

EFFECT OF TURMERIC (*CURCUMA LONGA* L.) ON SENSORY PROPERTIES OF FRESH CHEESE

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to evaluate the sensory quality and acceptability of fresh cheese enriched with turmeric (*Curcuma longa* L.) and curry (a spice mixture containing turmeric). The cheese was produced by heat-acid coagulation of cow's milk at 85°C with the addition of 0.3% citric acid. Five samples were analyzed: a control sample and four experimental samples with the addition of turmeric and curry at concentrations of 0.5% and 1.0%. Sensory analysis was performed using a descriptive method, where appearance, colour, odour, flavour, and consistency were evaluated using a 1–5 scale. The results showed that samples with 0.5% turmeric achieved the highest scores among the experimental samples, maintaining a pleasant texture along with a mild, characteristic flavour and acceptable appearance. In contrast, higher concentrations (1.0% turmeric and 1.0% curry) received lower scores due to overly intense colour and flavour. Curry-enriched samples showed slightly softer consistency, with the 1.0% curry sample receiving the lowest overall sensory score. The sensory colour evaluation indicated that the yellow colour of the sample with 1.0% turmeric was too intense and could negatively affect acceptability. Based on the obtained results, it can be concluded that the addition of turmeric at moderate concentrations (0.5%) is sensorially acceptable, contributing to product distinctiveness without compromising texture. For curry-containing samples, due to their pronounced impact on odour, flavour intensity, and consistency, concentrations below 0.5% are recommended.

Keywords: sensory analysis, turmeric, curry, fresh cheese.