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Recombined dairy products in Brazil

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Milk production accounts for about two-thirds of the GDP of the Brazilian livestock sector and dairy contributes nearly 9% of the food sector.

Traditionally, Brazil has been a net importer of milk and dairy products. Since the 90s production increased at a higher rate than consumption and self-sufficiency was reached in 2004. Nevertheless, the Brazilian import of Whole Milk Powder (WMP) has more than doubled between 2007 and 2011.

Special attention is being given to dairy powders with high protein content such as Milk Protein Concentrate (MPC) and Whey Protein Concentrate (WPC). Currently, they are being used for the production of "Requeijão" (spreadable Brazilian soft cheese) and Petit Suisse, focusing on the concept of technology without whey generation (environmental responsibility and legal obligations) and optimizing productivity without expanding the primary milk chain. Recombination technology accounts for about 15% and 25% respectively of the total production of "Requeijão" and Petit Suisse in Brazil, totaling 10,800 and 21,500 metric tons in 2011.

Logistical problems to access remote regions in Brazil are also creating an interesting demand for the application of novel technologies, especially focused on the recombination of dairy products. In the North and Northeast regions several factories can be found that use dairy powder ingredients as their sole dairy source.

Dairy powder products have a large usage in Brazil and are applied in many industries besides dairy, e.g. pasta, bakery, confectionery and desserts. The use of modified milk powder, for example in fermented milks and ice cream production, has grown in the past years, mainly driven by the increase in consumption and technological standardization. Due to a lack of industries specialized in the production of milk protein products, the importation of these items is expected to continue growing in the coming years in Brazil.

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ABSTRACTS

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