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1



Pasta in Mexico: tradition meets innovation with Barilla

Editorial team



Charlotte Oudin, Director of Barilla Mexico, shares insights on expanding pasta consumption and embracing sustainability.

You are the Director of Barilla Mexico. Can you tell Pastaria readers when and how Barilla Mexico was established?

Great question. Barilla Mexico, as we know it today, was established in 2002.

Barilla Mexico is a joint venture, a partnership between Barilla and a leading Mexican food company, Grupo Herdez. Together, we designed a successful business model. Grupo Herdez excels in distribution, go-to-market strategies, and in-store execution, leveraging the many brands in its portfolio. For Barilla, this partnership was an opportunity to collaborate with a market leader, maximizing our impact in Mexico.

Are there production plants in Mexico? If so, what is their production capacity?

Yes, of course. In Mexico, we sell more than 90,000 tons of product annually. We have two brands: Barilla, the world's leading pasta brand, and a leading Mexican brand called Yemina, which was acquired by the joint venture when the plant was built.

Could you provide us with an overview of the pasta market in Mexico?

The Mexican market is fascinating, rich with traditions and opportunities. The consumption of carbohydrates is quite high, but mainly in the form of *tortillas* made from corn or wheat, as well as bread. Pasta consumption is relatively low, at around 3–4 kg per capita per year, compared to 80 kg of *tortillas* and 30 kg of bread. Rice is also a strong competitor, with a consumption of about 12 kg.

That said, there's significant potential to grow pasta consumption—at least doubling it. In Mexico, pasta is primarily consumed as soup, similar to Italian minestrone, served at the beginning of lunch. The portions are small, about 40 grams per person. A less common form of consumption is spaghetti, usually as a side dish or for special weekend gatherings. There's an immense opportunity to expand pasta consumption by positioning it as a main dish for lunch or dinner and integrating it into

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CUOCITORE LINEARE LINEAR COOKER

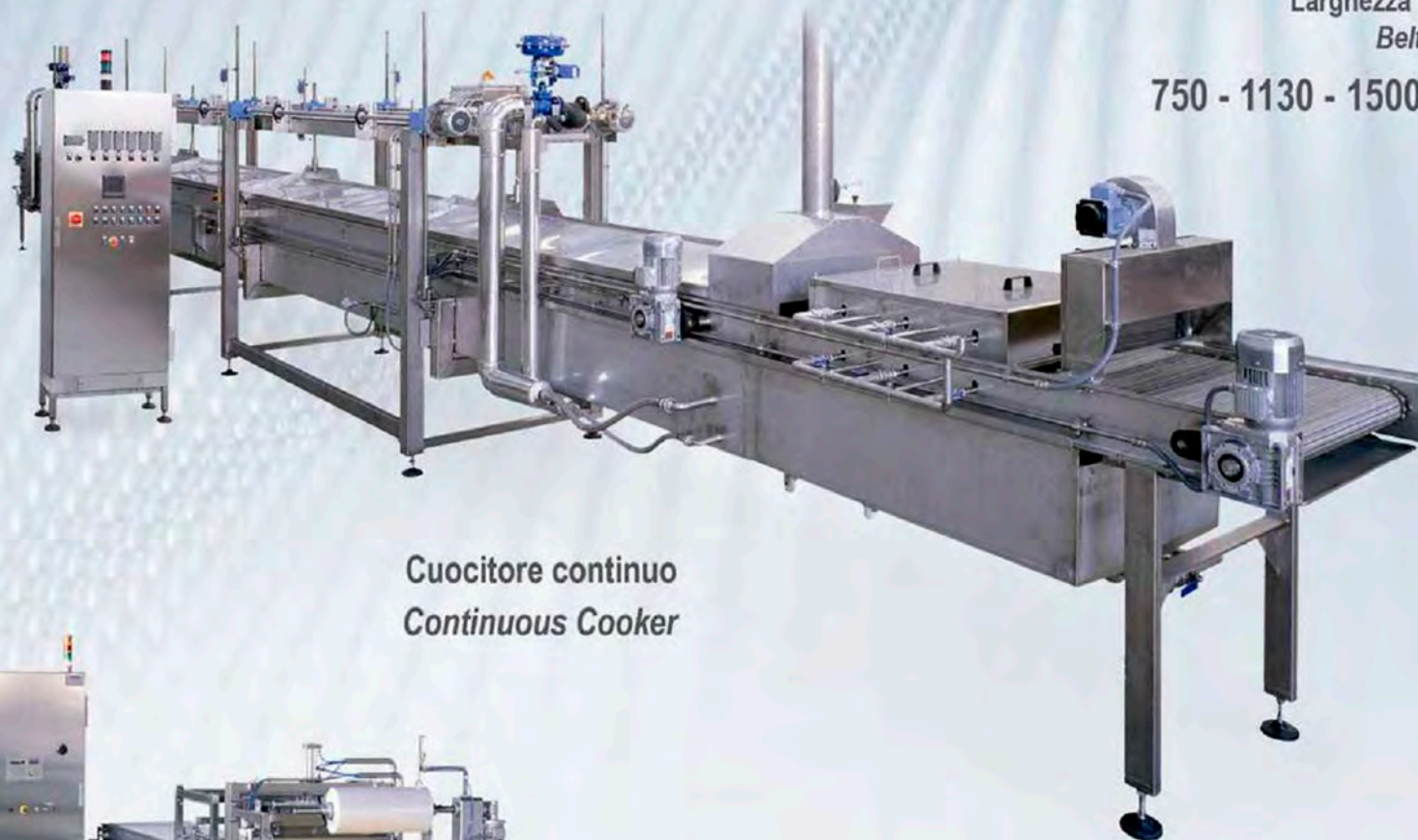
100 - 1000 kg/h

Prodotti: paste ripiene, sfoglie con interfoglio, cannelloni
For processing filled pasta, sheet with interleaf film, cannelloni



Larghezza nastro
Belt width

750 - 1130 - 1500 mm



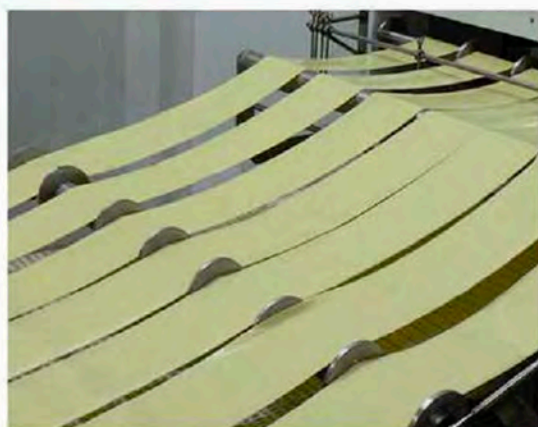
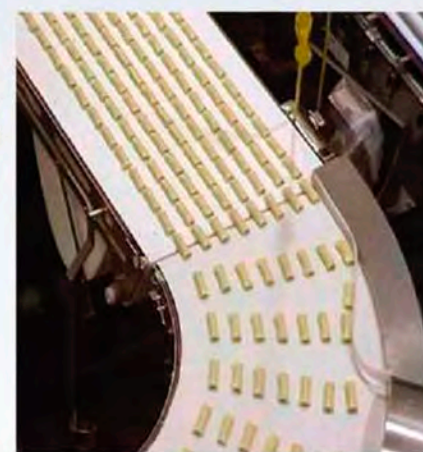
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Mexican culinary habits—for example, using pasta in tacos instead of rice. Pasta has many advantages: it's quicker to cook, a complex carbohydrate that's nutritionally superior, and versatile enough to be incorporated into creative recipes.

Does the Mexican pasta market have unique features compared to other regions?

Every country and region has its own culinary particularities. In Mexico, each region is almost like a different gastronomic world, with its own traditions, ingredients, and cooking methods. From a commercial perspective, traditional trade remains highly relevant in Mexico, with many small neighborhood stores coexisting with supermarkets. This creates both challenges and opportunities. Effective, widespread distribution is crucial to ensuring product availability across various points of sale based on consumer shopping habits.

What is the degree of pasta penetration and the frequency of consumption among Mexican families?

Pasta penetration is nearly 100%—everyone eats pasta in Mexico. It's often referred to as “*sopa*” and is considered a staple product in every kitchen. In terms of purchasing frequency, most families buy

pasta about once a month, though consumption occurs weekly, primarily at lunch. Dry pasta dishes are consumed less frequently, maybe once a week.

How is pasta consumption trending in Mexico? Is it growing?

Pasta consumption is slightly growing, with the category increasing by around 2-3% annually, in line with population growth. During the pandemic, consumption rose due to stay-at-home situations encouraging more home cooking. However, deeply rooted traditions, such as *tortillas* and rice at lunch, make it challenging to increase pasta's share quickly. There's still a lot of work to do to make pasta a more significant part of Mexican families' diets.

What is the image of pasta in Mexico? Does it suffer from stereotypes like “pasta makes you fat”?

Pasta as soup has an excellent image — it represents a comforting dish lovingly prepared by mothers to start the meal. Dry pasta, however, often suffers from the perception of being heavy and fattening due to preparation methods involving overcooking and rich sauces with cream and butter.

We have a significant opportunity to educate consumers about the benefits of



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al dente pasta, its nutritional value as a complex carbohydrate, and the importance of correct portions.

Are there communication initiatives that could improve the image of dry pasta and increase its consumption?

We are working on two fronts. With our Mexican brand, Yemina, we focus on versatility and sustainability, promoting pasta as a creative and healthy alternative to rice. For Barilla, we highlight the superior quality of our pasta and its ability to inspire creativity in the kitchen.

We are also introducing pasta as a dinner option, competing with pizza and tacos. This initiative has been successful, with pasta now achieving a 10% penetration in dinner occasions in Mexico.

What tangible actions is Barilla Mexico taking to support sustainability objectives?

Agriculture is one of our key pillars because it plays a dual role in global sustainability. On the one hand, it is responsible for 70% of global water usage and 23% of greenhouse gas emissions. On the other, agriculture has the potential to be a powerful tool to combat climate change and restore biodiversity. Plants, for example, absorb carbon and transfer it to the soil, enriching biodiversity and

CHARLOTTE OUDIN



Un executive of more than 20 years of experience in 2 continents creating strategic opportunities and working with diverse teams to generate profitable growth for the business. Full of energy, passion and curiosity, a leader who reaches business valorization through ESG strategies. General Director of Barilla Mexico since 2015, she strengthened the Joint Venture delivering a constant growth year after year. Inclusive and transformational leadership which generate trust and collaboration in Barilla Mexico as in several boards of institutions. Recognized for her holistic vision, analytical capacity and transformational project management.



Pasta line



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Buono

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Sicuro

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fostering carbon sequestration. Over the past three years, we have implemented a variety of innovative agricultural techniques that are already delivering promising results. In our most recent wheat-growing cycle, we've significantly reduced emissions, doubled the biodiversity and organic carbon content in the soil, and cut water usage by up to 40%. We've also embraced organic fertilizers and natural pesticides, using techniques such as companion planting, trees, and beneficial insects to completely eliminate chemical inputs. These practices currently cover 25% of the wheat used for our pasta production in Mexico, and we are committed to expanding this reach every year while refining our techniques to achieve even greater impact. Our mission is not just to transform our own operations but to inspire other businesses to adopt similar practices, because collective action is essential if we want to protect our planet.

When it comes to production, we've already achieved zero waste across all facilities, and next year we are set to reduce our water usage by 30%. Starting next year, all our operations will run entirely on clean energy. We are also in the process of finalizing our strategy to achieve net zero emissions. We will design

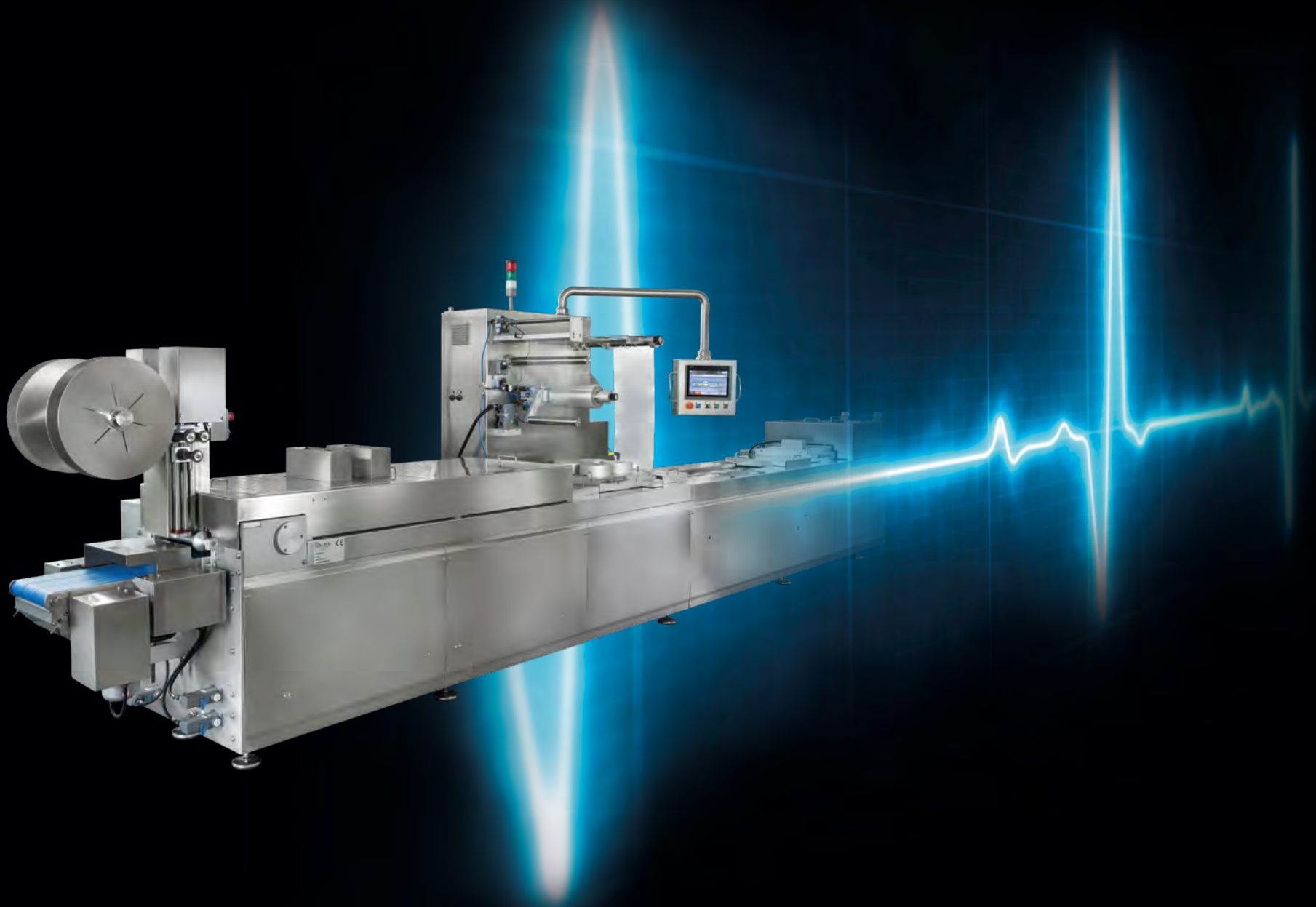
a clear roadmap during 2025 1st semester to begin its implementation as of 2026.

On the packaging front, as of last year, 100% of our packaging is recyclable, and our carton is already made from recycled and by next year we will recycle 100% of our plastic packaging. This represents an important step in our commitment to a circular economy and more sustainable practices.

Another important pillar is our work with communities, which focuses on promoting good nutrition, access to water, and sustainable living. In Mexico, for example, we've launched a number of initiatives to support local communities. These include helping families understand the nutritional and economic benefits of pasta, which is not only healthy but also versatile and affordable. We also educate people on how to minimize food waste by making the most of what they have in their fridge and reducing unnecessary purchases, addressing the fact that 40% of food is wasted globally.

We also focus on physical and community well-being through sports, particularly soccer, which is a universally loved and accessible activity. We generate activities and promotions around football for families to encourage exercise and foster a sense of community.

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Finally, our brand purposes guide everything we do. With Barilla, our goal is to share happiness with loved ones. Pasta is universally beloved and has been scientifically proven to bring joy, making it a natural centerpiece for family meals and gatherings. With Yemina, our mission is to unlock the energy within each individual, helping them achieve their personal and professional goals, as well as their athletic and wellness objectives. By focusing on these pillars—agriculture, production, packaging, community, and brand values—we're working to create meaningful, lasting change. We believe innovation and collaboration are key, and our ultimate goal is not just to transform our own practices but to inspire others to join us in building a sustainable and thriving future for all.

Is there something you wish to talk about or an appeal you want to make to international operators through the pages of our magazine?

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government—it's something we all need to embrace. Consumers can contribute by eating the right quantities and choosing quality products, by saving water and energy, and by avoiding food waste. At the same time, every sector can and must play its part. For example, we need advancements in clean energy, better tractors that preserve the soil, organic pesticides and fertilizers, intelligent irrigation systems, and the use of artificial intelligence to monitor results, measure impacts, and make smarter decisions. This is a call to action for everyone, regardless of their role or expertise, to ask themselves how they can contribute to sustainability. Food is essential for all of us, and if we want to continue enjoying healthy, nutritious products that come from the earth, we need to act now. Agriculture has a unique opportunity to not only support us today but also to reverse climate change and help save the planet. Everyone has something to offer in this collective effort, and it's time for all of us to step up rather than wait for others to act. At the same time, pasta remains a category full of potential to grow and bring value to people's lives. It's a product that embodies togetherness, offering moments of joy and connection. It provides good nutrition, is economical, easy to cook, and highly convenient. I encourage everyone to

appreciate the many benefits of this noble and versatile food. By learning from local habits and traditions, we can celebrate the diversity of ways people consume, cook, and enjoy pasta. There's no "right" or "wrong" way — it's about understanding how pasta can enrich lives, create new and enjoyable eating experiences, and make everyday moments more special.

Finally, do you have a personal favorite pasta shape or dish?

It's hard for me to choose just one!

However, a recent discovery has been a "pasta risotto" made with Barilla's *lenguita* shape and pesto. It's a creative reinterpretation developed with a Mexican chef, blending Italian tradition with local culinary techniques. It was a hit during a recent board meeting with Barilla's global leadership!



years of creations

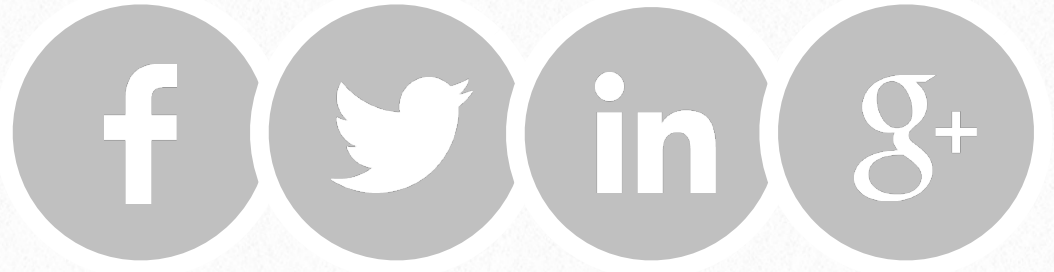
landucci

— zamboni

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2



Tenth APPF Workshop

Editorial team



Gherardo Bonetto, secretary of APPF, during a moment of the association's tenth Workshop

The traditional event to discuss challenges, innovations and opportunities in the fresh pasta sector, organised by the association chaired by Giovanni Rana, took place recently.

The tenth Workshop of the Association of Fresh Pasta Producers (APPF), an annual event eagerly awaited by operators in the sector, took place on 29 November 2024 at the Hotel Leon d'Oro in Verona. The event brought together professionals, producers and experts to discuss the challenges and opportunities of the sector.

The topics discussed

The meeting was opened by the Chairman of the APPF, Giovanni Rana, who warmly

greeted the participants, underlining the importance of collaboration between the players in the supply chain.

The Secretary of the APPF, Gherardo Bonetto, introduced the proceedings with a short presentation, explaining the purposes of the workshop and the central topics that would be addressed.

The first speech was given by Samuele Palagiano from Pasta Technologies Group, who illustrated the latest developments in pasta and gnocchi production equipment.



Samuele Palagiano (Pasta Technologies Group) during his presentation at the APPF Workshop

His presentation highlighted the importance of technologically advanced machines, designed to ensure complete sanitisation and improved production efficiency.

Subsequently, Elio Di Curzio delved into the topic of spices and aromatic herbs, focusing on their industrial yield and aromatic consistency, crucial aspects for maintaining the quality and freshness of the finished products.

Marco Dalla Rosa from the University of Bologna then analysed the topic of the shelf-life of fresh pasta, discussing the evolution of preservation techniques and the future prospects related to the choice between indicating the expiry date or the Date of Minimum Durability (DMD). The report aroused particular interest among the participants, highlighting the potential implications on the market and on consumer perception.

Finally, Silvia Gonzaga, a lawyer at Logos, discussed a highly topical issue: the RASFF system (Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed), the withdrawals and recalls of food products, examining the role of food business operators (FBO) and of the competent authorities. Her speech offered practical ideas and clarified the responsibilities of the players involved.

A dinner in the name of conviviality

At the end of the workshop, participants had the opportunity to continue the dialogue and consolidate relationships during a convivial dinner organised at the hotel. The event was an ideal moment to share experiences and create new synergies between operators in the sector.

Conclusions

The tenth APPF Workshop confirmed the importance of creating opportunities for discussion and in-depth analysis for the fresh pasta sector. The broad participation and the high level of the speeches testify to the association's strong commitment towards supporting producers and promoting innovation, quality and safety in the sector.

APPF is now preparing for the next challenges with an eye to the future, continuing to work to enhance one of the symbols of the Italian gastronomic tradition.

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3



Parboiled brown rice pasta from varieties with contrasting amylose content

Federica Taddei, Elena Galassi, Francesca Nocente, Chiara Natale, Laura Gazza
CREA-IT, Rome



Rice pasta is one of the most popular gluten-free foods, but its production usually requires additives and technological processes to improve its nutritional and sensory properties. In this study, two varieties of rice with different amylose contents were subjected to parboiling, micronisation and turbo-separation in order to obtain brown rice pasta. The pasta samples obtained from the high amylose genotype showed the highest resistant starch content and the lowest glycaemic index, together with good sensory characteristics.

Introduction

Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) – together with wheat and corn – forms the basis of food worldwide. In fact, it not only contains carbohydrates (75-80%), proteins (7-8%) and fats (3%) but is also rich in fibre, minerals and vitamins, especially when eaten as a whole grain. In recent years, the demand for gluten-free food products has grown considerably due to the increase in diagnosed or self-reported gluten intolerance. Rice pasta is one of the most popular gluten-free foods due to its pleasant taste, high digestibility and hypoallergenic properties. However, in the production of rice pasta, the absence of gluten makes it necessary to use other cereals, pseudocereals or legumes, additives or specific technological processes to improve its organoleptic and sensory qualities (Marti et al., 2010). Among the components that most influence the technological and nutritional properties of rice is the relationship between amylose and amylopectin, the two polysaccharides that make up starch. Specifically, it has been observed that a high amylose content is associated with better texture and cooking quality of rice pasta, as well as a reduction in the glycaemic index compared to pasta made from low amylose varieties. For this

reason, varieties with a high amylose content seem to be more suitable for pasta production (Wu et al., 2018).

Among the technological processes applied to brown rice, the hydrothermal treatment known as parboiling can improve its nutritional properties, due to the migration of vitamins and minerals into the grain, which limits their loss during cooking. This process brings about an increase in the resistant starch content, which, as part of the soluble fibre, provides significant benefits to colon health. From a technological perspective, parboiling modifies the chemico-physical properties of starch by reorganising amylose and amylopectin, in particular by making it more rigid, and by inducing the synthesis of amylose-lipid complexes and the aggregation of soluble proteins. Such modifications have been shown to have positive effects on the sensory quality of rice pasta, in terms of decreasing stickiness and increasing tensile strength. Despite its higher nutritional value, brown rice and its processed products are consumed in smaller quantities than white rice and its by-products. Above and beyond deep-rooted dietary habits, the presence of bran layers not only decreases its palatability, but makes the flour and dough more difficult to work with, causing repercussions on their technological

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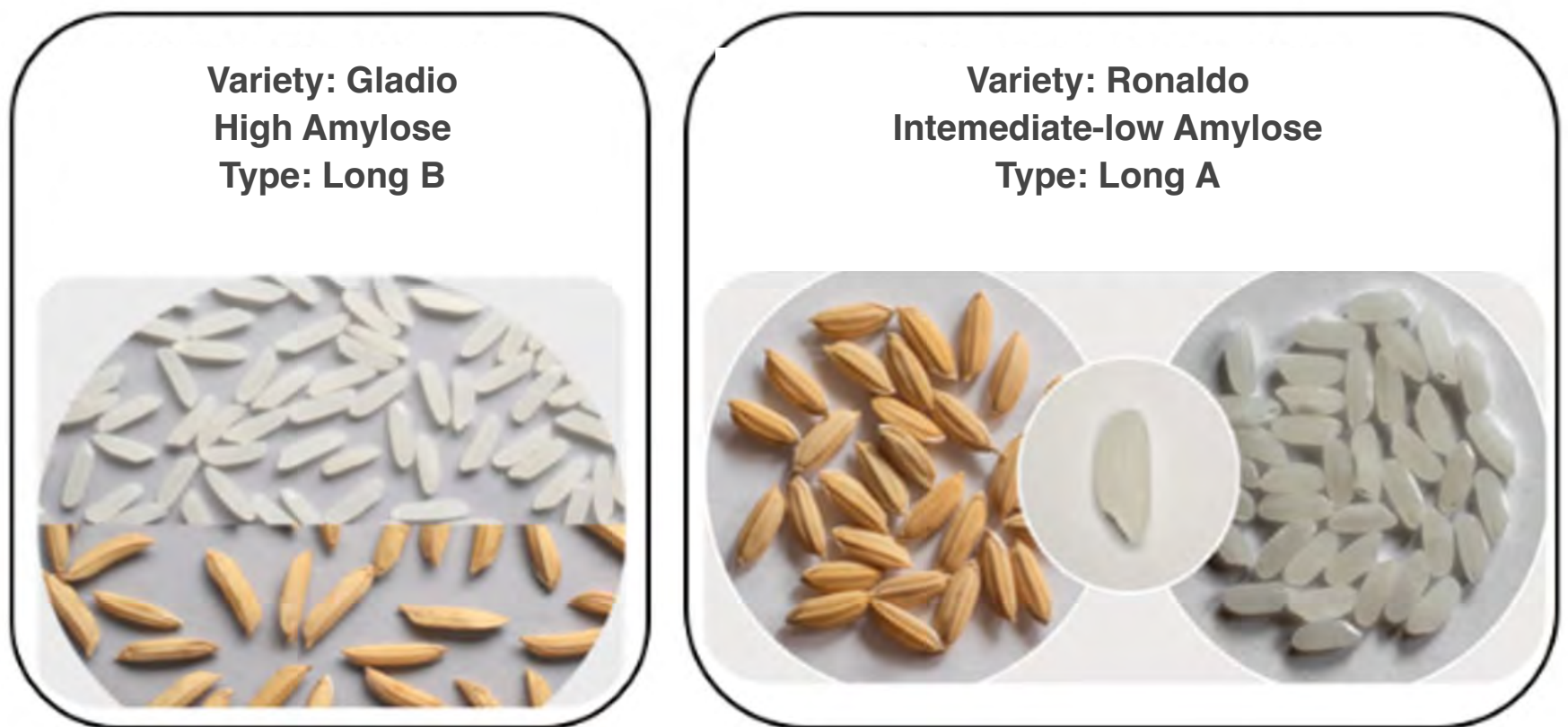
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Figure 1 VARIETIES OF RICE, GLADIO AND RONALDO



quality. The application of innovative whole grain milling techniques such as micronisation, and physical separation technologies such as the air classification of flours (turbo-separation), help address most of the technological and sensory issues of the whole grain product. In particular, micronisation applied to the entire caryopsis makes it possible to obtain whole grain flour whose very fine grain size improves the quality characteristics from the technological and sensory standpoint. Using air classification, on the other hand, exploiting different particle sizes and density, two or more fractions with different particle sizes can be obtained from the flours, diversified also on the basis of the proportion of

bioactive compounds beneficial for health that they contain – such as antioxidants and dietary fibre – which can, in turn, be used to enrich refined flours. These technologies, based exclusively on physical methods, have been used at the Research Centre for Agri-Food Engineering and Transformation in Rome (CREA-IT) to produce rice pastas, without the addition of other ingredients, from two rice cultivars of the *japonica* subspecies having different amylose contents, Gladio (high) and Ronaldo (medium-low) (Biselli et al., 2019) ([Figure 1](#)). This study made it possible to assess the effects of amylose content and technological process on the nutritional properties of the raw materials and pastas, on which cooking quality and



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starch hydrolysis index were also evaluated.

Materials and methods

The brown rice grains of the Gladio and Ronaldo varieties were subjected to the parboiling process, which involved conditioning in water for 4 hours until a moisture content of 15-16% was reached, and then steaming at $120 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$, 2.1 bar for 10 minutes. The steamed grains were dried at 30°C for 48 hours until a moisture content of 11% was reached. A part of the parboiled whole grain was milled using the LABORMILL 4RB (BONA, Monza, Italy) to obtain refined flour, while the remainder was micronised by the KMX-500 device (Separ Microsystem, Brescia, Italy) at a frequency of 170 Hz, to obtain whole grain flour. The micronised whole grain flours were fractionated using an air classifier (Separ Microsystem, Brescia, Italy) in order to obtain two fractions, coarse (G) and fine (F). Two pasta formulations were produced for each variety of rice: (i) 100% micronised whole grain flour; (ii) 85% refined flour + 15% F fraction. The pasta-making process was carried out using an experimental press (NAMAD, Rome, Italy) with a capacity of up to 20 kg/h, equipped with a Teflon-coated extruder with 164 holes, 1.80 mm in diameter, to produce spaghetti

(1.65 mm in diameter) under the following conditions: 15 minutes of kneading in a vacuum chamber (1 bar) at a temperature of 50°C and screw extrusion speed 42 rpm. The pasta was then dried horizontally, to avoid deformation of the gluten-free spaghetti strands, in an experimental dryer (AFREM, Lyon, France) for 18 hours, applying a low-temperature cycle ($T_{\text{max}}=58^\circ\text{C}$) and a progressive decrease in the relative humidity from 85% to 70% during the entire drying process. The final moisture content of the dried spaghetti was 12.5%. The diagram of the processes applied is shown in [Figure 2](#).

Results and discussions

In both cultivars used, the brown rice, parboiled brown rice, micronised whole grain flour and the G fraction showed no significant differences in total starch content, which was, on average, approx. 80%, while the F fraction of both varieties had lower total starch values (approx. 70%). This could be explained by the fractionation mechanism applied by the turbo-separator, which led to a different distribution of starch and fibres between the particles of different sizes. In particular, the larger or heavier particles (G fraction) were richer in starch and poorer in fibre, while the smaller or lighter particles (F

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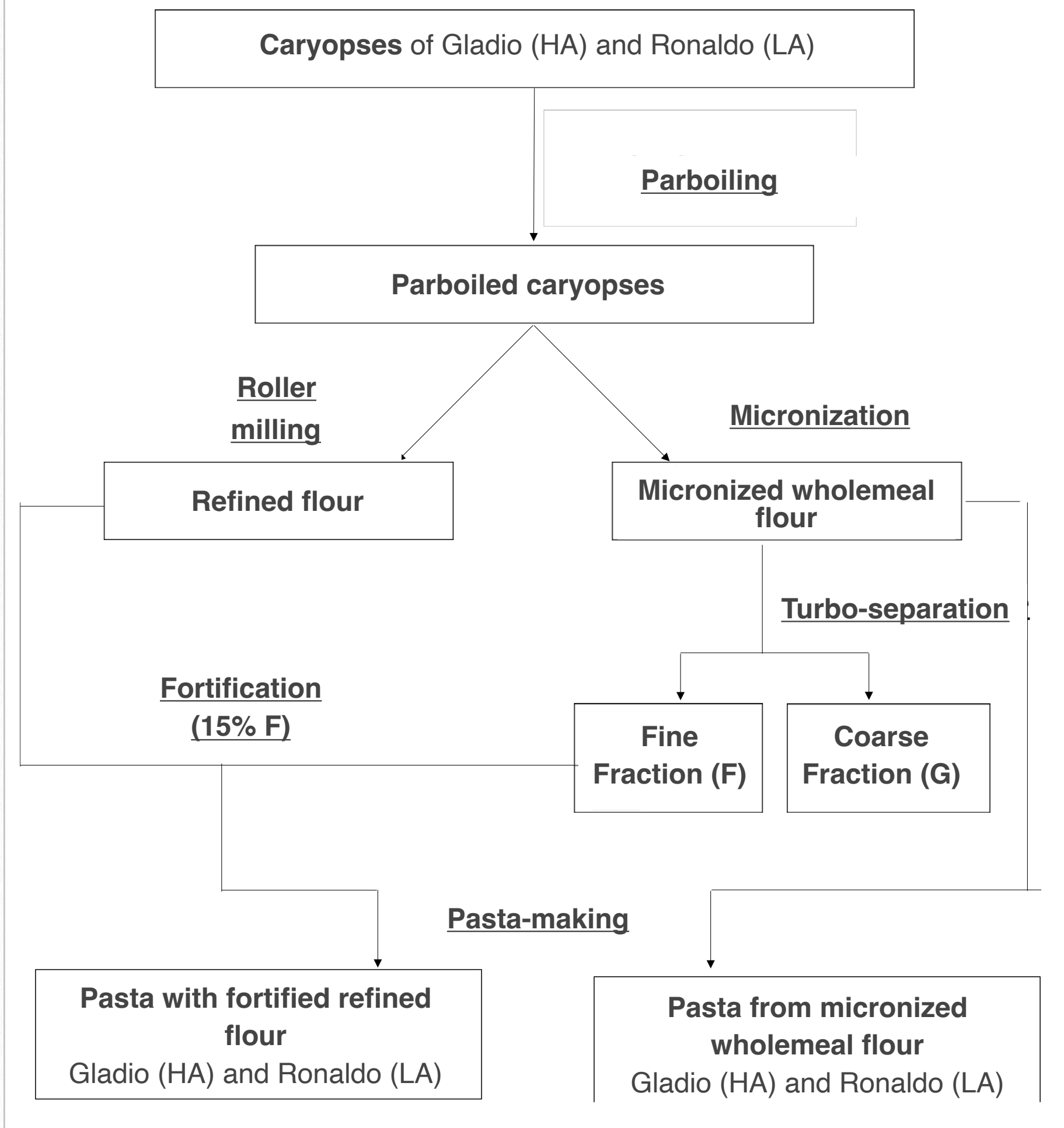
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Figure 2 DIAGRAM OF THE RICE PASTA PRODUCTION PROCESS



fraction) were richer in fibre and poorer in starch. Further analyses of the turbo-separated fractions showed that the

F fraction was richer in proteins, bioactive compounds and antioxidants. It was, therefore, selected to improve the

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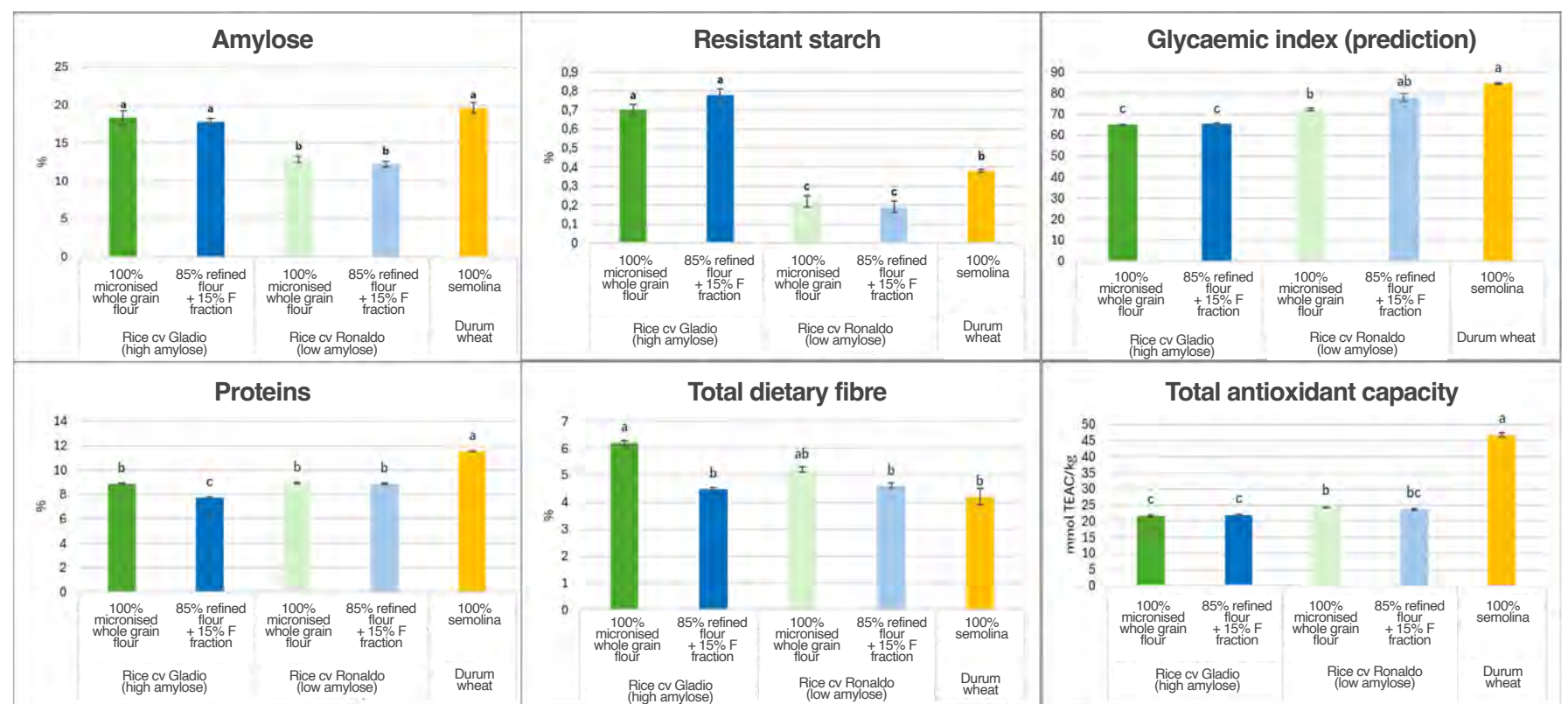


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Figure 3 NUTRITIONAL PROPERTIES OF THE RICE PASTAS

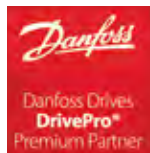


nutritional potential of rice pasta, obtained using the traditional durum wheat pasta-making process in the Centre’s pilot plants. In particular, enrichment with 15% of the F fraction of refined rice flour was considered a good compromise to improve the nutritional aspects without harming the palatability of the final product. For each rice variety, Gladio and Ronaldo, two pasta formulations were made: one from 100% whole grain flour obtained through micronisation, and the other from refined rice flour enriched with 15% of the F (fine) fraction (Figure 2). These two pasta formulations differ from the rice pastas available on the market in the “unconventional” technological processes used to produce them and due

to the fact that they are enriched in fibre and antioxidants with fractions of flour selected from the milling of the rice itself. The analysis of the amylose and resistant starch content (Figure 3) revealed no differences between the two pasta formulations of the same variety, although both pasta samples of the Gladio variety (high amylose) showed significantly higher amylose and resistant starch values than those obtained from the Ronaldo variety (medium-low amylose), confirming the positive correlation between amylose and resistant starch content. The protein content (Figure 3) did not differ significantly between the two pasta formulations either, although the pasta of the Gladio variety, made from refined rice



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flour enriched with the F-fraction, contained about 1 percentage point less than that made from the micronised flour (7.7 vs 8.9 % dry weight). It is, however, interesting to note that the addition of 15% of the F fraction, the richest in protein (9.8% in Gladio and 8.9% in Ronaldo), led to an increase in the protein content of the refined rice flour and the pasta derived from it. In contrast, the two types of pasta showed differences in fibre content ([Figure 3](#)); in particular, the pastas obtained from the micronised flour had a higher fibre content than those enriched with the F fraction. In fact, although the F fraction was the richest in fibre among the flours obtained (about 12% in Gladio and 8% in Ronaldo), the 15% enrichment did not reach the fibre content present in the Gladio (6.2%) and Ronaldo (5.2%) micronised flours. It should be noted, however, that the fibre content of the pastas enriched with the F fraction was 4.5%, a score that could justify the food being defined as a “source of fibre”. The antioxidant activity ([Figure 3](#)) measured on the two types of pasta showed no differences, indicating that the

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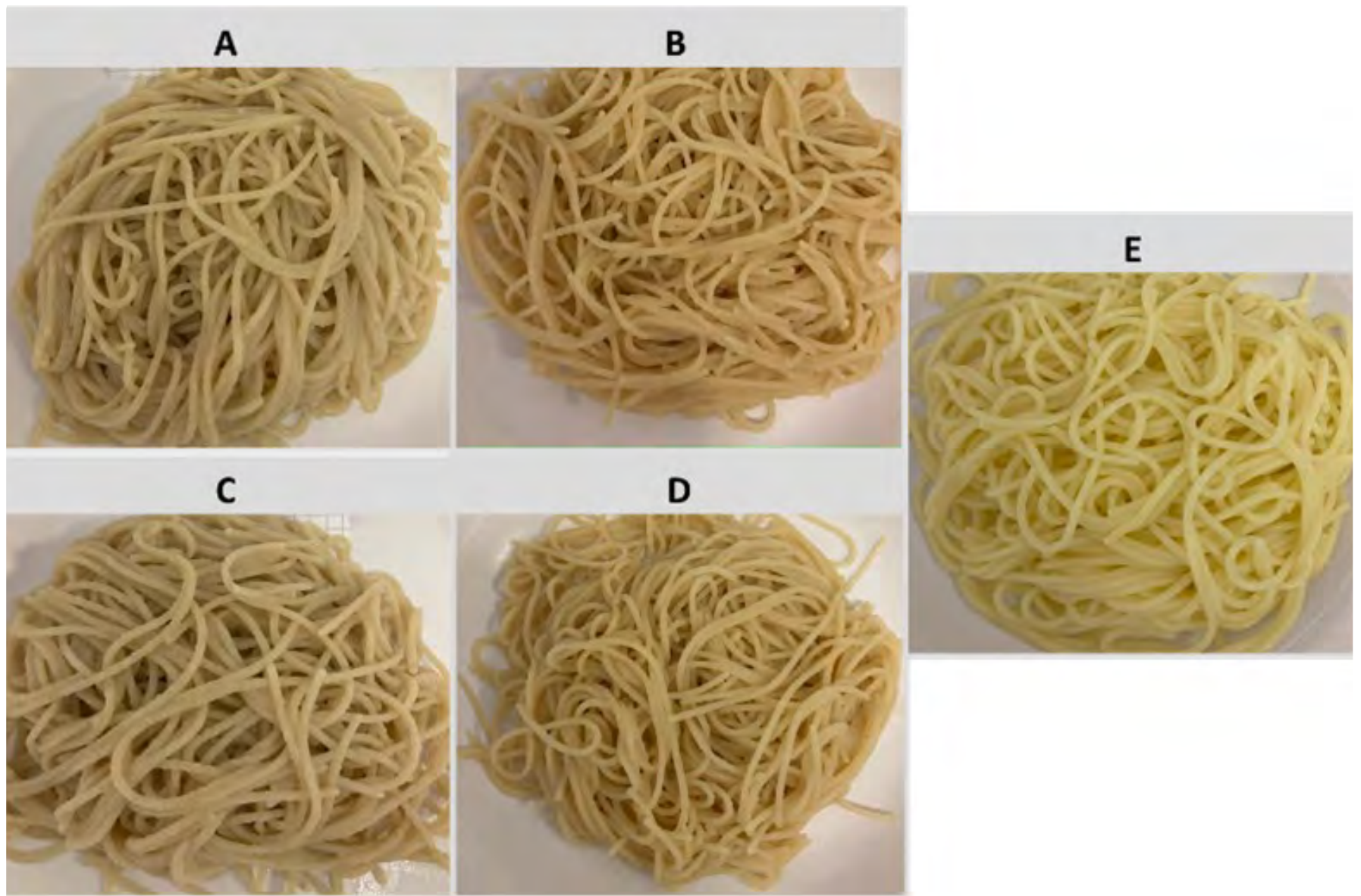
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Figure 4 COOKED RICE PASTAS: 85% REFINED FLOUR + 15% F FRACTION FROM GLADIO (A) AND RONALDO (B); 100% MICRONISED WHOLE GRAIN FLOUR FROM GLADIO (C) AND RONALDO (D); DURUM WHEAT SEMOLINA PASTA (E)



enrichment with 15% of the F fraction enabled the refined flour to reach antioxidant capacity values comparable to those of the micronised whole grain flour. The pastas were also evaluated for ash content, which, in all four pasta samples, was found to be within the Italian legal limit for whole durum wheat pasta (1.8%). Additionally, all the rice spaghetti produced in this study showed yellow indexes (b^*) between 23 and 26, which are also considered good for semolina pasta;

this excellent result is probably due to the Maillard reaction that occurred following parboiling; moreover, this hydrothermal treatment, together with the presence of the bran layers, increased the brown and red index values in the two rice pasta formulations compared to those found in durum wheat semolina pasta. Both pastas did, however, exhibit a similar colour to durum wheat pasta, a characteristic that is highly appreciated by regular pasta consumers ([Figure 4](#)).

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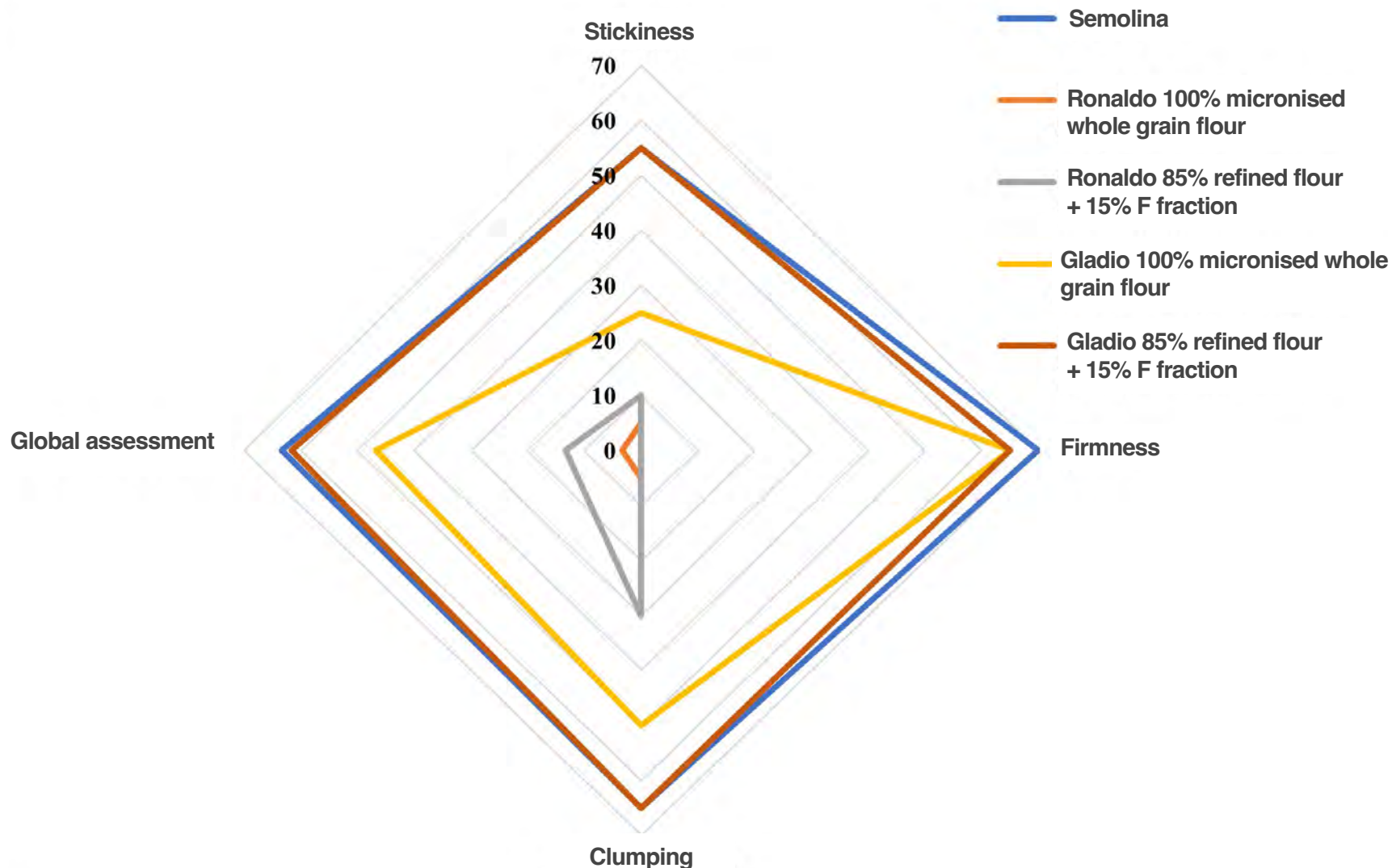
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Figure 5 SENSORY ANALYSIS OF THE RICE PASTAS



The cooking quality of the pastas was also evaluated in comparison to that of semolina pasta. The optimal cooking time, assessed as the time required for the central core of the spaghetti to disappear, was significantly higher in semolina pasta (10'30") than in rice pasta (8'50" in micronised whole grain flour pasta and 8'15" in pasta enriched with the F fraction). The shorter cooking times of the rice pastas are due to the absence of gluten and the presence of fibre, which has the capacity to absorb water faster than gluten proteins. Furthermore, in both varieties, the amount of water absorbed

during cooking by the pasta obtained from micronised whole grain flour was approximately half of that absorbed by the pasta obtained from the refined flour enriched with the F fraction. This behaviour is attributable to the higher presence of starch, which has the capacity to retain more water than fibre. Moreover, due to the absence of the glutinic network, both rice pastas demonstrated a greater loss of organic matter during cooking than semolina pasta, a loss that was particularly evident in the pastas derived from the Ronaldo variety.



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Table 1 NUTRITIONAL CONTENT AND GLYCAEMIC INDEX OF THE 4 RICE PASTA FORMULATIONS AND THE CONTROL SEMOLINA PASTA FORMULATION

Samples	Pasta formulations	Amylose (%)	Resistant starch	Proteins (%)	Fibre (%)	Antioxidant capacity (mmol TEAC/kg)	Glycaemic index (prediction)
Rice cv Gladio (high amylose)	100% micronised whole grain flour	18.3±0.9 ^a	0.7 ±0.03 ^a	8.86±0.06 ^b	6.2±0.1 ^a	21.7±0.3 ^c	65.0±0.2 ^c
Rice cv Gladio (high amylose)	85% refined flour + 15% F fraction	17.8±0.4 ^a	0.78±0.03 ^a	7.73±0.04 ^c	4.49±0.04 ^b	22.0±0.2 ^c	65.3±0.6 ^c
Rice cv Ronaldo (low amylose)	100% micronised whole grain flour	12.8±0.4 ^b	0.22 ±0.03 ^c	8.94±0.07 ^b	5.2±0.1 ^{ab}	24.4±0.1 ^b	72.2±0.6 ^b
Rice cv Ronaldo (low amylose)	85% refined flour + 15% F fraction	12.2 ±0.4 ^b	0.19±0.03 ^c	8.87±0.04 ^b	4.6±0.1 ^b	23.6±0.3 ^{bc}	78±2 ^{ab}
Durum wheat	100 % semolina	19.6±0.7 ^a	0.38 ±0.01 ^b	11.55±0.03 ^a	4.2±0.3 ^b	46.8±0.6 ^a	84.7±0.3 ^a

The sensory analysis of the pastas was carried out by evaluating the three parameters related to the technological quality of the pasta such as stickiness, firmness and clumping, assigning each a score from 1 to 100 (Figure 5). The pastas produced with the Gladio variety obtained better ratings for all three parameters analysed, highlighting the importance of choosing the right variety when striving to obtain the characteristics appreciated by consumers. In fact, the higher amount of

amylose and resistant starch in the Gladio variety proved to be responsible for its sensory characteristics, influencing its tensile strength, i.e. the firmness of the pasta. Furthermore, the pastas obtained from enrichment with the F fraction scored higher in terms of stickiness and clumping compared to those obtained from the micronised whole grain flour. The predicted glycaemic index was also determined on the cooked pasta – extrapolated from the starch hydrolysis

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values. (Table 1). All the rice pastas showed lower hydrolysis indices and, consequently, lower predicted glycaemic indices than semolina pasta. Furthermore, the pastas of the Gladio variety showed a lower glycaemic index than those of the Ronaldo variety, indicating that a high amylose content, as reflected in a higher proportion of resistant starch following parboiling, results in a lower glycaemic index (Panlasigui et al., 1991). In fact, by inducing the crystallisation of amylose, the parboiling process limits the access of the hydrolytic enzymes to the starches, thereby lowering the glycaemic index.

Conclusions

The results of this study highlighted the importance for the production of rice pasta of the amylose content in the raw grain, not only due to its effects on the technological and sensory quality of the pasta, but also to its nutritional quality, since amylose correlates with resistant starch and the glycaemic index.

In addition to the characteristics of the raw materials, the technological processes applied also played a role in the technological and sensory characteristics of the pasta. In particular, the parboiling resulted in an increase in the proportion of resistant starch, and enrichment with the F

fraction obtained from the turbo-separation process resulted in a rice pasta with superior sensory characteristics than those of the pasta obtained from the micronised whole grain flour and with comparable nutritional properties.

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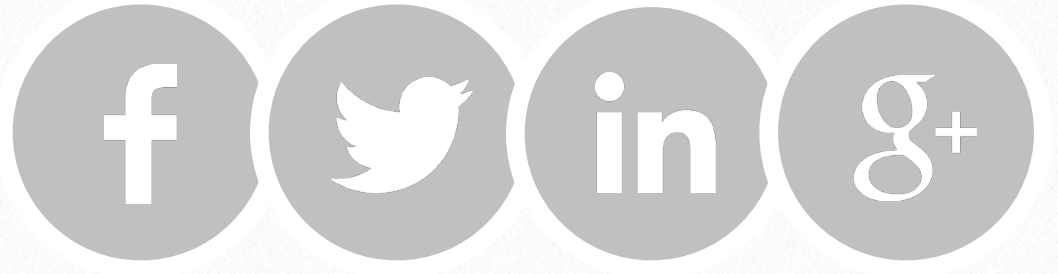
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4



Innovation takes centre stage at the GEA Open Day

Editorial team



Great turnout at the Technology Centre in Galliera Veneta, where GEA's latest fresh pasta technologies won over industry professionals.

On 6 December 2024, the GEA Technology Centre in Galliera Veneta (Padua) hosted an Open Day that attracted a large turnout of pasta producers and industry professionals. The event was an important meeting point, with the aim of presenting the latest fresh pasta technology innovations and of sharing visions of the future of food production.

The Open Day saw participants explore state of the art solutions developed to optimise quality, efficiency and sustainability in production processes. Among the most popular technologies, innovations for filled pasta, such as telescopic bushes and desmodromic knurling wheels, showed how it is possible to improve precision and reliability in product shaping, while the vacuum system

for soft fillings demonstrated its potential for preserving the consistency and freshness of the ingredients. These technologies were illustrated by Simone Bertoncello, Fresh Pasta Sales Area Manager of GEA.

Another very interesting moment was the in-depth study dedicated to the microbiology of fresh pasta, during which Stefano Zardetto, food technologist, analysed the main biological risks and the technologies developed to ensure hygiene in production processes. The session highlighted how attention to food safety can be integrated with advanced technological solutions.

One of the most revolutionary innovations to stand out during the event was the presentation of microwave pasteurisation





technologies. This system, presented by Simone Bertoncello, was designed to significantly improve the quality of fresh pasta, while reducing energy consumption and environmental impact. Participants were able to attend practical demonstrations that highlighted the versatility and efficiency of these solutions. Mirko Valeri and Fabio Anselmi, Sales Engineers of GEA, presented integrated solutions for preparing fillings and for packaging fresh pasta, showing how these technologies can optimise the entire production process.

The guided tour of the Technology Centre offered a comprehensive overview of the complete plants, forming machines and

integrated packaging systems. This immersive experience allowed visitors to see first-hand how the technologies work and to better understand their application potential.

The wide participation and enthusiasm shown by the pasta producers and the industry partners confirm the importance of investing in research and development to address future challenges and promote an increasingly sustainable and innovative approach to food production.

GEA thanks all participants for contributing to the success of the initiative and renews its commitment to leading the technological evolution of the sector.



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5



Commodity price observatory 1/2025

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Pastaria's four-monthly feature on the prices of the main raw materials used by pasta manufacturers.

Agricultural and food markets will continue to be vulnerable in the coming months to a number of exogenous factors, predominantly involving geopolitical, climate and energy risks. Even though according to a recent World Bank projection, international prices of soft commodities, a segment that includes all the agricultural raw materials, seem to be heading for a moderate decline in 2025. Although price increases are less likely in the scenarios outlined by the analysts, some might crop up due to supply shortages resulting from new heat waves and the trade-off between the production of energy or food. Moreover, potential trade tensions, in the event of harsher tariffs being imposed by the US, might bring about inflationary pressure, while the potentially bearish scenario is mostly associated with the less destabilising weather pattern of La Niña, which is expected to have less impact on the yields of the upcoming harvests, bringing rainfall, above all to the Asian belt.

Oil and natural gas prices, under pressure since the beginning of this year, could push up fertiliser prices, triggering second-round effects on food commodity prices.

Nonetheless, projections factor in a foreseeable 4% drop for food commodities as a whole in 2025, and a subsequent stabilisation phase the year after.

Wheat – according to the experts – should close the year's finances with a further reduction of approx. two percentage points, while corn should fall by no more than 1%, against the 6% reduction expected for soya, in anticipation of another maxi-harvest on a global scale. Beef is up, having already benefited from price increases in 2024, while a slight decrease is expected for poultry and pork cuts.

In the meantime, the data confirm the disinflationary path in progress, with the FFPI (FAO Food Price Index) – the indicator that summarises the price trends of the main agricultural and food commodities – falling by 0.5% in December, closing the year with an average drop of 2.1%, compared to 2023. The main commodities monitored by the United Nations agency show divergent trends: sugar fell sharply in December (-5.1%) and averaged a double-digit annual decline of 13.2%, due to the increase in

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PRICES AND TRENDS OF CERTAIN FOOD RAW MATERIALS (DECEMBER 2024)

	Price (€/ton)	Monthly variation	Annual variation	Forecast
National fine common wheat	251.17	3.3%	1.5%	=
	Price (€/ton)	Monthly variation	Annual variation	Forecast
Fine durum wheat from North Italy	317.5	-0.5%	-14.8%	▲
	Price (€/ton)	Monthly variation	Annual variation	Forecast
00 type common wheat flour	520	0%	-8.8%	=
	Price (€/ton)	Monthly variation	Annual variation	Forecast
Semolina above min. leg. req.	592.5	0%	-15.7%	=
	Price (€/ton)	Monthly variation	Annual variation	Forecast
Eggs M	18.35	0.7%	3.6%	▲
	Price (€/100 pcs)	Monthly variation	Annual variation	Forecast
Pork hams for Prosciutto 12 kg and over	5.09	-4.1%	1%	▼
	Price (€/kg)	Monthly variation	Annual variation	Forecast
Beef – veal meat half-carcass, prime quality	6.65	2.9%	-5.9%	▲
	Price (€/kg)	Monthly variation	Annual variation	Forecast
Raw milk	62.65	-6.8%	15.9%	▲
	Price (€/100 kg)	Monthly variation	Annual variation	Forecast
Centrifuged butter	7.72	-4.1%	39.9%	▲
	Price (€/kg)	Monthly variation	Annual variation	Forecast
Grana Padano aged for 9 months or more	10.5	1.9%	19.2%	▲
	Price (€/kg)	Monthly variation	Annual variation	Forecast
Extra virgin olive oil	9.15	10.2%	0.5%	▼
	Price (€/kg)	Monthly variation	Annual variation	Forecast

Source: Centro Studi Economici Pastaria elaboration based on various data sources. Grain, flours and semolina: Granaria, Bologna; Eggs: CCIAA, Forlì; Pork and beef: Commodity Exchange, Modena; Milk, butter and Grana Padano: Commodity Market, Milan; Olive oil: CCIAA, Bari.

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FAO Food Price Index	Price (2014-2016=100)	Monthly variation	Annual variation	Forecast
	127	-0.5%	6.6%	▼
Hard Red Winter US Gulf port	Price (USD/ton)	Monthly variation	Annual variation	Forecast
	252,17	-0.6%	-13.4%	▲
Mais, U.S. No. 2 Yellow FOB US Gulf port	Price (USD/ton)	Monthly variation	Annual variation	Forecast
	202,6	0.6%	-1.9%	=

Fao Food Price Index, Hard Red Winter, Mais: December 2024

global supply and the depreciation of the Brazilian real. After an upward trend of seven consecutive months, dairy products fell back in December but only by a fractional 0.7%, with prices remaining 4.7% higher than the 2023 average. Although slightly decreasing, vegetable oils closed the twelve-month period with an average increase of 9.4%, driven by palm oil, a commodity affected by the low supply pressure from Indonesia and Malaysia. While in the cereals sector, the final result was minus 13.3%, in a market characterised by lower imbalances than in 2023 and by strong competitive pressures, especially from Russia, which prevailed over European grains, especially French grains, in North African outlets. In Italy, wheat prices exhibited a slightly stronger trend between the end of 2024 and the beginning of the new year,

reflecting in the price listings of national stock exchanges the cyclical increases recorded in the major international markets. Durum wheat also recovered a little, thanks to a good order trend from industry, but the market appears to be well supplied, with the latest indications from the International Grains Council showing a 12% increase in production worldwide, thanks, predominantly, to the better North American harvests. With regard to Canadian grains, quotations are expected to decrease by over 20% on average compared to the last trade year. The same dynamic applies for US durum wheats, following the sharp increase in production recently confirmed by the US Department of Agriculture, with a forecast of 2.2 million tonnes, in addition to Ottawa's 5.9 million. Several critical issues do, however, still exist, starting with dairy products and



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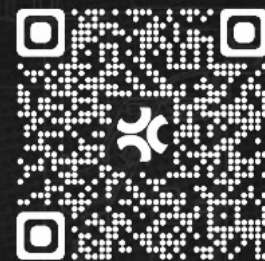
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vegetable oils. In Italy, despite the strong increase in production expected in Spain, extra virgin olive oil prices remain well above the €9 per kilo threshold, but a gradual easing of tensions is likely, notwithstanding the disappointing harvest in Apulia and low stocks throughout Europe.

Supply shortages are also expected to keep butter prices under pressure at already exceptionally high levels, but price increases could spread to other commodities in the sector, particularly milk powders, due to Asian demand pressure. In Europe, meanwhile, the macroeconomic environment remains uncertain. Stagnation in the Eurozone and the negative mood among industrialists are reflected in a GDP growth of only a few tenths of a point according to analysts' forecasts, projected at 0.5% in Italy, a figure sustained mainly by National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) interventions. Weak international demand, compounded by a possible worsening of trade relations between the US and China, is limiting prospects for expansion. However, the depreciation of the euro could give Italian exports an edge, even if inflation remains a critical variable, particularly in view of a possible tightening of tariffs that could spread from the US to Europe and to several Asian countries. On the domestic front,

notwithstanding a slowing down of the cost of living, household purchasing power is still the weakest link. This is also evident in the low confidence indices and the weakness of final consumption, which have put various industrial sectors in difficulty, starting with the automotive industry.

As far as inflation is concerned, after an extraordinary comeback in 2024, which closed with a 1.3% trend in Italy, there may be a recovery in 2025, assuming an increase in energy prices and the persistence of a euro-dollar exchange rate close to parity, which would raise the cost of imported goods.

Against such a backdrop, FMCGs, including pasta, would still be subject to pressure from large-scale distribution, which would increase the use of sales promotions. In this regard, it should be noted that the latest inflation data from ISTAT, updated to December, confirm the twelfth consecutive month of deflation for pasta, with the year-end figure showing a consumer price decrease of around 4%.

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6



Anselmo Group welcomes a new company

Press release



Automatic production line for long dry pasta by Anselmo

Facchini Impianti, a historic supplier of fresh pasta machines and systems, joins the Group founded by Uberto Selvatico Estense.

Anselmo Group, a recognised leader in the food industry systems sector, is pleased to announce the entry of Facchini Impianti into its organisation. This new milestone marks an important step forward in the Group's expansion and innovation strategy, further strengthening its market position and representing an important opportunity to further enhance its offer of innovative and state of the art solutions in the sector.

Facchini Impianti, which has operated in the world of fresh pasta machines for 65 years, brings with it a wealth of experience and expertise that will fit in perfectly with the mission of the Anselmo Group.

Merging these forces promises to create unique synergies and growth opportunities for both customers and employees.

The founder and CEO of Anselmo Group, Uberto Selvatico Estense, stated: "We are extremely happy to welcome Facchini Impianti to our Group. This acquisition not only allows us to combine skills and resources, enriching our value proposition, but also allows us to offer our customers an even more complete and innovative service."

The entry of Facchini Impianti also represents an opportunity to explore new markets and develop state of the art products, in line with the growing needs of fresh pasta producers.

With a shared vision and a common mission, Anselmo Group and Facchini Impianti are ready to embark on a path of sustainable and responsible growth. The product range includes kneading machines, sheeters and extruders, cutting devices, dough sheeting machines, single and double sheet forming machines as well as heat treatment lines that include pasteurisers, linear, multi-level or spiral dryers and coolers, in addition to cookers for sheet and filled pasta.

Furthermore, Facchini Impianti personnel will be integrated into the Anselmo team, ensuring operational continuity and the sharing of best practices. The Group's corporate culture, focused on innovation and the valorisation of people, will remain a strong point for tackling future challenges.

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7



Alò Puglia: a story of family, quality, and innovation

Maria Antonietta Dessì



From Mario Alò's intuition to international growth: how a family business has embraced innovation while staying true to its artisanal roots.

The Alò family like to underline that their company is driven by their values - family, hard work and their identity as Italians. When you hear them tell their story, you realise that it could not be otherwise. The pasta factory was founded in 1991 based on an idea of Mario and Assunta Alò, who were chefs at the time, and who started off with a pastry shop. Only later, when they realised the need for cooking in the restaurant industry, did they acquire a fresh pasta shop as well and continue on both fronts. The year 1996 witnessed an important step forward: their first approach towards distributing their products at regional level, in particular to restaurants.

Slaving all day over a hot stove, the Alò family were well aware of the needs of a cook, overwhelmed by a thousand different tasks. And they wanted to give concrete answers to those needs, also because, in so doing, they were convinced that they would be able to penetrate a segment of the market that was still under-served at the time. So they increased their production of both dried and frozen pasta, and reduced their pastry sector. But, most important of all, they began, with great conviction, to offer frozen products at a time when they were still strongly stigmatised. To this day, with the support of IIAS – the Italian Institute of Frozen Food – the Alò pasta



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factory seeks to dispel the most frequent objections to this method of preservation, by debunking a number of false and negative beliefs. Cold is, in fact, the only natural preservative that enables us to have a healthy diet even without seasonality, saves time in the kitchen, helps reduce waste and guarantees that nutritional values remain intact and complete, even after months.

The target market is still the restaurant industry, which the Alò family have never abandoned, remaining faithful to the reason for which they founded their company, over 30 years ago. It is no coincidence that their pasta packages are 500 grams or 1 kilo,

and their total company production is approx. 1,500 kilograms per day.

The shapes produced include both plain and filled pasta, and some of them are handmade. The company catalogue varies according to the season, especially with regard to fillings. Truffles alternate with shellfish, mushrooms, porcini, ricotta and spinach, pumpkin and pecorino or broccoli rabe. But the shapes and colours of the pasta also vary, and in some cases are really bright and striking. The dimensions of the filled pasta are also remarkable. With pieces of up to 60 grams each, some packages are a riot of shapes and colours, with sometimes even more than one colour

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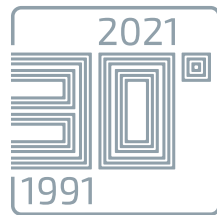
on a single pasta sheet. Their dishes are not only delicious, but they also remain impressed on the imagination thanks to their unique appearance. A surefire success for a business – particularly a restaurant – that strives to stand out from the rest. The year 2011 marked another important step for the company: it moved from Castellana Grotte to Monopoli, and here, on its new premises, it began marketing its products abroad. Its first customer, Great Britain, was soon followed by other markets and today Alò pasta is sold in Germany, Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Greece, the United States and Singapore. The channel

is still the same: food service for restaurants and importers serving the Hotel, Restaurant, and Catering industry. The company does not work with large scale distribution or shops in general. But the year that impacted the Alò family the most was 2017, with the untimely loss of the head of the family and founder of the company, a devastating blow for everyone. The contribution of Mario Alò, to whom a pasta line is dedicated today, was not limited to the brainwave to start the company. He was the *deus ex machina* of the pasta factory, the person and the professional figure who, notwithstanding the importance of the organisation,

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Francesca and Stefano Alò

continued to represent the commercial and administrative heart of the business. But in a company that identifies with family in so many ways, this painful loss drove them to do more and to do better, just as Mario would have wanted.

So the years that followed were, even more so, years of investment, participation in international trade fairs, sales promotion, and certifications important for foreign markets, such as IFS or FDA. Although this kind of development might have brought with it the temptation to expand to the point of losing sight of the local dimension, the

Alò management has held fast to its family values, handcrafted products and quality. Stefano Alò is sales manager, his sisters Anna and Francesca deal with administration, his brother-in-law Umberto Colonna heads production while his wife Claudia Di Niso is in charge of quality. His mother Assunta also continues to make a valuable contribution, as do several employees, some of whom have worked with the Alò family for decades. Not only does Alò Puglia pasta look homemade, but it really makes you feel at home!



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