

PLANT-BASED ALTERNATIVES OF FERMENTED FOODS: YOGURTS AND KOMBUCHA, NUTRITIONALLY COMPLETE AND WITH DESIRABLE ORGANOLEPTIC CHARACTERISTICS FOR CONSUMERS. FORMENTERA

¹Francisco Lorca-Salcedo, ¹David Quintín- Martínez, ²Rafael Bermejo-Fernández, ²Sergio Ariel Streitenberger-Jacobi, ¹Presentación García- Gómez*.

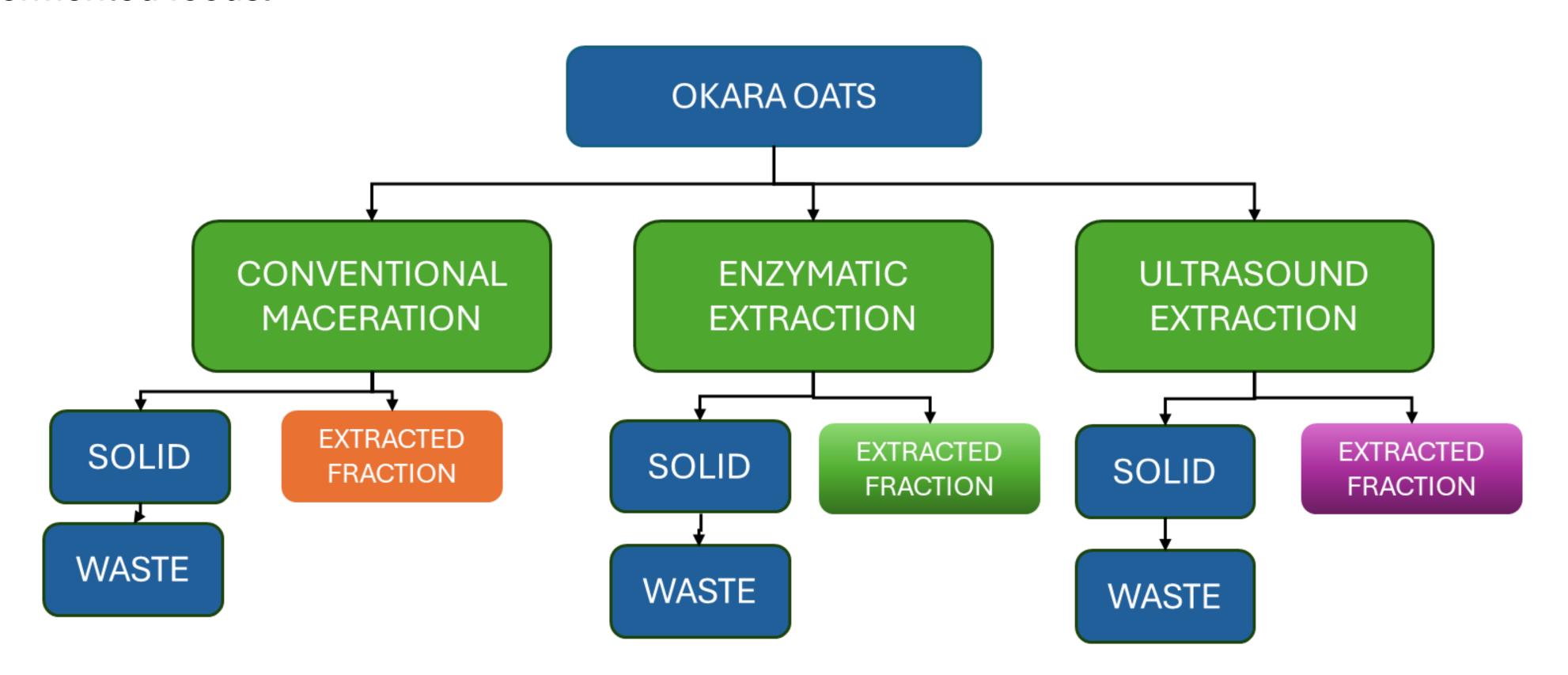
¹National Technological Centre for the Food and Canning Industry – CTNC, Murcia, Spain. *sese@ctnc.es ²AMC IDEAS, Murcia, Spain.

INTRODUCTION

The increasing production of oat-based beverages generates significant by-products, particularly okara, which are often discarded, leading to environmental concerns. This project focuses on developing green extraction technologies to valorize these by-products, transforming them into substrates for plant-based fermented foods. By integrating sustainable methodologies, the project aim to reduce food waste and promote a circular economy in the food industry.

OBJECTIVE AND RESULTS

1. To evaluate and implement environmentally friendly extraction techniques for recovering valuable nutrients from oat drink by-products. 2, To compare three green extraction technologies: conventional maceration, enzymatic extraction, and ultrasound-assisted extraction. 3. To assess the nutritional composition of the okara oat and extracted soluble fractions for use in plant-based fermented foods.



- Maceration: Traditional soaking and stirring method for nutrient extraction.
- Enzymatic: Application of specific enzymes to enhance bioactive compound release.
- Ultrasound: Use of ultrasonic waves to break cell walls and improve extraction efficiency.

Figure 1. Methodology for nutrients solubilization from okara oat

| Table 1. Characterization of okara oat and soluble extracted fraction | | | | |
|---|-----------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Component | Okara Oat | Conventional Extracted fraction | Enzymatic Extracted fraction | Ultrasound Extracted fraction |
| Protein (%) | 9,1 | 5,4 | 11,5 | 7,0 |
| Fiber (%) | 10,2 | 6,6 | 10,4 | 6,9 |
| Lipids (%) | 3,9 | 0,6 | 3,1 | 1,5 |
| Carbohydrate (%) | 0,6 | 1,0 | 10,4 | 4,8 |

CONCLUSIONS

- Enzymatic and ultrasound-assisted extraction techniques significantly enhanced nutrient recovery compared to conventional method.
- Enzymatic extraction proved to be the most efficient in releasing nutrients from okara oat.
- Extracted liquids fractions obtained demonstrated potential for application in plant-based fermented food products, enhancing their nutritional value.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Public-Private Collaboration 2022 of the Ministry of Science and Innovation. The publication is part of project CPP2022-009547, funded by MCIN/AEI/10.13039/501100011033 and by the European Union "NextGenerationEU"/PRTR.



















