

Development of *Aloe vera* Juice Incorporated Herbal Milk Beverage

*Vithushana¹, T., Perera², N., Beddegamage², N.M. and Jayaweera¹, B.P.A.

¹ Department of Livestock and Avian Science, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka

² Fonterra Brands Lanka (pvt) Ltd, Biyagama, Sri Lanka

*Corresponding email: vithushanathangarajah@gmail.com

The inclusion of physiologically active natural components with health beneficial properties, strengthens the value of milk beverages. *Aloe vera* is one of the oldest known medicinal plant gifted by nature and currently, the interest and use of *A. vera* as a functional ingredient has increased tremendously. The addition of *A. vera* juice makes it possible to produce functional foods from milk, by preserving their chemical, physical and sensory characteristics and enhancing nutritional value. In this backdrop, the present study was carried out to develop a novel herbal milk beverage for commercialization to satisfy the needs of health-conscious consumers. The natural *A. vera* is *barbadensis millar* extract was used as the functional ingredient. The product was developed by incorporating different levels of sugar (3–9 %), pH (3.00–4.50) levels and flavors (almond and ginger). The organoleptic properties such as appearance, flavor, aroma, texture/mouth feel, overall taste, and overall acceptability were studied. The final product was formulated and improved according to consumer preference based on sensory evaluation. The proximate composition of the product was evaluated by standard analytical methods. All the sensorial parameters which were tested in the formulated product scored above 7.0 in nine-point-hedonic scale which revealed that the product was towards the “extremely-like” category. *A. vera* incorporated herbal milk beverage was accepted by the sensory panelists, therefore could consider as appealing to consumers as well. The proximate composition matched with Food Act No. 26 of 1980 for raw and processed milk. The product was appropriate for commercialization in terms of consumer preference and production cost.

Keywords: *Aloe vera*, Consumer, Functional