



Engineering Meat-like Texture in Plant-Based Proteins

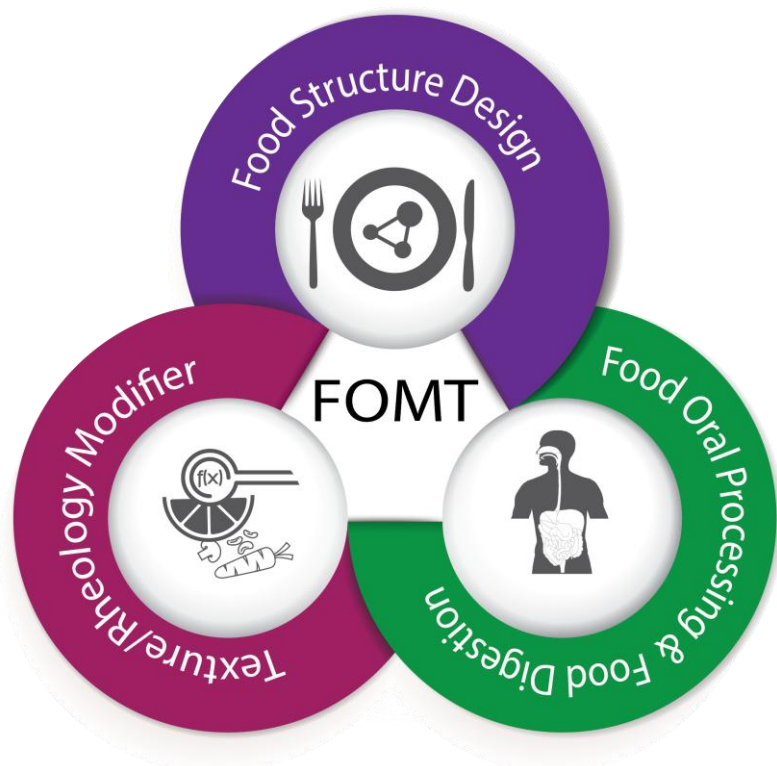
การออกแบบเนื้อสัมผัสสำหรับโปรตีนทางเลือก
สู่ประสบการณ์เสมือนจริง

Kamolwan Israkarn

Food Materials Research Team
National Metal and Materials Technology Center (MTEC),
National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)

Food Materials Research Team

is under Advanced Polymer Technology Research Group of the National Metal and Materials Technology Center (MTEC), National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA).



Core technologies



Elderly & Dysphagia diets



Easy-to-chew steak (TRL4)



Frozen soft meat for elderly & dysphagia (TRL5)



Tube feeding formulas (TRL5)



Flow & Fork testers for dysphagia diets (TRL6)

Plant-based products



High protein jelly drink (TRL4)



Ready-to-cook plant-based chicken (TRL9, TT)



Plant-based protein chicken premix (TRL9, TT)



Ready-to-cook fibrous chicken from plant proteins (TRL4)

Healthy ("Zero", "Low", or "Reduced" labels) & Personalised foods



Low-fat frankfurter (TRL9)



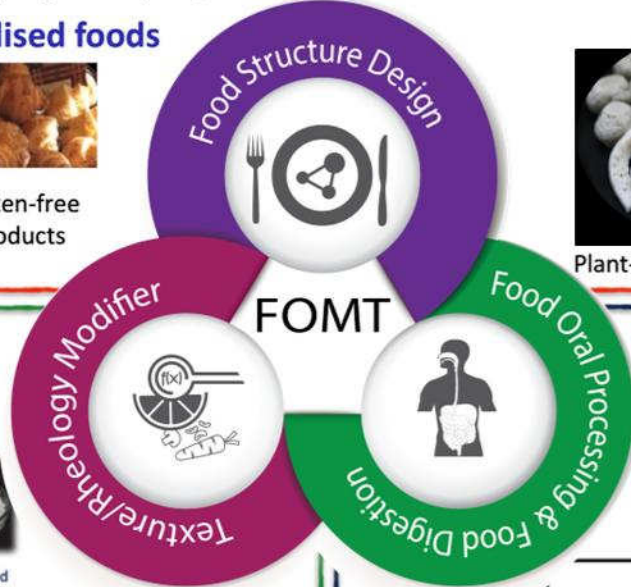
No-oil mayo



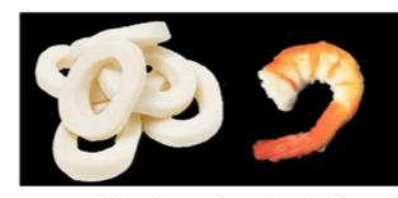
Reduced sugar jam



Gluten-free products



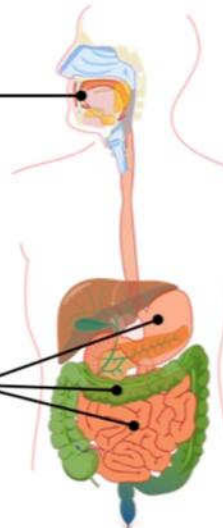
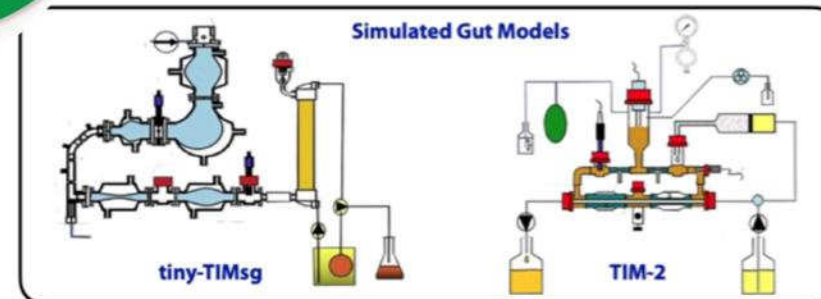
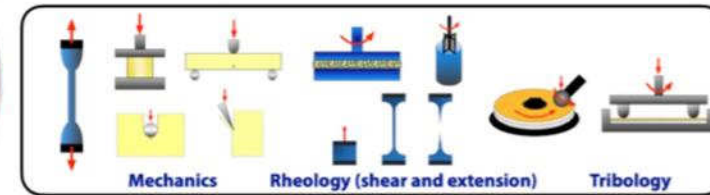
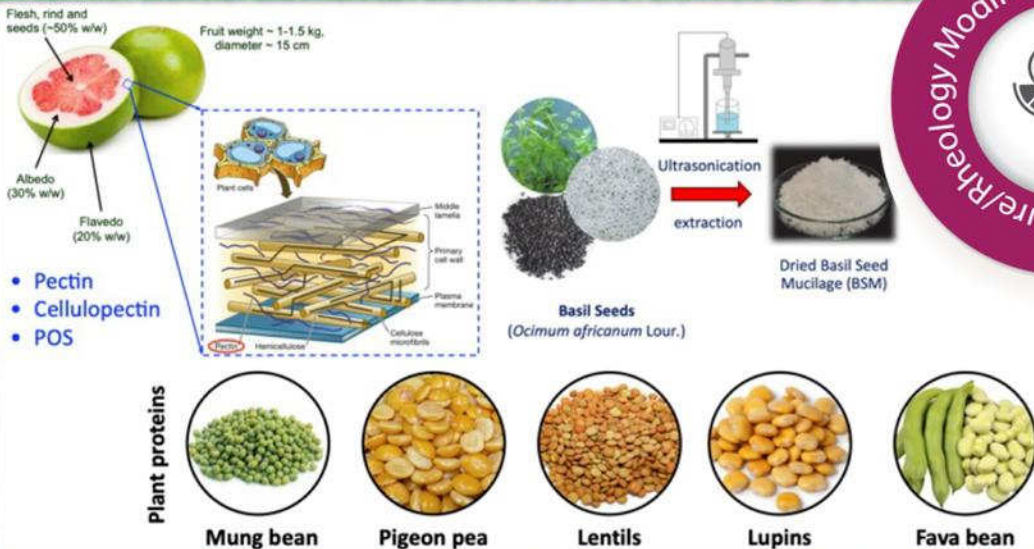
Plant-based fish balls (TRL9, TT)



Plant-based seafoods (TRL4)



Plant-based retort foods (TRL6)



Outline

Engineering Meat-like Texture in Plant-Based Proteins

การออกแบบเนื้อสัมผัสสำหรับโปรตีนทางเลือกสู่ประสบการณ์เสมือนจริง

- ***Technology in Structural and Textural Design for Plant-Based Meat Products***
เทคนิคการออกแบบโครงสร้างและเนื้อสัมผัสของผลิตภัณฑ์เนื้อเทียม
- ***The Potential of High-Temperature Shearing technology in the Plant-Based Meat Industry***
เทคโนโลยีเฉือนด้วยอุณหภูมิสูงและความเป็นไปได้ในเชิงอุตสาหกรรม
- ***3D-Printing: Precise technology for the meat analogue industry***
3D-Printing: เทคโนโลยีจำลองเนื้อสัตว์เทียมอย่างแม่นยำ

Technology in structural and textural design for plant-based meat products

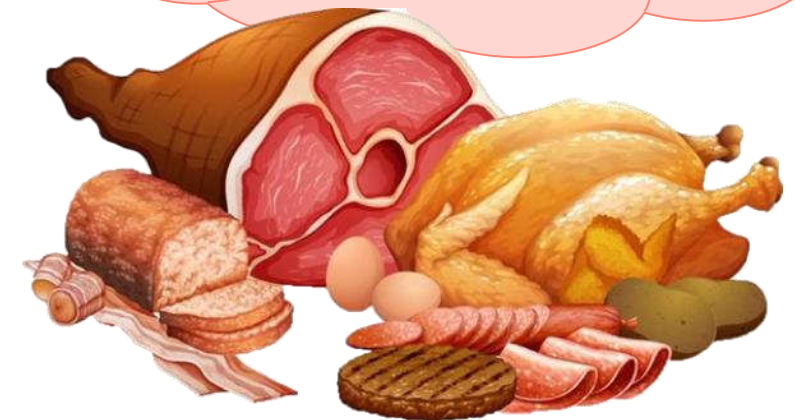
เทคนิคการออกแบบโครงสร้างและเนื้อสัมผัสของผลิตภัณฑ์เนื้อเทียม

Innovation and technology for plant-based food structuring

Traditional plant-based meat alternative products

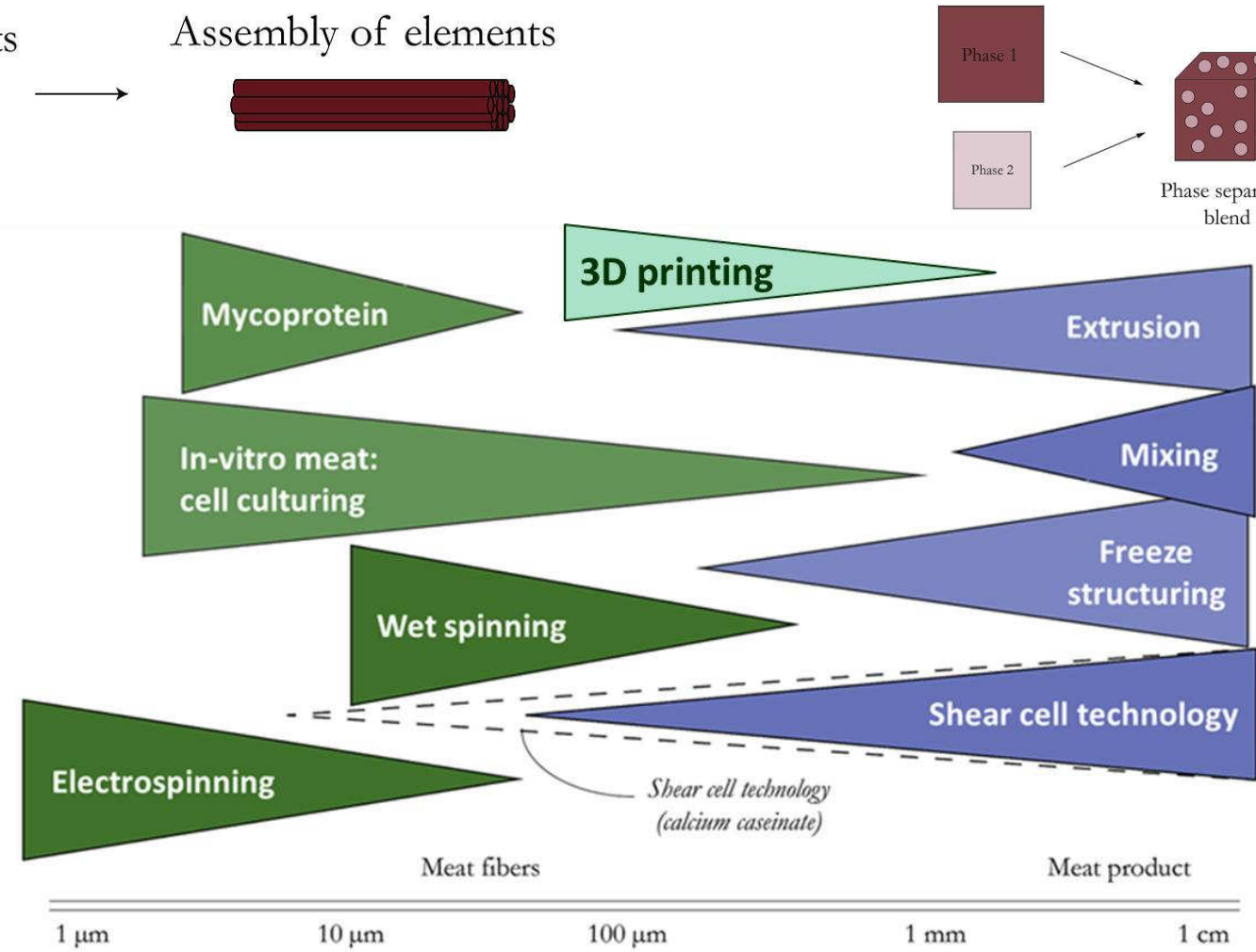
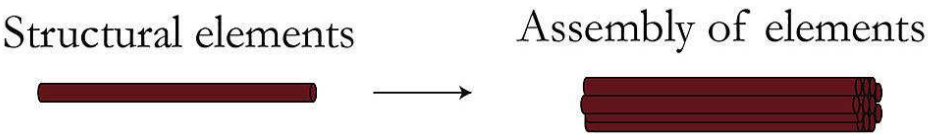


Organoleptic properties similar to animal meat products

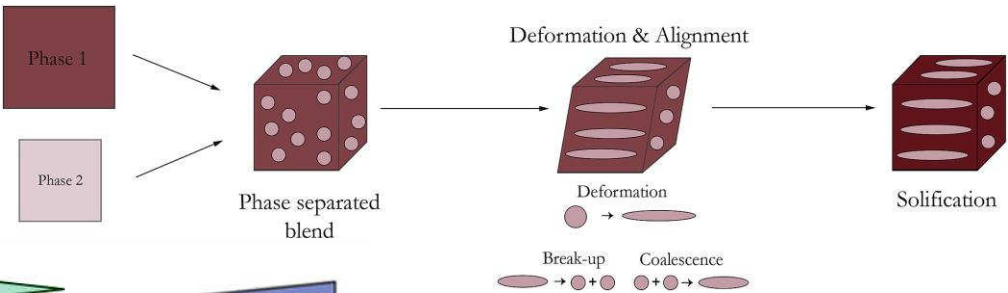


Fibrous meat-like structuring processes

1. Bottom-up strategy



2. Top-down strategy



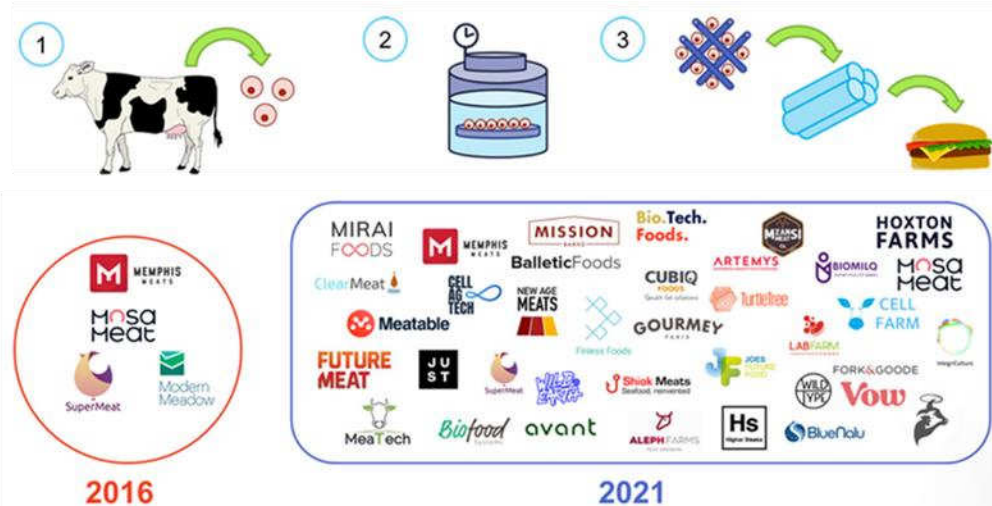
(modified from Dekkers et al., 2018)

Bottom-up strategy

a) Mycoprotein (fungi protein)



b) In-vitro meat: cell culturing



The cultured meat industry is growing rapidly. IDTechEx forecasts the cultured meat market to be worth \$11.13 billion by 2041
<https://www.idtechex.com/th/research-report/cultured-meat-2021-2041-technologies-markets-forecasts/815>

- สิงคโปร์ ถือเป็นประเทศแรกของโลกที่อนุญาตให้ขายเนื้อสัตว์จากห้องทดลองเพื่อการพาณิชย์ได้ โดยอนุมัติให้มีการขายนักเก็ตไก่ที่ทำจากไก่สังเคราะห์ จากบริษัท Eat Just

c) 3D food printing



Mostly driven by start-ups!

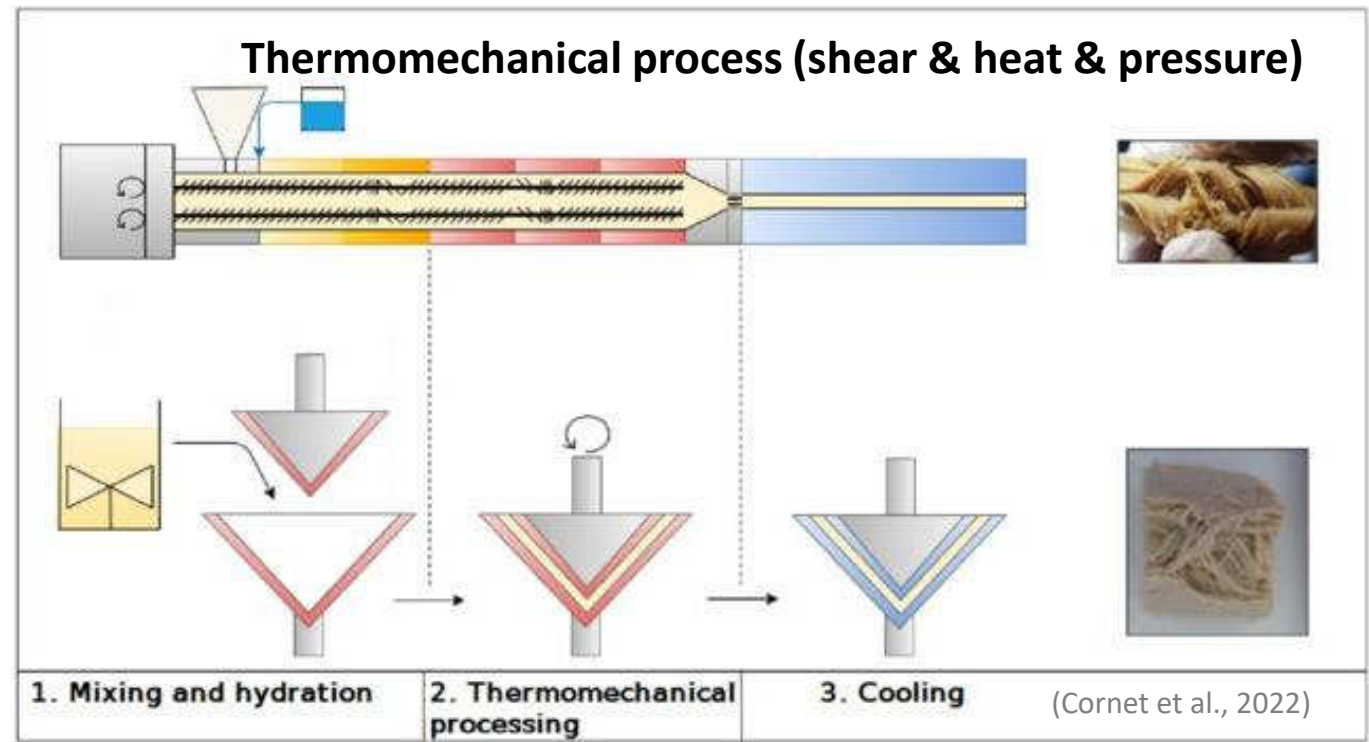
โปรตีนแผ่นกรอบจากมัยคอปรีตีน (25-27% protein)

อนุสิทธิบัตร เลขที่คำขอ 2303000864

Top-down strategy

- **Processing approach**

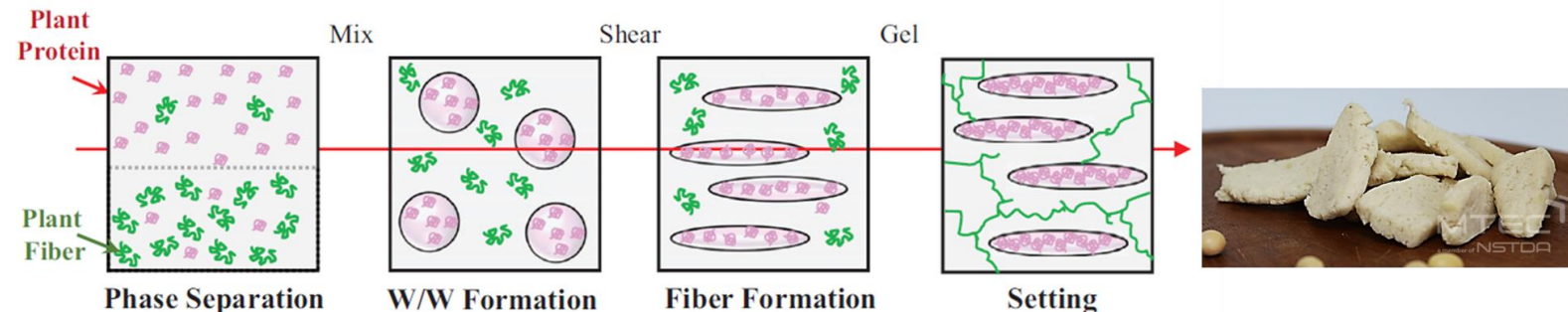
- ☐ Extrusion technology
- ☐ Shear cell technology



- **Physicochemical approach**

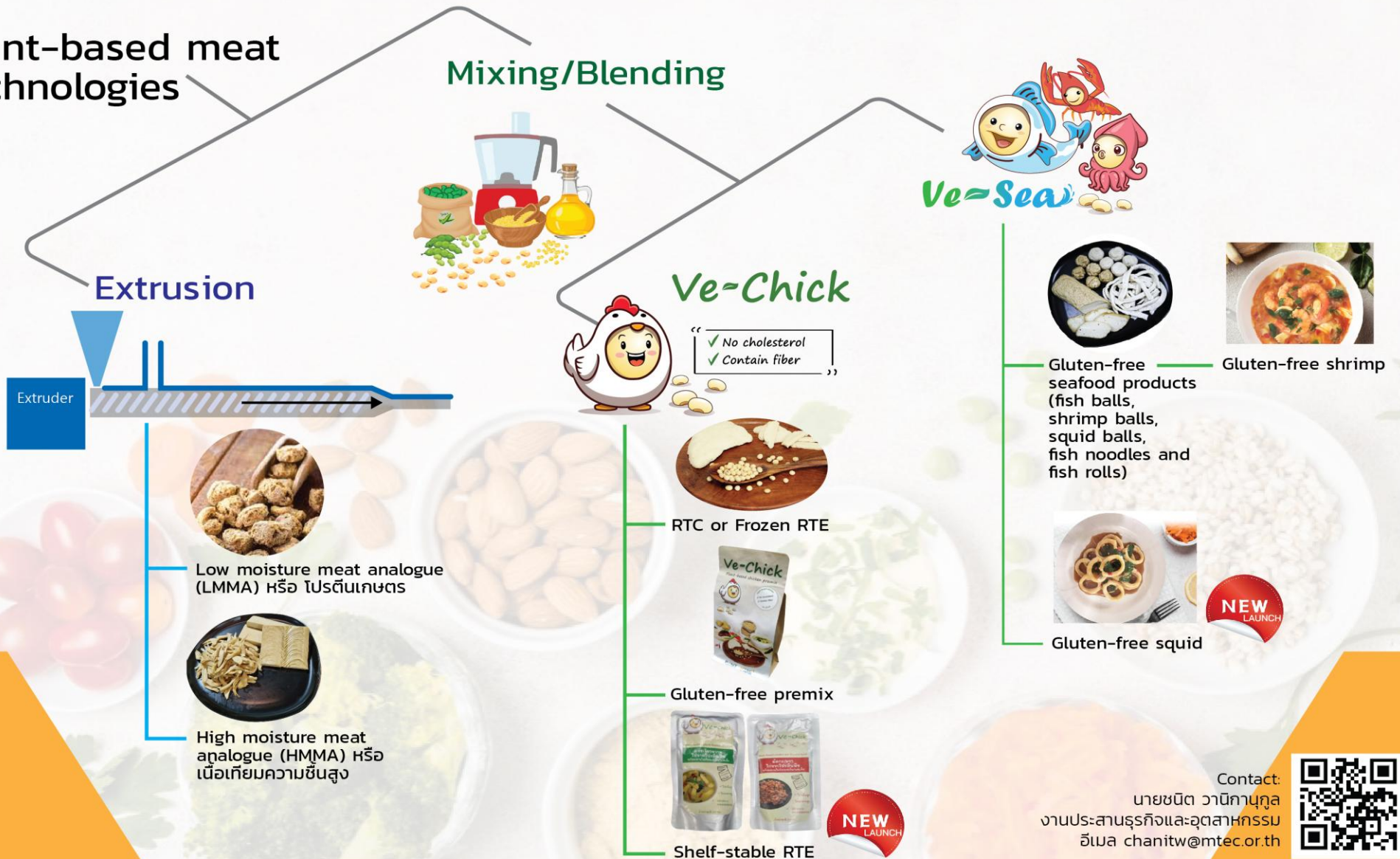
Physicochemical operations involve controlled phase separation, structuring, and gelation of biopolymer mixtures

- ☐ Mixing/blending technology



(McClements & Grossmann, 2021)

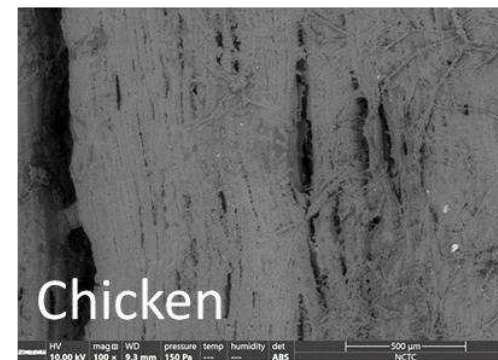
Plant-based meat technologies



Contact:
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อีเมล: chanitw@mtec.or.th



Chicken



Plant-based Chicken

Mixing



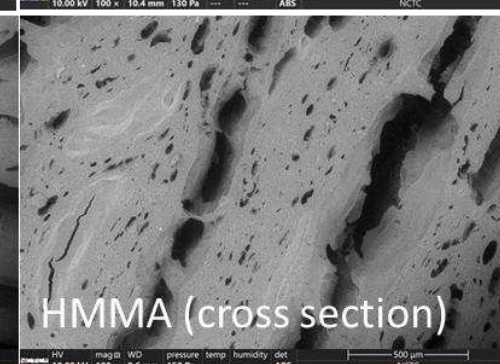
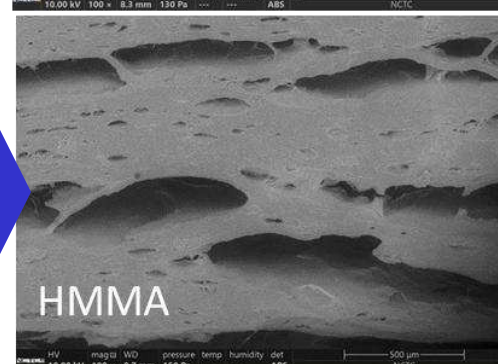
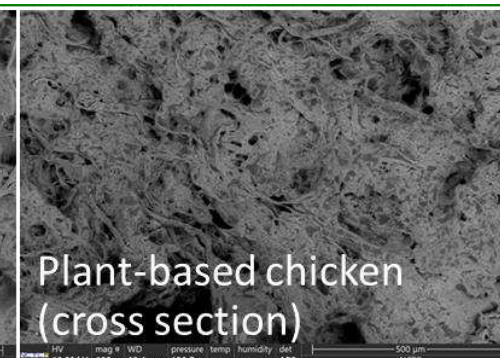
Extrusion



Blender



High Moisture Extruder

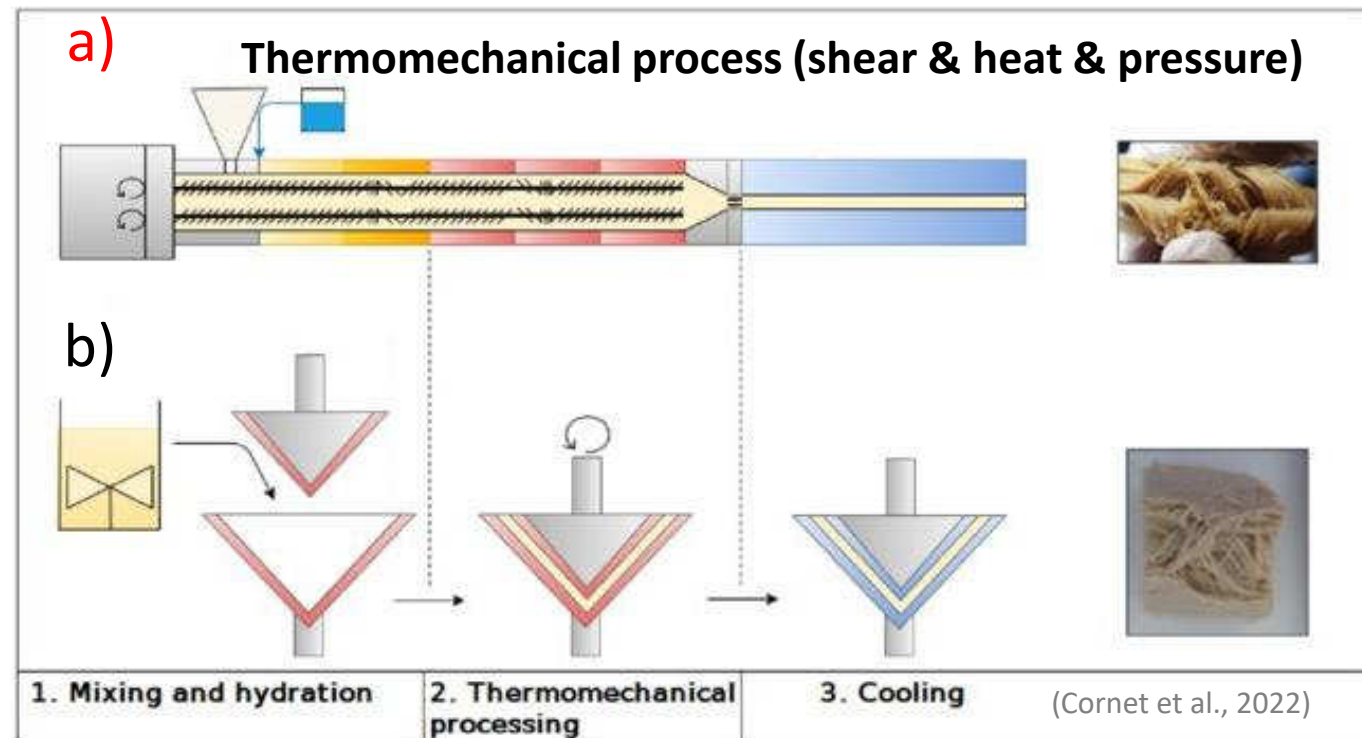


The potential of high-temperature shearing technology in the plant-based meat industry

เทคโนโลยีเฉือนด้วยอุณหภูมิสูงและความเป็นไปได้ในเชิงอุตสาหกรรม

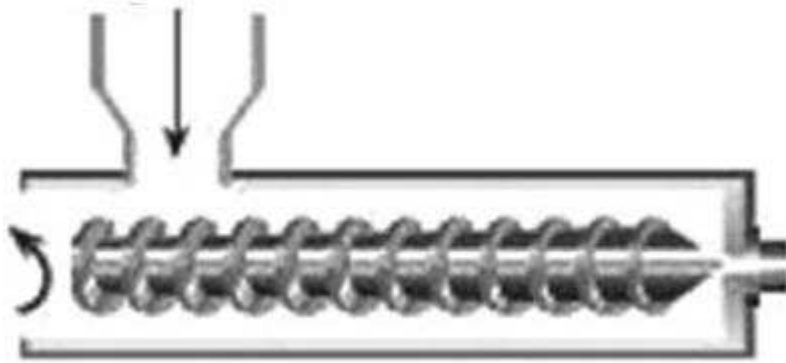
a) Extrusion technology

b) Shear cell technology



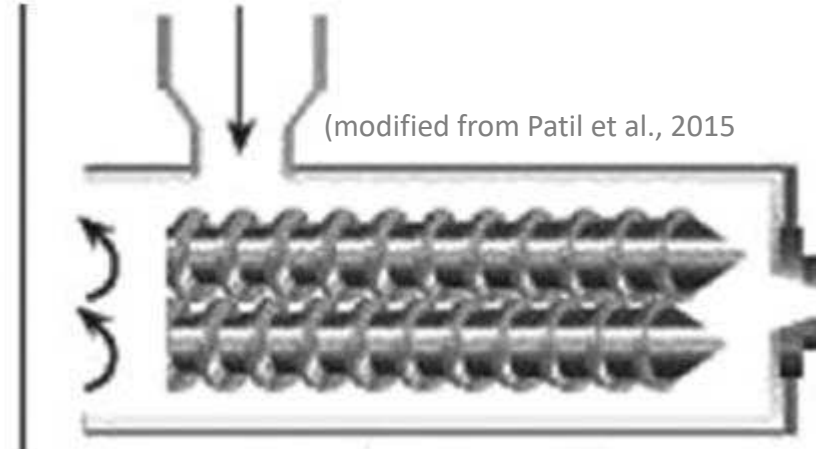
Extrusion technology

Single-screw extruder



Low moisture extrusion

Twin-screw extruder



Low moisture extrusion (water content in feed formulation < 40%)

High moisture extrusion (water content in feed formulation > 40%)

Low moisture meat analogue (LMMA)
Or Texturized vegetable protein (TVP)

- ☐ Sponge-like structure
- ☐ Need rehydration



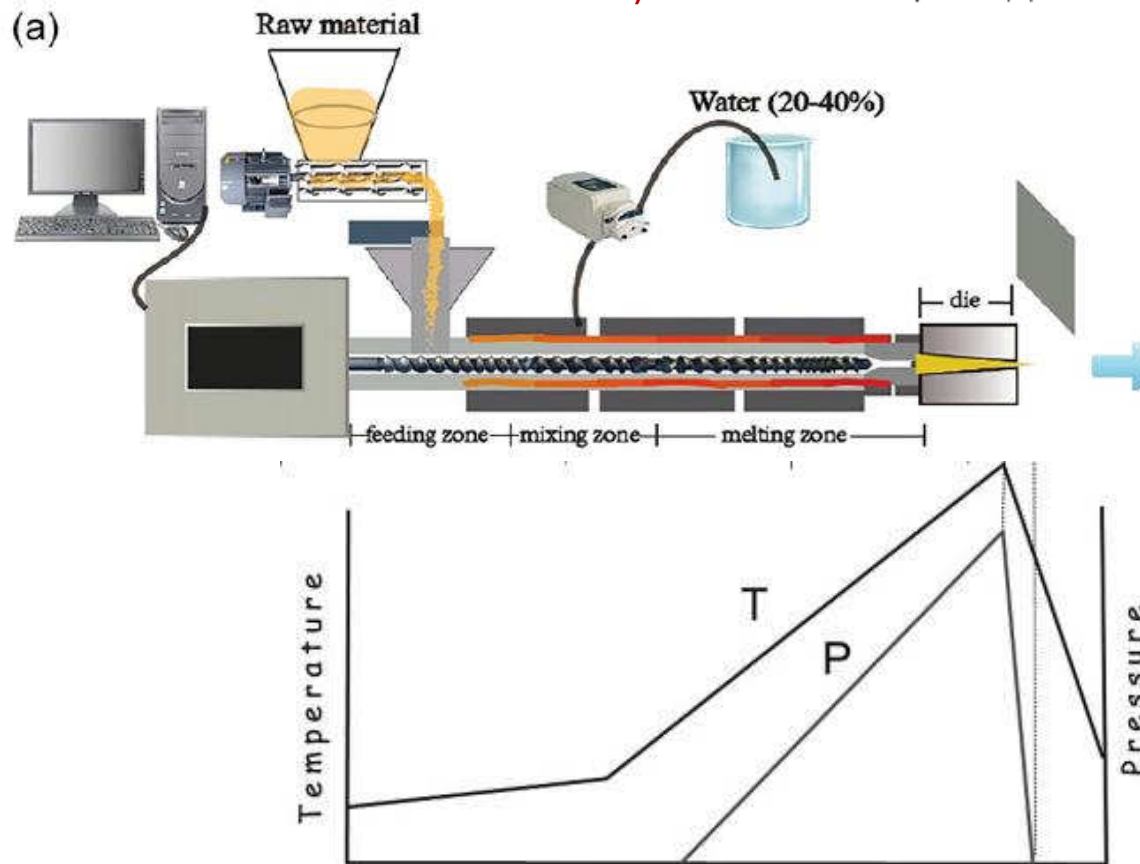
<https://entrepreneurview.in/tag/textured-soy-protein/>

(Wang et al., 2023; Zhang et al., 2019)

Extrusion technology

Low moisture extrusion

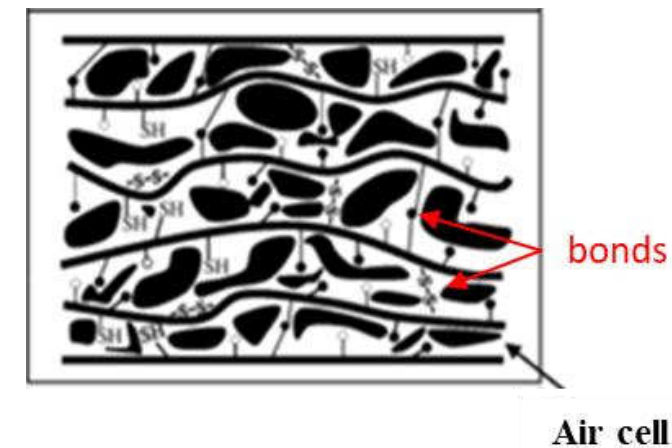
(water content in feed formulation < 40%)



<https://entrepreneurview.in/tag/textured-soy-protein/>

TVP or LMMA

- ☐ Rapid drop in temperature and pressure
- ☐ Superheated water inside the mixture converts to steam and evaporates
- ☐ Formed porous structure and dry texture

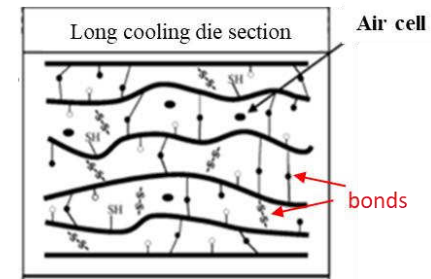
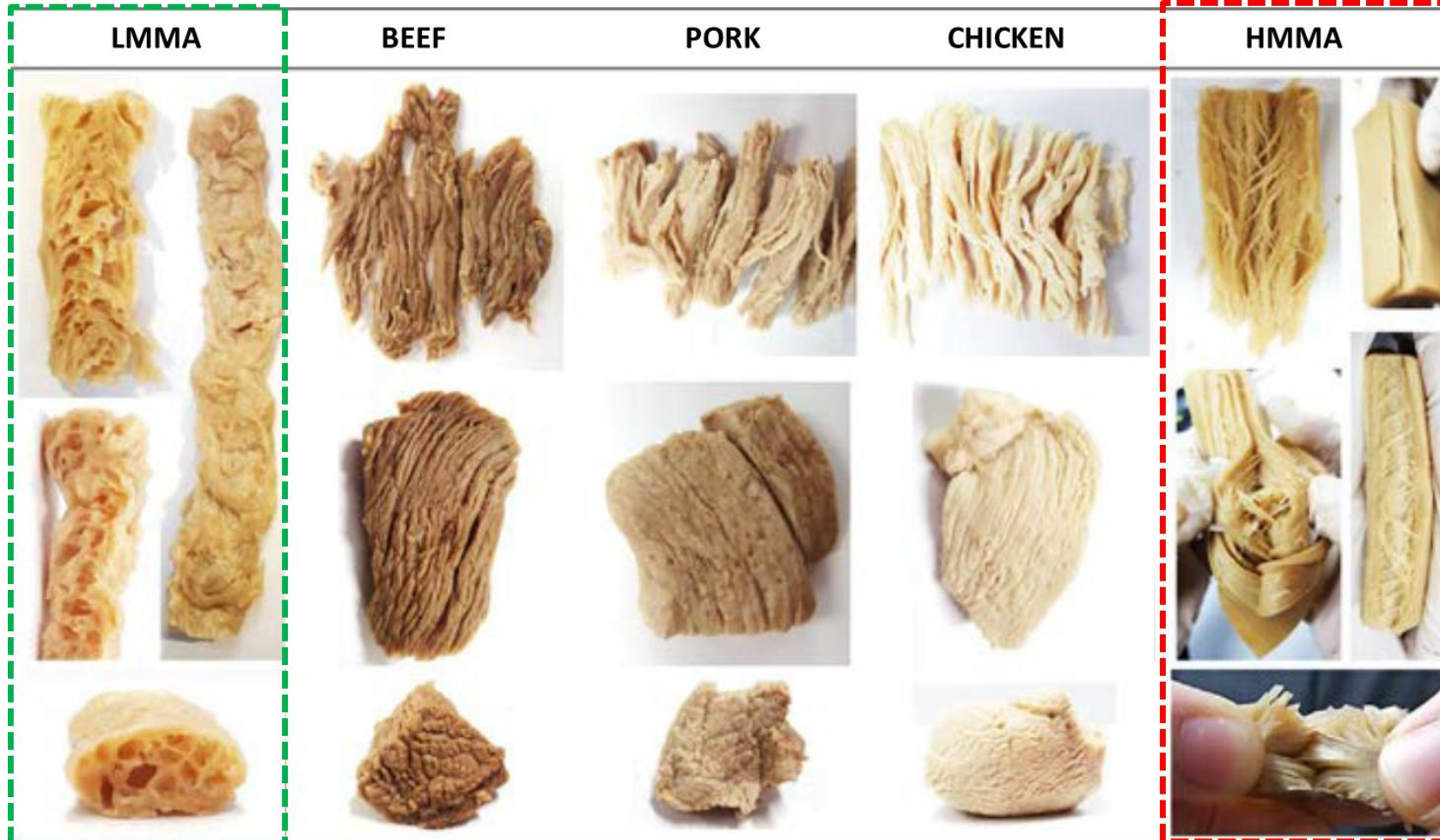
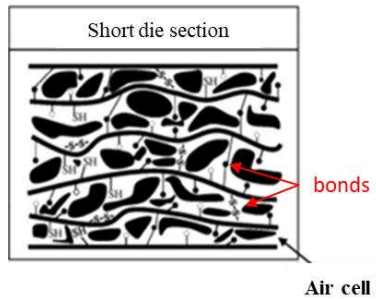


(modified from Zhang et al., 2019; Young and Forte, 2018; Samard et al., 2019)

Extrusion technology

LMMA (low moisture meat analogue)

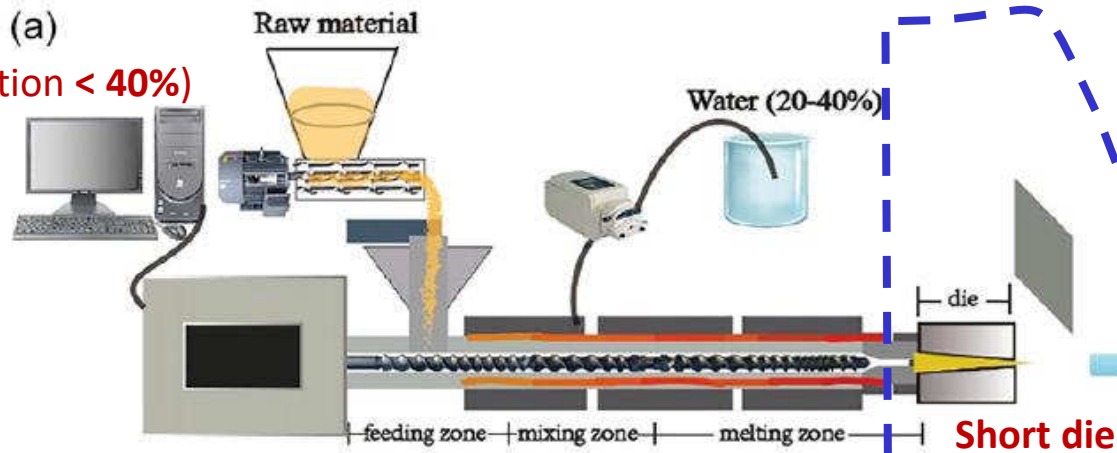
HMMA (high moisture meat analogue)



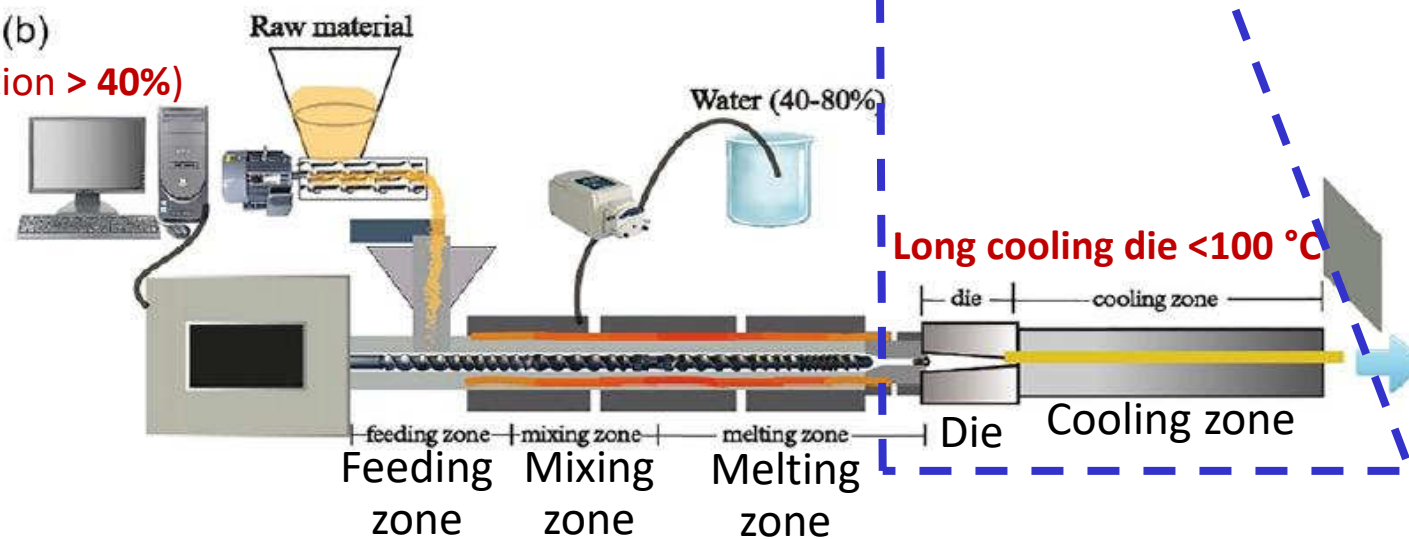
(modified from Samard, 2019; Samard et al., 2019)

Extrusion technology

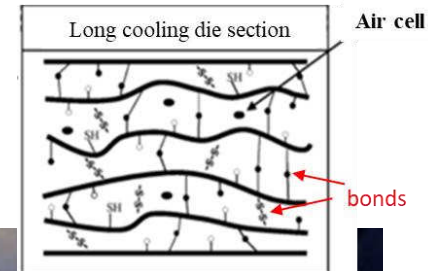
Low moisture extrusion (a) (water content in feed formulation < 40%)



High moisture extrusion (b) (water content in feed formulation > 40%)



TVP



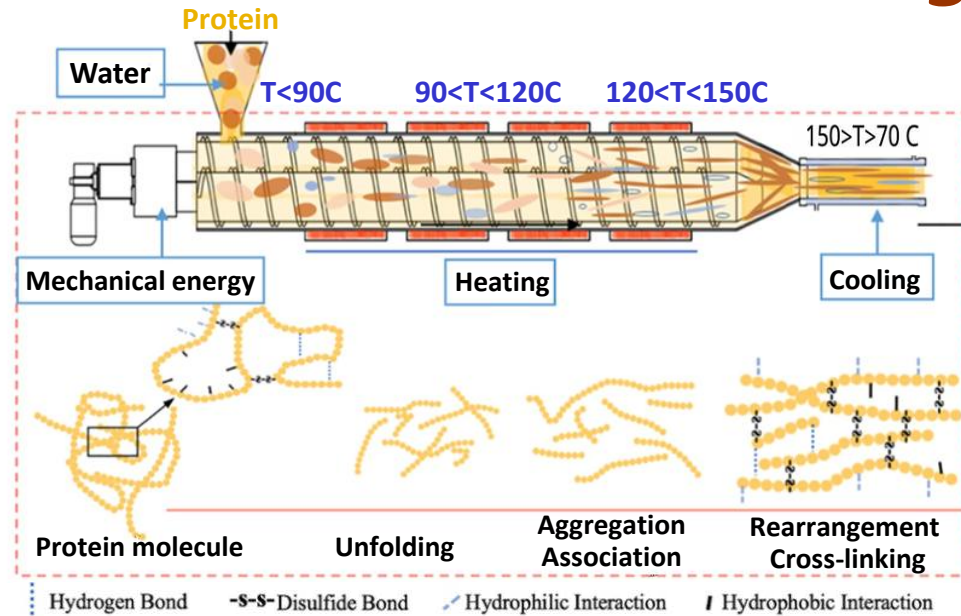
HMMA

(modified from Zhang et al., 2019)

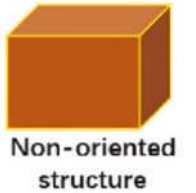
Extrusion technology

During extrusion:

- Conformation of protein changes



Protein aggregation speed
> Phase separation speed



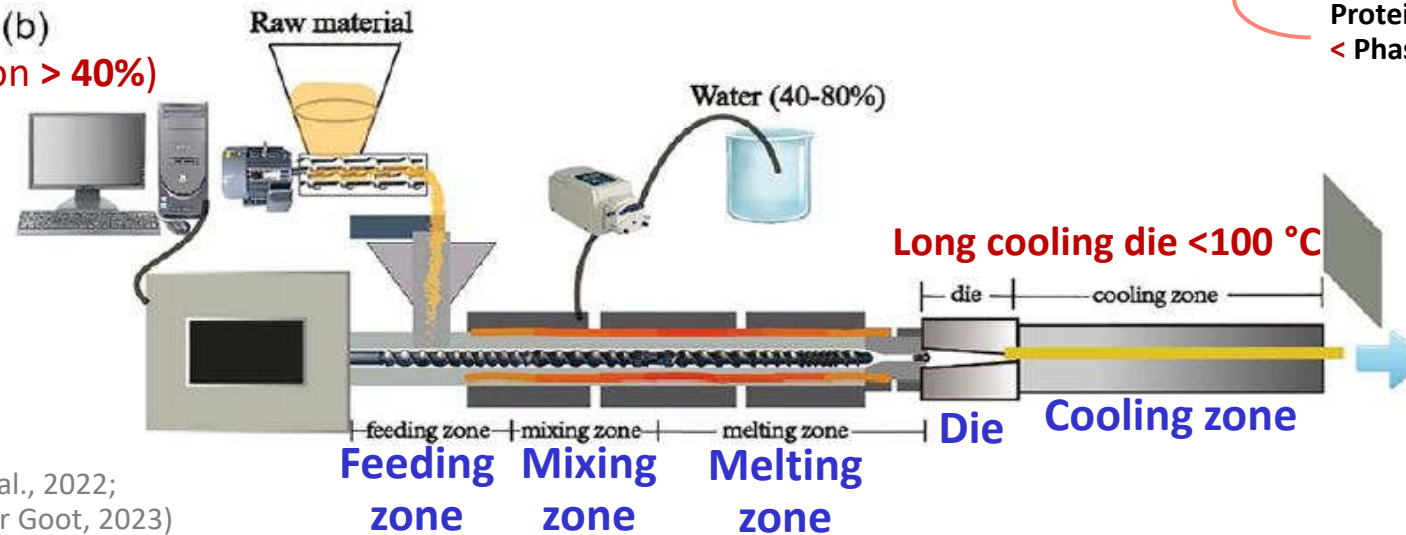
Protein aggregation speed
 $\approx$ Phase separation speed



Protein aggregation speed
< Phase separation speed

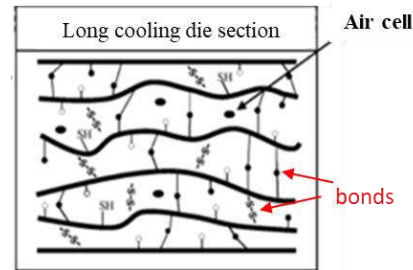
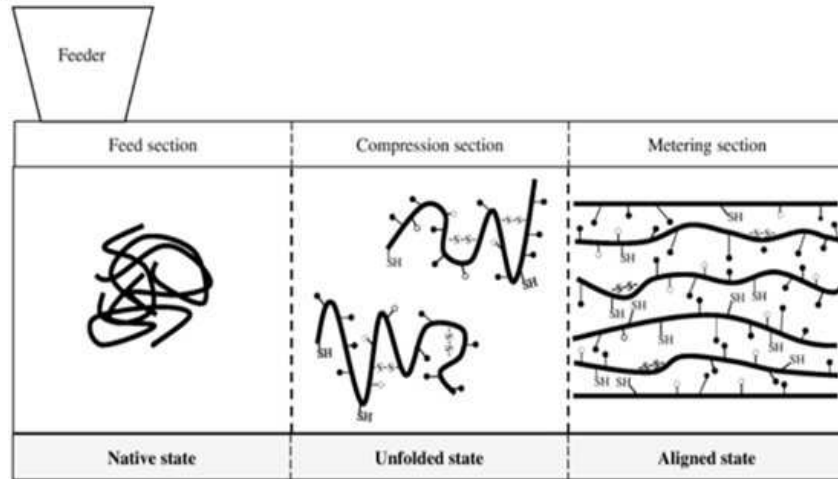
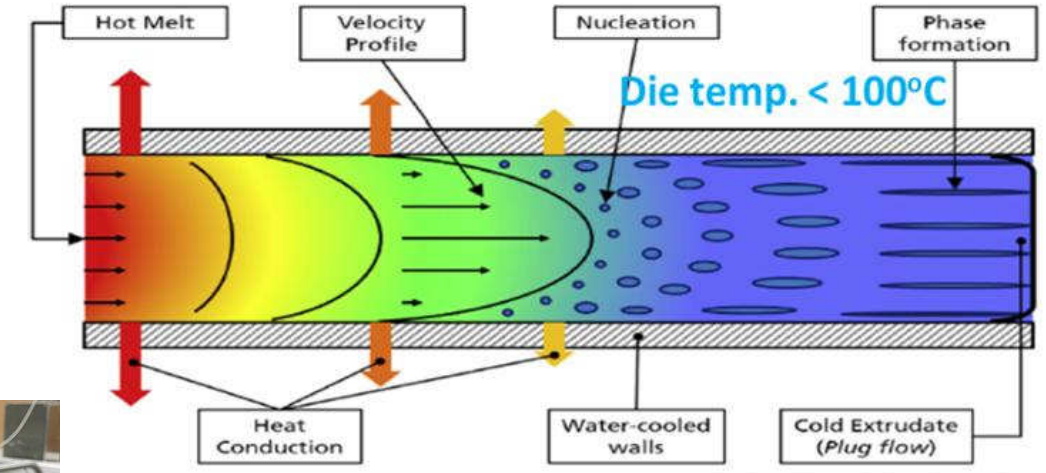
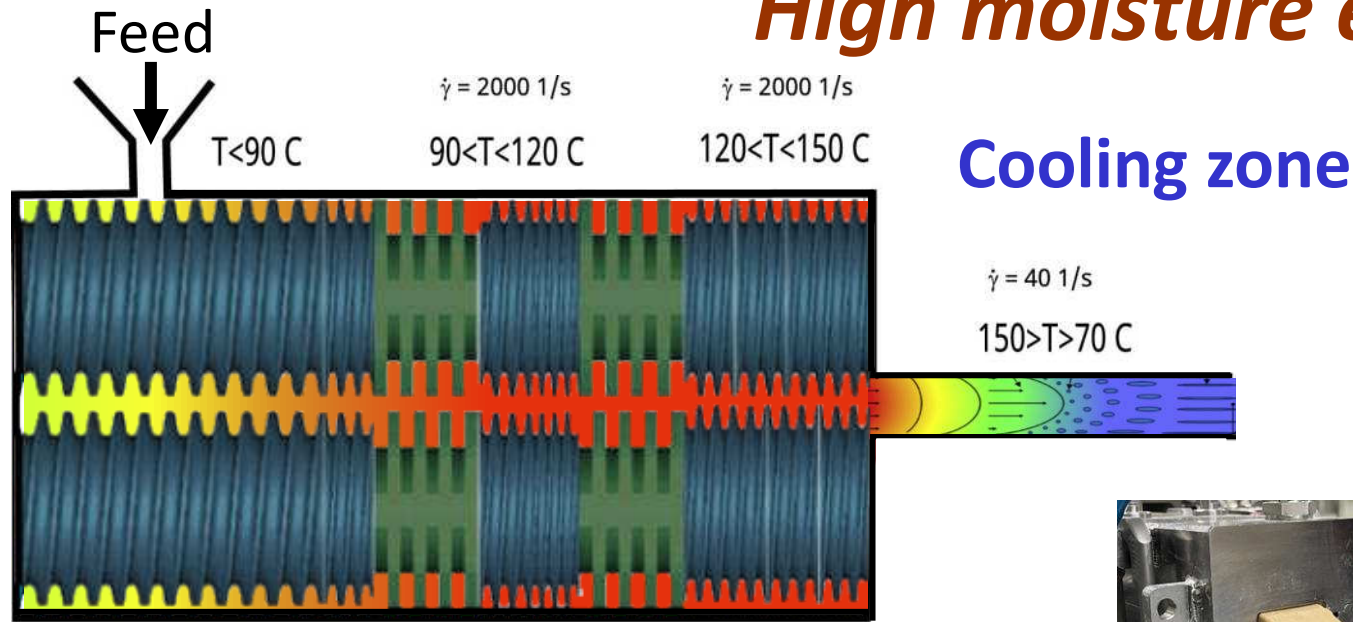


High moisture extrusion (b)
(water content in feed formulation > 40%)



(modified from Zhang et al., 2019; Zhang et al., 2022;
Zhang et al., 2023; van der Sman and van der Goot, 2023)

High moisture extrusion



- ❑ Cooling of the protein melt from the wall to the center of the die
- ❑ Laminar flow in the cooling die
- ❑ Flowing along the die and further solidification of the protein melt cause formation of anisotropic structure

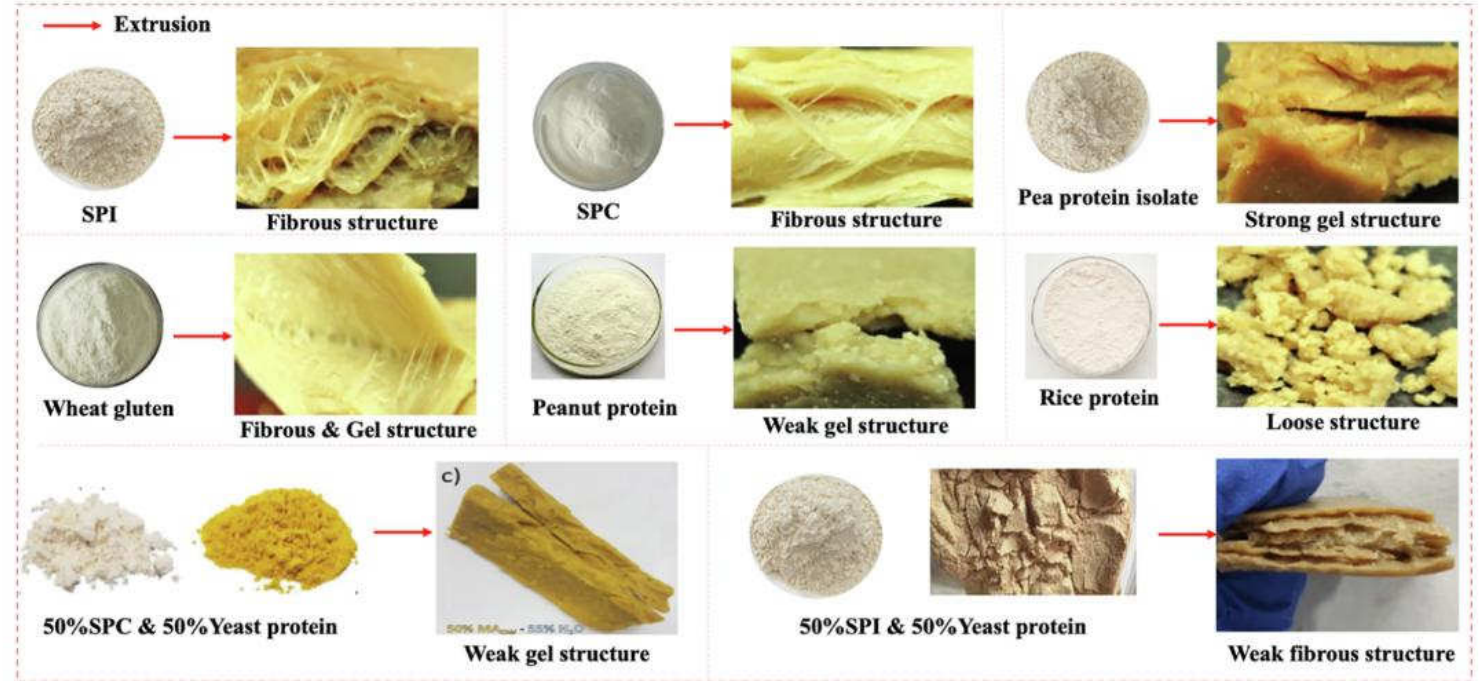
(modified from van der Sman and van der Goot, 2023; Samard et al., 2019; Sandoval Murillo et al., 2019)

SH: Sulfhydryl group, S-S: Disulfide bond, $\uparrow$: Hydrophobic amino acid side chain, $\downarrow$: Hydrophilic amino acid side chain

Extrusion technology: Factors affecting characteristics of HMMA

Feed formulation:

- ☐ Types of protein
- ☐ Oil content
- ☐ Polysaccharides
 - Soluble fiber
 - Insoluble fiber
 - Starch



(van der Sman and van der Goot, 2023; Zhang et al., 2023)



Cooling die exit



Fibrous chicken analogue
HMMA
(High Moisture Extrusion Meat Analogue)



- Protein content ~ 20-30%
- Moisture content ~ 60-65%



Commercial food products from HMMA



KASETSART
UNIVERSITY
IFRPD



Twin Screw Extruder

Extrusion (max. 10 – 15 kg/h)



Co-rotating Twin Screw Extruder
(ZSK 18MEGAlab, Coperion, Germany)



Co-rotating Twin Screw Extruder

- 9 segmented barrels
- Screw diameter: 18 mm
- Barrel length: 72 mm
- L/D: 36
- Max. temp: 300°C
- Max. screw speed: 1000 rpm

Ancillary units

- Solid gravimetric feeder
- Liquid volumetric feeder
- Liquid gravimetric feeder
- Long cooling die
- Circular die (2, 3, 4 mm diameter)
- Pelletizer
- Belt conveyor

Applications

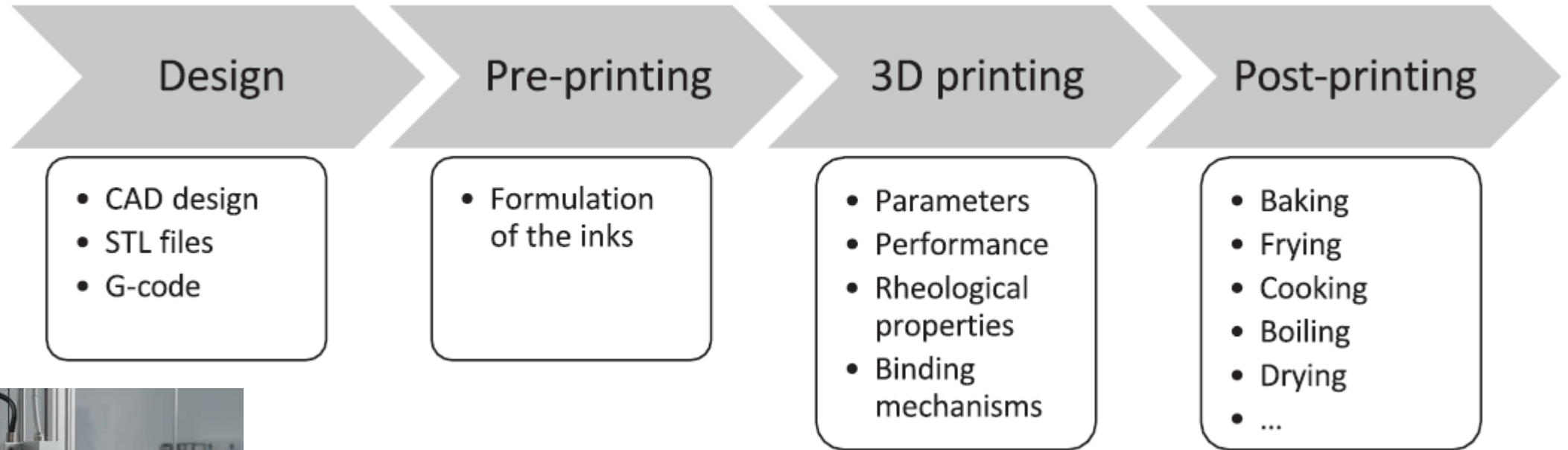
- High moisture meat analogues
- Texturized vegetable protein
- Physically modified starch and protein (clean label)
- Snacks
- Flavoring agents
- Pet food products

Please contact:
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e-mail: chanitw@mtec.or.th



3D-printing: precise technology for the meat analogue industry

3D printing: เทคโนโลยีจำลองเนื้อสัตว์เทียมอย่างแม่นยำ



(Caron et al., 2024)



CAD (Computer-Aided Design)

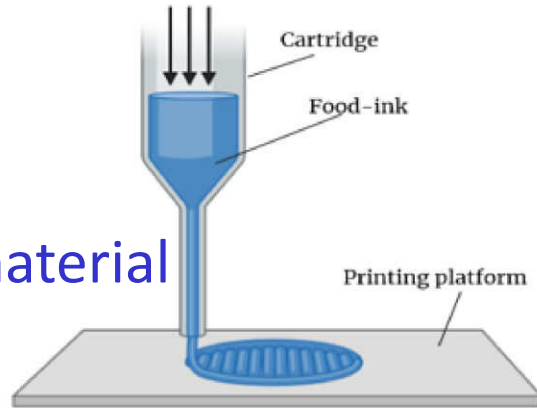
STL (Standard Triangle Language)

G-code: printing region, speed, and axis of the motors

M-code: auxiliary commands

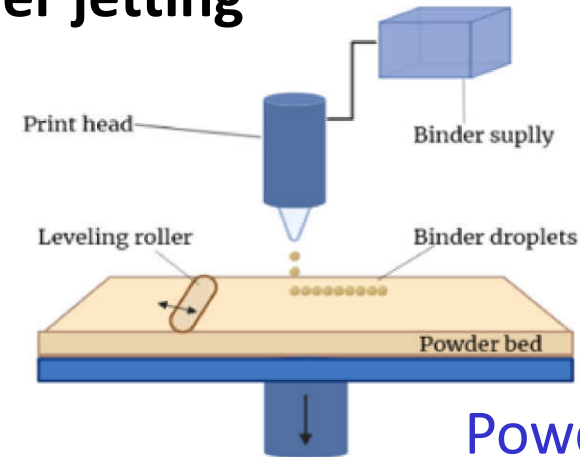
Four types of 3D food printers

Extrusion-based printing

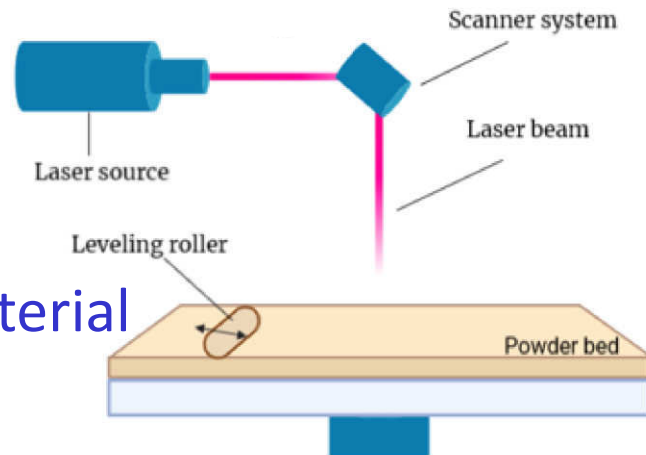


Viscous, paste-like material

Binder jetting

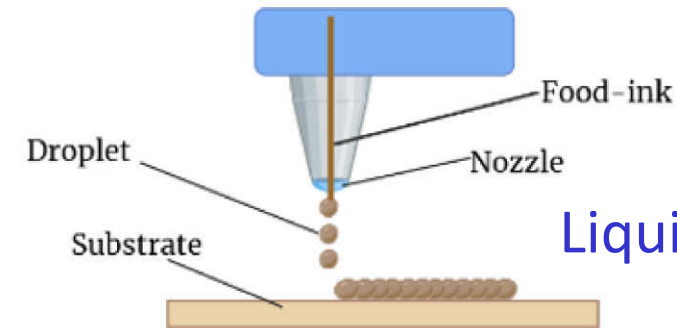


Powdered food material



Powdered food material

Selective laser sintering
Selective hot air sintering



Liquid-based material

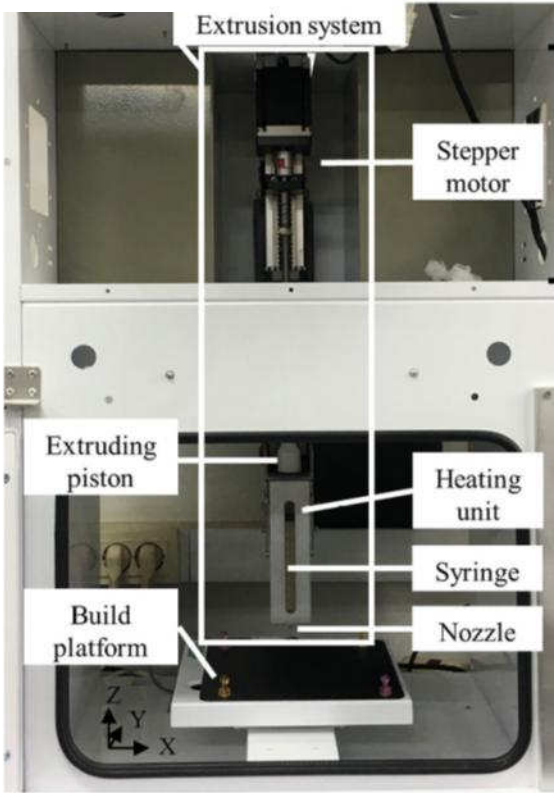
Inkjet printing

(Varvara et al., 2021)

Single extrusion 3D printer

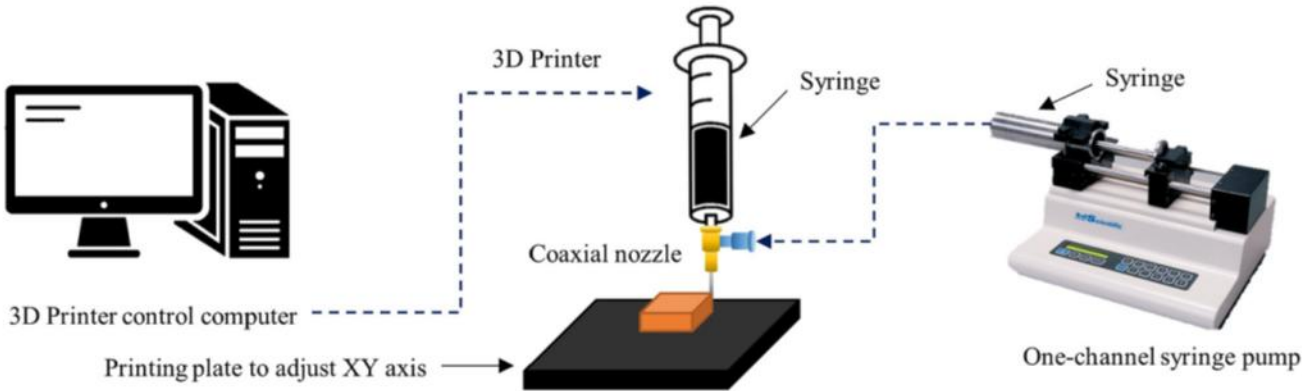


Outlook

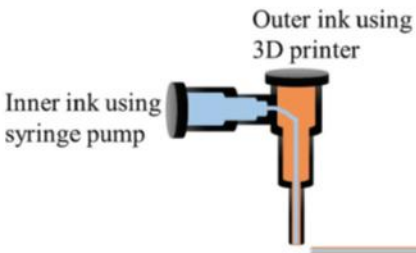


Internal components

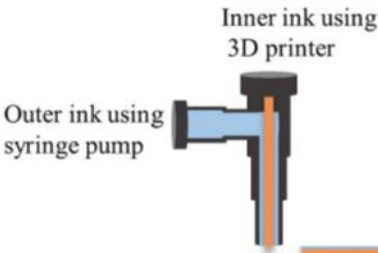
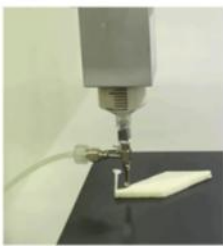
Coaxial extrusion 3D printer



(i) Type A coaxial nozzle

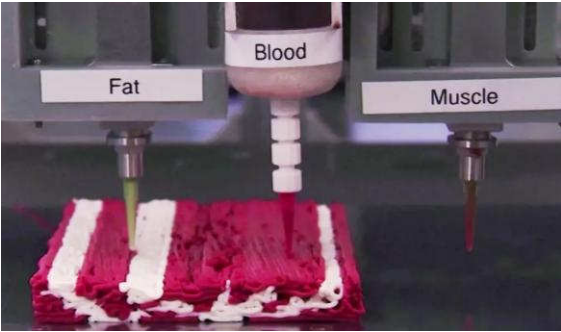
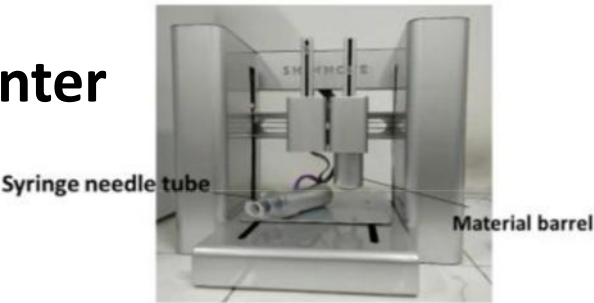


(ii) Type B coaxial nozzle



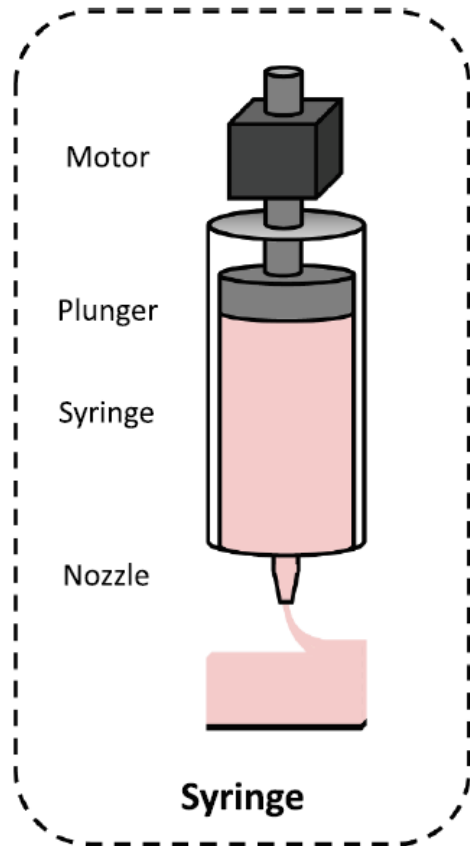
Dual/multi-head extrusion 3D printer

(Wen et al., 2023)

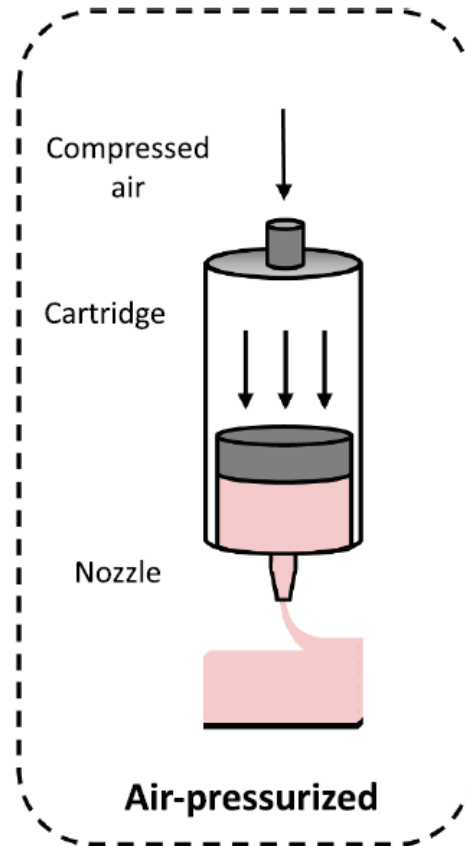


<https://www.dw.com/en/3d-printed-steaks-and-fish-fillets-a-meat-revolution/video-70793715>

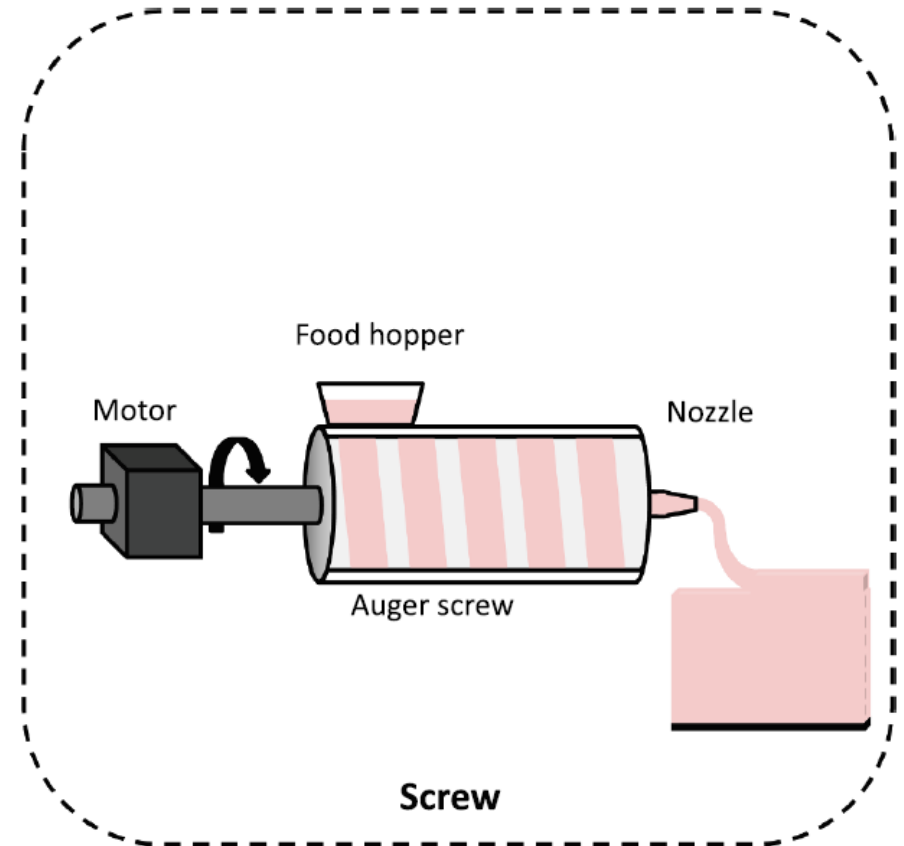
Three working principles of extrusion 3D printing (Caron et al., 2024)



- Semi-solid or solid food inks with high viscosity and high mechanical strength

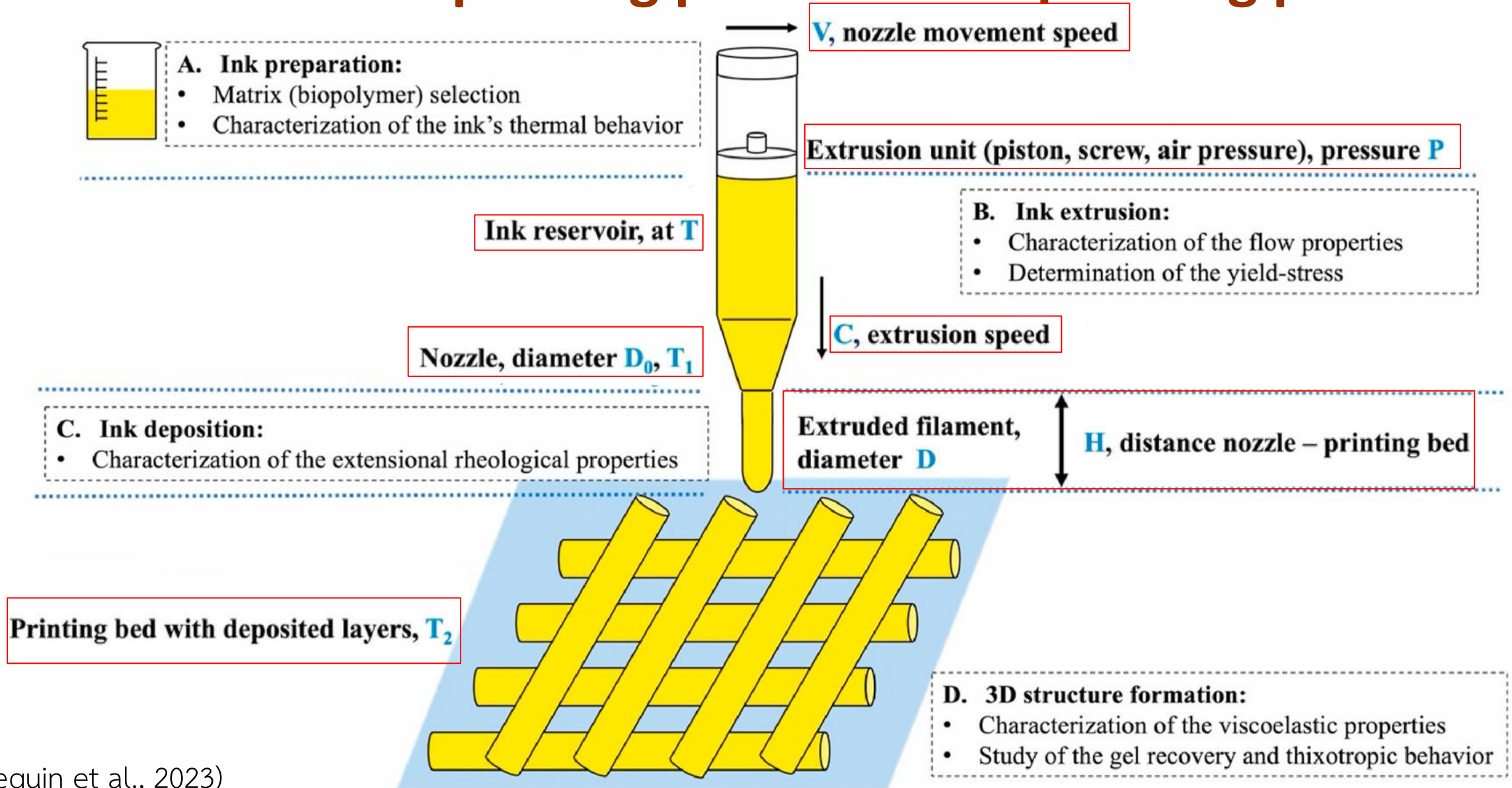


- Liquid or low-viscosity food inks



- Not suitable for food inks with high viscosity and high mechanical strength
- Pellets or granular forms can be printed after being heated and softened

Extrusion-based 3D printing process and operating parameters

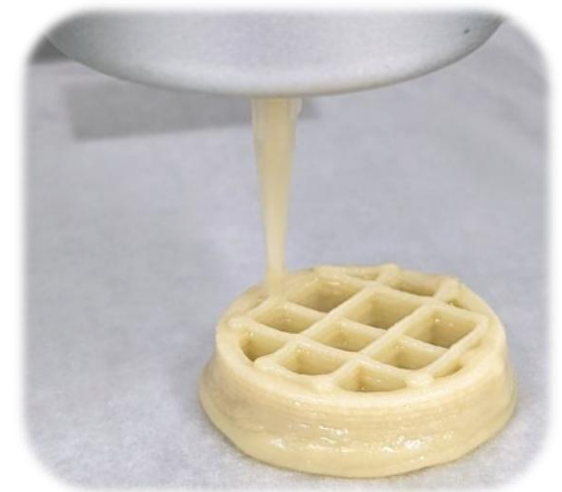


(Outrequin et al., 2023)

“Printability” of food inks

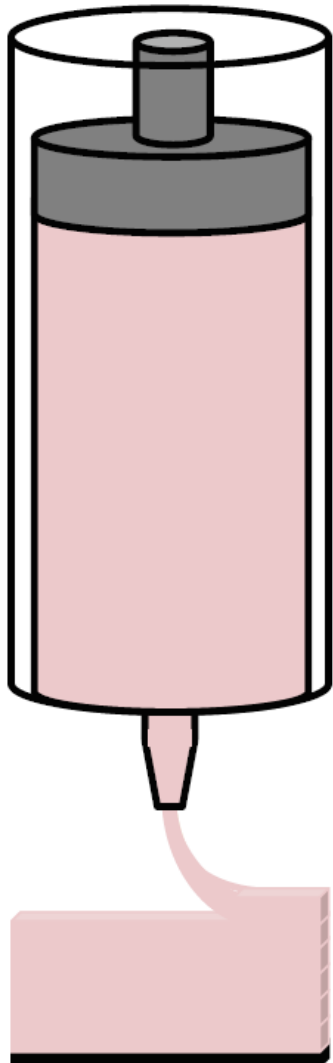
- ✓ **Extrudability:** the material must be able to flow continuously through the print nozzle (or print head)
- ✓ **Shape Holding / Shape Fidelity:** After extrusion, the built-up structure must not collapse and must be able to retain the desired shape

Ink rheological properties at each stage of printing are essential to ensure an ideal printability with excellent reproducibility.



Four rheological stages of the printing process :

key rheological properties of the food ink and printer parameters



1st

Ink : *yield stress* = minimum pressure required to make an ink flow through a nozzle

Printer : *maximum pressure* provided by printer > minimum pressure
nozzle length, nozzle diameter

Stage 1: Flow initiation

2nd

Ink : *viscosity, shear thinning behavior, consistency index*

Printer : *temperature* (> melting temperature), *pressure*,
speed/flow rate, nozzle size

Stage 2: Flow through a nozzle

3rd

Ink : *thixotropic behavior, gelling properties*

Printer : *temperature of bed* (< gelling temperature of ink),
distance between nozzle and bed

Stage 3: Deposition

4th

Ink : *storage modulus (G')* $\Rightarrow G' > G'' \Rightarrow$ solid like, $\tan \delta < 1$

Printer : *infill design, infill density*

Stage 4: Layer support

(Outrequin et al., 2023; Caron et al., 2024)

Food inks

Protein-rich inks, Lipid-rich inks, Blood-mimicking inks

Ink components

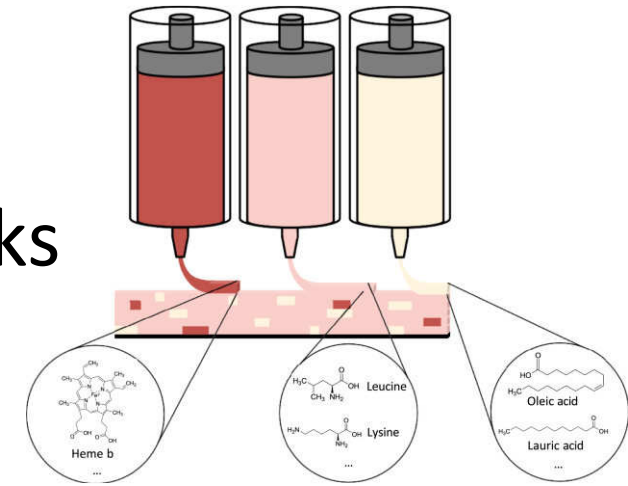
- Proteins
- Fat/oil
- Starch/Flour
- Hydrocolloids
- Enzyme
- Colors, flavors, nutritional component
- Water

Selected based on

- ✓ Tissue-mimicking characteristics
- ✓ Rheological properties



Extrudability, Printability & Self-supporting ability



(Outrequin et al., 2023; Caron et al., 2024)

Post-printing

The post-printing treatments include storage, baking, steaming, drying, frying, boiling, and microwaving, etc.

- enhance food safety
- improve shelf-life
- be integrated into traditional cuisine



(Caron et al., 2024)

Commercial 3D-meat analogue products

Novameat.



New



**Pulled
Lamb Style**

Bold flavour, tender bite – it thrives in gyros, fragrant curries, and slow-roasted dishes.



**Pulled
Beef Style**

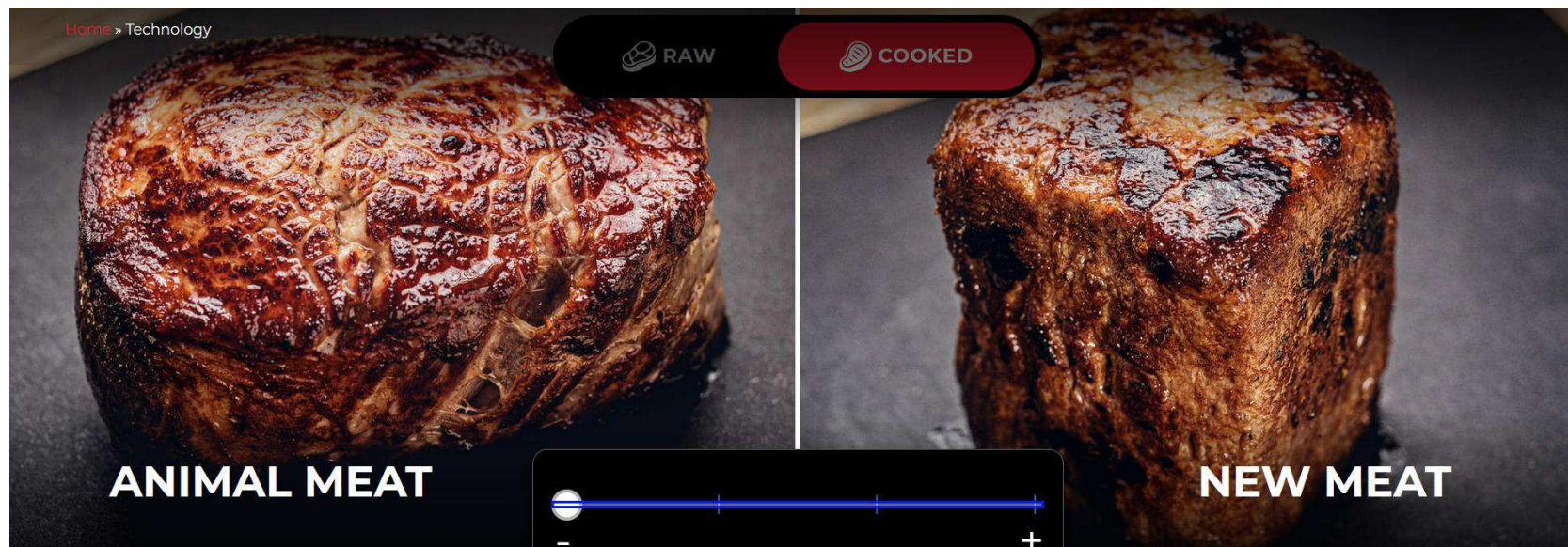
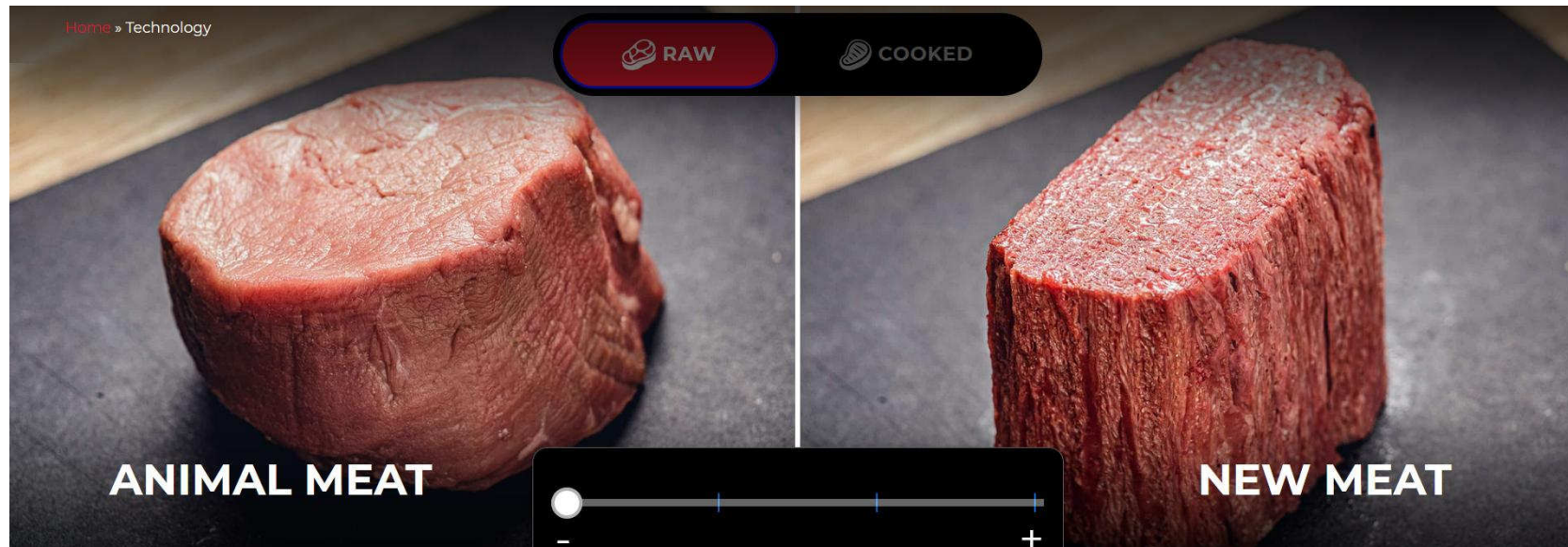
Depth in a shred – this cut thrives in tacos, slow-cooked brisket, or hearty stews.



**Pulled
Chicken Style**

Infused with a delicate rosemary marinade, it shines in burritos and tacos or as a topping to salads and rice bowls.

Commercial 3D-meat analogue products



REDEFINE MEAT



Commercial scale 3D-printers

Steakholder

PLANT-BASED MEAT PRODUCTION

MX200

TECHNOLOGY

Introduction to Fused Paste Layering (FPL®) Technology

Production output: Up to 420 kg/hour

Layered Printing Production

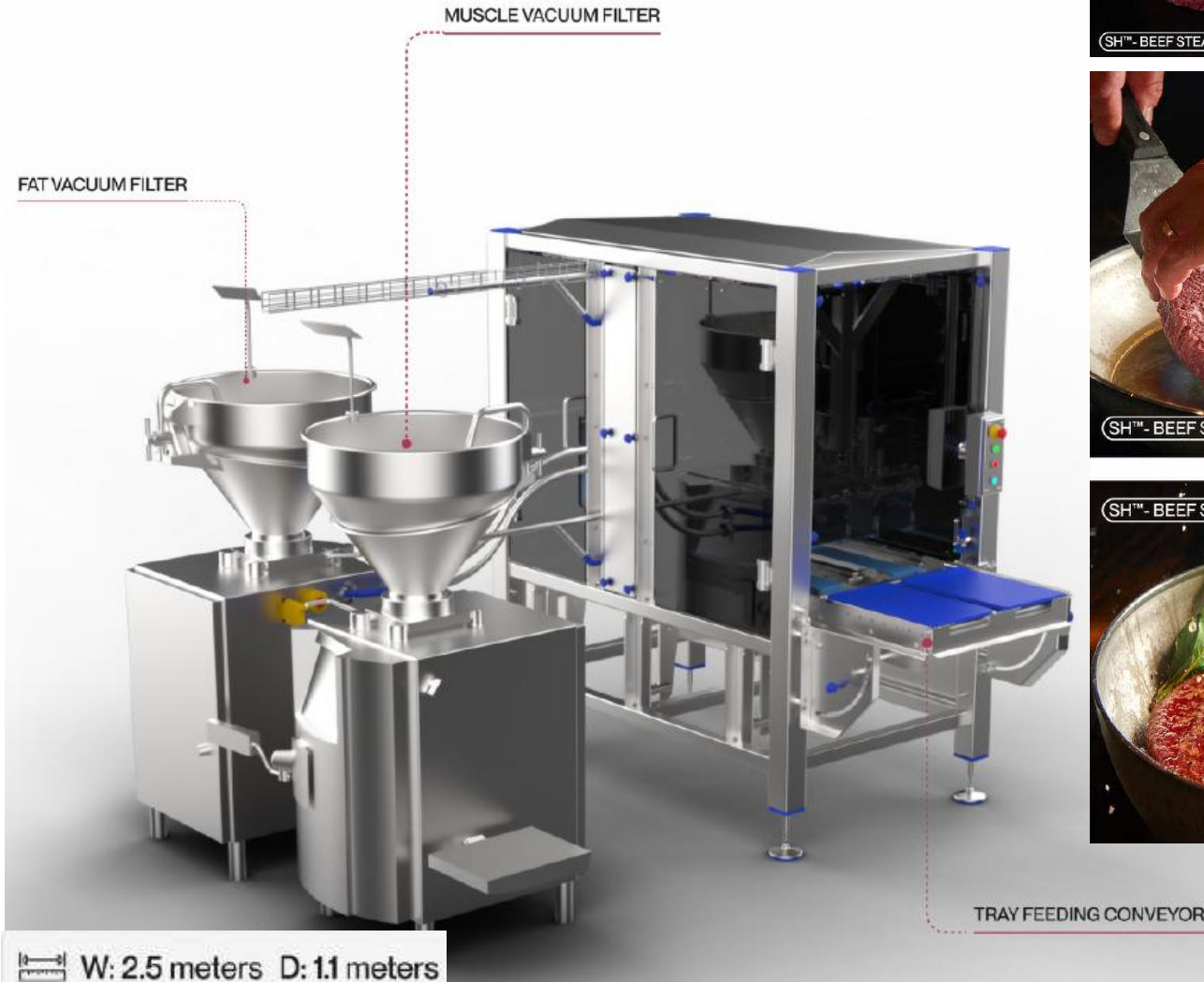
Fiber Alignment Technique

CIP Ready

Anti Clogging Technology

Hygienic Cleaning Design

Shaping options: Rib-eye, Chicken filet, Tenderloin, Sirloins



Commercial scale 3D-printers

Steakholder



TECHNOLOGY

Introduction to Drop Location in Space (DLS®) Technology

Production output: Up to 100 kg/hour

Printing Process with Zero Waste

Modular Configuration Layout

CIP Capability

Anti Clogging Technology

Endless Shaping Possibilities

Layered Printing Production

Hygienic Cleaning Design



FOMT Facilities/Equipment

Rheology and texture analysis:



Rheometers (rotational (controlled-strain & controlled-stress), extensional, interfacial, capillary) and a Universal testing machine

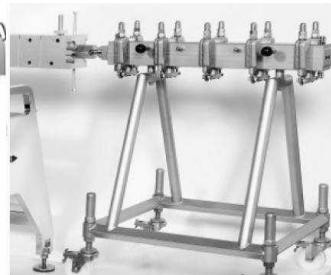
Food processing:



**Blast Chillers
Shock Freezers**



**Twin screw extruder with long cooling
die & TVP dies & liquid feeders**



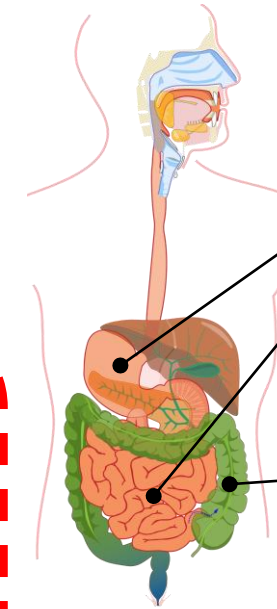
Dual-head extrusion 3D printer (syringe)



3D-food printers



Food digestion:



Simulated Gut Model

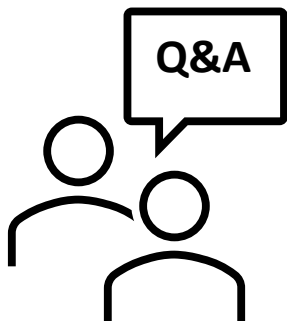
- tiny-TIMsg (stomach + small intestine)
- TIM-2 (large intestine)

Other facilities: High pressure homogenizer, High-Performance Anion-Exchange Chromatography System (HPAEC-DIONEX), High shear dispenser, Sous-vide machine, Twin drum dryer, Ultrasonic probe.



Acknowledgements

Food Materials Research Team
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For more information about FOMT