



Optimization and Characterization of Gluten-Free Formulation for the Development of Gluten Free Flatbread Using Underutilised Sources

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Abstract

This deals to study the effect of different underutilized, cheap and readily available flours from rice, sorghum, unripe banana, water chestnut and moong and their mixtures on dough, flatbread and sensory characteristic of gluten free flatbread. D-optimal mixture design approach was utilized for the study. Dough stickiness decreased with increasing concentration of unripe banana and sorghum flour. Dough strength was positively influenced by rice and moong flour. Tear force values were higher at higher sorghum concentration. Higher levels of sorghum and rice tend to possess higher scores for sensory acceptability. Optimum dough and flatbread qualities were obtained with the optimized sample (Gluten free formulation) containing flours from rice (60%), sorghum (10%), unripe banana (5%), water chestnut (15%) and moong (10%). Model was found to be valid statistically. Further, this mix was compared with whole wheat flour for pasting and rheological properties and found to possess comparable properties.



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Tears force;
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Introduction

Flatbread or *chapatti* is an universally accepted and important food product which is originated from India. Traditionally, whole wheat flour is major source for preparation of flatbreads which have unique profile to form cohesive dough with the ability to trap gas and allow for mechanical sheeting because of gluten only.^{1,2} This unique property is essential for

the commercial production bakery (leavened and unleavened) like bread, biscuits, pasta, *chapattis*.^{3,4}

The presence of gluten have been anticipated in cereals like barley, wheat and rye. Hence, these flours have been characterized by the viscoelastic characteristics of gluten and thus, found significant applications in products requiring molding and

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sheeting.^{5,6} After hydration gluten protein forms a continuous viscoelastic network which imparts wheat dough its typical mechanical properties.⁵⁻⁷

Prevalence of Celiac disease has increased these days occurring in 1 of 130–300 of the global population. So it advised to adopt gluten-free protein diet to manage celiac disease.⁸⁻¹⁰ Hence, the demand for gluten-free foods is increasing. Main challenge that arises in the development of gluten free products is the loss of material properties due to absence of gluten.^{11,3}

Chickpea, quinoa, tapioca, sorghum, and rice like many other starches are known as gluten-free. The dough development mostly depends on the gluten which having viscoelastic characteristics. Hydrocolloids and proteins are alternative to achieve gluten functionalities to retain gas and elasticity.^{12,13} Loaf quality and dough handling ability is most correlated parameters in preparation of bread.¹⁴ A lot of reported available on loaf quality and textural properties of bread, but absent in baking performance in gluten-free dough related to sheeting.^{15,16}

Mixture design plays significant role in the development of gluten-free breads to optimize combination of unripe banana flour (UBF), moong flour (MF), rice flour, sorghum flour, and water chestnut flour (WCF).¹⁷ The development of gluten free unleavened flatbread depending on its dough, textural and sensory qualities was made. Pasting profile and viscoelastic behavior of the optimized gluten free formulation (GFF) were also studied in comparison with wheat flour and dough.

Materials and Methods

Materials

Wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) flour (Aashirvaad, ITC™, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India), rice (*Oryza sativa*) flour (Bhagirathi™, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India), sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor*) flour (Bhagirathi™, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India), moong (*Vigna radiate*) flour (Swad™, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India), water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) flour (Swad™ Mumbai, Maharashtra, India) were purchased from local market of Mumbai. Unripe banana (*Musa paradisiaca*) flour (Mahila Gruh Udyog™, Jalgaon, India) was purchased from Jalgaon banana

market. All the flours were sieved (60 mesh) and then used for analysis.

Experimental Design

Design Expert 6.0 (State-Ease Inc., Minneapolis, USA) was employed. Combinations of gluten free flours were obtained by using D-optimal mixture design Independent components of the mixture included rice (A), sorghum (B), UBF (C), WCF (D) and MF (E). The selection of actual levels of these components were based on preliminary studies and literature data surveyed (not reported here) is presented in Table 1. Response variables were system dough rheological parameters like dough stickiness and strength along with flatbread characteristics like tear force and sensory overall acceptability.

Dough Rheology

Doughs were evaluated for dough stickiness using Chen-Hoseney Dough Stickiness Rig test.¹⁸ The parameters obtained were dough stickiness, cohesiveness or dough strength. Accessories used included 25mm Perspex cylinder probe (P/25P), 50kg load cell and SMS/Chen-Hoseney Dough Stickiness Cell (A/DSC) in Stable Micro Systems Texture Analyzer.

Flatbread Tear Force

Flatbreads were evaluated for tear force (g) according to the method of Ghodke and Ananthanarayan (2007) using TA-XT2i Stable Microsystems texture analyzer.¹⁹ Flatbreads were cut into strips of specific length and width (7cm*3.5cm). The upper tensile grip was attached to the load cell carrier and the lower tensile grip was secured to the base of the machine. The flatbread strips were placed one end into the lower rig grip and tightening the grip and the same procedure was performed to anchor the other end to the upper grip. The force was applied and the readings were taken.

Sensory Overall Acceptability

Sensory evaluation was carried out using 9- point hedonic rating scale in laboratory at ambient conditions according to the method of Lawless and Heymann.²⁰ Sensory evaluation was carried out using 9- point hedonic rating scale in laboratory at ambient conditions. Ten number of panellists were selected. They were healthy individuals between age

group of 23 to 30 years without any medical disorder. Sensory panellists were asked to rate and give score for overall acceptability.

Pasting Measurements

The rheometer from Anton Paar MCR 72 (RHEOPLUS/32 V3.40) was used to estimate pasting properties of the flours. The dough was prepared by using 2.5g of flour with 25g of water (w/w). The heating and cooling cycle was used where samples were held at 50°C for 1 min, heated to 95°C, held at 95°C for 4 min, cooled to 50°C and held at 50°C for 1 min. Parameters recorded were pasting temperature, peak viscosity, trough viscosity (minimum viscosity at 95°C), final viscosity (viscosity at 50°C), breakdown viscosity (peak-trough viscosity) and setback viscosity (final - trough viscosity).

Viscoelastic Measurements

The rheological measurements were conducted using a rheometer (Anton Paar MCR 72) according to the method explained by Demirkesen *et al.*,²¹.

Statistical Analysis

ANOVA test was carried out using Design Expert 6.0 (State-Ease Inc., Minneapolis, USA). A Principal component analysis (PCA) applied to design for multi-correlated data (STATISTICA 7).

Results and Discussion

Diagnostic Checking of Fitted Models

The model was designed for interactive effects, linear, and quadratic. The coefficient of determination (R^2) and F-ratio are measure terms to test model. When R^2 value was more than 80% and calculated F-value was more than table F- value (at 5% level) consider as models is fitted²². All the responses showed values of "Prob > F" less than 0.0500 indicating model terms were significant.

Dough Stickiness

The characteristics of dough such as rolling, flattening, sheeting, depend on stickiness where it, increases with increase in moisture content from 48 to 60%.

The regression equation relating dough stickiness is:

$$\text{Dough stickiness} = 28.62A + 408.79B + 32.42C + 49.89D + 68.66E - 484.64AB + 69.79AC - 1.66AD - 43.63AE - 429.35BC - 397.55BD - 582.24BE - 65.71CD - 39.49CE + 41.28DE$$

...(1)

ANOVA for quadratic model as fitted to experimental results of dough stickiness showed significance ($P < 0.05$). The coefficient of determination (R^2) for dough stickiness was 0.9564. The model showed insignificant lack-of-fit ($P > 0.05$).

Figure 1a and 1b is elaborating the dough stickiness trend with respect to variables. Dough stickiness increased with increase in rice proportion at higher levels of WCF and MF (Fig 1a). The dough prepared by using rice flour shows high stickiness as compared with others.²³ Sorghum is shown to lower the stickiness of the dough system with negative correlation coefficient (-0.436). Phattanakulkaewmorie *et al.*, have elucidated reduced adhesiveness of dough with addition of sorghum.²⁴ While higher levels of rice and sorghum caused dough stickiness to increase with increasing proportion of UBF due to the water holding capacity of banana starch.²⁵ Similar results were observed in rice noodle prepared with incorporation of unripe banana flour.²⁶ The fraction of MF did not seem to affect dough stickiness of the flour mixture.

Dough Strength

Dough strength is a balance of two main properties; extensibility and elasticity. Dough strength affects production characteristics through all of the baking process. It is most critical during shaping. If the dough is too strong, it will be too elastic and difficult to shape. If it's too weak, it will stretch easily, but will not hold its shape during baking. Several studies have shown that bread making quality improves with higher dough strength.²⁷⁻²⁹

According to ANOVA, the variation in these flour proportions had a significant effect ($p < 0.05$) on dough strength with a high correlation coefficient ($R^2=0.942$) and not significant lack of fit. Dough strength was well explained by the regression equation;

$$\text{Dough strength} = 1.26A - 49.11B + 3.78C + 2.25D - 11.67E + 55.56AB - 4.87AC - 1.23AD + 19.73AE + 57.72BC + 63.07BD + 56.74E - 7.78CD + 11.32CE + 14.16DE \dots(2)$$

Figure 2a and 2b elaborates the behavior of dough strength with varying ratios of flours in mixture. UBF seemed to show quiet negative impact on dough strength. Similar results were obtained by Ritthiruangdej *et al.*, that, the addition of banana

flour, in the fabrication of dried noodles found to interrupt and weaken overall structure of the noodles.³⁰ Same is the case was found with respect to sorghum. Absence of elastic proteins/gluten may be the factor responsible for that. An increase in percentage of sorghum showed a decline curve of the graph. High increase in WCF and MF fraction caused slight increase in dough strength. This may be due to the changes in the size distribution of polymeric protein.³¹ Walde *et al.*, (2015) noticed decrease in dough extensibility with increase in water

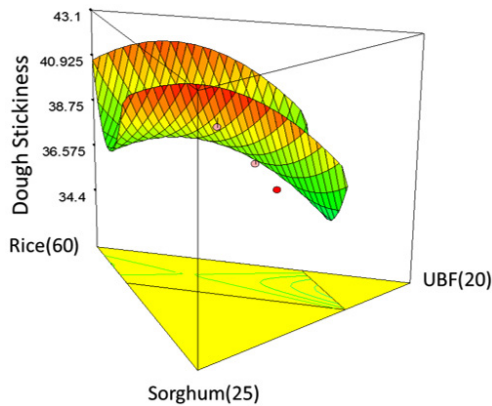


Fig. 1a: Three dimensional surface plot of dough stickiness as a function of rice, sorghum and UBF at higher levels of WCF and MF

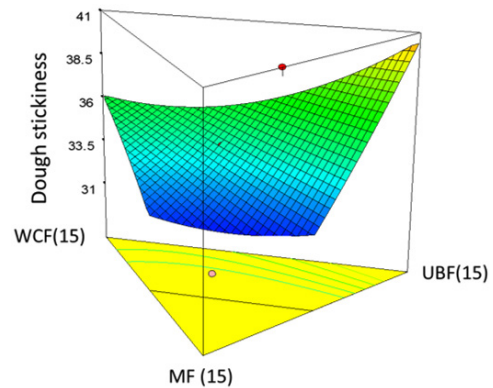


Fig. 1b: Three dimensional surface plot of dough stickiness as a function of UBF, WCF and MF at higher levels of rice and sorghum

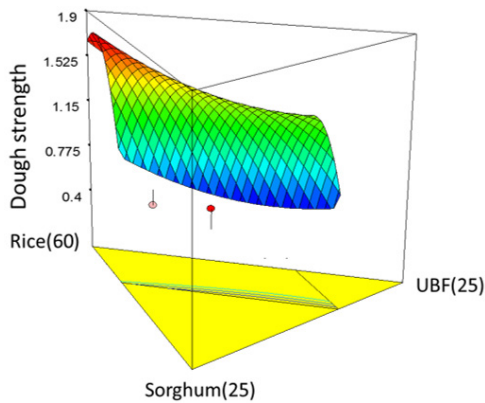


Fig. 2a: Three dimensional surface plot of dough strength as a function of rice, sorghum and UBF at higher levels of WCF and MF

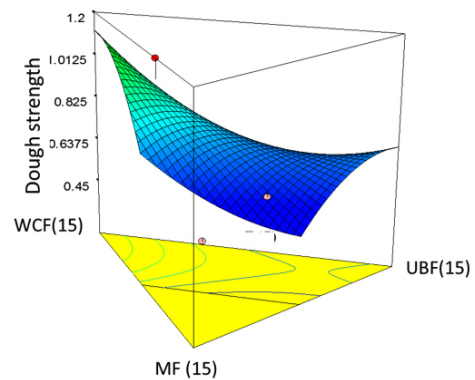


Fig. 2b: Three dimensional surface plot of dough strength as a function of UBF, WCF and MF at higher levels of rice and sorghum

chestnut flour concentration which is negatively correlated to dough strength.^{32,33}

Tear Force

Tear strength is the tensile force required to rupture. Lower values of tear force indicates desirable soft flatbread while higher values are undesirable signifying harder flatbread.

For the tear force of flatbread, ANOVA demonstrated significant effect ($p < 0.05$) with a high correlation coefficient ($R^2 = 0.938$) alongwith insignificant lack of fit. Regression equation relating to tear force was;

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Tear force} = & 219.07A - 14634.89B - 1329.85C \\ & + 1566.99D + 19757.39E + 17488.29AB + \\ & 3226.21AC - 1958.86AD + 20550.27AE + 21439.07BC \\ & + 19016.49BD - 3750.51BE + 1799.11CD - \\ & 21948.94CE - 25987.02DE \dots(3) \end{aligned}$$

Figure 3a and 3b explains the effect of variables on tear force of flatbread. It is clear from figure 3a that tear force has increased with increasing percentage of sorghum and lowered as rice proportion increased at higher levels of MF and WCF. Gujral and Pathak have reported a decrease in peak force to rupture with increase in concentration of rice flour in a composite flour dough system³⁴. Phattanakulkaewmorie *et al.*, have depicted the harder gluten free breads made with sorghum flour blends in comparison with the control²⁴. MF has found to rise the values of tear force with its increasing fraction in the mixture while

WCF and UBF tend to reduce tear force with their concentration as shown in figure 3b. Ritthiruangdej *et al.*, has reported the decrease in tensile strength of noodles when the banana flour content increased.³⁰ Aziah *et al.*, found the need of more strength to break cookies incorporated with legume flour which might have resulted from the incorporation of protein-rich flour.^{35,36}

Sensory Overall Acceptability

In the ANOVA for overall acceptability observed a significant ($P < 0.05$) effect and high correlation ($R^2 = 0.8407$). Lack of fit was found to be insignificant in this case. The following regression equation explained this response;

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Overall acceptability} = & 6.54A - 44.23B + 8C \\ & + 4.09D + 23.97E + 68.73AB + 3.01AC + 6.18AD - \\ & 25.85AE + 53.84BC + 67.19BD + 28.37BE - 2.06CD - \\ & 20.05CE + 1.23DE \end{aligned}$$

Figure 4a and 4b illustrates the behavior of this response with varying proportions of flours. Figure 4a states the direct proportionality of sensory acceptability with rice flour. Even sorghum has found to increase the sensory acceptability initially but tend to decrease the score with further increase in its proportion. As shown in figure 4b higher levels of WCF and UBF are highly acceptable by the consumers but for MF lower levels are acceptable and the score went on decreasing as the concentration increased. Aziah *et al.*, found a pronounced aftertaste when

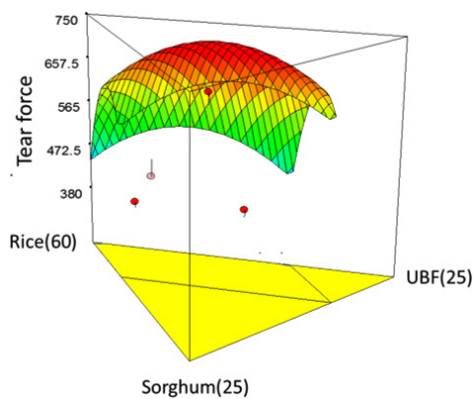


Fig. 3a. Three dimensional surface plot of tear force as a function of rice, sorghum and UBF at higher levels of WCF and MF

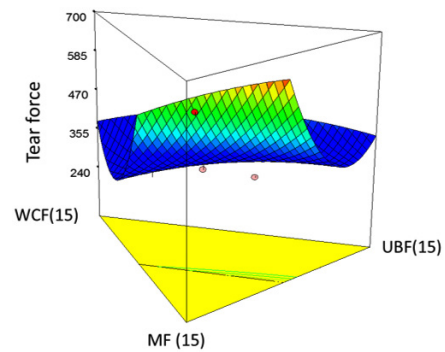


Fig. 3b. Three dimensional surface plot of tear force as a function of UBF, WCF and MF at higher levels of rice and sorghum

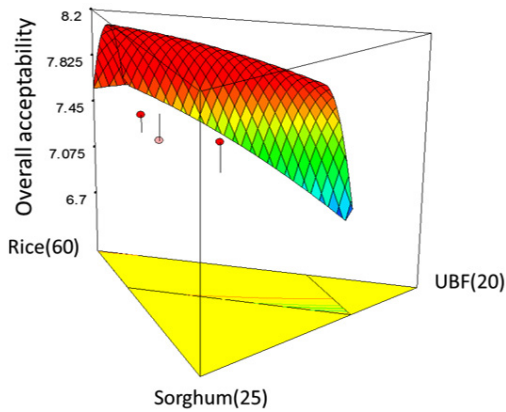


Fig. 4a: Three dimensional surface plot of overall acceptability as a function of rice, sorghum and UBF at higher levels of WCF and MF

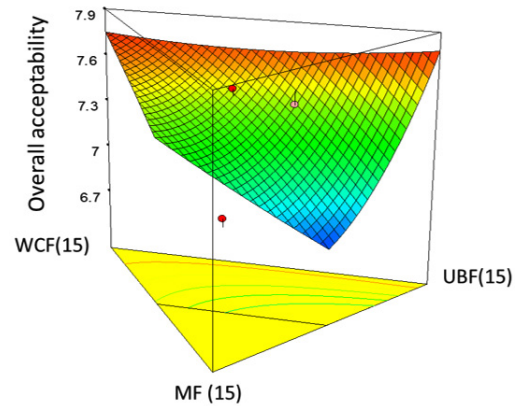


Fig. 4a: Three dimensional surface plot of overall acceptability as a function of rice, sorghum and UBF at higher levels of WCF and MF

Table 1: Experimental layout employed in D-optimal mixture design

Run	Rice (A)		Sorghum (B)		UBF (C)		WCF (D)		MF (E)	
	Coded value	Uncoded value	Coded value	Uncoded value	Coded value	Uncoded value	Coded value	Uncoded value	Coded value	Uncoded value
1	0	60	0.17	12.5	0	15	0.67	5	0.17	7.5
2	0.67	50	0	15	0	15	0.33	10	0	10
3	0	60	0.33	10	0	15	0.67	5	0	10
4	0.29	55.625	0	15	0.29	10.625	0.29	10.625	0.125	8.125
5	1	45	0	15	0	15	0	15	0	10
6	0.67	50	0.33	10	0	15	0	15	0	10
7	0.67	50	0	15	0.33	10	0	15	0	10
8	0	60	0.33	10	0	15	0.67	5	0	10
9	0.33	55	0.33	10	0	15	0	15	0.33	5
10	0	60	0.33	10	0.67	5	0	15	0	10
11	0	60	0	15	0.33	10	0.33	10	0.33	5
12	0	60	0.33	10	0.33	10	0	15	0.33	5
13	0	60	0.17	12.5	0	15	0.67	5	0.17	7.5
14	0.67	50	0.33	10	0	15	0	15	0	10
15	0	60	0.33	10	0.67	5	0	15	0	10
16	0.67	50	0	15	0	15	0	15	0.33	5
17	0.33	55	0	15	0.67	5	0	15	0	10
18	0	60	0	15	0.67	5	0	15	0.33	5
19	0	60	0	15	0.67	5	0.33	10	0	10
20	0	60	0	15	0.33	10	0.67	5	0	10
21	0	60	0.33	10	0	15	0.33	10	0.33	5
22	0.29	55.625	0.125	13.125	0.29	10.625	0.29	10.625	0	10
23	0	60	0	15	0	15	0.67	5	0.33	5
24	0.67	50	0	15	0	15	0	15	0.33	5
25	0.33	55	0	15	0	15	0.67	5	0	10

mungbean and chickpea were incorporated in gluten free cookies.³⁵ McWatters has discussed about the typical beany flavour of legume flours that leads to decrease in consumer acceptance.³⁷

preparation of gluten free flatbread and the mixture thus developed was gluten free formulation (GFF) which was further evaluated.

Optimisation of Independent Variables and Validation of Model

For the optimization, the goals were selected as elaborated in table 3 for the responses. By using the given criteria, the solution obtained was rice (60), sorghum (10.08), UBF (5.21), WCF (15) and MF (9.71). Flatbreads were prepared based on solution obtained and analysed for the responses. The measured response values were very close to the predicted values, confirming the adequacy of the models. Also, the validation of the model was reconfirmed by the lower chi square values as depicted in table 3. Therefore, the optimised levels of gluten free flours were recommended for the

Principal Component Analysis

Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was used to visualize the variation between the variables i.e. independent (rice, sorghum, UBF, WCF and MF) and dependent (Dough stickiness, dough strength, tear force and overall acceptability). This analysis showed two axes explaining the essential variability that were axis 1 and 2. The first and the second PCs described 31.98 and 27.06% of the variance respectively. Together, the first two PCs represented 59.04% of the total variability. As shown in figure 5, PC1 (principal component 1) separates independent variable rice and dependent variables dough strength, overall acceptability from independent variable sorghum, MF and dependent variable tear

Table 2: ANOVA terms for D-optimal mixture design

Model terms	Sensory	Stickiness	Strength	Tear force
Prob > F	0.0377	0.0164	0.0309	0.0363
Std. Dev.	0.183076	1.064955	0.149995	48.91353
Mean	7.3545	38.12525	0.9705	518.397
R-Squared	0.937044	0.956385	0.942409	0.938096
Lack of fit	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant

Table 3: Optimization of constrains and validation of model

Constraints	Goal	Limits		Model Predicted Value	Experimental Value	Chi square value
		Lower	Upper			
Rice	In range	45	60	60	-	-
Sorghum	In range	10	15	10.08	-	-
UBF	In range	5	15	5.21	-	-
WCF	In range	5	15	15	-	-
MF	In range	5	10	9.71	-	-
Dough stickiness	Maximize	31	42.26	35.26	32.36±2.51	0.237
Dough strength	Minimize	0.56	1.7	1.74	1.56±0.05	0.017
Tear force	Maximize	401.65	710.97	418.264	420.33±10.24	0.009
Dough strength	Minimize	0.56	1.7	1.74	1.56±0.05	0.017
Sensory	Maximize	6.66	7.8	7.8	7.3±0.26	0.032

force. This PC does not elaborate dough stickiness and UBF as they are placed near the axis. Rice is shown to be positively correlated with dough strength and overall acceptability at higher levels which is also shown by correlation matrix (table 4).

Second PC places UBF far away from rice and WCF showing differences in their behavior in mixture. Second PC reveals positive influence of dough strength and overall acceptability on rice which is also upheld by table 4 (positive correlation coefficient). Dough stickiness being immediately

Table 4: Correlation matrix for dependent and independent variables

	Rice	Sorghum	UBF	WCF	MF	Dough stickiness	Dough strength	Tear force	Overall acceptability
Rice	1	-0.335	-0.357	-0.449	-0.335	0.048	0.362	-0.502	0.405
Sorghum		1	-0.129	-0.0937	0.034	-0.436	-0.593	0.260	-0.054
UBF			1	-0.373	-0.129	0.123	-0.184	0.062	-0.406
WCF				1	-0.093	0.087	0.054	0.105	-0.024
MF					1	-0.005	0.073	0.465	-0.063
Dough stickiness						1	0.387	-0.188	0.219
Dough strength							1	-0.062	0.322
Tear force								1	-0.314
Overall acceptability									1

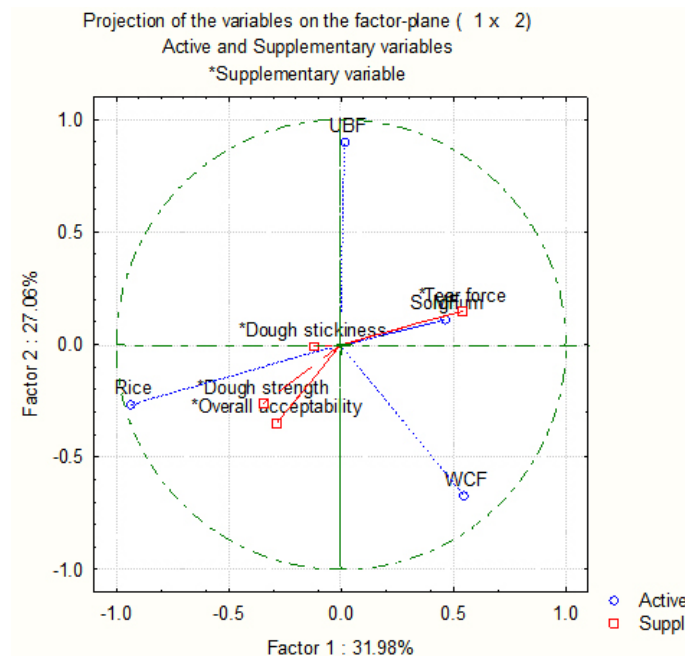


Fig. 5: Principal component analysis: loading plot of PC1 and PC2 describing the inter relation between independent (gluten free flours) and dependent variables

placed to the axis, is not well explained by this PC. Carefully seen at the figure, there is a formation of cluster from sorghum, MF and tear force. This shows both of these flours when added to mixture positively affects tear force (positive values of correlation coefficient as shown in table 4).

Comparative Evaluation of GFF and Wheat Flour Pasting Properties

The swelling power, rigidity, size and amylose to amylopectin ratio of granules has major influence on pasting properties.³⁸ Figure 6 represents the pasting behavior of wheat flour and GFF with respect to time and temperature. As can be seen from the

figure, viscosity of both the flours followed changes with change in temperature as well as time. There is an initial increase in the values of viscosity with time-temperature followed by a decrease in the value. High viscosity values have characterized by GFF as compared to the wheat flour. This is due to the presence of large amount of starches in case of GFF. Due to the presence of gluten in case of wheat flour, the absorption of water by starch granules is inhibited to some extent which give reduced values of viscosity.

Again, as the time-temperature profile proceeds viscosity was observed to be increasing. This may

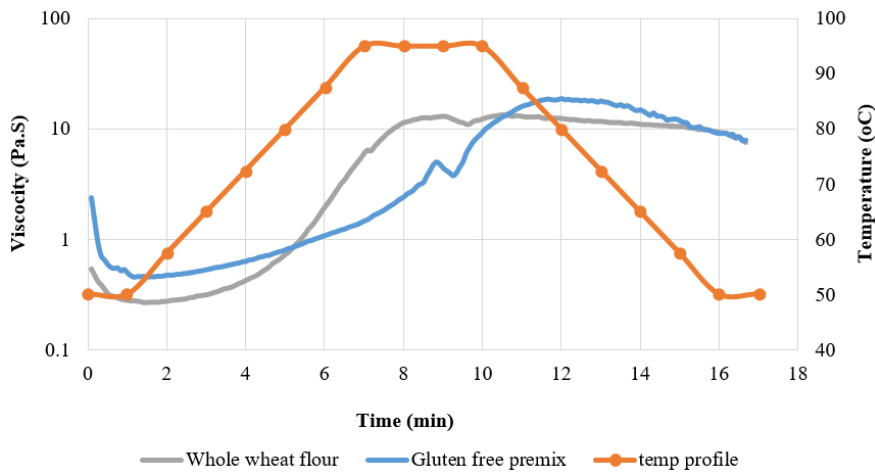


Fig. 6: Pasting profile of wheat flour in comparison with gluten free premix

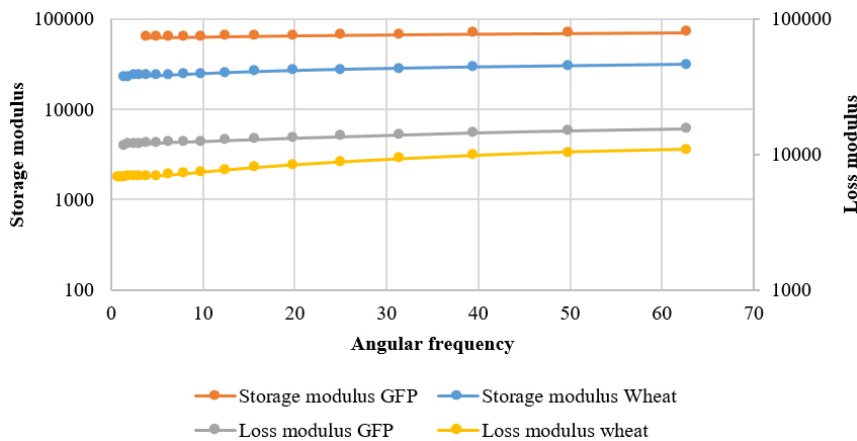


Fig. 7: Linear viscoelastic moduli of GFP compared to wheat flour

be due to the removal of water from the exuded amylose by the granules as they swelled.³⁹ Here, GFF found to show a greater retrogradation tendency, indicated by the larger rise of viscosity during cooling period as compared to wheat flour.^{40,41} Aggregation of the amylose molecules is also responsible to increase viscosity.⁴²

However, the similar trend of wheat flour and GFF with time-temperature profile indicates the occurrence of similar structural rigidity in them.

Linear Viscoelastic Modules

The linear viscoelastic modulus of dough samples of wheat and GFF against the angular frequency can be seen in figure 7. Figure depicts that increase in angular frequency caused a slight increase in the values of linear viscoelastic modulus. However, it can be seen from the figure that, storage modulus (G') values for both dough samples (wheat and GFF) ranged between 10000 to 10000 and loss modulus (G'') values for the dough samples were within 1000 and 100000. Both dough samples had a higher storage modulus values than loss modulus values indicating a weak gel behavior or solid like structure.²¹ This extent occurs due to alteration of viscoelastic solid to the liquid form possessing

elasticity and viscosity both. The dissipation of energy takes place during this process due to the friction of elements of dough with each other. Both GFF and wheat were shear-dependent, demonstrated by an increase in storage and loss moduli (G' and G'', respectively) with increase in frequency (Figure 7). The gentle slope of the G' represents a low sensitivity to frequency change.⁴³

Conclusion

Mixture design is effective in optimization of gluten free flat bread formulation to address celiac issues. Gluten-free flatbread made from a mixture of rice, sorghum, water chestnut, unripe banana and mung flours showed to have great potential for commercial application. The products concluded that the gluten free flatbread thus prepared was acceptable by the consumers. It has also been shown that GFF was having similar structural rigidity and similar viscous behavior along with shear dependency as that of whole wheat flour. These flours are therefore a very interesting, easily available and cheap alternative for the development of products.

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