CAPSTONE/SENIOR DESIGN EXPERIENCE 2019

Alcoholic Kombucha

Agricultural Biological

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Goals and Objectives

Goal: To create an alcoholic beverage from Kombucha

Objectives:

- Produce Kombucha from a fermentation with SCOBY (Symbiotic Culture of Bacteria and Yeast)
- Complete a second fermentation with yeast to produce ethanol

Market Size

- Millennials (Ages 23-38)
- Generation Z (Age 21+)
- Health Conscious Individuals
- Current Kombucha Consumers

Sustainability and Impact

- Theoretically if properly cared for, SCOBY can last "forever"
- Tea leaves can be composted into fertilizer
- Using loose tea leaves will allow for less waste from tea bags
- Provide consumers with an alcoholic beverage that could potentially provide healthy probiotics

Optimization

Unit Operation	Optimization Variable	Parameter Being Minimized	
First Fermentation	рН	Acetic Acid	
Second Fermentation	Sugar	Ethanol	
Filtration	Filter Number/Area	Operating Cost	
Cooling	Heat Exchanger Area	Operating Cost	

Process Flow Diagram S-108 S-109 S-113 S-104 Agitation/Heating P-7 / HX-103 Cooling P-7 / HX-103 P-7 / HX-10

Economic Analysis

Cost	US Dollars
Total Equipment Cost	\$29,1062.91
Fixed Capital Investment	\$164,955.21
Working Capital	\$29,109.73
Total Capital Investment	\$194,064.85
Direct Production costs	\$271,474.05
Yearly Production	271,066.80 kg/ year
Manufacturing Cost	\$252,867.11
General Expenses	\$38,076.65
Total Product Cost	\$290,943.76

Kombucha Selling Price: \$15.43/kg

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		1	2	3	4	5	6

Cost	US Dollars
Raw Material	\$87,869.18
Operating Labor	\$29,289.72
Direct Supervisory	\$29,289.72
Utilities/Maintenance	\$39,187.03
Operating Supplies	\$1,237.16
Laboratory Charges	\$24,743.26

Experimental Result

	Initial pH	One Week	Two Weeks
First Fermentation	3.0	2.5	2.0
Store Bought Kombucha	2.5	3.0	3.5
Second Fermentation (original recipe)	4.5	4.5	4.0
Second Fermentation (pineapple juice)	4.0	4.0	4.5





Left to right: OR, PJ, store bought Top: 2nd fermentation after two weeks Bottom: 2nd fermentation initially



Above: Mold contaminating 1st fermentation

Below: SCOBY



Future Work

- Perform experiments on the quantity of probiotics left in the final product of alcoholic kombucha
- Collect data using a hydrometer to analyze alcohol content during the second fermentation
- Analyze packaging options and monitor shelf life of samples
- Adjust the amount of fermentation tanks to optimize the time of filling and emptying between fermentation processes

Alternatives

- Use other juice instead of pineapple juice to balance the pH
- Add pineapple juice after fermentation for better yeast growth
- Ferment alcohol separately and add it to the kombucha after fermentations
- Use a continuous process rather than batch process

References:

- 1. Geankoplis, C. (2010). Transport Processes and Separation Process Principles. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- 2. Peters, M. S., Timmerhaus, K. D., & West, R. E. (2006). Plant Design and Economics for Chemical Engineers. Boston: McGraw-Hill.

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