

How to assess an organic food processing for allowing a better conservation of the initial qualities of the product? Application to apple juice processing

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CONTEXT

The F&V are the most consumed organic products by the consumers since 2015 in France (Agence Bio, 2019) and the organic market is still expanding. Food processors need thus to develop new products and processes to meet the increasing demand. The European regulation (CE 889/2008) provides positive lists for the use of food additive and processing aids in organic processed foods, but imposes thus few limits in terms of processing types.

In the meantime, consumers are more and more exacting regarding organic products. For example, French consumers expect to eat organic food with high nutritional quality (69%) and good taste (58%) and that are eco-friendly (56%) (Agence Bio, 2019). They have therefore strong expectations in terms of nutritional, organoleptic and environmental qualities of organic products.

METHODOLOGY

Assessment of the different steps of a food process on the 6 following aspects: nutritional, sensory, sanitary, environmental, social and economic aspects.



Aim: to provide tools to the processors of organic food, in order to help them to choose a process in accordance with the organic principles and with the consumers' expectations. In the framework of the RMT Actia TransfoBio, an assessment methodology was constructed and applied to organic apple juice.



RMT Actia TransfoBio: a French thematic network \Rightarrow Clustering of technical experts on subjects related to organic farming and processing in all food industries

APPLICATION : ORGANIC APPLE JUICE



Process diagram of organic apple juice

Established with the help of experts (Emilie Korbel – Oniris and Rémi Bauduin – IFPC)

- Processing step (from apple to juice)

For each step, every alternatives were examined.

Process assessment

for nutritional, sensory, sanitary and environmental aspects



Identification of critical steps

Critical step :

Nutritional aspect \rightarrow Cultivar choice Step involving a Sensory aspect \rightarrow Cultivar choice, juice clarifying, potential degradation of the stabilization process initial food qualities Sanitary aspect
Type of harvest, cleaning/sorting, than the other steps. storage, stabilization process

CONCLUSION

The assessment methodology was successfully applied to the apple juice processing for nutritional, sensory and sanitary aspects. However, more data is still needed to perform a complete environmental and socioeconomic assessment.

The process diagram shows several optional steps, and lets appear a minimally processing way to produce apple juice.

