

Characteristics, Health Benefits, and Technological Innovations for Food and Beverage

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DESCRIPTION

In recognition of their potential to improve human health, probiotics have attracted a lot of attention. Spore-forming probiotic bacteria have become a potential alternative for use in meals and beverages among the numerous forms of probiotic microorganisms. These microorganisms have distinctive qualities that make them appropriate for a variety of technological operations and may even be beneficial to customers' health. The properties of spore-forming probiotic bacteria, consider the potential health advantages, and take through the technological considerations around their addition to food and beverages.

Sporeforming probiotic bacteria belong to the *Bacillus* and *Clostridium genera*, and they are characterized by their ability to form dormant spores. These spores act as protective structures that enable the bacteria to continue adverse conditions, such as high temperatures, acidity, and desiccation, which are commonly encountered during food processing and digestion. This unique feature allows sporeforming probiotic bacteria to maintain their viability and efficacy throughout various stages of food production and consumption. Sporeformation is a complex process that involves the conversion of vegetative cells into spores under unfavorable conditions. This ability to form spores distinguishes sporeforming probiotic bacteria from other non-sporeforming probiotics, expanding their potential applications in a wide range of food and beverage products.

The consumption of sporeforming probiotic bacteria has been associated with several health benefits. These benefits are attributed to their ability to modulate the gut microbiota composition and influence various physiological functions. Some of the potential health benefits of sporeforming probiotics include: Gastrointestinal health, immune system support, nutrient absorption, antimicrobial activity, and allergy and inflammation reduction. Sporeforming probiotics can help maintain a balanced gut microbiota, promoting digestive health and reducing the risk of gastrointestinal disorders such as Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) and Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD).

These bacteria have been shown to enhance the immune response by promoting the production of immune-modulating compounds and supporting the Gut-Associated Lymphoid Tissue (GALT). Sporeforming probiotics may contribute to improved nutrient absorption by promoting the growth of beneficial gut bacteria and enhancing the gut barrier function. Some sporeforming probiotics produce antimicrobial compounds that inhibit the growth of harmful pathogens in the gut, contributing to a healthier gut environment the risk of allergies and inflammatory conditions by promoting immune tolerance and regulating inflammation.

Technological aspects of incorporating sporeforming probiotics in foods and beverages

The incorporation of sporeforming probiotic bacteria into foods and beverages requires careful consideration of various technological factors to ensure their viability, stability, and effectiveness. Some important aspects include: Strain selection and viability, microencapsulation, substrate compatibility, fermentation conditions, packaging and storage. The selection of appropriate sporeforming probiotic strains is significant to ensure their survival and activity during food processing and storage. Strains should be chosen based on their resistance to processing conditions and compatibility with the product matrix. Microencapsulation techniques, such as spray drying and extrusion, can protect sporeforming probiotics from harsh conditions, extending their shelf life and improving their survival rates through the gastrointestinal tract.

Different sporeforming probiotic strains may have varying substrate requirements. The choice of substrate (e.g. dairy, plantbased, or fermented foods) should be optimized to support the growth and activity of the selected strains. Controlled fermentation processes can promote the growth of sporeforming

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probiotics and enhance their metabolic activity, resulting in the production of bioactive compounds that contribute to the health benefits of the final product. Proper packaging materials and storage conditions are essential to maintain the viability of sporeforming probiotics throughout the product's shelf life. Oxygen and moisture barriers can help prevent spore activation and maintain bacterial stability.

Applications of sporeforming probiotics in foods and beverages

The versatility of sporeforming probiotics allows their incorporation into various food and beverage products. Some popular applications include: Dairy products, functional beverages, and bakery and snack foods, plant-based products. Sporeforming probiotics can be added to yogurt, kefir, and cheese, enhancing their probiotic content and providing potential health benefits to consumers. Sporeforming probiotics can be incorporated into fermented beverages such as kombucha and water kefir, adding both probiotic value and unique flavours. Breads, muffins, and other baked goods can be enriched with sporeforming probiotics, offering an innovative way to deliver probiotics to consumers. Sporeforming probiotics can be used in plant based yogurts, cheeses, and fermented foods, catering to the growing demand for dairy-free alternatives. Sporeforming probiotic bacteria offer a potential avenue for the development of functional foods and beverages that provide both technological advantages and potential health benefits.