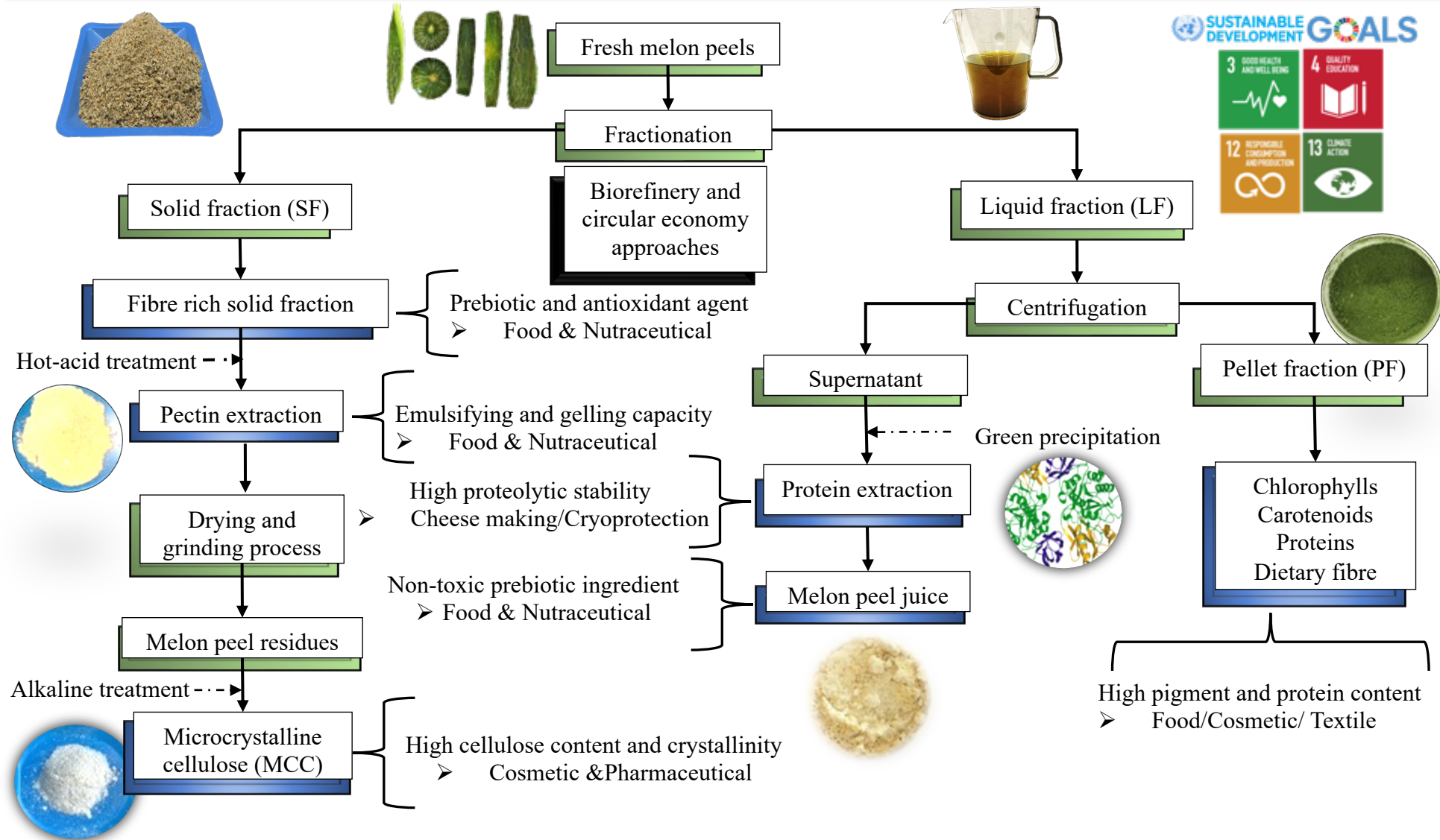
## Industrial applications



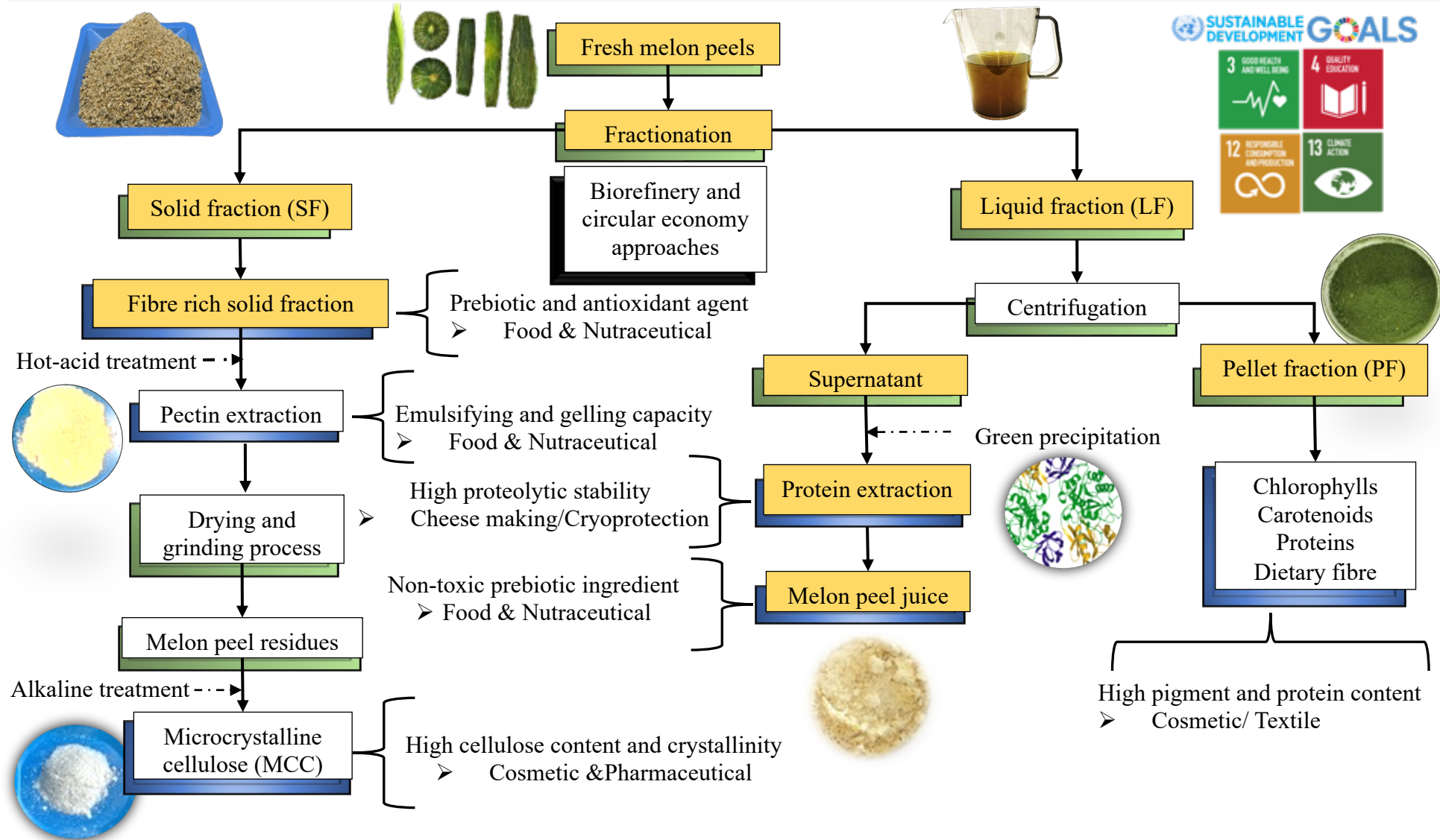
## Green and cost-effective extraction processes



# Biorefinery multifunctional foods ingredients



# Biorefinery multifunctional foods ingredients





# In vitro gastrointestinal tract (GIT) evaluation

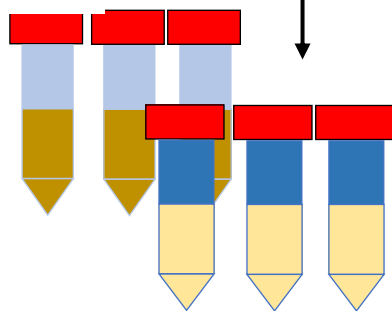
## Melon peel by-products as functional food ingredients



Solid Fraction (SF)



Liquid Fraction (LF)



Sample suspensions

**Mouth**  
 $\alpha$ -amylase (100 U/mL)

200 rpm 37 °C  
2 min pH 5-6

**Stomach**

Pepsin (25 mg/mL)

100 rpm 37 °C  
120 min pH 2

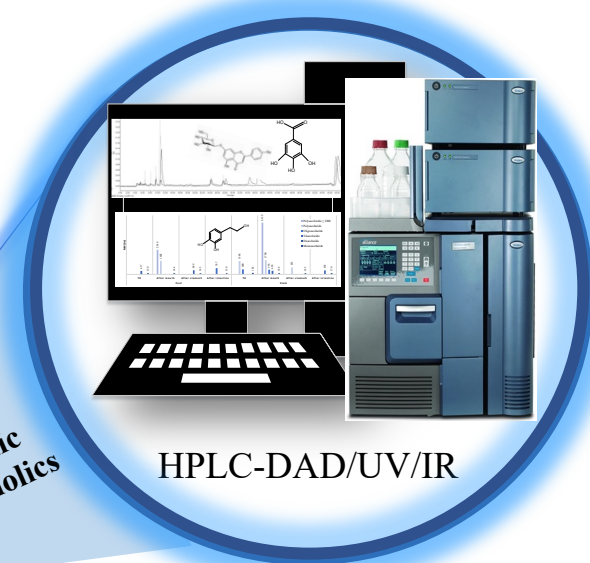
**Small intestine**

Pancreatin & Bile salts  
(0.25 mL/mL)

60 min 40 rpm  
pH 6.5

**Large intestine**

Sugars, organic acids and phenolics



HPLC-DAD/UV/IR

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](https://www.sciencedirect.com)  
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journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/tifs](https://www.elsevier.com/locate/tifs)

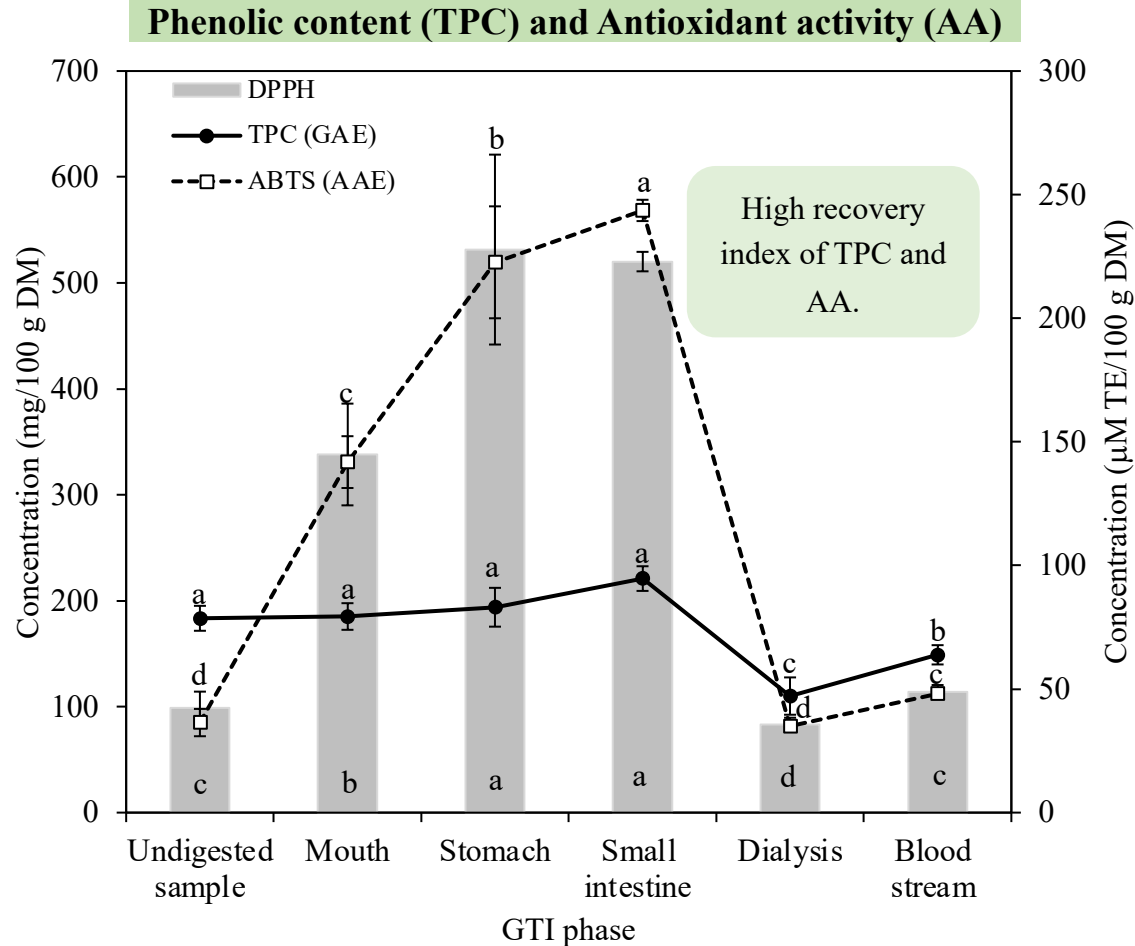
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<sup>b</sup> BFG-DIA, Bioprocess and Bioproducts Group, Food Research Department, School of Chemistry, Autonomous University of Coahuila, Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico



# Gastrointestinal tract impact on melon peel flour – solid fraction



**Figure 10.** Total phenolic content (TPC) and antioxidant activity stability after each phase of the *in vitro* gastrointestinal tract (GIT).

Accessibility index (ACI %)	
TPC (mg GAE/100 g DM)	67.51 ± 4.49 <sup>a</sup>
DPPH (µM TE/100 g DM)	21.94 ± 6.23 <sup>b</sup>
ABTS (mg AAE/100 g DM)	19.73 ± 3.41 <sup>a</sup>

Good accessibility index particularly **TPC**

Accessibility index (ACI %)	
Gallic acid	85.62 ± 0.05 <sup>a</sup>
Hydroxytyrosol	UQ
Tyrosol	97.29 ± 0.06 <sup>a</sup>
Chlorogenic acid	88.13 ± 0.05 <sup>a</sup>
4-hydroxybenzoic	82.63 ± 0.42 <sup>a</sup>
Caffeic acid	84.88 ± 1.20 <sup>a</sup>
Luteolin-6-glycoside	13.28 ± 2.26 <sup>f</sup>
<i>p</i> -coumaric acid	47.95 ± 16.78 <sup>c</sup>
Ferulic acid	83.56 ± 0.12 <sup>a</sup>

High accessibility of phenolics particularly **Tyrosol** and **Chlorogenic acid**

Prebiotic effect, bioactive compounds and antioxidant capacity of melon peel (*Cucumis melo* L. *inodorus*) flour subjected to *in vitro* gastrointestinal digestion and human faecal fermentation

Ricardo Gómez-García<sup>a,\*</sup>, Mónica Sánchez-Gutiérrez<sup>b</sup>, Celia Freitas-Costa<sup>c</sup>, Ana A. Vilas-Boas<sup>d</sup>, Debora A. Campos<sup>e</sup>, Cristóbal N. Aguilár<sup>f</sup>, Ana R. Madureira<sup>g</sup>, Manuela Pintado<sup>h</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain

<sup>b</sup> Food Science and Technology Department, Universidad de Córdoba, Spain

<sup>c</sup> Food Science and Technology Group, Food Research Department, School of Chemistry, Autonomous University of Coahuila, Coahuila, Mexico

<sup>d</sup> IATA, Repressores and Impulsos Group, Food Research Department, School of Chemistry, Autonomous University of Coahuila, Coahuila, Mexico

<sup>e</sup> Universidade Estadual Paulista "Júlio de Mesquita Filho", Faculdade de Ciências, Araraquara, São Paulo, Brazil

<sup>f</sup> Universidade Estadual Paulista "Júlio de Mesquita Filho", Faculdade de Ciências, Araraquara, São Paulo, Brazil

<sup>g</sup> Universidade Estadual Paulista "Júlio de Mesquita Filho", Faculdade de Ciências, Araraquara, São Paulo, Brazil

<sup>h</sup> Universidade Estadual Paulista "Júlio de Mesquita Filho", Faculdade de Ciências, Araraquara, São Paulo, Brazil

# Positive modulation of faecal microbial communities

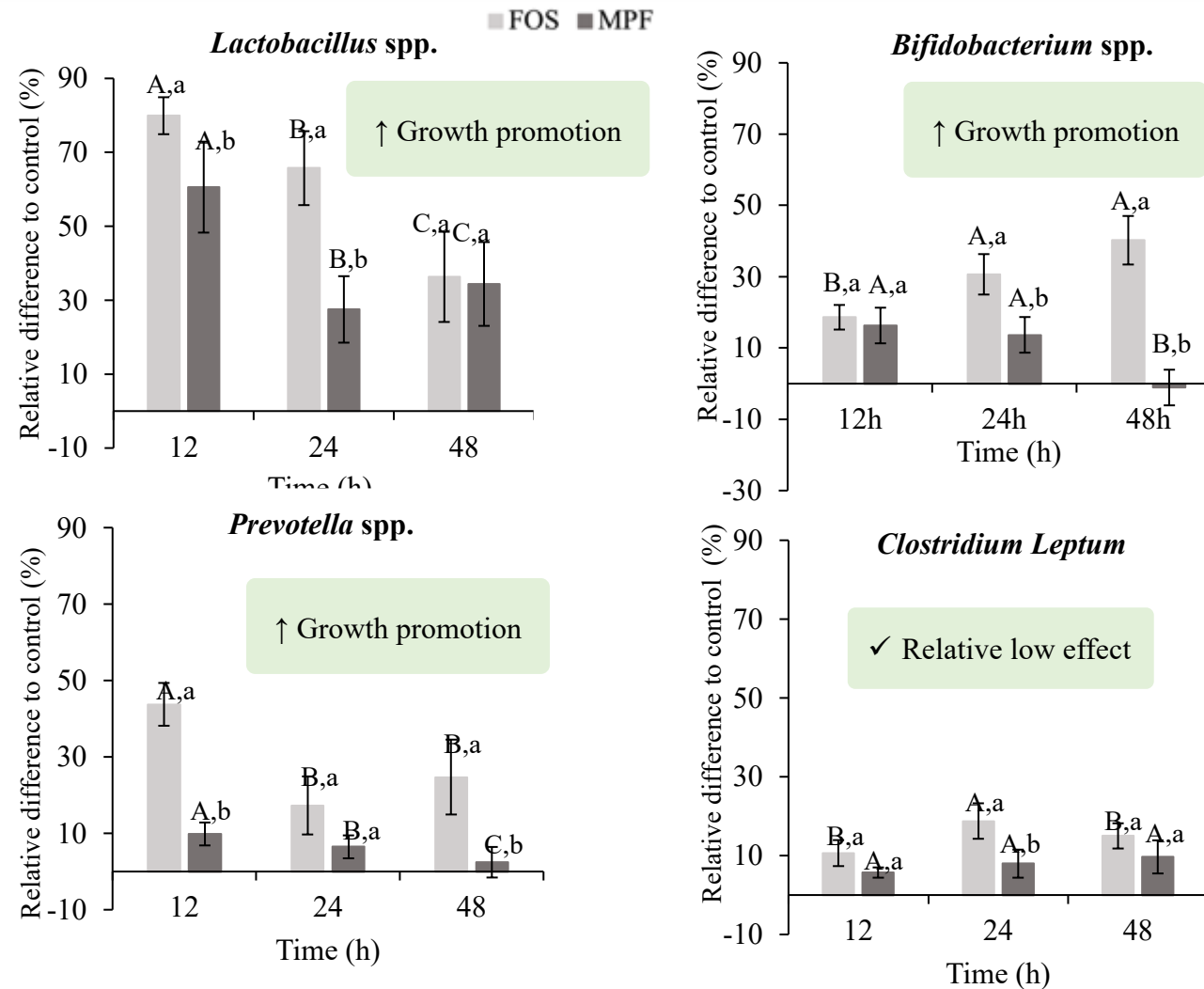
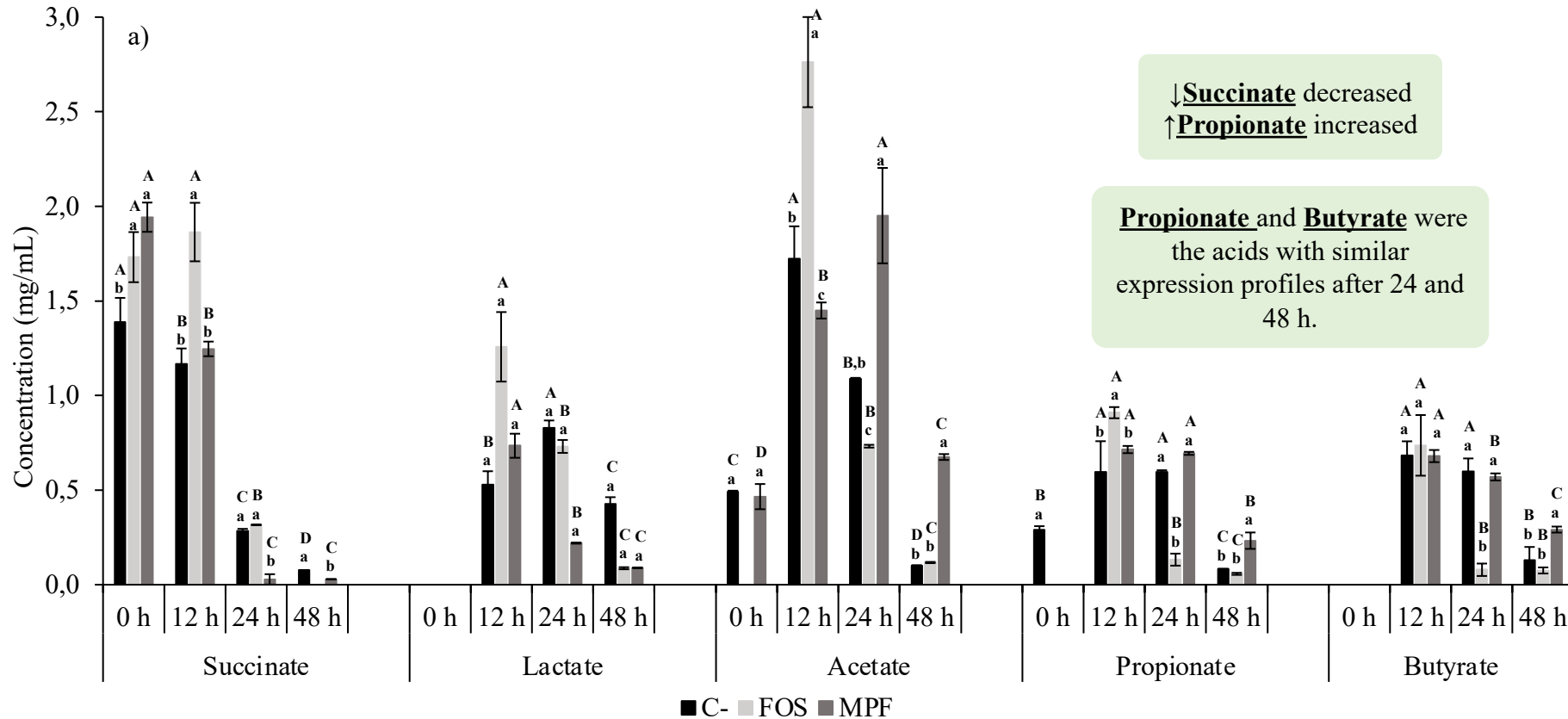


Figure 11. Relative differences to negative control throughout *in vitro* fecal fermentation.

# Short-chain fatty acids (SCFA)

Production of **Acetate** > **Propionate** > **Butyrate**

**Acetate** was the SCFA with the highest concentration for MPF and FOS.



**Figure 12.** Concentration variation of organic acids and b) pH through the *in vitro* fecal fermentation. C-: negative control; FOS: positive control (2% w/v); MPF: melon peel flour (2% w/v).

# The Lemon by-products



## Lemon Waste

120 million tons of Citrus production per year



Lemons and limes are responsible for 15.9 million tons

- Industrial processes exploit only 45% of the total fruit weight;
- Peel (flavedo; 27%), pulp (albedo and endocarp; 26%), and seeds (2%), constitute a disposal rest.

Lemon Wastes in Frutas Tereso company:

- 14.2%, which represents 49 700 kg/year.



**Valorisation of this by-product: using a circular economy approach**





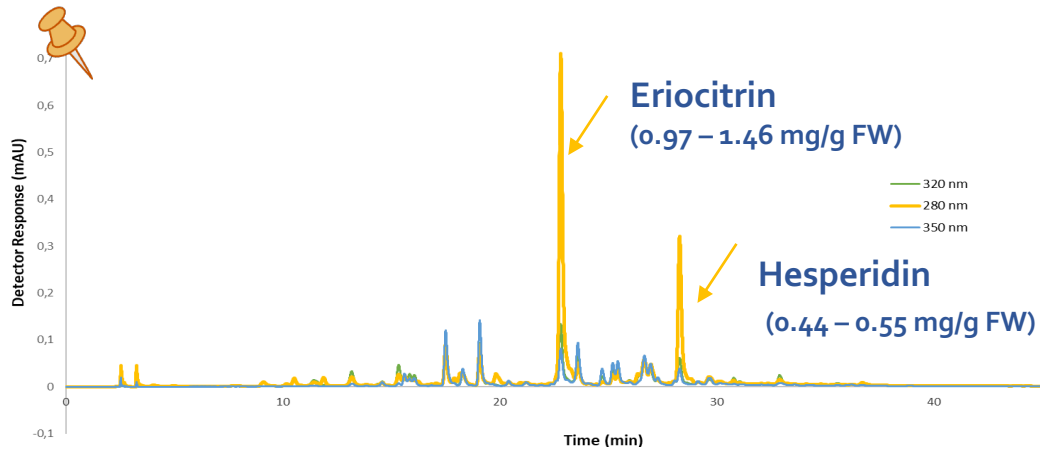
# Development and characterization of LP fractions



*Citrus limon* from Algarve (Portugal)

3 LOTS; Variety: Eureka; Caliber: 4/5;

## PHENOLIC COMPOUNDS IDENTIFICATION AND QUANTIFICATION



## NUTRITIONAL COMPOSITION

Component	LOT 1	LOT 2	LOT 3
Moisture (% w/w)	82.71 ± 0.19	79.93 ± 0.19	85.16 ± 0.06
<b>Expressed in dry basis (% w/w)</b>			
Ash	4.38 ± 0.02	4.23 ± 0.27	3.66 ± 0.03
Protein	5.35 ± 0.08	5.36 ± 0.05	5.39 ± 0.05
Lipids	1.04 ± 0.07	1.09 ± 0.03	0.91 ± 0.03
Carbohydrates	89.06*	89.12*	89.89*
Total Dietary Fiber	41.16	43.21	40.76

\*Total carbohydrates content obtained by difference

## ANTIOXIDANT ACTIVITY

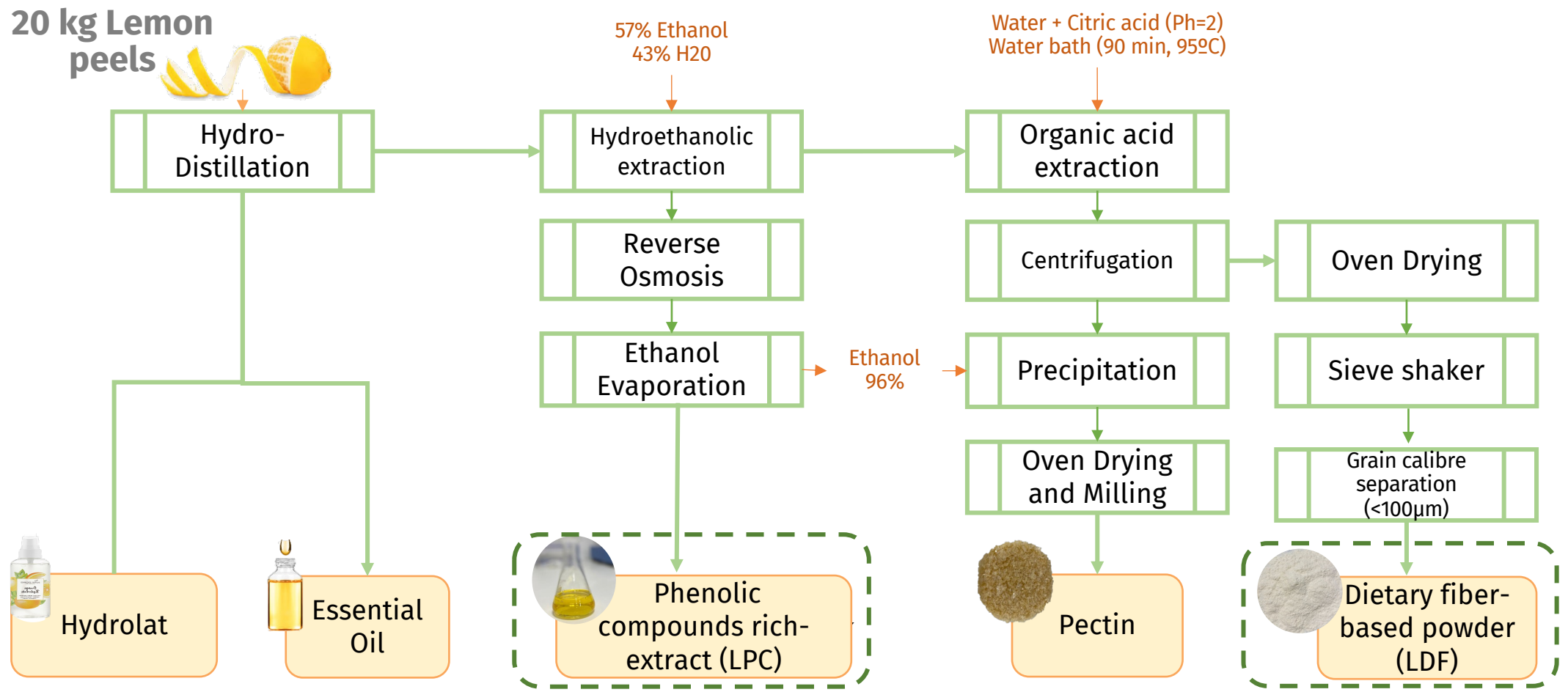
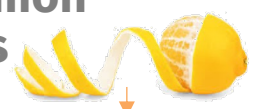
PARAMETER	CONCENTRATION		
	LOT 1	LOT 2	LOT 3
<b>Folin-Ciocalteu (mg GAE/g FW)</b>	2.30 ± 0.26	2.31 ± 0.26	2.26 ± 0.23
<b>ABTS Assay (mg AAE/g FW)</b>	2.33 ± 0.08	2.08 ± 0.07	2.08 ± 0.07
<b>DPPH Assay (mg TE/g FW)</b>	0.85 ± 0.10	0.77 ± 0.06	0.73 ± 0.06
<b>ORAC Assay (umol TE/mL FW)</b>	57.82 ± 3.16	54.36 ± 3.95	52.12 ± 2.01

Abb.: gallic acid equivalent, GAE; Ascorbic acid equivalent, AAE; Trolox equivalent, TE; Fresh weight, FW.



# New Bioactives – an integral approach

20 kg Lemon peels



# Application of functional ingredients in food models



Lemon phenolic compounds (LPC) extract



Lemon dietary fiber (LDF)



Mortadella Control



Mortadella LDF (3%)



Mortadella LPC (1%)



Mortadella LDF (3%) + LPC (1%)



## Chemical composition (Day 0)

Formulation	Moisture (%)	Fat (%)	Protein (%)	Ash (%)	aw
Control	65.46 ± 0.00	15.05 ± 0.32	15.87 ± 0.75	2.28 ± 0.00	0.959 ± 0.000
LDF	62.67 ± 0.00	14.70 ± 0.12	16.17 ± 0.69	2.17 ± 0.00	0.959 ± 0.000
LPC	65.65 ± 0.00	15.78 ± 0.76	15.27 ± 0.43	1.88 ± 0.00	0.958 ± 0.001
LDF+PC	64.25 ± 0.00	15.10 ± 0.26	15.98 ± 0.09	2.08 ± 0.00	0.958 ± 0.001

## Microbiological analysis (Day 0 at Day 28)

- Enterobacteriaceae, total aerobic bacteria and yeast and moulds were not detected in LDF and LPC reformulated mortadellas during 28 days;
- Total aerobic bacteria (2.66 log cfu/g) was detected at day 28 for mortadella control.
- LDF and LPC has a stronger antioxidant activity/antimicrobial activity than sodium ascorbate used in mortadella Control.**

- Reformulated mortadellas are a good source of fiber, and phenolic compounds;
- Mortadellas with LDF could increase the %protein.





# Defatted soy flour protein



Bioactive properties of peptides obtained from Argentinian defatted soy flour protein by Corolase PP hydrolysis <sup>☆</sup>

Ezequiel R. Coscueta <sup>a</sup>, Maria M. Amorim <sup>a</sup>, Glenise B. Voss <sup>a</sup>, Bibiana B. Nerli <sup>b</sup>, Guillermo A. Picó <sup>b</sup>, Manuela E. Pintado <sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> CBQF – Centro de Biotecnologia e Química Fina – Laboratório Associado, Escola Superior de Biotecnologia, Universidade Católica Portuguesa/Porto, Rua Arquitecto Lobbão Vital, Apartado 2511, 4200 Porto, Portugal  
<sup>b</sup> IPRORBIQ (Institute of Bio-technological and Chemical Processes) – College of Biochemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences, National University of Rosario, Suipacha 570, S2002LRK Rosario, Argentina



Soybean is one of the most important *alternative protein source*

Soybean meal is the most *important co-product* of soybean processing



Low added value ← Valorisation



Generate functional ingredients: Bioactive properties such as antioxidant or antihypertensive properties



Protein hydrolysis

# BIOACTIVE PEPTIDES OBTAINED FROM ARGENTINIAN DEFATTED SOY FLOUR PROTEIN

## EXTRACTION

70 °C ,1 h (SPI70)  
90 °C, 30 min (SPI90)



## Hydrolysis

Protein suspension 1%;  
Ratio enzyme:substrate (10 mg enzyme/g SPI).  
Enzyme: Corolase PP  
Hydrolysis (SPH) 50 °C pH 8: 30 min, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 y 24 h



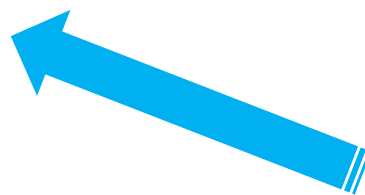
## Bioactivity

### Antioxidant activity

ABTS (Re et al., 1999)  
ORAC (Contreras et al., 2011)

### Antihypertensive activity

ACE inhibition (Quiros et al., 2009)



## GIT



### Stomach

pH 2.0, 37 ° C, pepsin at 25 mg / mL, stirred at 130 rpm for 60 min

### Intestine

pH 6.5, 37 ° C, for each mL of sample 0.25 mL of pancreatic juice (2 mg / mL of pancreatin solution and 12 mg / mL bile salts diluted in 100mM NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution), stirred at 45 rpm for 90 min

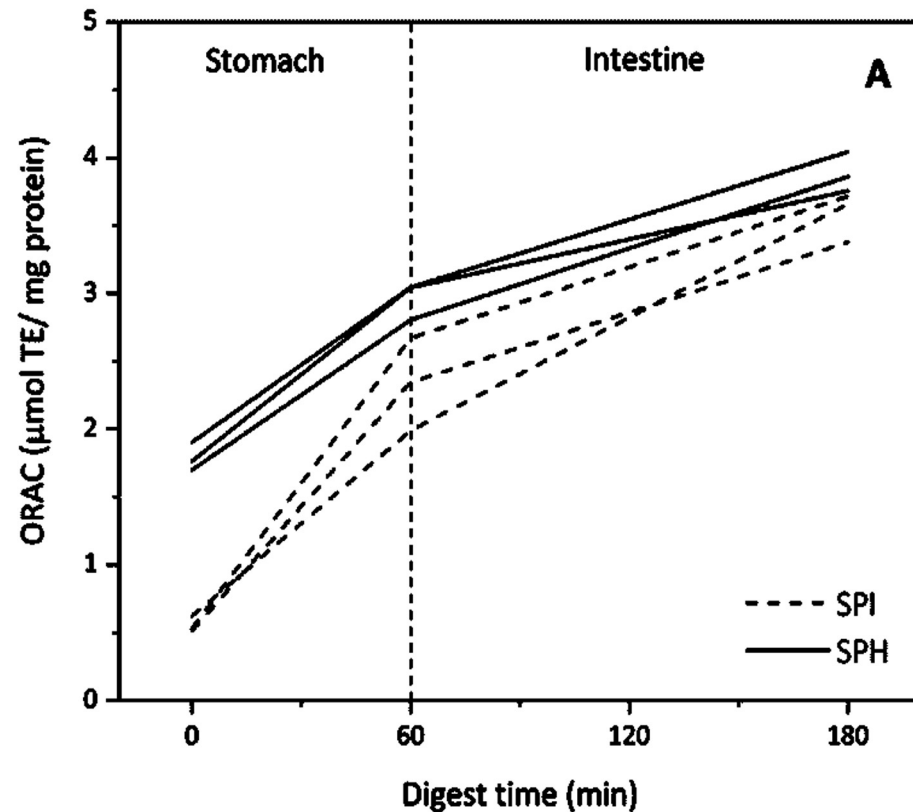
# BIOACTIVE PEPTIDES FROM SOY FLOUR PROTEIN – BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

**Table 1.** Results of degree of hydrolysis and angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitory activity of total hydrolysates at three different times of hydrolysis.<sup>a</sup>

Time of hydrolysis (h)	SPH	
	Degree of hydrolysis (%)	ACE-inhibitory activity (IC <sub>50</sub> , µg/ mL)
0	0.90 ± 0.03	>1000
2	5.51 ± 0.31	274.2 ± 2.5*
4	7.33 ± 0.28	221.0 ± 21.6*
10	18.88 ± 1.89	236.5 ± 13.5*

<sup>a</sup>Analysis of variance was used to estimate the effects of the ACE-inhibitory activity from every substrate: Tukey's test: \*p < 0.001, using hydrolysis at 0h (SPI) as null hypothesis. Values are expressed as average ± standard error (n= 2 for both, degree of hydrolysis and angiotensin-converting enzyme-inhibitory activity).

# Hydrolyse or not hydrolyse?



Variation of bioactivity during the time of in vitro simulated gastrointestinal digestion. The lines display the observations of ORAC (A) and iACE (B) for each experimental unit.

Both substrates (SPI and SPH) were observed to present interesting and similar antioxidant properties after GIT

Pre-hydrolysis with Corolase PP does not clearly improve the analysed bioactivities of the intact soy protein isolate.

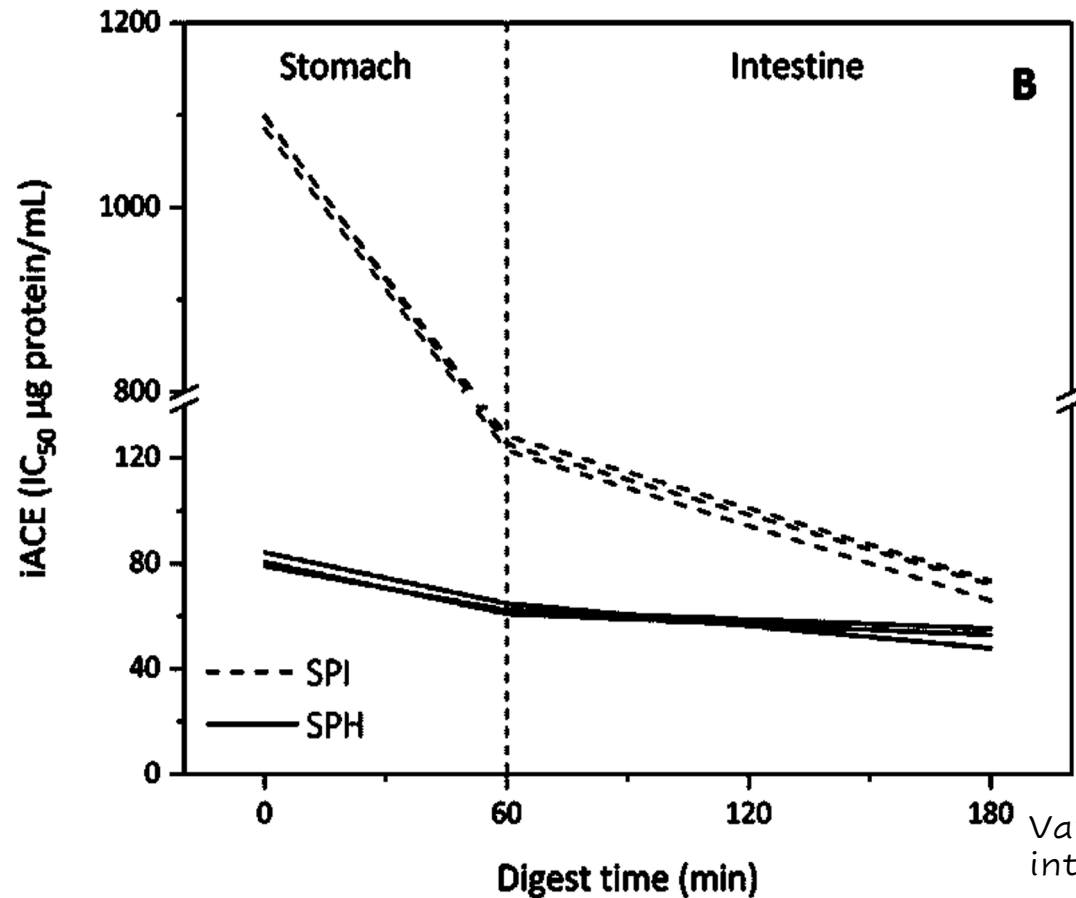
Enzymatic soy protein hydrolysis: A tool for biofunctional food ingredient production

Ezequiel R. Coscueta<sup>a,b</sup>, Débora A. Campos<sup>a</sup>, Hugo Osório<sup>c,d,e</sup>, Bibiana B. Nerli<sup>b</sup>,  
Manuela Pintado<sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> CBQF - Centro de Biotecnologia e Química Fina - Laboratório Associado, Escola Superior de Biotecnologia, Universidade Católica Portuguesa/Porto, Rua Arquitecto Lobão Vital, 172, 4200-374 Porto, Portugal  
<sup>b</sup> IPROBYQ (Instituto de Procesos Biotecnológicos y Químicos), UNR, CONICET, Facultad de Ciencias Bioquímicas y Farmacéuticas (FCByF), Suipacha 570, S2002LRK Rosario, Argentina



## Hydrolyse or not hydrolyse?



Both substrates (SPI and SPH) were observed to present interesting and similar antihypertensive properties after GIT

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Enzymatic soy protein hydrolysis: A tool for biofunctional food ingredient production

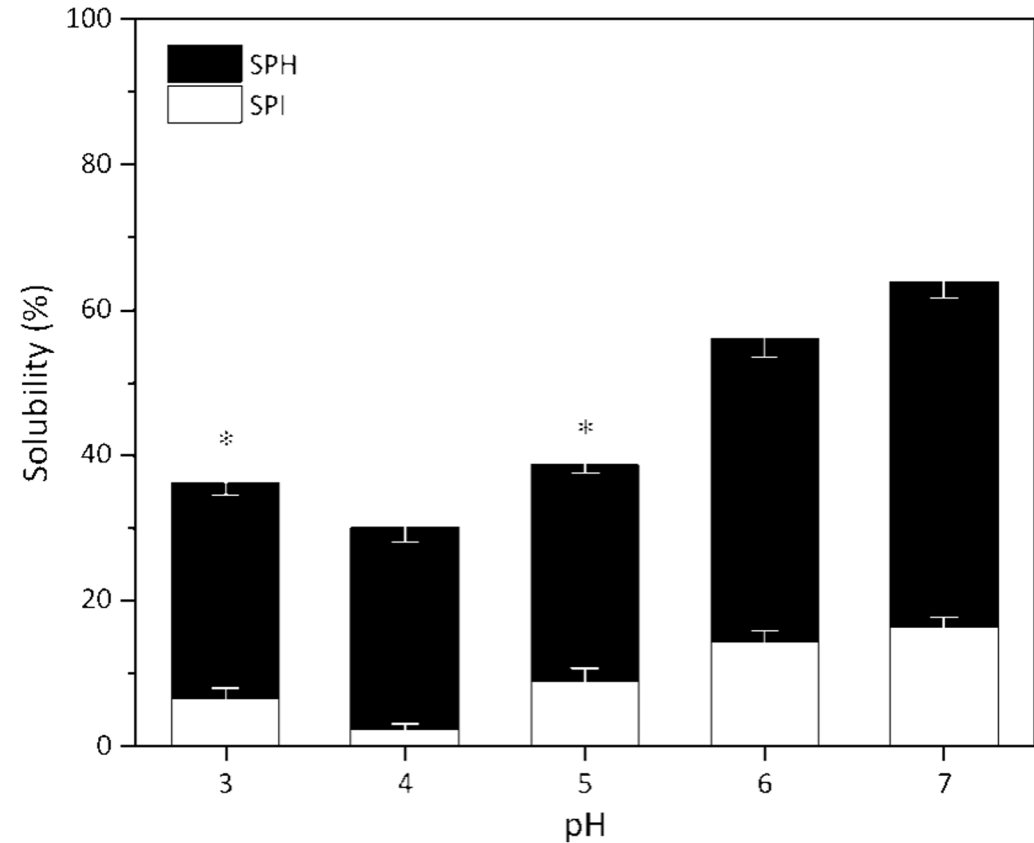
Ezequiel R. Coscueta<sup>a,b</sup>, Débora A. Campos<sup>a</sup>, Hugo Osório<sup>c,d,e</sup>, Bibiana B. Nerli<sup>b</sup>,  
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<sup>a</sup> CBQF – Centro de Biotecnologia e Química Fina – Laboratório Associado, Escola Superior de Biotecnologia, Universidade Católica Portuguesa/Porto, Rua Arquitecto Lobão Vital, 172, 4200-374 Porto, Portugal  
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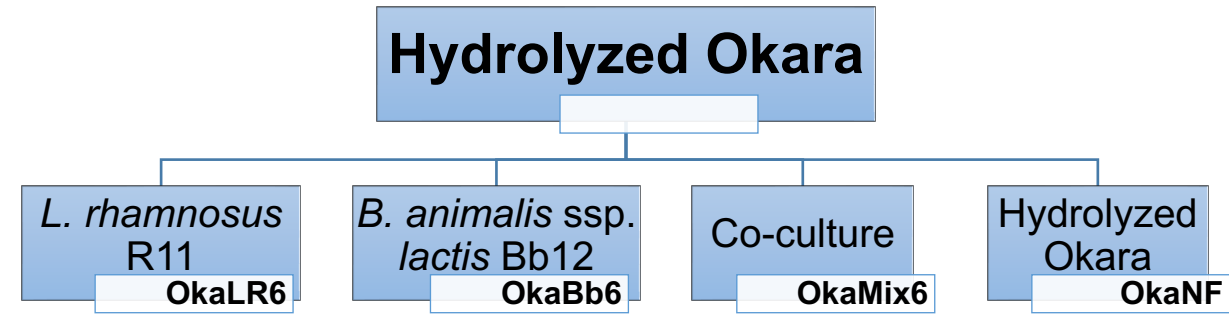
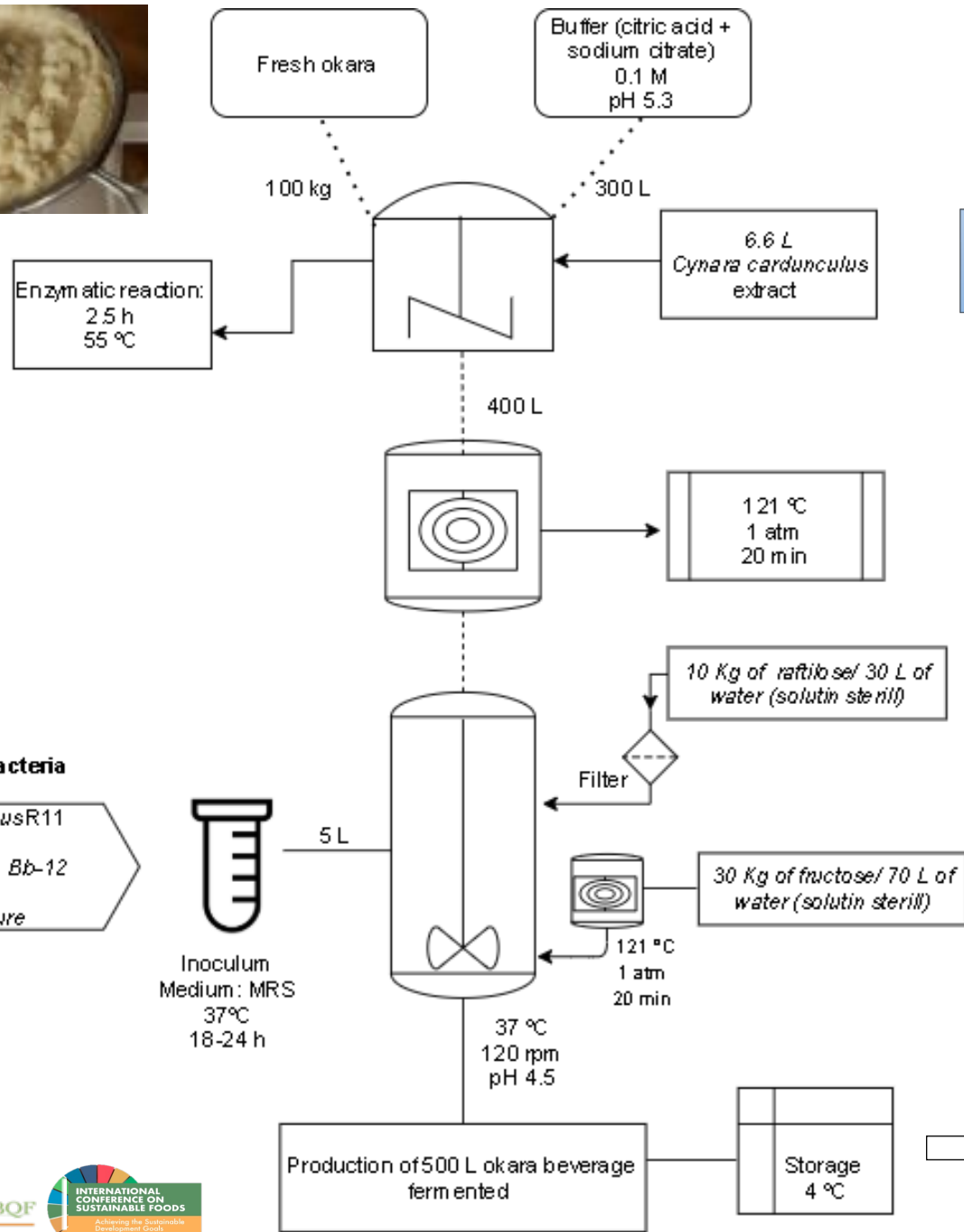
## Hydrolyse or not hydrolyse?

The hydrolysis of soy protein with Corolase PP increases the solubility of the intact SPI between pH 3–7.

**At pH 7 the solubility of SPH was approximately 4- fold higher than that of SPI.**



Water solubility profiles of SPI and SPH at different pHs. Bars represent means of three independent experiments. Error bars represent sample standard deviation (SD).

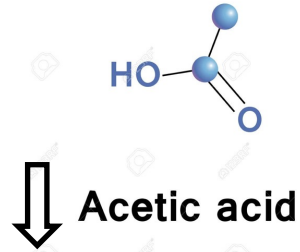
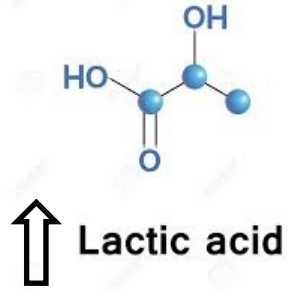
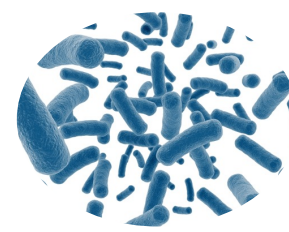


# Production of Okara

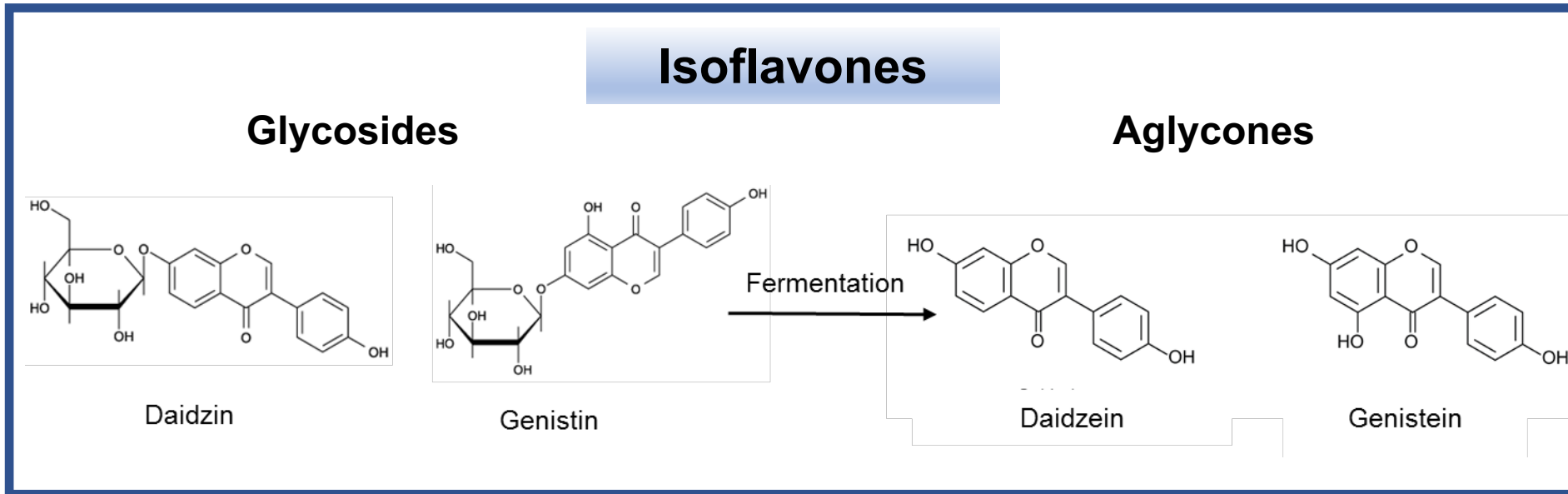
- beverage
- Prebiotic
- Probiotic



# Fermentation of okara

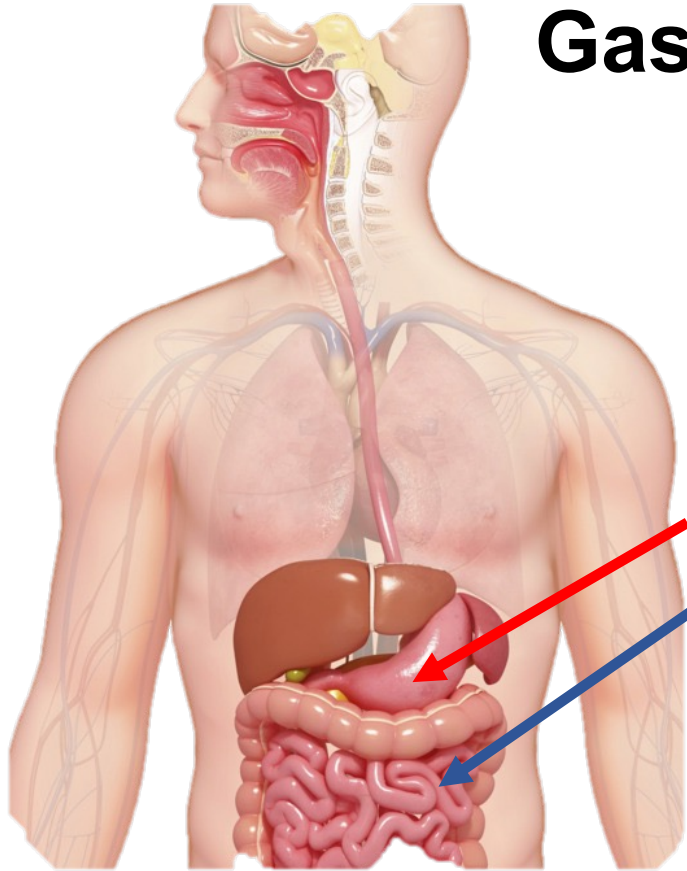


Okara beverage maintained the total viable cells counts (*B. animalis* Bb12 and *L. rhamnosus* R11: 9 log CFU/mL) throughout storage.



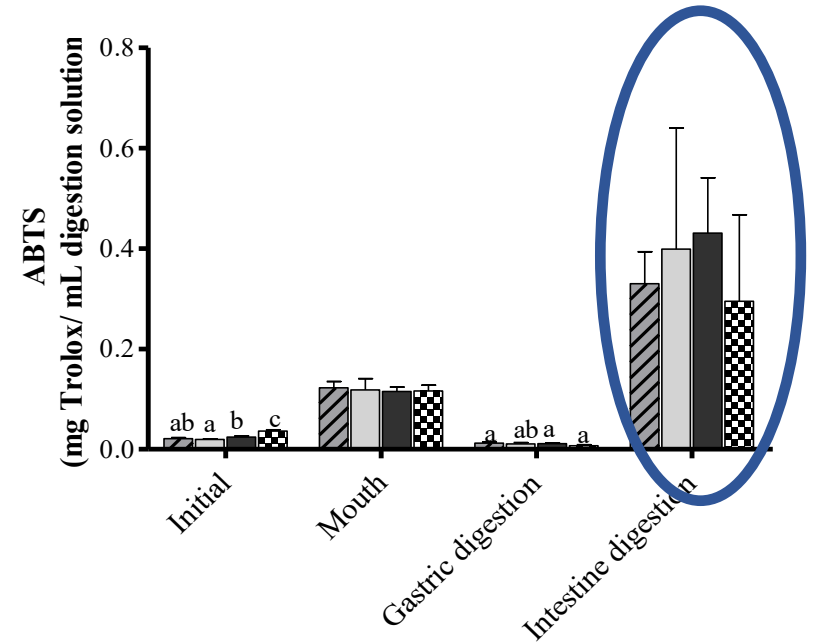
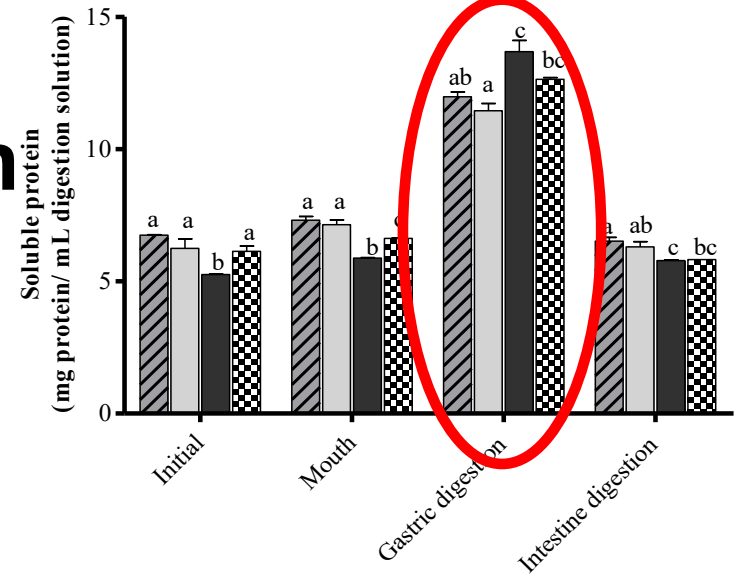


# Okara beverage: stability, functionality and impact of gastrointestinal tract



## Gastrointestinal digestion

- ✓ Antioxidant activity
- ✓ Ace-inhibitory activity



Okara beverage	Non-digested	Intestine digestion
	IC <sub>50</sub> (µg protein/mL)	
OkaLR6	750.83 ± 27.37 <sup>Aa</sup>	183.04 ± 6.31 <sup>Ba</sup>
OkaBb6	752.21 ± 6.10 <sup>Aa</sup>	149.83 ± 22.36 <sup>Ba</sup>
OkaMix6	752.37 ± 7.82 <sup>Aa</sup>	136.75 ± 12.85 <sup>Ba</sup>
OkaNF	442.50 ± 21.02 <sup>Ab</sup>	273.54 ± 13.17 <sup>Bb</sup>



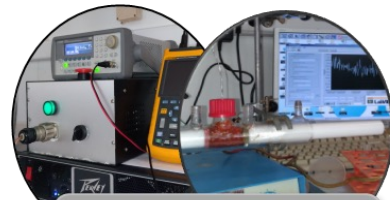
## Impact of extraction method on the Bioactivities of Tomato flour



Article

### In Vitro Gastrointestinal Digestion Impact on the Bioaccessibility and Antioxidant Capacity of Bioactive Compounds from Tomato Flours Obtained after Conventional and Ohmic Heating Extraction

Marta C. Coelho <sup>1,2</sup>, Tânia B. Ribeiro <sup>1,3</sup>, Carla Oliveira <sup>1</sup>, Patricia Batista <sup>1</sup>, Pedro Castro <sup>1</sup>, Ana Rita Monforte <sup>1</sup>, António Sebastião Rodrigues <sup>4</sup>, José Teixeira <sup>2</sup> and Manuela Pintado <sup>1,\*</sup>



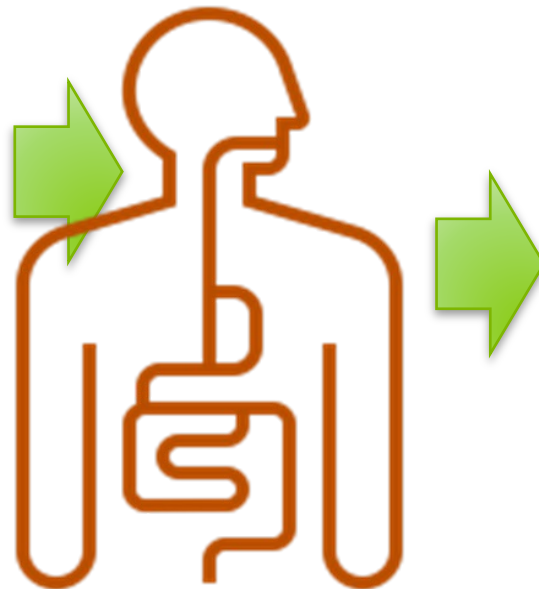
Fraction obtained after ohmic heating extraction



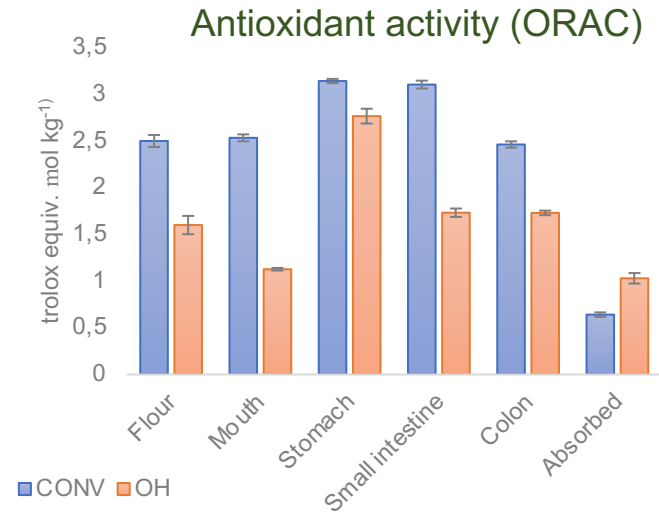
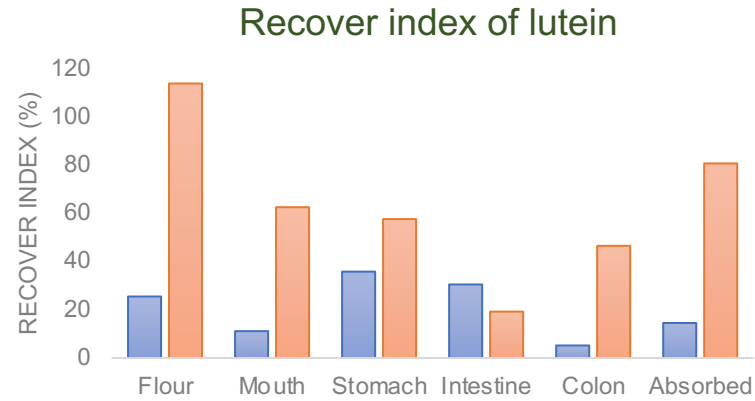
Fraction obtained after conventional extraction

Gastrointestinal tract simulation

Microbiota modulation



# Bioactivities from Tomato flour after gastrointestinal tract



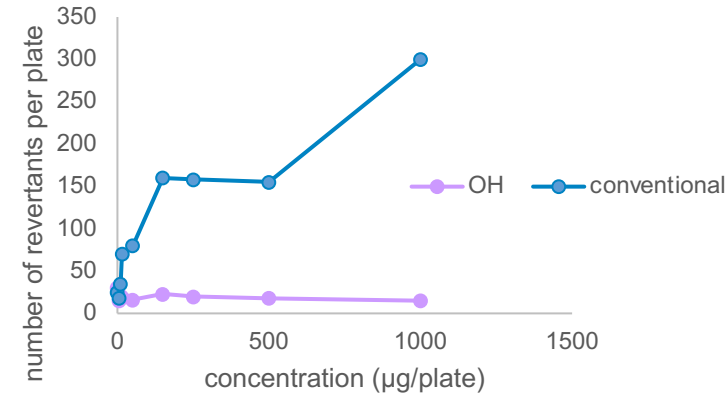
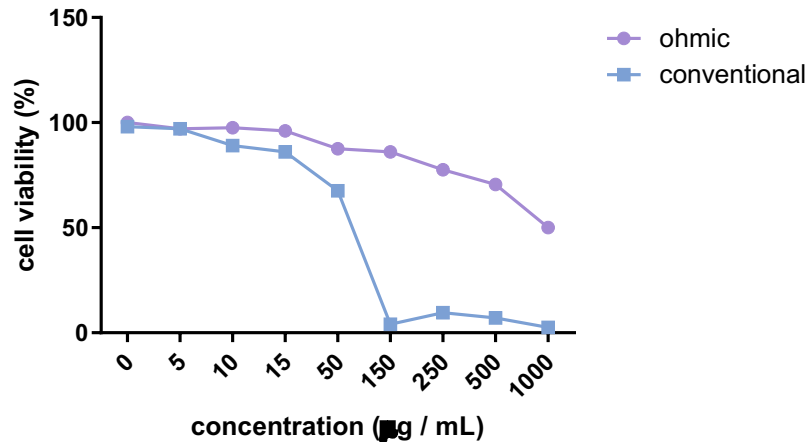
**Bioaccessibility**

OH increased the bioaccessibility of carotenoids



Lycopene, lutein, and phytofluene;  
Lutein present in OH is more absorbed than in CONV

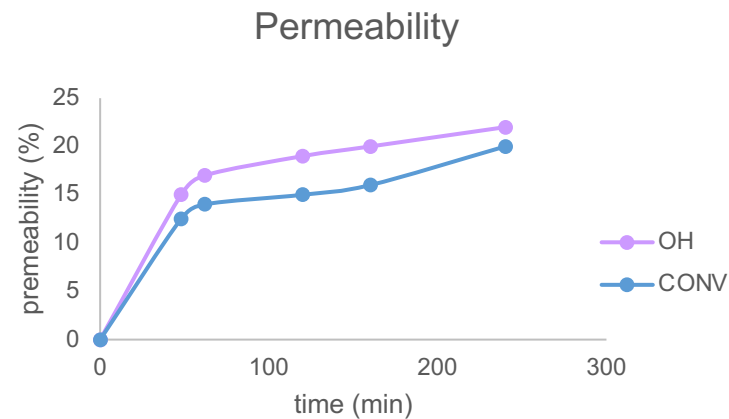
# Bioactivities from Tomato flour after gastrointestinal tract



## OH impact



SFOH is safer and contains more bioaccessible bioactive compounds than SFCONV



- OH solid fraction is non mutagenic and don't present cytotoxicity
- CONV present mutagenicity



- Drying studies have successfully produced new vegetable flours (potatoes, arugula, spinach, parsley, watercress, coriander, carrots and tomatoes), as well as frozen pulp..

Dehydrated and shredded vegetables (powder)



Frozen vegetable pulps UCP



- Impact of freezing and drying on the nutritional and functional profile of watercress, carrots, spinach, arugula and tomato shows high functional and nutritional value for 6 months.



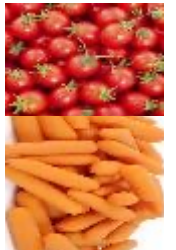
horticulturae



Article

**Development of Frozen Pulps and Powders from Carrot and Tomato by-Products: Impact of Processing and Storage Time on Bioactive and Biological Properties**

Helena Araújo-Rodrigues<sup>1</sup>, Diva Santos<sup>1</sup>, Débora A. Campos<sup>1</sup>, Modesta Ratinho<sup>2</sup>, Ivo M. Rodrigues<sup>3</sup> and Manuela E. Pintado<sup>2,\*</sup>



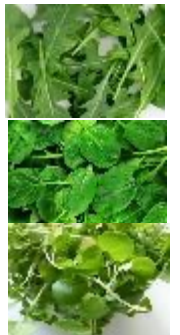
foods



Article

**Impact of processing approach and storage time on bioactive and biological properties of rocket, spinach and watercress by-products**

Helena Araújo-Rodrigues<sup>1</sup>, Diva Santos<sup>1</sup>, Débora A. Campos<sup>1</sup>, Suse Guerreiro<sup>2</sup>, Modesta Ratinho<sup>2</sup>, Ivo M. Rodrigues<sup>3</sup> and Manuela M. Pintado<sup>2,\*</sup>



# Innovative AGROFOOD products based on vegetable losses

Plant based ham  
(Primor/Vitacress)



“Super” spinach spread  
and mix spread  
(allergen free)  
(Vitacress / UCP)



“Super” functional puree  
(allergen free)  
(Vitacress / UCP)



Plant based spread  
(A Poveira)



+ Formulation of dehydrated vegetable bases for aquaculture – see bass

UCP/ESAC/Vitacress/PRIMOR/A Poveira





# CRUCIFEROUS VEGETABLES



Solution

## PHYTOCHEMICALS:

A current strategy to prevent and treat chronic diseases, including cancer



*Brassicaceae*

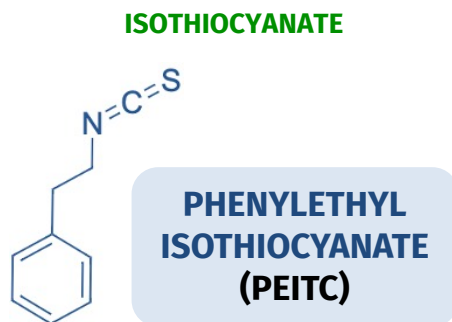
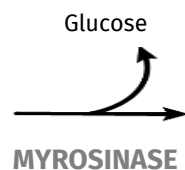
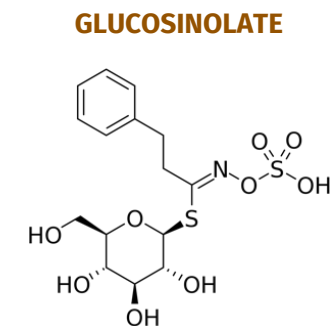
CRUCIFEROUS VEGETABLES have a ↑↑ content of **GLUCOSINOLATES (GLs)**



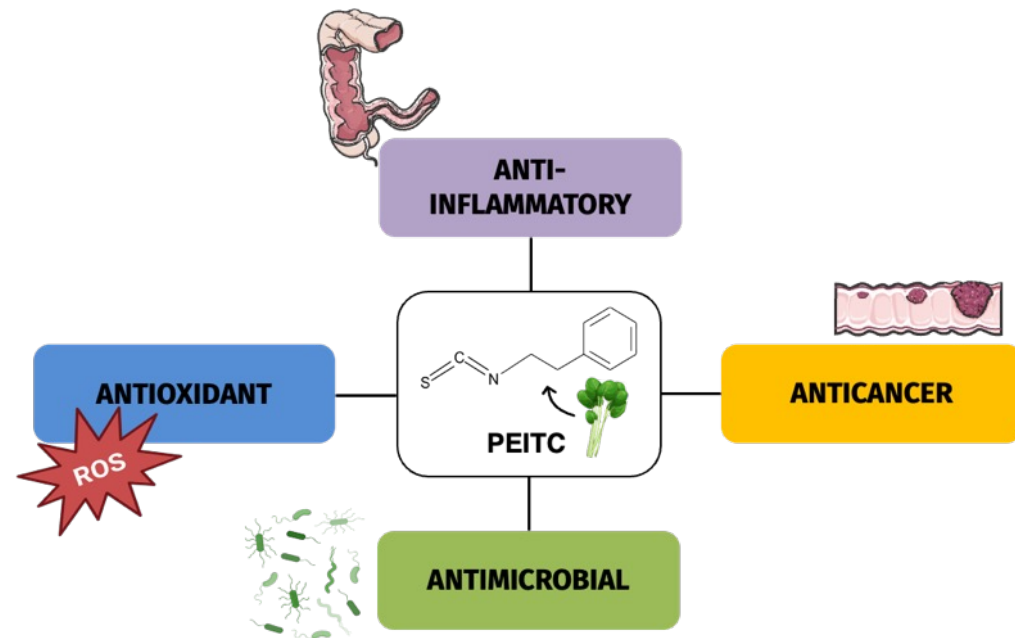
Phytochemicals: **ISOTHIOCYANATES (ITCs)**



**Watercress**  
(*Nasturtium officinale*)  
"superfood"



## What are the health benefits of PEITC?



**PEITC is a powerful chemopreventive agent and boosts health**



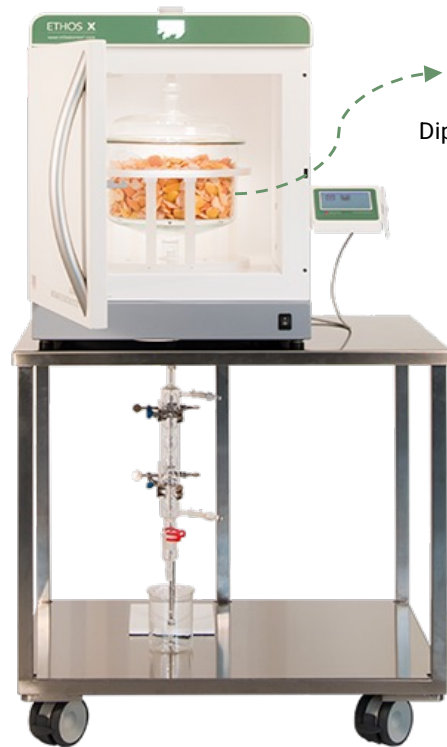
**PEITC exhibits high instability, which has jeopardized its industrialisation**

# How can we extract PEITC?

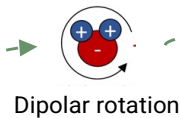


NEW

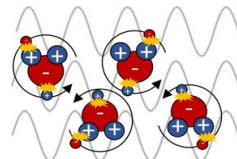
For the first time, **Microwave Hydrodiffusion and Gravity (MHG)** was applied as a **green tool** for **PEITC** extraction



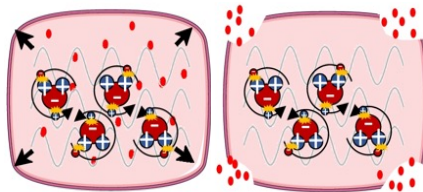
<https://www.milestonesrl.com>



Dipolar rotation



Ionic conduction



Heating destroys the vegetable cells and transfers the compounds outside the plant material

ECO-EXTRACTION  
INNOVATIVE  
PROCESS

Adapted from Moraes, D.P. et al. *Food Bioprocess Technol* 15, 1936–1947 (2022)



## Solvent-free

Solvent-free extraction relies on 3 main factors: microwave power, irradiation time, and humidity of the plant material



## Scalability

MHG extraction is adaptable to different scales of production.



## Rapid Extraction

MHG extraction is faster than conventional methods



## Energy Efficiency

Decreases the amount of energy and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

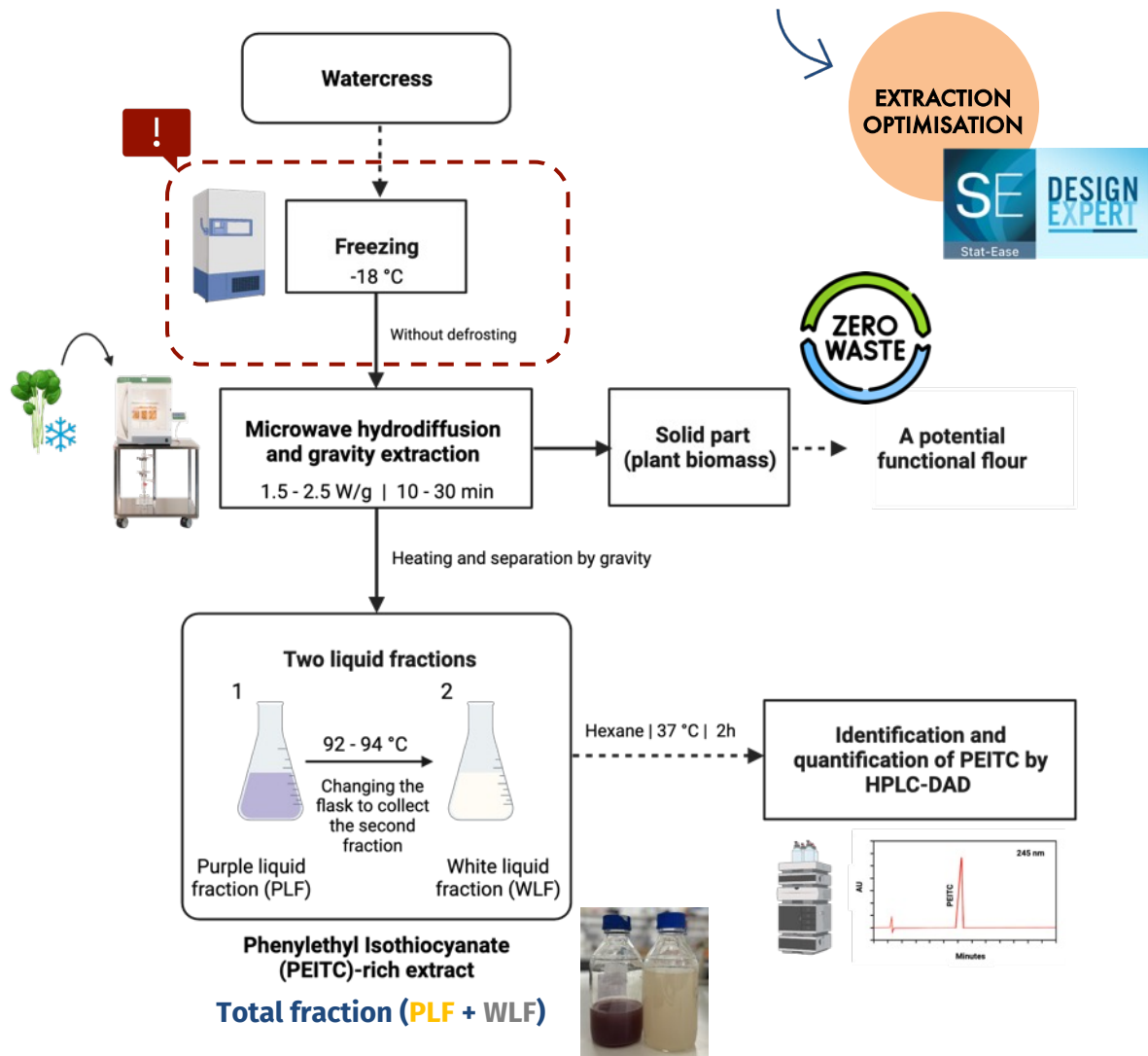


## The leftover biomass can be used for other purposes

Plant biomass can be repurposed after MHG extraction, promoting efficient and sustainable use while preserving biodiversity



## Flowchart of the PEITC MHG extraction method



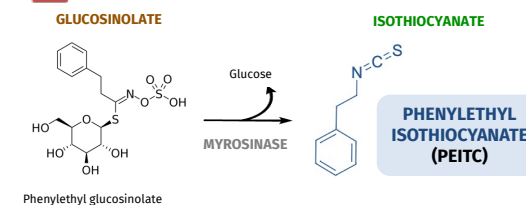
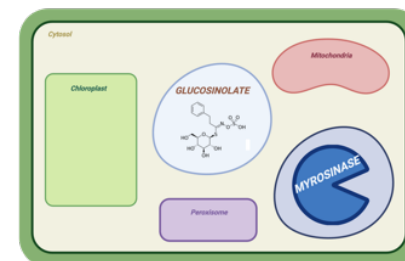
## THE KEY NOVELTY



### Freezing: a pretreatment to successfully extract PEITC

Freezing fruits and vegetables causes the water inside their plant cells to freeze, which in turn leads to the rupture of cell walls and damage to the cells, resulting in the contents of the cells leaking out

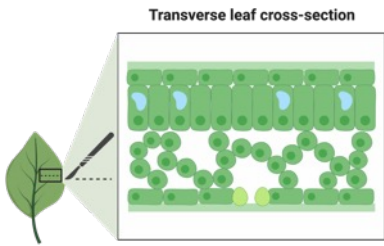
### Plant Cell



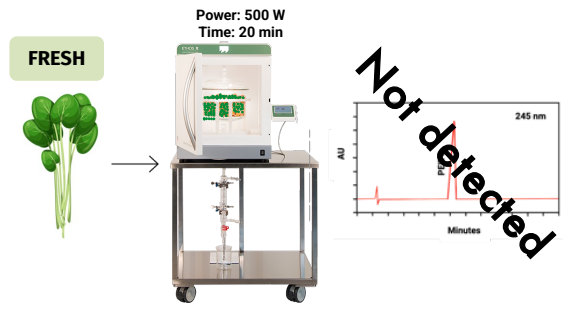
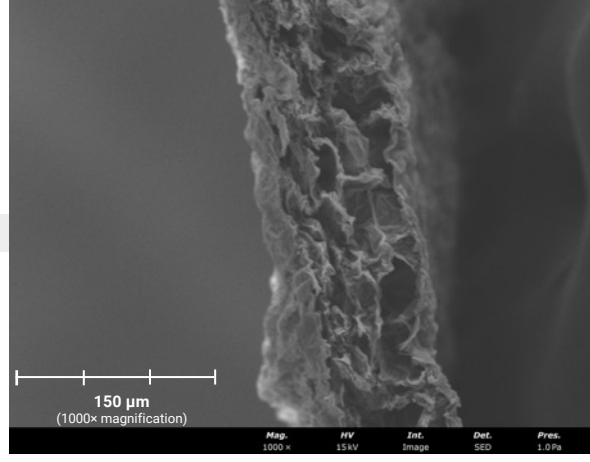
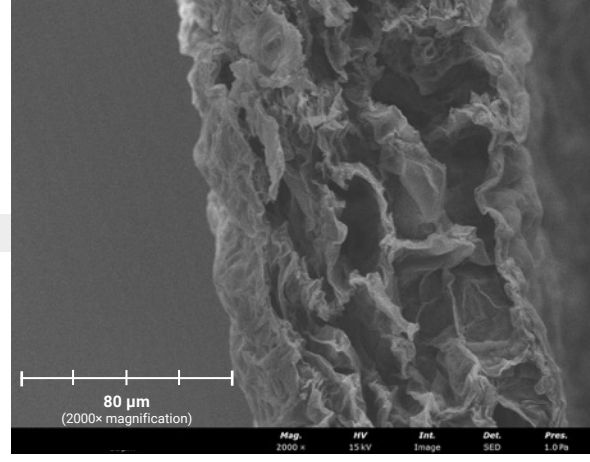
The effect of freezing on the watercress leaf microstructure was studied using SEM



# Freezing: The KEY NOVELTY

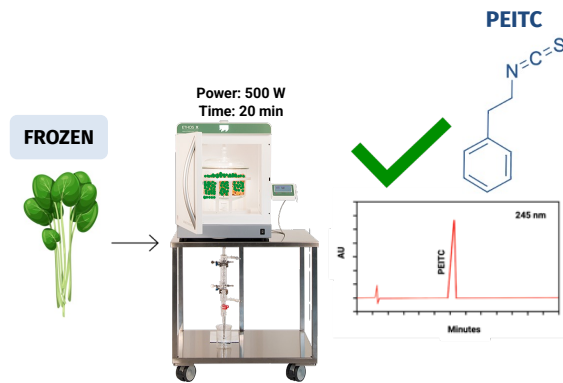
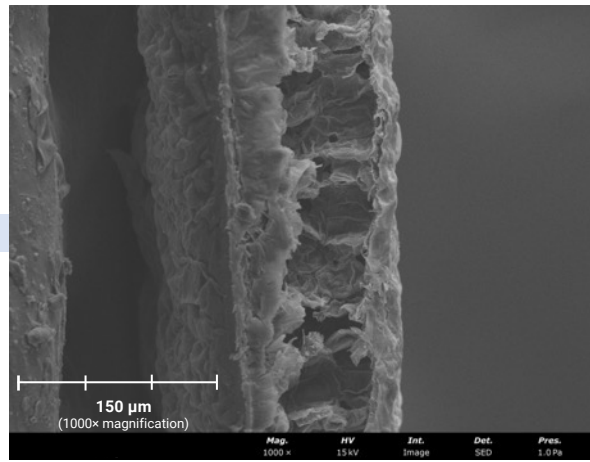
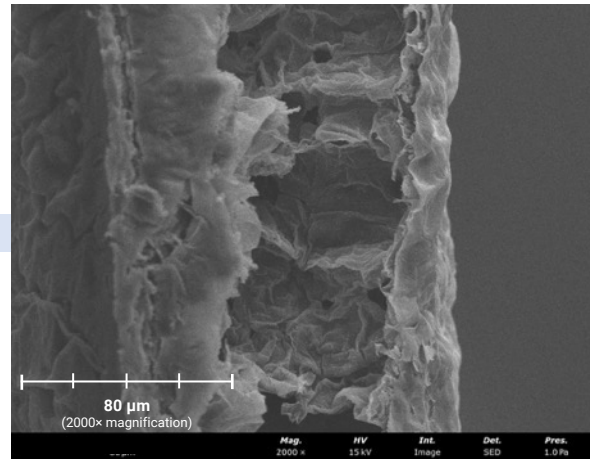


**FRESH**

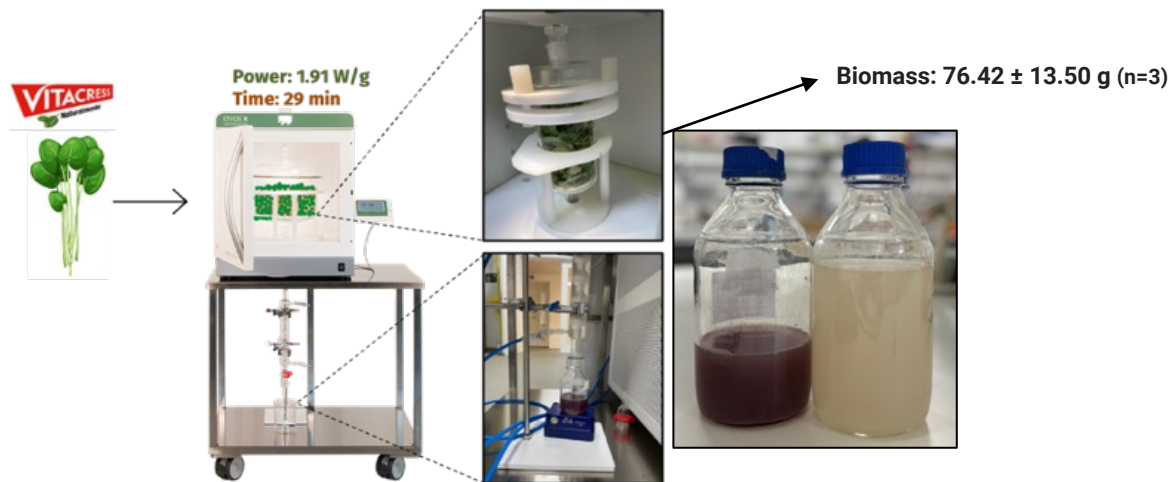


Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

**FROZEN**



Microstructure of fresh and frozen watercress leaves observed through SEM



	Amount of extracted PEITC		
	$\mu\text{g PEITC g}^{-1} \text{WC DB}$		
	MHG	$\text{C}_6\text{H}_{14}$ Hexane	$\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ Dichloromethane
Purple Liquid Fraction	166 ± 37		
White Liquid Fraction	1652 ± 381	1682 ± 1456 <sup>(1)</sup> 2300 <sup>(2)</sup>	3346 <sup>(3)</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1818 ± 377</b>		

(1) Coscueta, E. R., et al (2020). Phenylethyl Isothiocyanate Extracted from Watercress By-Products with Aqueous Micellar Systems: Development and Optimisation. *Antioxidants*, 9(8), 698.

(2) Rodrigues, L et al. (2016). Recovery of antioxidant and antiproliferative compounds from watercress using pressurized fluid extraction. *RSC Adv*, 6, 30905 – 30918.

(3) Farhana, N. et al. (2016). Effects of Temperature and pH on Myrosinase Activity and Gluconasturtiin Hydrolysis Products in Watercress. *Trans. Sci. Technol*, 3, 449–454.

- ✓ **MHG method extracts PEITC as efficiently as hexane and dichloromethane**
- ✓ **Optimising the extraction process of PEITC unlocks its immense potential as a health-promoting agent.**



TASK 1



MHG is an innovative and scalable green technique that allows the extraction of PEITC from watercress as an alternative to conventional extraction methods.



PATENT APPLICATION SUBMITTED

GREEN METHOD FOR OBTAINING ISOTHIOCYANATES FROM CRUCIFEROUS VEGETABLES

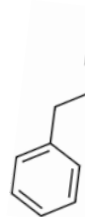
Brassicaceae



CRUCIFEROUS VEGETABLES



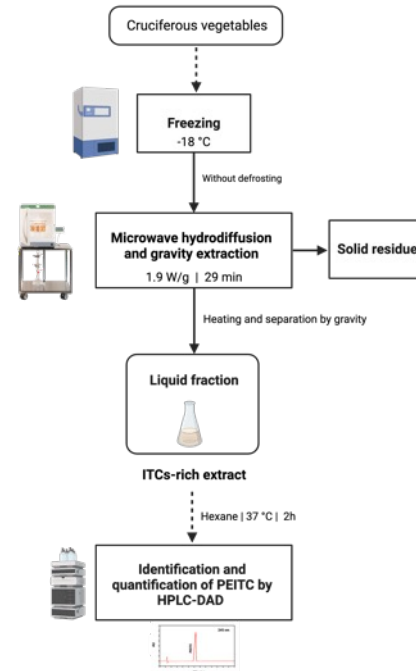
PEITC content



Watercress	2285–4783	µg/g dry basis
Turnip	80	µg/g fresh weight
Broccoli	65	µg/g dry basis

Karanikolopoulou, S, et al. (2021). Current Methods for the Extraction and Analysis of Isothiocyanates and Indoles in Cruciferous Vegetables. Analytica, 2, 93–120. Ezzat, M, et al. (2024). Nutritional Sources and Anticancer Potential of Phenethyl Isothiocyanate: Molecular Mechanisms and Therapeutic Insights. Molecular Nutrition & Food Research, 68(8), 2400063.

The MHG extraction method was used to extract PEITC from other cruciferous



MHG extract



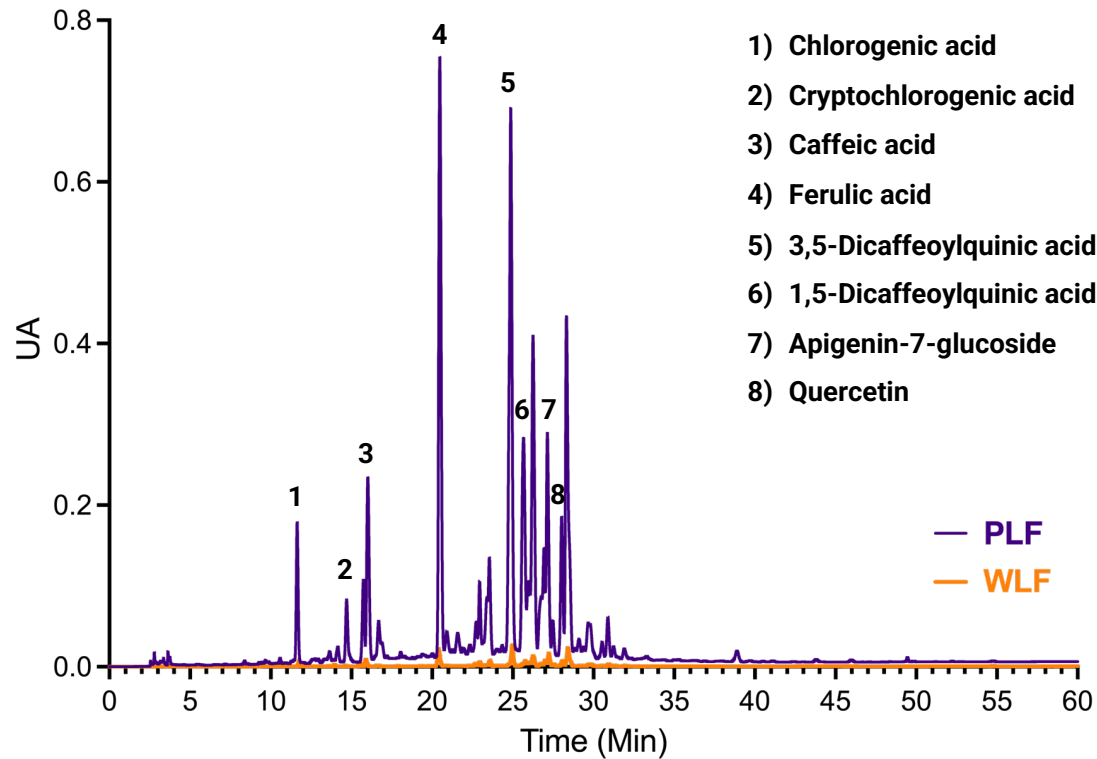
	PEITC ug g <sup>-1</sup> dry basis	TPC mg GAE g <sup>-1</sup> dry basis
Turnip	394 ± 104	1.23 ± 0.10
Turnip greens	Not detected	0.80 ± 0.08
Broccoli	Not detected	0.53 ± 0.06
Watercress	2452 ± 492	3.50 ± 0.60

The MHG method should be optimized for each matrix and ITC of interest.

# Biological activities



Phenolic compounds profile by HPLC-DAD at 320 nm from a representative replica of optimal extracts

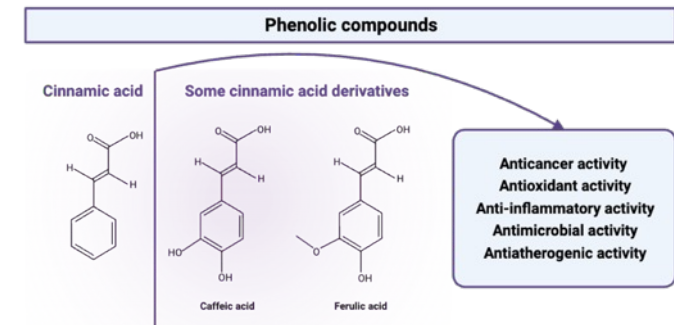


✓ Prominent peaks were identified.

## Total phenolic content and antioxidant activity

	TPC mg GAE g <sup>-1</sup> WC DB	ABTS μmol TE g <sup>-1</sup> WC DB	ORAC
→ Purple Liquid Fraction	2.04 ± 0.14	11.12 ± 1.38	33.70 ± 4.65
White Liquid Fraction	1.59 ± 0.34	2.99 ± 0.47	7.19 ± 1.19
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.63 ± 0.50</b>	<b>14.26 ± 1.97</b>	<b>40.89 ± 6.51</b>

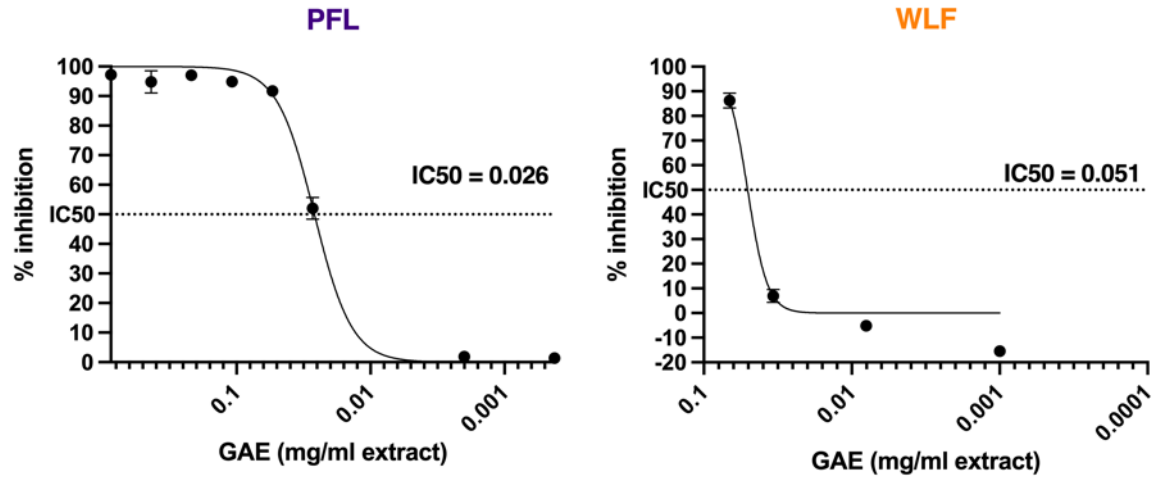
	PLF	WLF	Watercress
<b>Total flavonoid content</b> (μg catechin g <sup>-1</sup> WC DB)	1477.79 ± 117.49	228.06 ± 45.89	
<b>BCA Protein Assay</b> (g protein 100g <sup>-1</sup> WC DB)	5.14 ± 0.27	0.71 ± 0.13	
<b>Vitamin C</b> (mg ascorbic acid 100g <sup>-1</sup> WC FW)	5.35 ± 0.40	0.22 ± 0.06	43.50 ± 5.48



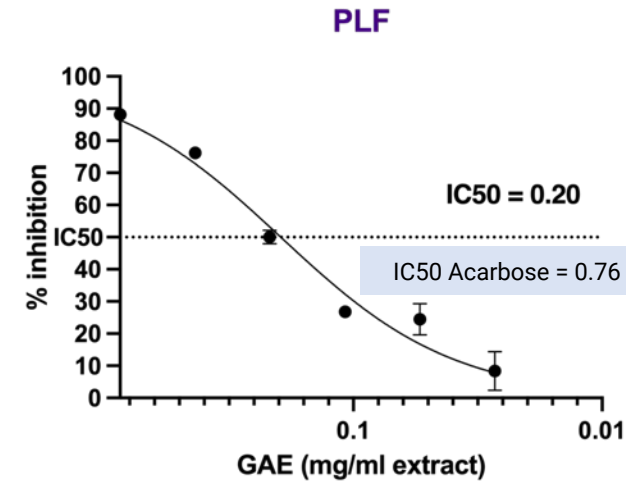
These molecules can synergistically promote the health benefits of PEITC.



## Antihypertensive Activity



## $\alpha$ -Glucosidase Inhibitory Activity



WLF does not reach the half-maximal inhibitory concentration.

WLF (at 0.07 GAE mg/ml extract)  
 $\alpha$ -Glucosidase Inhibition (%):  $33.57 \pm 4.57$

Acarbose inhibition: 87%  
(at 5 mg/ml)

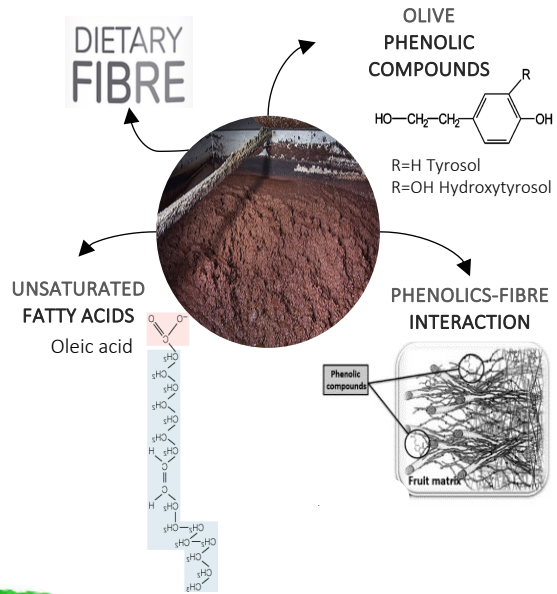
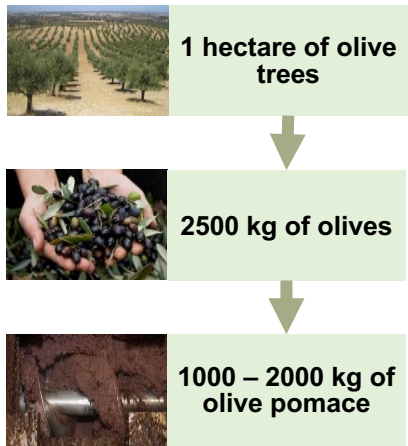
- **Cruciferous vegetables have indole-3-carbinol**, a phytochemical with **cardioprotective**, **antioxidant**, and **anti-inflammatory** effects.
- Phytochemicals such as phenolic compounds (e.g. flavonoids), alkaloids, and terpenoids can help prevent health issues by controlling postprandial hyperglycemia.



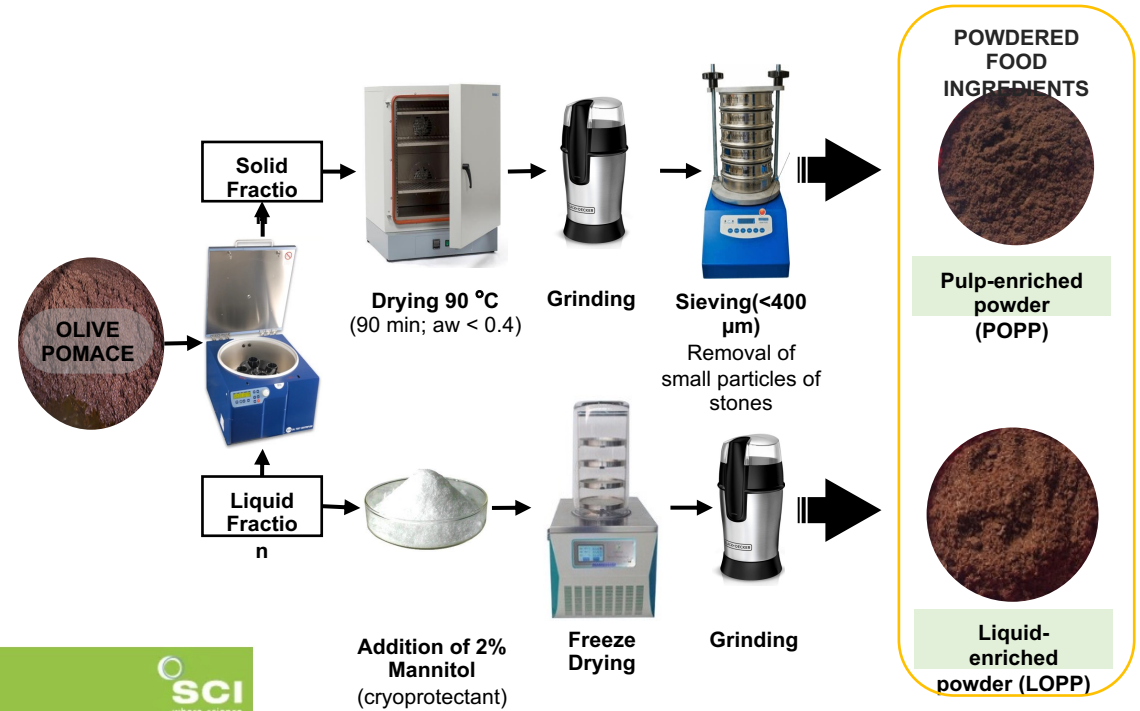
# Olive Pomace



## OLIVE POMACE



## OLIVE POMACE INGREDIENTS



Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture



Research Article

### Are olive pomace powders a safe source of bioactives and nutrients?

Tânia Bragança Ribeiro, Ana Oliveira, Marta Coelho, Mariana Veiga, Eduardo M Costa, Sara Silva, João Nunes, António A Vicente, Manuela Pintado

First published: 10 September 2020 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/jsfa.10812> | Citations: 3

# PREBIOTIC EFFECTS OF ANTIOXIDANT OLIVE POMACE FIBRE IN THE GUT



Food Hydrocolloids  
Volume 112, March 2021, 106312



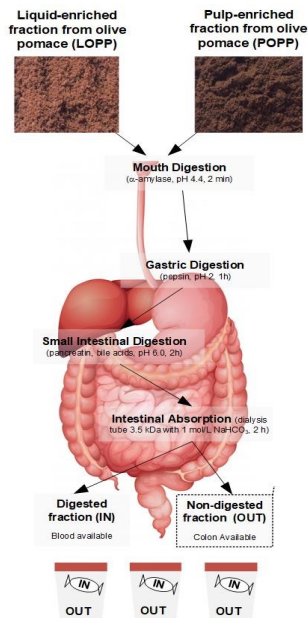
Prebiotic effects of olive pomace powders in the gut: In vitro evaluation of the inhibition of adhesion of pathogens, prebiotic and antioxidant effects

Tânia Bragança Ribeiro <sup>a, b</sup>, Célia Maria Costa <sup>a</sup>, Teresa Bonifácio - Lopes <sup>a</sup>, S. Monforte <sup>a</sup>, João Nunes <sup>b</sup>, António A. Vicente <sup>c</sup>, Manuela Pintado <sup>a, d, e</sup>

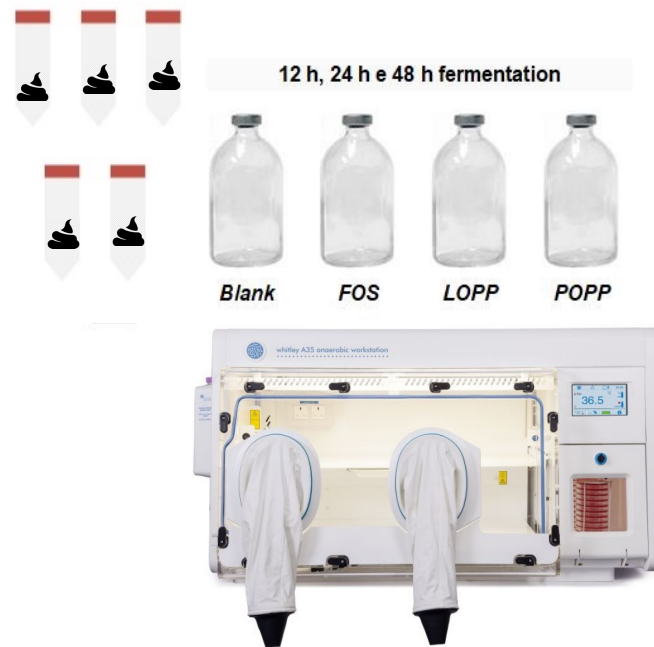
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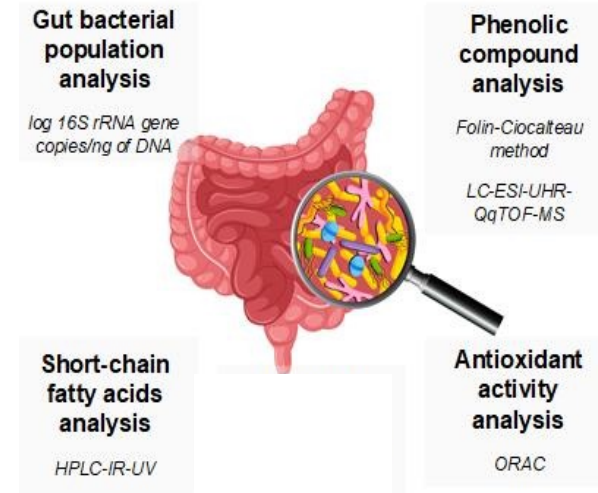
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodhyd.2020.106312>



**Simulated *in vitro* gastrointestinal digestion**



***In vitro* large intestinal fermentation model**



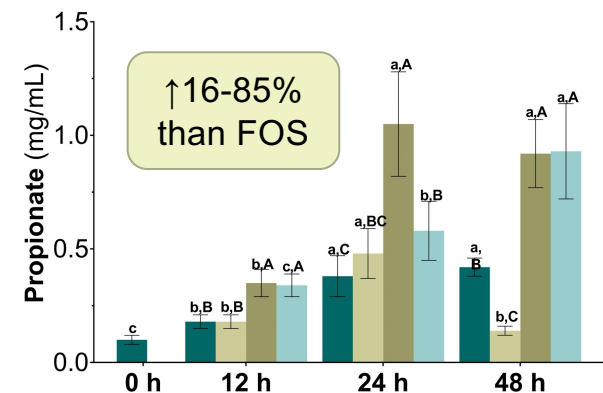
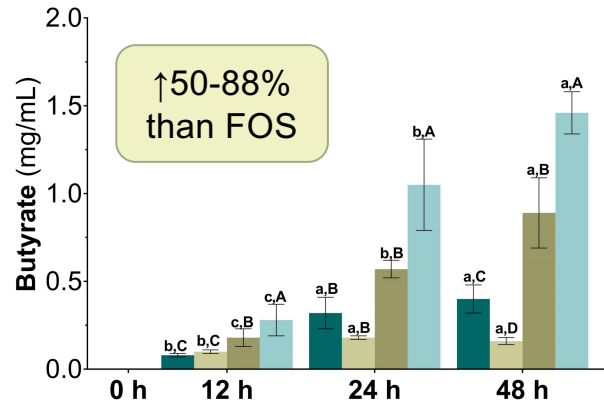
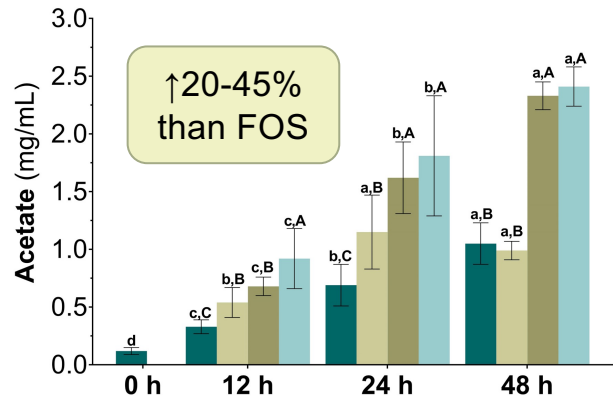
**Potential prebiotic effects analysis**



# PREBIOTIC EFFECTS OF OLIVE POMACE FIBRE AND PHENOLICS IN THE GUT

## Short-chain fatty acid analysis

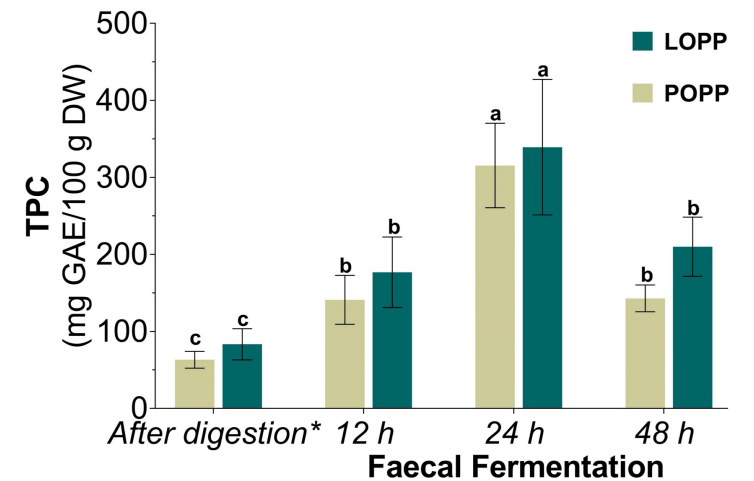
Blank FOS POPP LOPP



↑ Short-chain fatty acid production by POPP and LOPP than FOS

Potential prebiotic effect

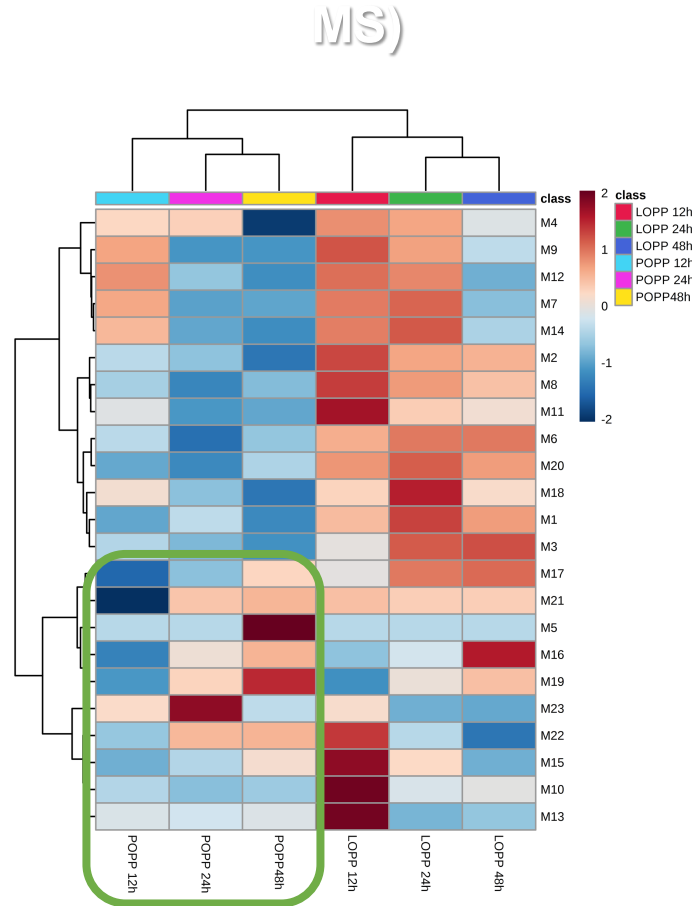
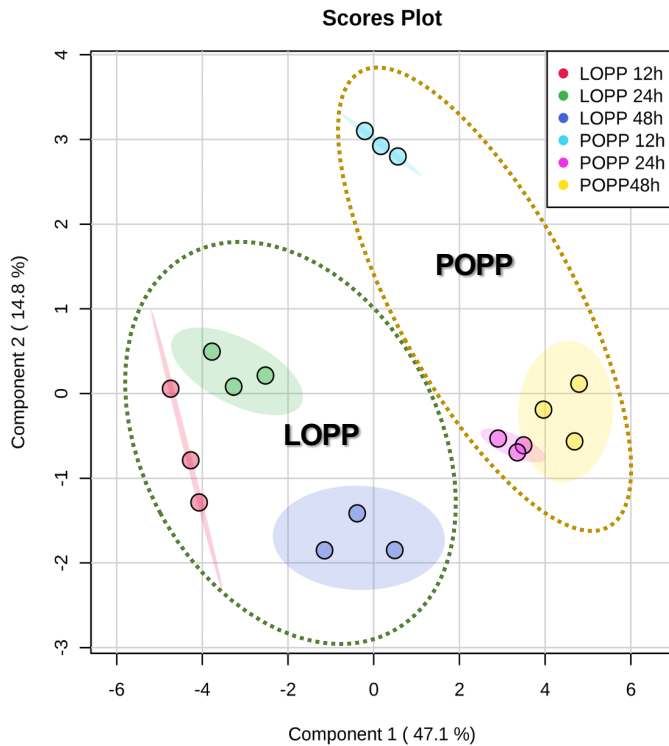
## Total phenolic compounds



↑ Total phenolic compounds after faecal fermentation

# PREBIOTIC EFFECTS OF OLIVE POMACE FIBRE AND PHENOLICS IN THE GUT

## Identification of Phenolic Compounds (LC-ESI-UHR-QqTOF-MS)



M5	Vanillyl alcohol
M19	3-Hydroxyphenilpropionic acid
M21	Homovanillic alcohol
M22	Homovanillic acid
M23	Luteolin

LC-ESI-UHR-QqTOF-MS detected:

- Phenolic compounds
- Phenolic acids



# ACORNS



Small fruit produced by the *Quercus* spp. trees

Rich in starch and polyphenols

Great potencial application

**Production: 401 585 tones/year**

20% Food source for wildlife

24% Fattening in livestock

1% Food processing

**55% Undervalued**



**79% North**  
48% Alentejo

**STARCH  
AND POLYPHENOLS  
VALORIZATION  
FROM ACORNS**



Oakfood

- Q. robur*
- Q. faginea*
- Q. ilex/Q. rotundifolia*
- Q. suber*
- Q. pyrenaica*
- Q. canariensis*



# NUTRITIONAL CHARACTERIZATION

## Starch

Dehulling	<i>Quercus</i> spp	Total (% <sub>1</sub> , DF)	Resistant (% <sub>1</sub> , DF)	Total digestible (% <sub>1</sub> , DF)	Slowly digestible (% <sub>1</sub> , DF)	Rapidly digestible (% <sub>1</sub> , DF)
Manual	<i>Q. pyrenaica</i>	41.9±0.4 <sup>de</sup>	31.0±1.1 <sup>g</sup>	10.9±0.7 <sup>c</sup>	8.9±0.1 <sup>c</sup>	1.9±0.5 <sup>e</sup>
	<i>Q. robur</i>	24.6±1.4 <sup>b</sup>	21.9±1.5 <sup>ef</sup>	2.7±0.1 <sup>a</sup>	0.5±0.0 <sup>a</sup>	2.1±0.1 <sup>b</sup>
	<i>Q. ilex</i>	29.7±0.2 <sup>c</sup>	24.5±0.4 <sup>f</sup>	5.2±0.3 <sup>b</sup>	1.3±0.0 <sup>a</sup>	1.3±0.0 <sup>a</sup>
Thermal (1 min; 100 °C)	<i>Q. pyrenaica</i>	46.4±0.0 <sup>e</sup>	7.5±0.0 <sup>a</sup> ↓	38.9±0.1 <sup>e</sup> ↑	19.0±0.1 <sup>e</sup> ↑	11.6±0.1 <sup>ab</sup> ↑
	<i>Q. robur</i>	22.1±0.3 <sup>ab</sup>	12.8±0.4 <sup>bc</sup> ↓	9.3±0.1 <sup>c</sup> ↑	3.4±0.3 <sup>b</sup> ↑	3.1±0.3 <sup>c</sup> ↑
	<i>Q. ilex</i>	37.0±0.4 <sup>d</sup> ↑	9.4±0.4 <sup>ab</sup> ↓	27.6±0.0 <sup>d</sup> ↑	14.1±1.4 <sup>d</sup> ↑	6.1±0.2 <sup>d</sup> ↑
Drying (30 °C)	<i>Q. pyrenaica</i>	30.1±2.9 <sup>c</sup> ↓	20.2±1.9 <sup>def</sup> ↓	9.9±1.1 <sup>c</sup>	3.9±0.5 <sup>b</sup> ↓	3.4±0.0 <sup>c</sup> ↑
	<i>Q. robur</i>	18.5±0.4 <sup>a</sup> ↓	16.0±0.5 <sup>cd</sup> ↓	2.5±0.1 <sup>a</sup>	0.2±0.1 <sup>a</sup>	2.1±0.0 <sup>b</sup>
	<i>Q. ilex</i>	21.7±1.5 <sup>ab</sup> ↓	18.3±1.7 <sup>de</sup> ↓	3.4±0.2 <sup>a</sup> ↓	0.6±0.0 <sup>a</sup>	1.2±0.0 <sup>a</sup>

Highest resistant/total starch ratio  
Lowest total digestible starch

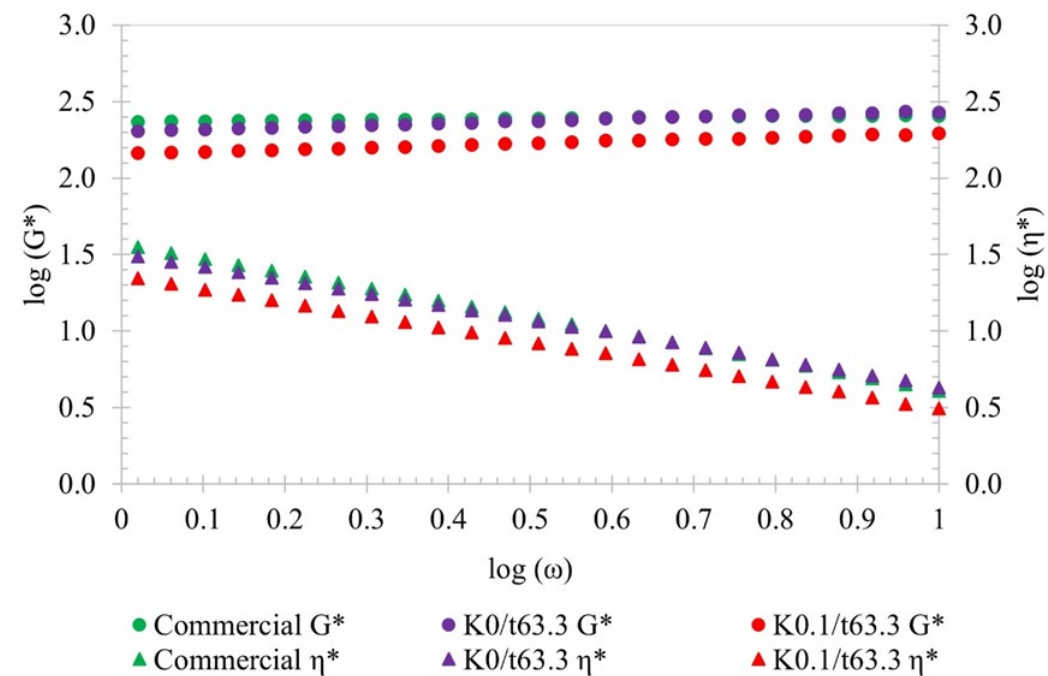
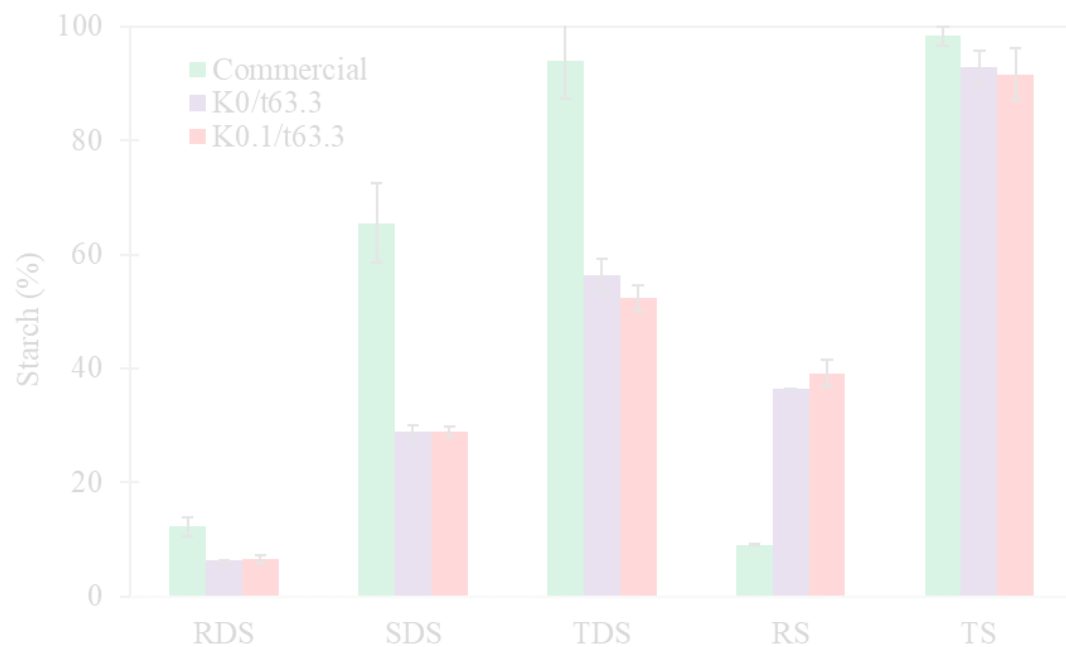


Manually dehulled *Q. robur*

DF: Dried flour

# ..BY PEF - PULSED ELECTRIC FIELDS TECHNOLOGY

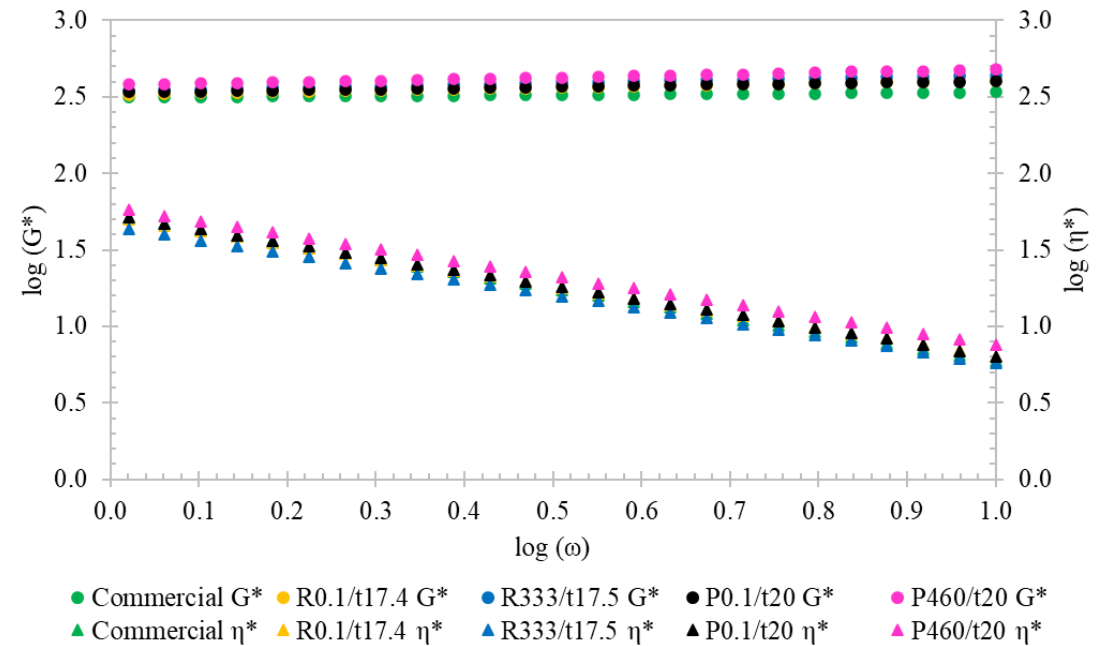
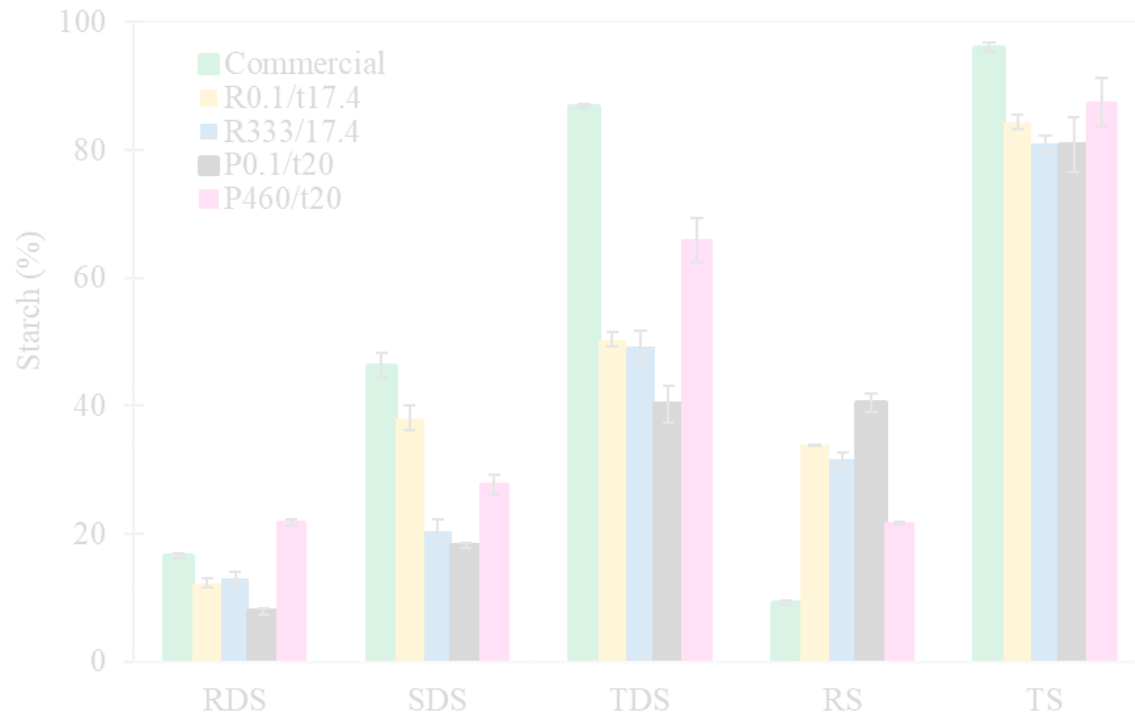
## In-vitro digestibility



RDS: Rapidly digestible starch; SDS: Slowly digestible starch; TDS: Total digestible starch; RS: Resistant starch; TS: Total starch

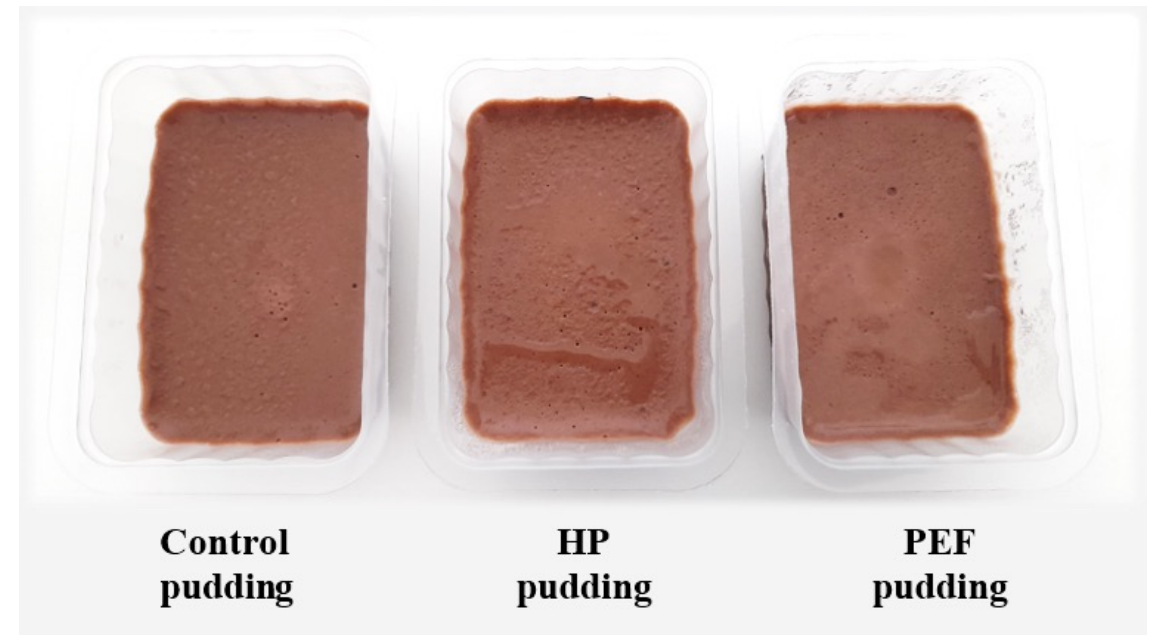
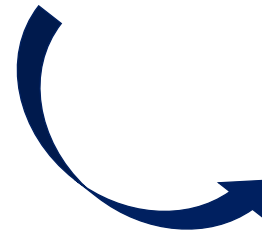
# ..BY HP - HIGH PRESSURE TECHNOLOGY

## In-vitro digestibility

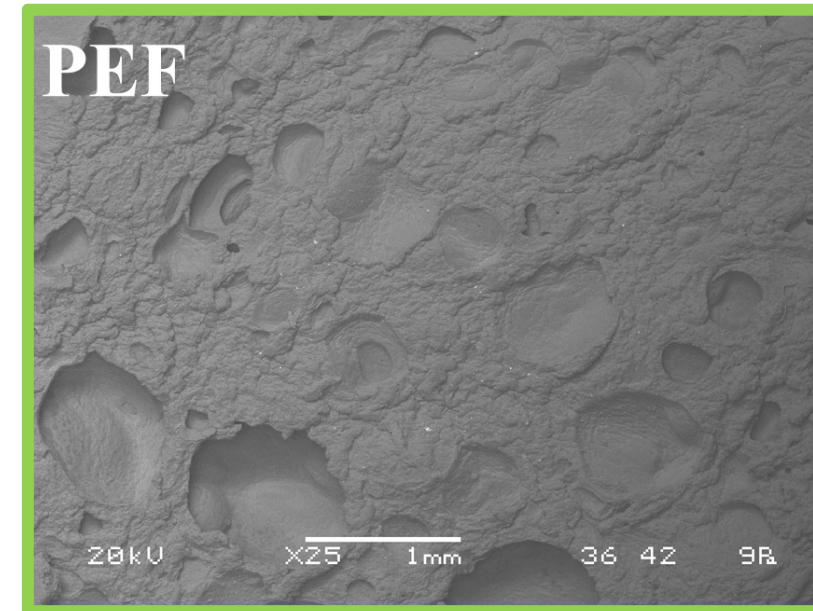
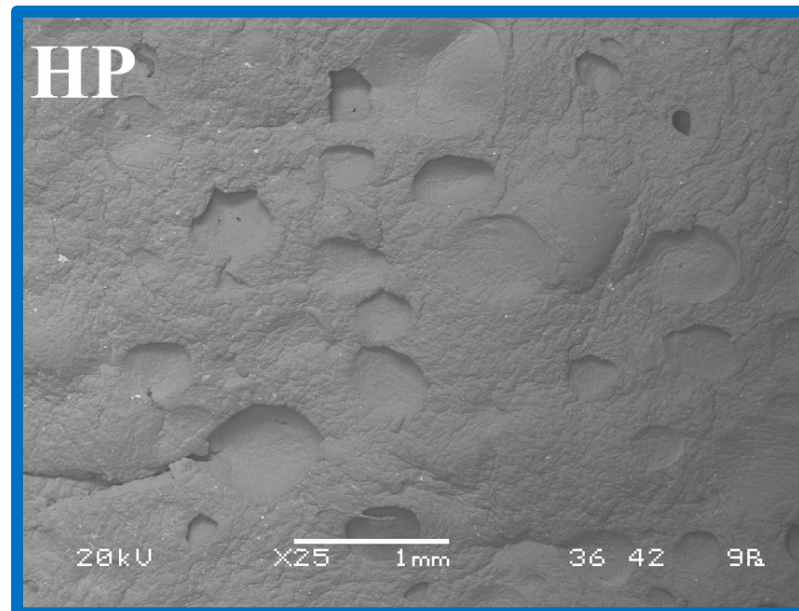
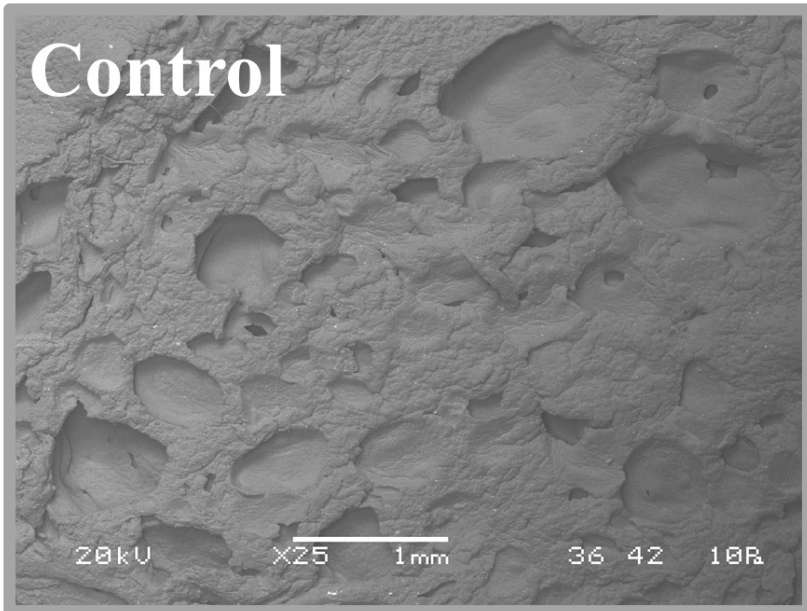


RDS: Rapidly digestible starch; SDS: Slowly digestible starch; TDS: Total digestible starch; RS: Resistant starch; TS: Total starch

# FOOD APPLICATION



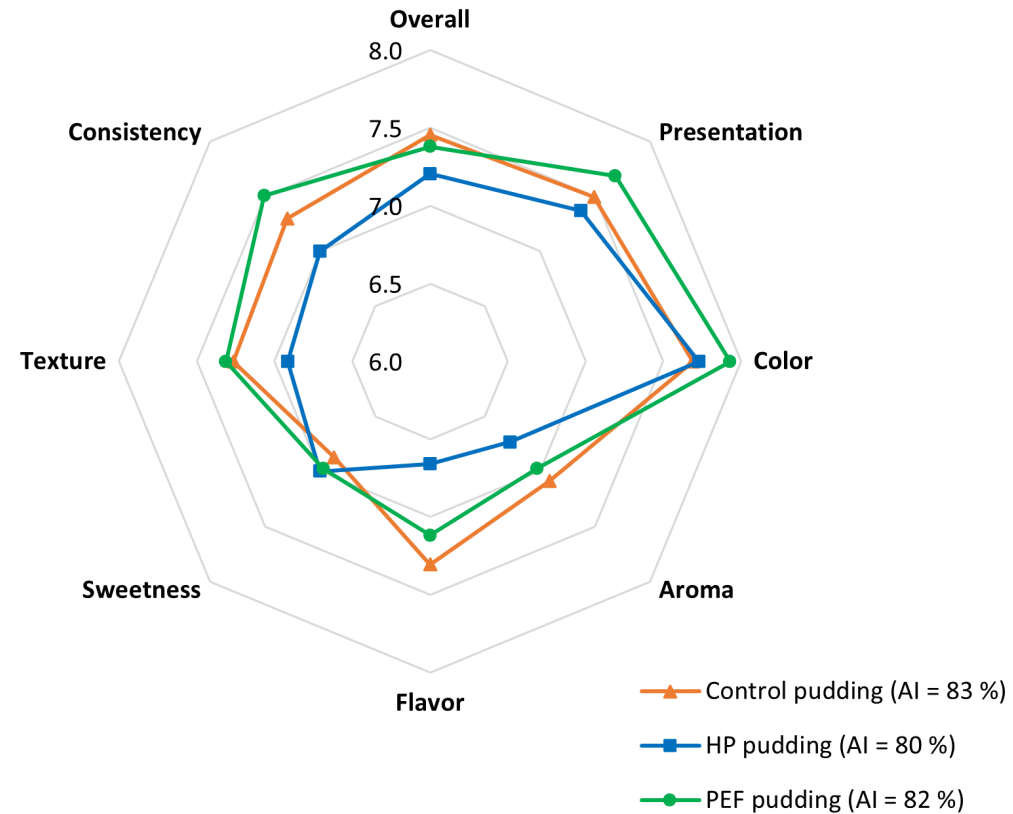
# FOOD APPLICATION





# FOOD APPLICATION

## Sensorial analysis





## Legume based systems for soil health and crop valorisation

Extraction and application of cellulose from legume losses in soil

- **Bean**
  - Leaf
  - Stalk
  - Pod
- **Soybean**
  - Pod

André e André de Cima, Marta Vasconcelos, Manuela Estevez Pintado



# Composition

(DW)		Leaf bean	Stalk bean	Pod bean	Pod soybean
Moisture (g/ 100g)		14.73 ± 0.44	15.93 ± 0.13	16.37± 0.03	15.94 ± 0.07
Ash (g/ 100g)		1.22 ± 0.07	1.50 ± 0.05	2.08 ± 0.02	1.83 ± 0.12
Protein (g/ 100g)		26.44 ± 0.38	11.64 ± 0.74	18.70 ± 0.13	14.06 ± 0.53
Fiber (g/ 100g)	FND	24.76 ± 0.06	46.51 ± 1.05	45.65 ± 3.55	55.69 ± 0.71
	FAD	11.42 ± 0.40	24.62 ± 0.80	29.21 ± 1.58	34.06 ± 1.24
Sugars (mg/ g)	cellobiose	136.91 ± 9.01	n.d.	n.d.	154.06± 5.40
	glucose	453.48± 12.20	498.72± 20.32	230.45± 17.82	410.87± 31.32
	xylose	214.51± 8.53	287.74± 11.26	279.3± 23.45	307.61± 22.12
	galactose	333.18± 7.80	352.45± 16.96	526.54± 22.87	221.27± 18.70
	arabinose	216.89± 6.79	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
	mannose	6.35± 1.11	9.79± 1.34	2.31± 0.87	5.82± 0.90
Lignin (g/ 100g)	AIL	18.1± 3.56	27.58± 1.79	33.02± 2.13	37.52± 4.78
	ASL	10.99± 2.42	7.28± 2.10	4.56± 0.54	5.2± 1.34

**FND:** Neutral fibre detergent; **FAD:** Acid fibre detergent; **AIL:** Acid insoluble lignin; **ASL:** Acid soluble lignin

# Cellulose extraction from pod bean



Bassani *et al.*, (2020)

➤ **38.5%**



El Halal *et al.*, (2015)

➤ **15.4%**



de Souza Coelho *et al.*, (2020)

➤ **36.4%** (Bleaching with 30%  $H_2O_2$ )



## Germination conditions

**Quantity:** 40 tomato seeds for each condition

**Duration:** 4 weeks

**Cellulose concentration in soil:** control (0%); 0.5%; 1% and 2.5%

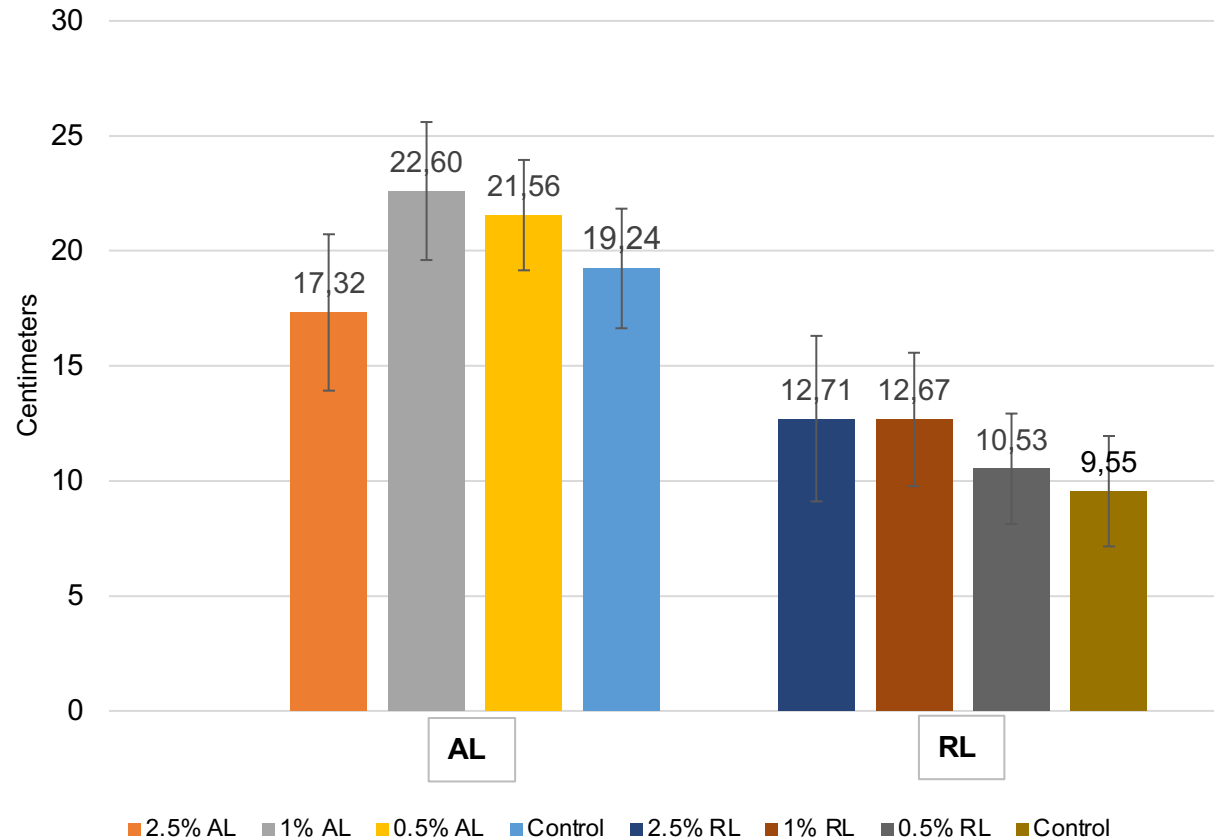
**Temperature:** 25°C

**Light:** 24h per 7 days



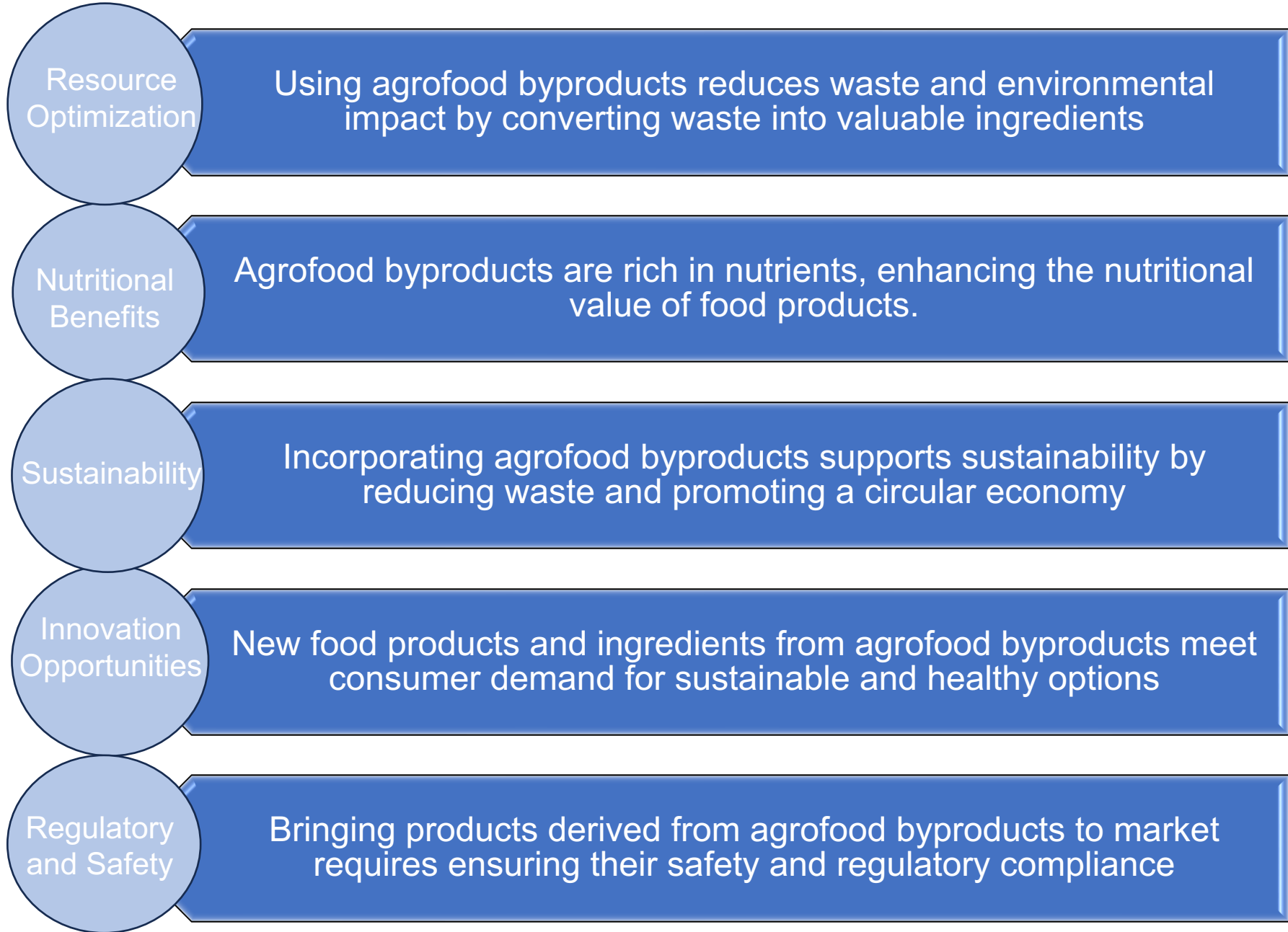
- ✓ Throughout time it was noticed that the higher cellulose content (2.5%) had a **better water retention** in soil.

### Aerial length (AL) vs Root length (RL)



- In relation to the control on root length, all concentrations generated a positive effect, with 1% presenting the best results.

# TAKE-HOME MESSAGES



# • Acknowledgments

- All partners and researchers contributing for this work
- All funding entities



Oakfood



UNIÃO EUROPEIA  
Fundo Europeu de Desenvolvimento Regional



# Thank you for your attention

UIDB/Multi/50016/2020