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Acorn: A fruit with applications in the food industry

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INTRODUCTION

- Acorns are rich in starch, essential amino acids, fatty acids, vitamins, minerals and polyphenols.
- As a gluten-free product, acorn flour is raising interest by celiac consumers as a substitute for other flours.
- In Portugal, it is estimated that about 55% of acorns are wasted, which amounts to around 13.3 million euros.

OBJECTIVES

Provide an overview of the applications of the functional properties of acorn and by-products of interest to the food industry, as well as highlight some of the current uses of the acorn in it.



METHODS

A bibliographic review was carried out in databases: Pubmed, ScienceDirect, Elsevier, Scientific Repositories of Open Access of Portugal in Portuguese and English, using the words: acorn, acorn flour, acorn and nutraceutical, acorn and food industry, acorn applications. Another source of information was used like some companies websites. This research has been limited to the year 2000 to 2018.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Acorn flour have attractive properties for the food industry, and its incorporation can **improve the nutritional and rheological characteristics of some food products**^{1,2}.

Lipid Absorption Capacity

- Stabilize texture
- Control emulsions

Water Holding Capacity

- Increase viscosity
- Prevent synergism

Antioxidant Activity

- Avoid lipid oxidation
- Extend shelf-life

Nutritional Composition (% dry matter):

- ✓ **High starch** content + carbohydrates (~70%)
- ✓ **High fiber** content (~2%)
- ✓ **Low protein** content (gluten free) (~12%)
- ✓ **High MUFA + PUFA** lipidic content (~1,35%)

Industrial usages of acorn flour



Breads



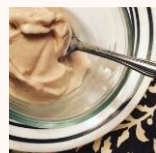
cakes



Cookies and biscuits



Hot beverages



Spread creams

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