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On farm processed foods: opportunities for product management based on sensory preferences

Jacques Viaene¹ and Xavier Gellynck¹

¹ University of Gent - Department of Agricultural Economics, Belgium

Jacques.Viaene@UGent.be, Xavier.Gellynck@UGent.be

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University of Gent - Department of Agricultural Economics, Belgium

INTRODUCTION & OBJECTIVE

CAP -> rural economy becomes more important -> financial support for on farm processing

But : product development, innovation = additional task for the farmer

Objective : -> Sensory analysis = useful tool ? -> marketing conclusions ?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- 1. Descriptive sensory analysis -> trained panel
 - * H1 : each product is different
 - * H2 : farm products are different, but no typical sensory characteristics
 - * H3 : variability can technically be explained
- 2. Consumer preferences -> 9 point hedonic scale
- 3. Preference mapping -> stepwise multiple regression

IMPLEMENTATION : SKIMMED YOGHURT

QDA : 11 panellists - 8 sessions - 8 products (19 descriptors) - ANOVA

Preference : 192 respondents -> 50% industrial - 50% farm ; Latin square

DESCRIPTIVE SENSORY ANALYSIS

- H1: accepted because for at least one descriptor significant difference
- H2 : rejected because sensory characteristics of farm products are different, but common, typical sensory characteristics exist :

Descriptors	F- value	p Product codes				
			low score			high score
APPEARANCE						
whiteness	6,49	0,00	FIª	Fª	Þ	Аь
TEXTURE ON SPOON						
firmness	6,17	0,00	Fa	FIÞ	Ab	þ
cohesion	5,90	0,00	Fa	FlÞ	AÞ	þ
ODOUR						
odour intensity	9,24	0,00	Fª	Flab	A^{bc}	c

1. Products within a line showing the same superscript are not significantly different in the Duncan test (p<0,00)

H3: accepted because of differences in technique used (starter cultures, fermentation time and t°), in raw material (feed and breed)

Figure 1 : Consumer preferences

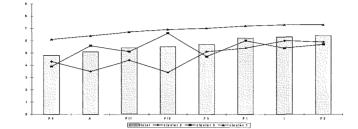
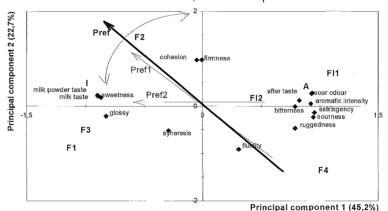


Figure 2 : Preference mapping

 $R^2 = 90\%$: -> firm + cohesive ; sweet + milk/powder taste



CONCLUSION

- cluster 3 = not linear, positive side PC1 = more sour
- CAP = opportunities on farm processing, but...

Sensory is limited to the product, what about other elements of marketing-mix ?

sensory = start not the end, because consumers like not what they eat, but like what they think they eat

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