MENDELU - Brno/Czech Republic – March 26, 2024

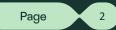
# Effect of food cultures vs. *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat foods

Michael Erkes, Director Meat & Prepared Food Europe

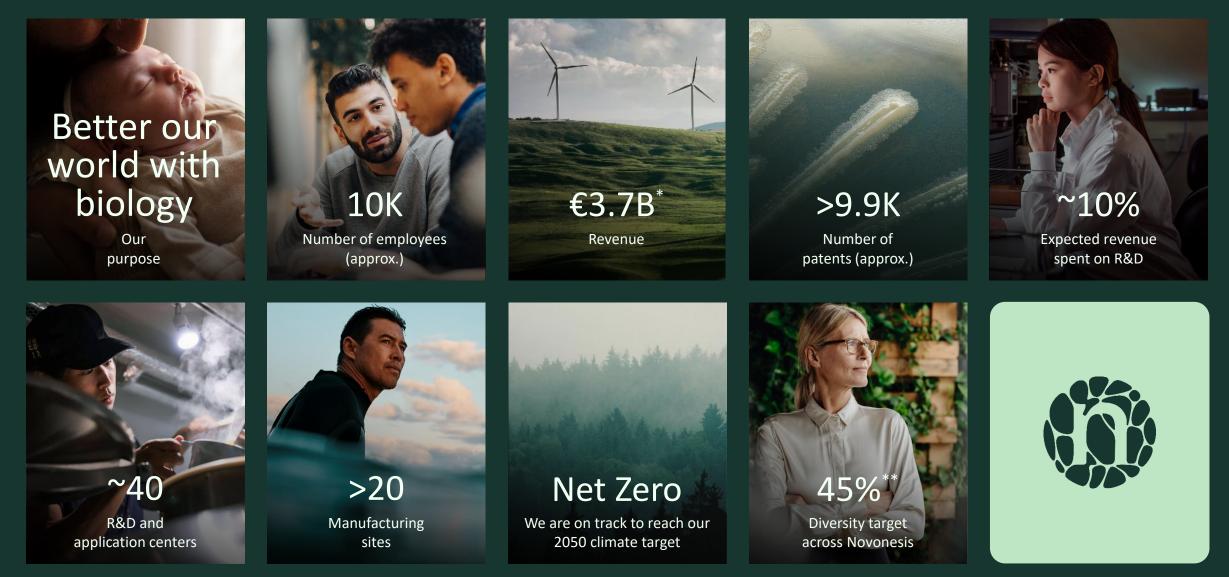
novonesis







novonesis



Combined financials are based on Chr. Hansen's unaudited Q4 Interim report 2022/23 and Novozymes' unaudited interim reports for 9M 2023 and Q4 2022. Novozymes figures have been converted from DKK to EUR using a single FX rate of 7.44 for purposes of translation only

\*\*45% minimum men and 45% minimum women across all professionals and senior management by 2030





# For thousands of years, microorganisms have been used to make food and beverages more tasty, digestible and durable



**APPEARANCE** 









SAFETY



AROMA



COLOR



ALCOHOL



LACTOSE-FREE



VITAMINS



FLAVOR



## My grandfather in 1935 already using microbial activity without knowing it!



## Today, science has replaced coincidence

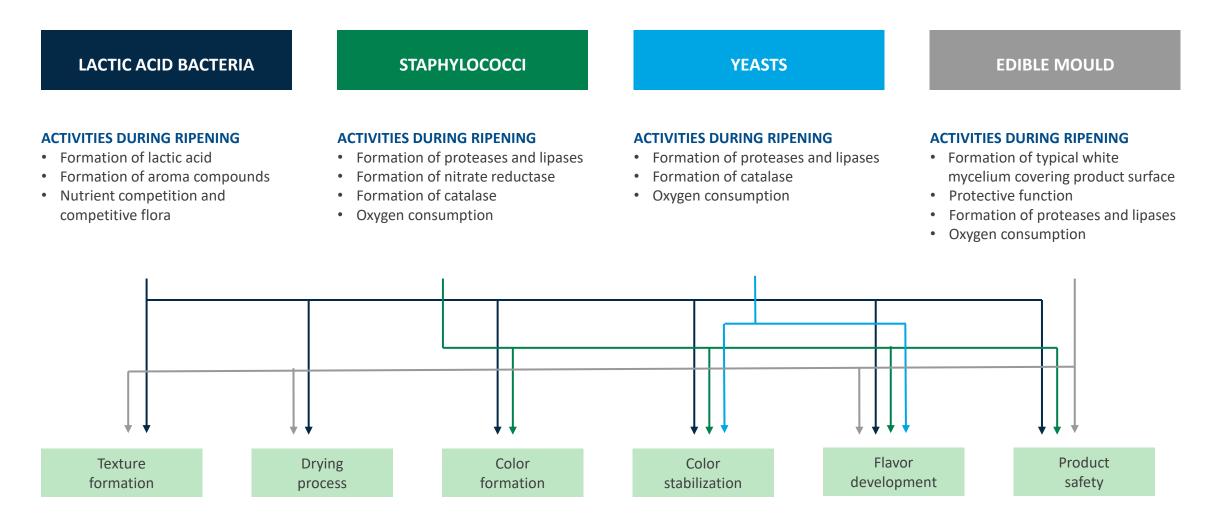
Now we select cultures according to their characteristics.

This way, we help producers to offer consumers tasty, healthy, safe and affordable food – time after time.



## The unseen magic performed by good bacteria!

Food cultures contribute in many ways to characteristic features of meat products



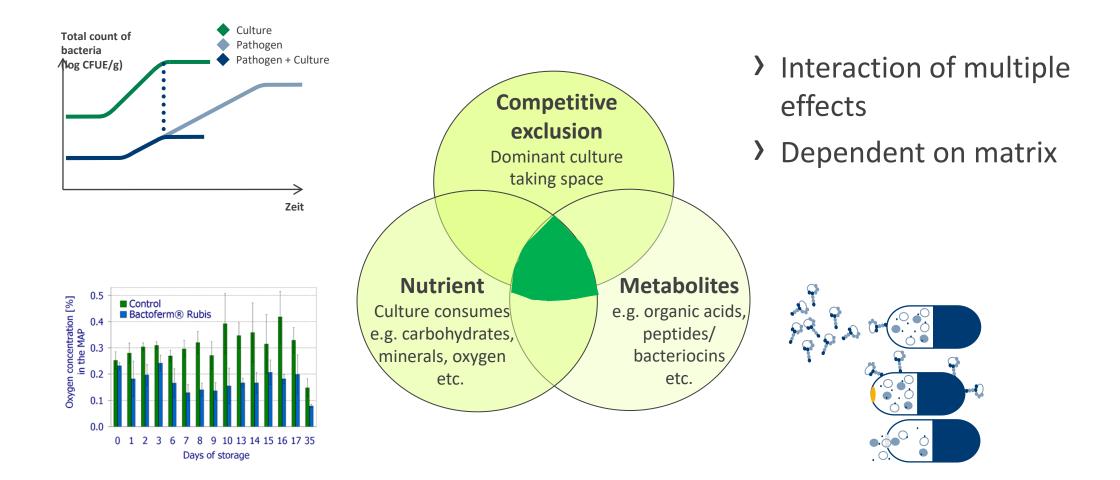
See also: ERKES - Cultures optimize raw cured products - FleischWirtschaft International 3/2011; ERKES - Cultures assure ripening and protection – FleischWirtschaft International 3/2014; ERKES – Ars vivendi needs culture! – FleischWirtschaft International 3/2016; MARGERIN – Cultures in salami and raw cured muscles applications – DLG-expert report 3/2018

## HOW CAN GOOD BACTERIA PROTECT OUR FOOD?

#### MANAGING MICROBIAL ECOSYSTEMS BY COMPETITIVE EXCLUSION – A VISUALIZATION FROM THE FIELD OF BIOLOGY



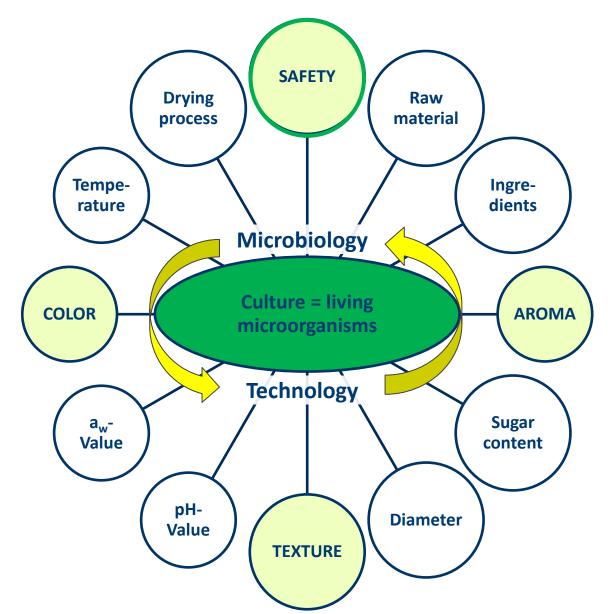
## How can food cultures protect food?



## Make the right choice!

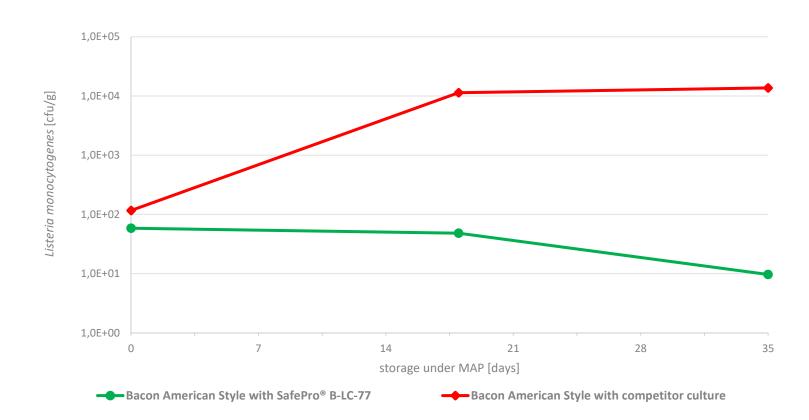
Culture needs to be well adapted to food matrix & process to unfold full efficiency





#### The "right" culture makes the difference! Process validation Listeria monocytogenes in American bacon





Challengetest according to "EURL Lm TECHNICAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT for conducting shelf-life studies on Listeria monocytogenes in ready-to-eat foods,, (version 3 of June 6, 2014; Amendment 1 of February 21, 2019) – performed by NSF Erdmann Analytics GmbH (Rheda-Wiedenbrück, Germany) Both cultures added via brine injection; Storage conditions = 80% N<sub>2</sub> / 20% CO<sub>2</sub>; Storage temperature = 21d at 7°C + 14d at 12°C D0 = begin of shelf-life: aw-values = 0,967 - 0,986; pH = 5,5 - 5,6 (B-LC-77); pH = 5,8 - 5,9 (competitor) D35 = end of shelf-life: aw-values = 0,975 - 0,989; pH = 5,2 - 5,3 (both batches)



## Listeriosis as most severe food-borne infection EU One Health Zoonoses Report 2022

	Surveillance data on human cases (source: ECD C)										Foo dborne outbreaks (source: EFSA)							
	Confirmed	Hospitalisations					Deaths						Harri	talisations	Deat	h.,		
	human cases	Status av	vailable	Reporting MSs <sup>4</sup>		d proportion alised cases	Outcom	e a va i la ble	Reporting MSs*	Death Case	ns and fata lity	Outbreaks	Cases	and p	roportion of talised cases	and o	case	
Disease	N	N	%	N	N	%	N	%	N	N	%	N	N	N	%	N	%	
Campylobacteriosis	137,107	44,876	327	16	10,551	23.5	84,425	61.6	17	34	0.04	255	1097	83	7.6	0	0	Listeria in the EU (2022)
Salmonellosis	65,208	29,003	44.5	17	11,287	38.9	36,856	56.5	17	81	0.22	1014	6632	1406	21.2	8	0.12	
Yersiniosis	7919	2113	26.7	17	636	30.1	3765	47.5	17	0	0	14	96	4	4.2	0	0	<ul> <li>2.738 documented cases</li> </ul>
STEC infections	7117	2933	41.2	17	1130	38.5	4824	67.8	21	28	0.58	71	408	63	15.4	1	0.25	<ul> <li>Highest number of deaths associated</li> </ul>
Listeriosis	2738	13.86	50.6	19	1330	96.0	1578	57.6	21	286	18.1	35	296	242	81.8	28	9.5	with Listerisos (286)
West Nile virus infection <sup>b</sup>	1111	366	32.9	8	318	86.9	1111	100.0	11	92	8.3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	ζ, γ
Echinococcosis	722	277	38.4	15	128	46.2	405	56.1	15	1	0.25	0	0	0	-	0	-	<ul> <li>Highest fatality rate (18,1%)</li> </ul>
Q fever	719	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	445	61.9	14	4	0.90	0	0	0	-	0	-	<ul> <li>Highest hospitalization rate (96,0%)</li> </ul>
Tularaemia	620	151	24.4	10	91	60.3	227	36.6	11	2	0.88	0	0	0	-	0	-	
Brucellosis	198	79	39.9	10	55	69.6	81	40.9	10	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	-	
Tuber culosis caused by <i>M. bovis,</i> <i>M. caprae</i>	130	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Trichinellosis	41	11	26.8	5	7	63.6	11	26.8	5	0	0	7	68	10	14.7	0	0	
Rabies	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	

#### TABLE 2 Reported hospitalisations and deaths due to zoonoses in confirmed human cases and among foodborne outbreak cases in the EU, 2022.

Abbreviation: NA, Not applicable, as information is not collected for this disease.

Note: Data on congenital tox oplasmosis are not shown, since 2022 data are not available yet.

\*Not all countries provided case data for all diseases.

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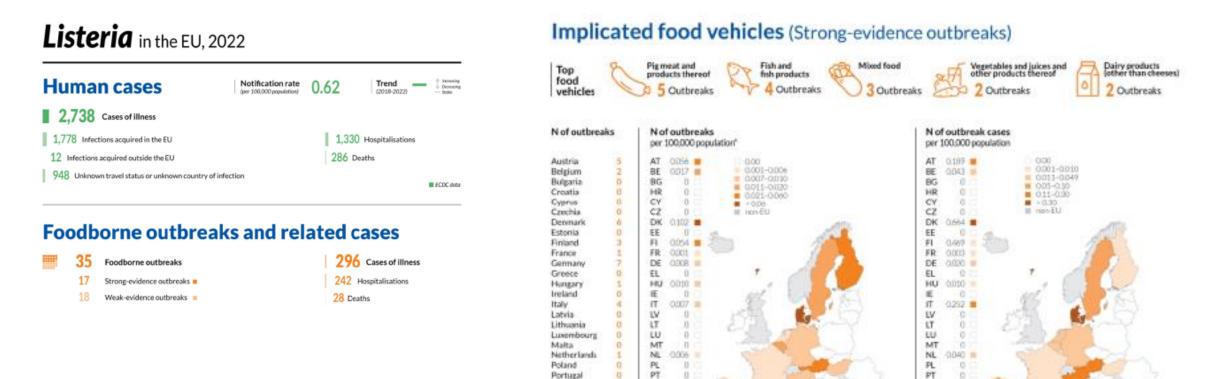
<sup>b</sup>For WestNile virus infection, the total number of locally acquired infection cases was used (includes probable and confirmed cases).

"The number of cases also includes two cases reported from Finland, by error.



# Listeria in the EU – Foodborne outbreaks 2022

Meat products, fish/seafood and mixed products/vegetables as the most common implicated food vehicles - EU One Health Zoonoses Report 2022



Romania

Slovakia

Slovenia

Sweden

UR IN FEIMO

Spain

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Page

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\* Differences ansag countries shall be interpreted with caution as this indicator depends on several factors including the type of outbreaks under surveillance and does not necessarily reflect the level of food safety in each country. ŔÔ

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#### Food Safety Criteria for Listeria monocytogenes Regulation (EC) 2073/2005 on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs: Annex 1, Chapter 1

#### Food Category 1.1

Ready-to-eat foods intended for infants and ready-to-eat foods for special medical purposes (4)

#### Food Category 1.2

Ready-to-eat foods able to support the growth of *Listeria monocytogenes*, other than those intended for infants and for special medical purposes

#### Food Category 1.3

**Ready-to-eat foods unable to support the growth of** *Listeria monocytogenes,* other than those intended for infants and for special medical purposes (4) (8)

#### Footnote (7):

This criterion applies to products before they have left the immediate control of the producing food business operator, when he is not able to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the competent food authority, that the product will not exceed the limit of 100 cfu/g throughout the shelf-life.

This criterion applies if the manufacturer is able to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the competent authority, that the product will not exceed the limit of 100 cfu/g throughout the shelf-life. [...]

Footnote (5):

[=> See also "EURL Lm Technical Guidance Document on shelf-life studies on Listeria monocytogenes in ready-to-eat foods"]

#### Footnote (8):

Products with

- pH ≤ 4,4 or
- a<sub>w</sub> ≤ 0,92

Limit: 100 cfu/g

- $pH \le 5,0$  and  $a_w \le 0,94$
- With a shelf-life of less than 5 days

are automatically considered to belong to this category. Other categories of products can also belong to this category, subject to scientific justification.

#### Limit: Absence in 25g

### EURL Lm TECHNICAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT





#### EURL Lm GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

to evaluate the competence of laboratories

implementing challenge tests and durability studies

related to Listeria monocytogenes in ready-to-eat foods

Version 3 - 10/02/2023

<u>Challenge Test to determine the  $\delta$ -Values:</u>

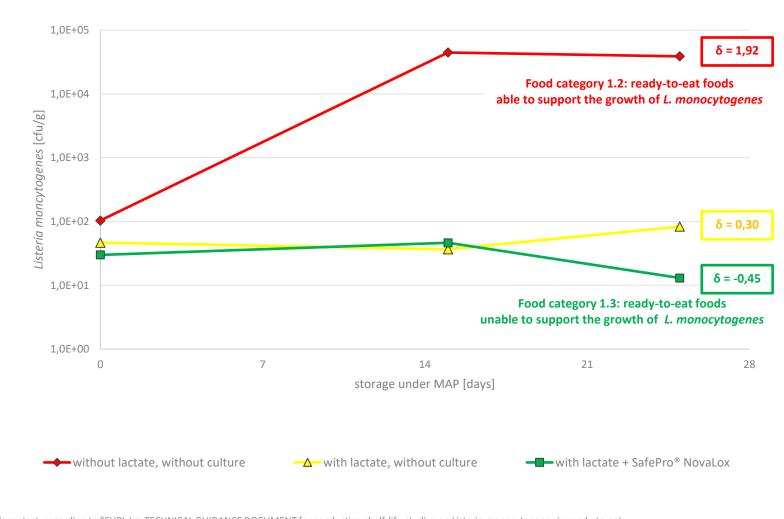
"If  $\delta$  is lower or equal to the limit of 0,5 log<sub>10</sub>, then it is assumed that the food is not able to support the growth of *L. monocytogenes.*"

Page

## Smoked salmon (injected)

Effect of SafePro® NovaLox via brine injection



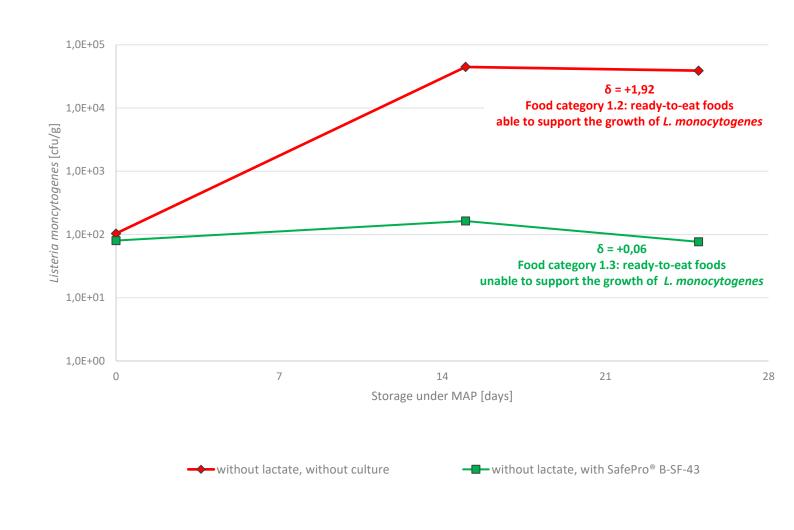


Challengetest according to "EURL Lm TECHNICAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT for conducting shelf-life studies on Listeria monocytogenes in ready-to-eat foods" (version 3 of June 6, 2014; Amendment 1 of February 21, 2019) - Perfomed by NSF Erdmann Analytics GmbH (Rheda-Wiedenbrück, Germany) Lactate and SafePro® NovaLox have been added via brine injection (9% injection); MAP = 85% N<sub>2</sub> / 15% CO<sub>2</sub>; Storage temperature = 25d bei 7°C; inoculation with a two strain cocktail *L. monocytogenes* 

### Smoked salmon (dry salted)

Effect of SafePro® B-SF-43 via spray application at the slicer



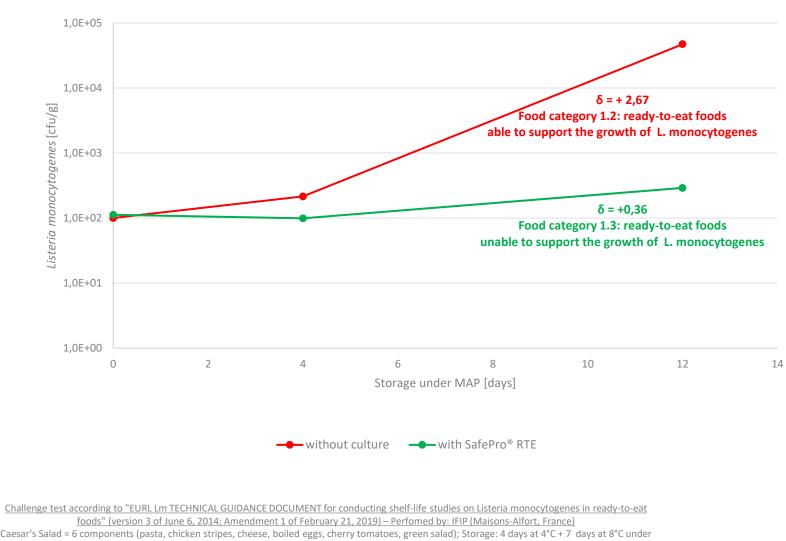


Challenge test according to "EURL Lm TECHNICAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT for conducting shelf-life studies on Listeria monocytogenes in ready-to-eat foods" (version 3 of June 6, 2014; Amendment 1 of February 21, 2019) – Perfomed by: NSF Erdmann Analytics GmbH (Rheda-Wiedenbrück, Germany) SafePro® B-SF-43 added via spray application at the slicer; MAP = 85% N<sub>2</sub> / 15% CO<sub>2</sub>; Storage temperature = 25d at 7°C; inoculation with two strain cocktail *L. monocytogenes* 

### **Caesar's Salad**

#### Effect of SafePro® RTE via spray application during the mixing process



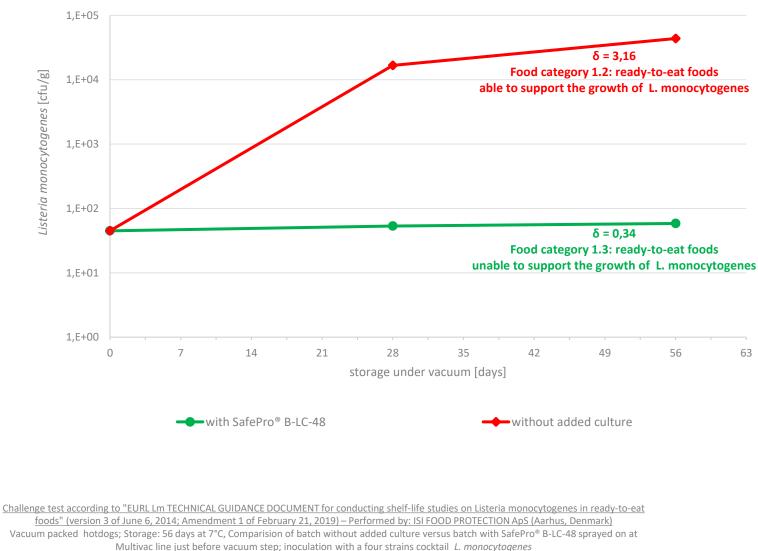


MAP conditions  $(5\% O_2, 12\% CO_2, 83\% N_2)$ , Comparision of batch without added culture versus batch with SafePro<sup>®</sup> RTE sprayed on during mixing process; inoculation with a three strain cocktail *L. monocytogenes* 

### Vacuum packed Hotdogs

Effect of SafePro® B-LC-48 via spray application at Multivac line





## User friendly application in existing process lines





- Direct addition during mixing process or
- Addition via brine
   (tumbler/ injection) or
- Spray application at the slicer- or packing process using e.g. PulsaJet / AutoJet<sup>®</sup> from Spraying Systems Co.

- Implementation according to process condition and specific individual case consideration => validation
- > Even distribution
- Targeted concentration between 5,0E+06 to 1,0E+07 cfu/g



#### German microbial guidelines for food (DGHM) consider the use of food cultures in cooked meat, smoked salmon and fresh cut salad

3.1 Richt- und Warnwerte für Brühwurst, Kochwurst, Kochpökelware sowie Sülzen und Aspikwaren

(ST = Stückware, ganze Stücke ohne Anschnitt; A = Aufschnittware, Scheiben und Stücke mit Anschnitt und Brühwürstchen im Sinne des Leitsatzes 2.221) auf Handelsebene, 2018

	Ware	Richtwert (KbE/g)	Warnwert (KbE/g)		
Aerobe mesophile Koloniezahl <sup>a)</sup>	ST	5 x 10 <sup>4</sup>			
	A	5 x 10 <sup>6</sup>			
Enterobacteriaceae	ST	1 x 10 <sup>2</sup>	1 x 10 <sup>3</sup>		
Enteropacienaceae	A	1 x 10 <sup>3</sup>	1 x 10 <sup>4</sup>		
Escherichia coli	ST	1 x 10 <sup>1</sup>	$1 \times 10^{2}$		
Escherichia coli	A	1 X 10	1 x 10		
Milchsäurebakterien <sup>b)</sup>	ST	5 x 10 <sup>4</sup>			
Milchsaurebakterien"	Α	5 x 10 <sup>6</sup>			
Hefen	Α	1 x 10 <sup>4</sup>			
Koagulase-positive	ST	1 x 10 <sup>1</sup>	1 x 10 <sup>2</sup>		
Staphylokokken	A	I X IU	I X IU		
Clashidium a shinasa	ST	$1 \times 10^{2}$	1 x 10 <sup>3</sup>		
Clostridium perfringens	Α	1 x 10 <sup>-</sup>	1 x 10 <sup>-</sup>		
0-1	ST				
Salmonella	Α		n.n. in 25 g		
( i . (	ST	1 x 10 <sup>2</sup>	4 402		
Listeria monocytogenes <sup>c)</sup>	Α		1 X 10		

KbE: Koloniebildende Einheit

n.n.: nicht nachweisbar

<sup>a)</sup>Werden lebende Mikroorganismen als Schutzkultur zugesetzt, muss dies bei der Beurteilung berücksichtigt werden.

<sup>b)</sup> Bei Überschreitung des Richtwertes ist die Sensorik mit in die Beurteilung einzubeziehen.

<sup>e)</sup> Für die Untersuchung und die Bewertung von Listeria monocytogenes sind die Vorgaben der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 2073/2005 über mikrobiologische Kriterien für Lebensmittel in der jeweils gültigen Fassung zu beachten.

#### 5.3 Richt- und Warnwerte für Räucherlachs, 2015

	Richtwert (KbE/g)	Warnwert (KbE/g)
Aerobe mesophile Koloniezahl <sup>a)</sup>	1 x 10 <sup>6</sup>	
Enterobacteriaceae	1 x 10⁴	1 x 10⁵
Escherichia coli	1 x 10 <sup>1</sup>	1 x 10 <sup>2</sup>
Koagulase-positive Staphylokokken	1 x 10 <sup>2</sup>	1 x 10 <sup>3</sup>
Salmonella		n.n. in 25 g
Listeria monocytogenes <sup>b)</sup>		1 x 10 <sup>2</sup>



KbE: Koloniebildende Einheit

#### n.n.: nicht nachweisbar

<sup>a)</sup> Werden lebende Mikroorganismen als Schutzkultur zugesetzt, muss dies bei der Beurteilung berücksichtigt werden.

<sup>5)</sup> Für die Untersuchung und die Bewertung von Listeria monocytogenes sind die Vorgaben der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 2073/2005 über mikrobiologische Kriterien in der jeweils gültigen Fassung für Lebensmittel zu beachten.

12.1 Richt- und Warnwerte für Mischsalate<sup>a</sup>, abgepackte Ware zur Abgabe an den Verbraucher, 2016

	Richtwert (KbE/g)	Warnwert (KbE/g)
Aerobe mesophile Koloniezahl $^{ m b)}$	5 x 10 <sup>7</sup>	
Escherichia coli	1 x 10 <sup>1</sup>	1 x 10 <sup>2</sup>
Hefen	1 x 10⁵	
Schimmelpilze	1 x 10 <sup>3</sup>	1 x 10 <sup>4</sup>
Präsumtive Bacillus cereus	5 x 10 <sup>2</sup>	1 x 10 <sup>3</sup>
Salmonella		n.n. in 25 g
Listeria monocytogenes <sup>c)</sup>		1 x 10 <sup>2</sup>

#### KbE: Koloniebildende Einheit

n.n.: nicht nachweisbar

<sup>a)</sup> Als Mischsalate (auch bezeichnet als "Schnittsalate", "Rohkostsalate", "Fertigsalate", "Frischkostsalate" u.ä.) werden solche Zubereitungen bezeichnet, die roh, frisch und verzehrfertig, also bereits geputzt, geschnitten, gewaschen, aber ohne würzende / bindende Soße angeboten werden. Gilt nicht für Monoprodukte.

<sup>9)</sup> Werden lebende Mikroorganismen als Schutzkultur zugesetzt, muss dies bei der Beurteilung berücksichtigt werden.

<sup>c)</sup> Für die Untersuchung und die Bewertung von Listeria monocytogenes sind die Vorgaben der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 2073/2005 über mikrobiologische Kriterien für Lebensmittel in der jeweils gültigen Fassung zu beachten.

## **CULTURE INSIDE!**

Transparent labelling - examples from European retail



### Culture makes the difference!

... and adds an additional hurdle on top of a good manufacturing practice

# Hurdle technology

Culture

## Raw material selection Process control

#### **HACCP - Good Manufacturing Practice**

Controlled microflora
Stable product quality
Optimized product safety
Additional hurdle against *Listeria monocytogenes*



# Let's keep in touch!

Contact: Michael Erkes Director Meat & Prepared Food Europe Email: <u>micer@novonesis.com</u> Mobile: +49 172 519 5415

#### From the curing brine into our culture pouch Targeted use of selected cultures has replaced random coincidence



#### <u>Culture production – controlled propagation:</u>

- > Identification of inoculation materials (DNA fingerprint, plasmid profile)
- Consistent properties by exclusion of mutations
- > Standardized cell count and constant activities
- > Exclusion of contaminants

#### Strain selection:

- SafePro<sup>®</sup> strains isolated from food
- Safety Extensive screening process to exclude transferable antibiotic resistances, toxicity, biogenic amines etc.
- Genome sequencing

#### Targeted use in the final application process:

- > Defined quantity of
- > Selected cultures with
- > Standardized activities in food process & product

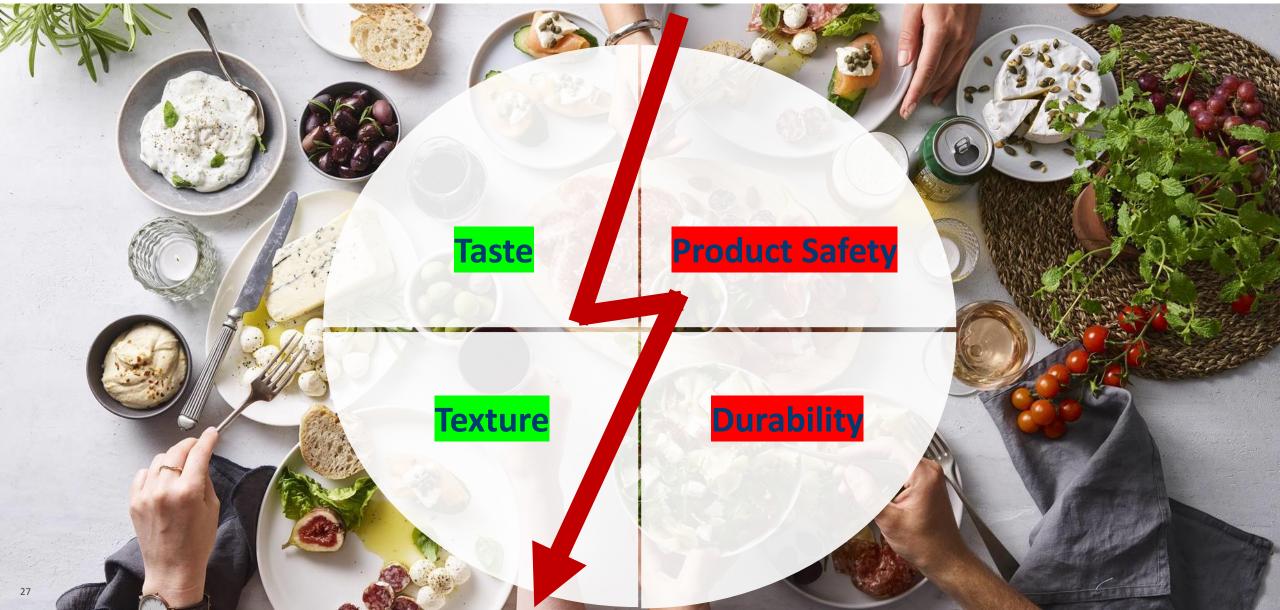


## Food Cultures are not "substances" but living microorganisms Their interaction with the food matrix & processing environment both <u>transforms food</u> and <u>maintains food quality</u>

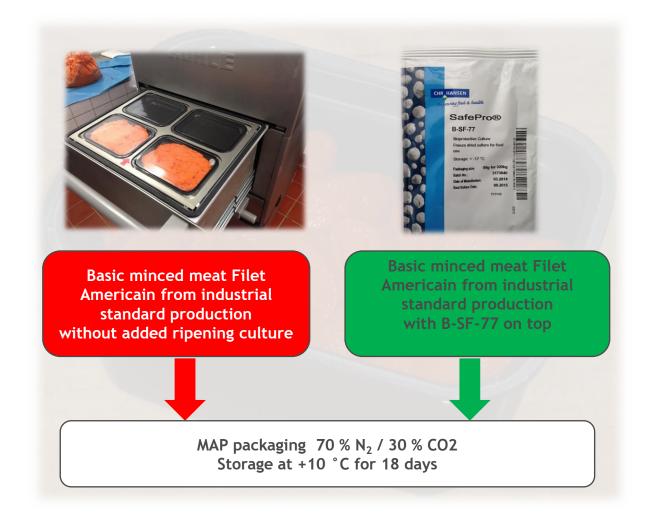


# The draft criteria set an artificial separating line on a natural phenomenon

Transformation and conservation both are equally integral elements of fermentation

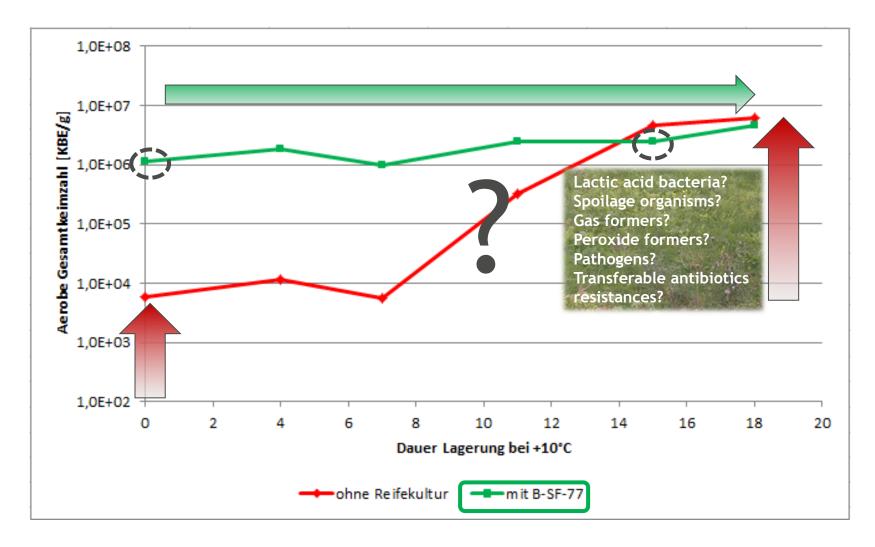


#### Food culture in Filet Americain



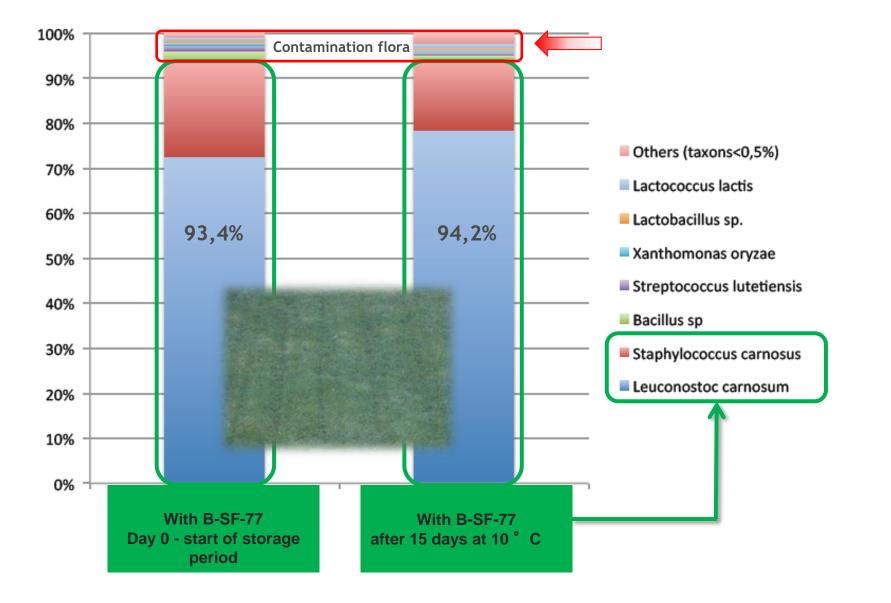


Filet Americain control of microflora during shelf life





# Filet Americain - control of microflora with B-SF-77 during shelf life



CHR\_HANSEN

Improving food & health

## Food Culture Regulation in the European Union

Status Update – October 2023



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# Fermentation is one of the oldest ways to keep food safe and fresh for longer

Fermentation is a traditional way to harness the power of good bacteria. It is known in almost every culture around the world - a natural process, in which tiny microbes make our food more nutritious, safe, tasty and durable. Without knowing about microorganisms, our ancestors already made use of it whenever they produced cheese, wine, beer, sauerkraut, yogurt, salami, raw cured ham, etc.

What once was discovered by chance and used empirically throughout the centuries, has today been thoroughly researched.

Thanks to this scientific progress, we have gained a much deeper understanding about the crucial role of the microbial ecosystem as characteristic quality determinant of perishable foods. This way, we can use the ancient technology of fermentation in a broad and targeted manner – among other things to increase food safety or to reduce food waste.





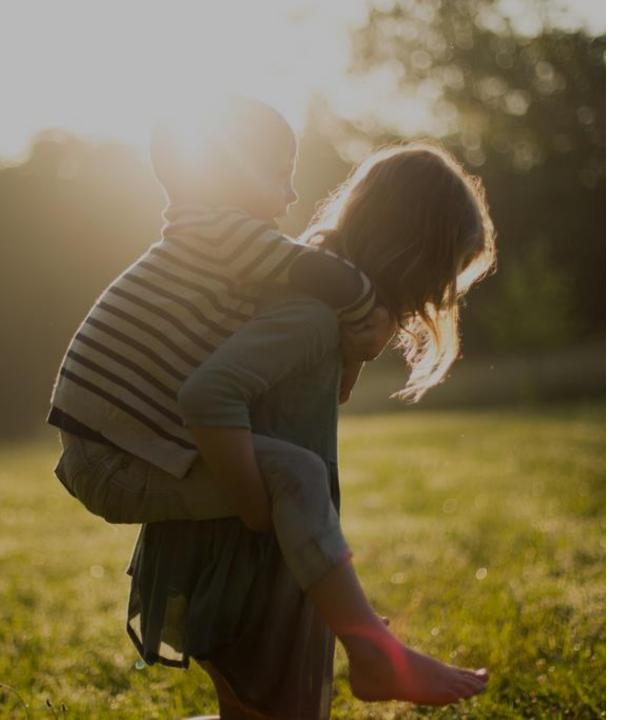
# Regulating fermentation in the same way as additives would be disproportionate

Food cultures are generally widely accepted as normal food ingredients in many applications, such as in salami, where they are transparently labelled as 'food culture'.

However, at the initiative of an EU Member State, and now driven by the European Commission, it is currently being discussed whether certain uses of food cultures for additive similar technological effects (e.g.: preservation) should instead be classified as 'food additives' in Europe.

To divide identical bacterial culture uses into either 'characteristic food ingredients' or 'additives' based on their use, would not only be disproportionate, but also creating legal uncertainty, confusing for consumers, and hampering for the green transition to more sustainable food systems.

Food cultures have a decades-long history of safe use within a broad variety of food applications. They are living microorganisms that have been isolated from foods, in which they occur naturally, thus forming an integral component of the natural microbial ecosystem of perishable food, while influencing product quality and characteristics by multiple inseparable features. 'Squeezing' living microorganisms into a legal framework that has been designed to regulate chemical substances would be disproportionate and simply a misfit.



# A need for clarification before implementing regulatory changes for food cultures

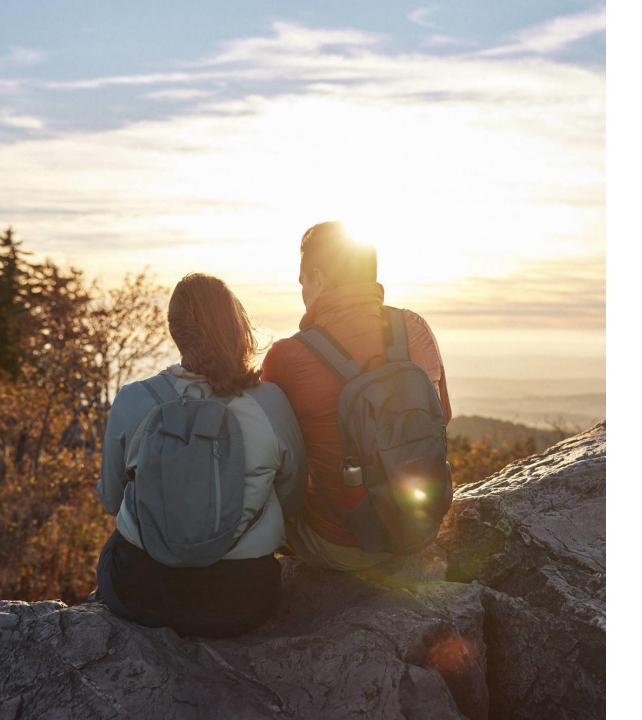
Different scenarii have been discussed for regulating food cultures, other than under General Food Law. For example, a new regulatory framework dedicated to food cultures, or the development of an Industry guidance for the safe use and transparent labeling of food cultures...

No scenario is abandoned to date, but in recent weeks, the European Commission and Member States appear to be in favor of adopting a proposed Guidance of classification criteria for some cultures as additives. Consequently, the Commission proposal dividing fermentation into additive use and ingredient use, respectively, may become a reality in the near future.

Nevertheless, the European Commission has acknowledged the importance of looking into the impact of this proposal, as well as the practicalities concerning its implementation before agreement on it.

Chr. Hansen commits to continuing to defend the interest of food cultures, mobilizing relevant stakeholders at cross-sectorial level, advocating for a proportionate solution, that will be possible to enforce in a harmonized way at the EU level, regardless the scenario that would happen.

In case the proposal of classification of some cultures as additives would be the definitive and final scenario, we are making today our best efforts to mitigate the consequences and to secure authorizations for the involved applications.



#### Legal clarity is a prerequisite to fully unleash the innovation potential of food cultures

At Chr. Hansen we have nearly 150 years of experience with fermentation technology. We believe that the **consistent categorization and transparent labelling of food cultures** is an essential prerequisite for coherent, clear and comprehensive consumer communication, as well as for unleashing the full innovation potential of food cultures towards a more sustainable, resilient and efficient food system in Europe.

Monitoring the situation, mobilizing stakeholders, we advocate in order the Commission will refrain from any steps that could compromise the innovative use of food cultures.

However, no matter the final decision at the EU-level, our innovation journey with fermenting food cultures will not end.

Such decision would only affect the regulatory requirements to our products, while the innovative **use of food cultures will remain possible**. If some applications of fermentation technology would be classified as additive use, Chr. Hansen will secure to fulfill the regulatory requirements.



## Thank you

FOLLOW CHR. HANSEN



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