# QUALITY EVALUATION OF BISCUITS PREPARED FROM COMPOSITE FLOUR OF SPROUTED SORGHUM, SOYBEAN AND FINGER MILLET



#### BY

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#### ABSTRACT

Nutrient deficiencies such as protein-energy malnutrition and micronutrient deficiency are major problems especially among children in developing countries including Sri Lanka. Consumption of nutritious snacks could help to reduce protein-energy malnutrition especially in school children. This study was aimed at producing quality biscuit using composite flour blends from cheap and underutilized crops like sorghum, soybean and finger millet.

Sprouted sorghum flour in the amounts of 80%, 70%, 60%, 50% and 40% were incorporated with the amounts of 10%, 20%, 30%, 40% and 50% of soybean flour and 10% constant amount of finger millet flour was added to prepare 100% composite flour and biscuits were prepared. Biscuits prepared from 100% of wheat flour were used as control treatment. Biscuits prepared from different treatments of composite flour vz: T1 -100% wheat, T2 - 80% Sprouted Sorghum + 10% Soybean + 10% Finger millet, T3-70% Sprouted Sorghum + 20% Soybean + 10% Finger millet, T4 - 60% Sprouted Sorghum + 30% Soybean + 10% Finger millet, T5 - 50% Sprouted Sorghum + 40% Soybean + 10% Finger millet, T6 -40% Sprouted Sorghum + 50% Soybean + 10% Finger millet were subjected to analysis of nutritional, organoleptic and microbial qualities with physical properties to evaluate the suitability of these biscuits for consumption after formulation. The nutritional qualities vz: moisture, ash, protein, fat, fiber and total sugar and physical properties vz: diameter, spread ratio, thickness, volume, and density were analyzed using the recommended standard methods. Analysis were carried out for three replicates for each parameter. Organoleptic qualities were evaluated using a sensory panel consisting of 30 semi trained panelists. The colour, texture, taste, flavour and overall acceptability were

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evaluated using a seven-point hedonic scale. Total plate count was done for the fresh and stored samples to find out microbial quality. Results of the nutritional and organoleptic qualities were analyzed statistically by ANOVA using computer aided SAS statistical analysis package to evaluate the significance at P<0.05. Comparison of means of sensory evaluation, nutritional and physical properties analysis were done by Turkey's Standardized Range Test (TSRT) and Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) respectively. The nutritional analysis of the freshly prepared biscuits revealed that protein, ash, fiber, fat and total sugar were increased from 10.53-14.35%, 1.41-2.16%, 1.27-3.93%, 17.90-24.77% and 28.56-31.37% respectively while moisture content was decreased from 3.78-3.27% when increasing the soybean flour 10%-50% in the biscuits mixtures. The increment of total sugar content is very low. The physical properties of biscuits revealed that there were significant differences between the treatments of biscuits (at 5% level of significance) when the level of soybean increased. According to Turkey's test, the mean scores for all assessed organoleptic characters varied significantly (p < 0.05) in freshly made biscuits. No harmful micro-organisms were observed in the freshly made biscuits.

Based on the nutritional and organoleptic qualities of freshly made biscuits, most preferred treatments of nutritionally enriched biscuit samples such as T3-70% Sprouted Sorghum + 20% Soybean + 10% Finger millet, T4 - 60% Sprouted Sorghum + 30% Soybean + 10% Fingen millet, T5 - 50% Sprouted Sorghum + 40% Soybean + 10% Finger millet with control treatment were selected and subjected to storage studies in ambient conditions at  $30^{\circ}$ C and 70 - 80% RH for three months to evaluate shelf life of the biscuits . Nutritional analysis of the biscuits were carried out at two weeks' interval throughout the storage period. The results of nutritional analysis showed that, there were significance differences (p<0.05) between the tested treatments. These results revealed

the declining trends in protein, fat, fiber, ash and total sugar and an increasing trend in moisture content of the biscuits. The organoleptic analysis carried out at the end of 12 weeks revealed that there were significant (p < 0.05) differences for the organoleptic characters between the formulations. From the overall acceptability rating, the biscuit sample prepared from composite flour with 60% sprouted sorghum flour, 30% soybean flour and 10% finger millet flour had the highest mean value compared with other treatments. There were no remarkable changes in organoleptic qualities observed up to 12 weeks of storage at 30° C and RH of 70-80% in this treatment. Microbial Analysis was done after three months of storage. Products were not affected by any microbial activities because of low moisture content. There was no harmful effect during storage on the quality of the product due to microbial growth at ambient temperature. Processes such as roasting and baking at high temperature destroy large number of microorganisms. Therefore, it is safe for the consumption upon three months of storage. Based on the nutritional, organoleptic and microbial qualities, the biscuit sample prepared from composite flour with 60% Sprouted Sorghum flour, 30% Soybean flour and 10% Finger millet was the best treatment compared to other combinations at the end of storage period.

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