

Original Research Article

<https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2017.608.118>

Standardization of Gluten Free Chickpea Flour Based Cake Mix by Using Response Surface Methodology

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

Celiac disease,
Chickpea flour,
Cake mix,
Response Surface
Methodology
(RSM).

Article Info

Accepted:
14 June 2017
Available Online:
10 August 2017

Gluten free food products are important dietary supplements for persons suffering from celiac disease. Although cakes are high calorie foods, they are low in protein. Hence it was envisaged to develop high protein gluten free cake suitable for celiac patients and also for the general population as a good source of protein. The objective of this study was to develop gluten free cake mix using dehulled chickpea flour (50 to 80 g/100g), barnyard millet flour (0 to 30 g/100g) and corn flour (20 to 30 g/100g) by response surface methodology. Regression equations describing the effect of each variable on the response were obtained. The results showed that the cake weight, specific volume, cake density, overall acceptability score, protein and fiber content varied from 234.04 - 238.12 g, 1.582 - 1.882 cm³/g, 0.555 - 0.642 g/cm³, 7.15 to 7.5/9.0, 14.79 - 23.87 and 3.94 - 5.8 g per 100 g of gluten free cake respectively, depending on the experimental condition. The optimum flour combination for development of gluten free cake mix was 64.85 g of chickpea flour, 30 g of barnyard millet flour and 5.15 g of corn flour based on the evaluation of physical, sensory evaluation and nutritional characteristics.

Introduction

Celiac Disease (CD) is associated with intolerance to the intake of foods containing gluten and causes damage to the surface of the intestinal mucosa, which leads to an inability to use nutrients (Valentina *et al.*, 2010). The main agents responsible for celiac disease are gluten proteins from wheat and similar proteins in other closely related cereals such as barley, rye and oats (Kasarda, 2001; Kathrin *et al.*, 2017).

Celiac disease is a specific disorder which affects intestinal absorption of nutrients and the only treatment is a strict adherence to a gluten free diet (Boye *et al.*, 2010). Most of

starch based with the addition of different types of hydrocolloids. Also, the gluten free formulations contain gums as gluten replacements and generally lack in dietary fibers and other essential nutrients (Sadaf *et al.*, 2016). Therefore it is very important to develop gluten free foods with high nutritional value. The addition of legumes and pulses to other cereal-based products could be a good alternative for increasing the protein value with the added advantage of the supplementary value of cereal and pulse proteins.

Among the commonly consumed pulses, chickpea (*Cicer arietinum*) is an important source of protein, carbohydrate and minerals, particularly to the population groups of developing nations. Chickpea contains 21.1 g protein, 3.1 g fat, 53.4 g carbohydrate, 11.1 g fiber and 5.9 g ash, 360 mg - Ca, 315 mg - P, 8.2 mg - Fe, 5.4 mg - Zn, 5.4 mg - Mn, 1.1 mg - Cu and 490 - kcal per 100 g (Dimitrios, 2006, Khan *et al.*, 2010).

Chickpea presents good balance of amino acids, relatively low levels of antinutritional factors and better bioavailability of proteins. Major carbohydrate portion of chickpea is starch that represents nearly 83.9 % of the total carbohydrate (El-Adawy, 2002) and is also rich in vitamins and minerals (Wood and Grusak, 2007). Pulses also provide a wide range of phytochemicals including antioxidants and phytosterols which are beneficial to health.

The use of cereals/leguminous blend may be nutritionally convenient in cake manufacturing. The use of pulses/non wheat flour as an alternate for wheat flour may affect the viscoelastic properties of normal wheat flour dough. This could be compensated by addition of viscoelastic property compounds in gluten free products in order to improve nutritional quality, structure, mouth feel, acceptability and shelf life (Korus *et al.*, 2006).

Sabanis *et al.*, (2006) noticed that, gluten free dough with chickpea flour presented protein contents that ranged between 13.0 and 18.36 %. While, Duranti (2006) reported that the protein level in chickpea added to gluten free dough might be considered as nutraceutical properties attributed to legume proteins.

Response surface methodology (RSM) which involves design of experiments, selection of levels of variables in experimental designs,

fitting mathematical models and finally selecting variables levels by optimizing the response was employed in the study (Nithya *et al.*, 2016). Using Design Expert software, RSM can be performed for optimization of product ingredients. Along with optimization, RSM was also used to find the effect of correlation between the inputs on the response. Wherein more than one response can be studied (Josephine *et al.*, 2014).

The objective of the present work was aimed at developing gluten free eggless ready to bake cake mix from chickpea, barnyard millet and corn flour. Therefore, this study was undertaken to investigate the relationship and interaction between the quantity of raw ingredients and its impact on the physical, sensory and nutritional characteristics of the product.

Materials and Methods

The commercially available chickpea flour (CPF); barnyard millet flour (BF) and corn flour (CF) and other ingredients were obtained from local market of Madurai, Tamil Nadu. Xanthan gum as gluten replacer was (M/s. Jan Enterprises, Chennai) used in the formulation of gluten free cake mix. All the dry ingredients were mixed and sieved in a BS 60 mesh without addition of water and refined oil. The known weight of each cake mix (300 g) was packed in air tight polyethylene pouch and stored in room condition ($30\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$) for development of cake and for further studies.

Preparation of cake from cake mix

The cake was prepared as per the single-bowl mixing procedure. All ingredients were mixed at speed 6 using a cake blender for duration of 10 min. The cake dough was developed from cake mix with addition of 120 ml of drinking water and it was blended at speed 6 using a

kitchen level professional mixer per 150 g of cake mix. After blending, 25 ml of refined oil was added into the blended mix and further blended for 2 minutes. Known quantity of the weighed dough was poured into the greased aluminum baking pans (15x7.5x7.5 cm) and baked. Baking for each sample was conducted in a laboratory baking oven with air circulation at 180°C for 30 min. The loaves were removed from the pans, cooled at room temperature and packed.

Physical characteristics

The weight of the gluten free cake samples were weighed before and after baking by using Avery Balance having a capacity of 2 kg (AACC method, 2000).

The specific volume (cm³/g) of the cake was determined as the ratio of the loaf volume (seed displacement method described by Wang *et al.*, 2002) of cake to the weight of the cake. Cake density was determined by dividing the weight of cake with loaf volume of cake (Shogren *et al.*, 2003).

Sensory characteristic

Overall acceptability

The developed cake samples were subjected to sensory evaluation using a panel of fifteen semi trained judges for accessing overall acceptability sensory scores on a hedonic score scale of nine points (1 = disliked extremely, 9 = liked extremely). Each taster received one slice of cake as well as a tray containing the coded samples with two digits number (Amerine *et al.*, 1965).

Nutritional characteristics

The gluten free cake was analyzed for protein and fiber as per the standard approved methods of AACC (2000). Crude protein was

determined by the Micro Kjeldahl method using 6.25 as the conversion factor. Crude fiber was determined by acid hydrolysis was determined by Soxhlet extraction method.

Experimental design

In designing this experiment by response surface methodology (RSM), a central composite design was employed. D - Optimal Design (DOD) which was used to study the interaction of process variables by applying RSM (Bezerra, 2008).

The simultaneous effects of independent variables were X₁- CPF (50 to 80 g/100g), X₂ -BMF (0 to 30 g/100g) and X₃ - CF (20 to 30g/100g). The cake ingredients were blended according to the experiment run with addition of fixed quantity level of other ingredients *viz.*, skim milk powder - 10 g, icing sugar - 50 g, xanthan gum - 1.5 g and sodium bi carbonate - 1.5 g per 100 g of each blended cake flour respectively.

Six dependent variables were selected as responses for representing the main parameters of cake quality namely physical characteristics (weight, specific volume and cake density), sensory characteristics in term of overall acceptability (OAA) score and nutrient content which include protein and fiber. The Design Expert 6.0.8 software was used to generate the special cubic model that fit the experimental data, to draw the response surface plots and optimize CPF, BF and CF.

Five levels of each variable were chosen and twelve baking trials were performed for the evaluation of the optimized formulation. Three replicates at the center of the design were used to allow for estimation of the pure error at sum of the square.

The interaction design for independent variables and responses are presented in table

1. The experimental data for each response variable was fitted to the special cubic model. The regression parameters for the equations were calculated based on model. Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was performed to obtain the coefficients of the final equation for better accuracy. Three-dimensional surface plots were drawn to illustrate the interactive effects of independent variables on the single dependent variable, while keeping constant the other variables. All variables of the polynomial regression at a significance level of $p < 0.05$ were included in the model, and the coefficient of determination (R^2) was generated in order to assess the special cubic model (Table 2).

The response surfaces were generated from the equation of the second order polynomial, using the values of each independent variable to the maximum quadratic and linear response. For the best fit of response surface models, R^2 should be at ≥ 0.80 . The R^2 values for these responses were more than 0.80, representing that the regression models fitted excellently. Sin *et al.*, (2006) also suggested that the $R^2 > 0.80$ for a good fit of response model.

Results and Discussion

The interaction between the independent variables and its responses as noted in table 1 were recorded. The values of cake weight, specific volume, cake density, overall acceptability score, protein and fiber content varied from 234.04 - 238.12 g, 1.582 - 1.882 cm^3/g , 0.555 - 0.642 g/cm^3 , 7.15 to 7.5/9.0, 14.79 - 23.87 and 3.94 - 5.8 g per 100 g of gluten free cake respectively.

Response surface plots

Effect of independent variables on cake weight

The relationship between the independent

variable and cake weight is presented in equation - 1 and figure 1. Analysis of variance for each response revealed significant difference ($P < 0.05$) for cake weight, with regard to CPF, BF and CF.

In the present study, the special cubic design was attributed with the independent variables and cake weight. The adjustment of the second order to the weight of cake indicated that corn flour is the variable that most influenced these characteristics.

According to Equation - 1, it can be observed that the binary system of chickpea flour x barnyard millet flour exerted positive influence for increase in cake weight, whereas the binary system of chickpea flour x maize flour and barnyard millet flour x corn flour showed an antagonistic effect and reduced weight of the cake.

$$\text{Cake weight} = 25.89 + 234.05 X_1 + 242.65 X_2 + 234.95 X_3 + 6.11 X_1X_2 - 0.23 X_1X_3 - 0.16 X_2X_3 + 6.58 X_1X_2X_3 \quad (R^2 = 0.99\dots\dots)$$

The combination of highest level of chickpea flour, medium level of millet flour and without addition of corn flour levels of three independent factors resulted in increasing the weight of the cake.

Addition of the above mentioned level of independent variables resulted in the decrease in the cake weight. Manuel *et al.*, (2008) reported that, substitution of chickpea flour with wheat flour in the level of 100, 50 and 0%, had a profound effect on the weight of the baked layer cake from 200 to 183.5, 183.63 and 186.0 g respectively.

Thermal stability of the foam structure in starch cake batters was found to be highly dependent on the presence of unhydrolyzed or slightly hydrolyzed protein of high water solubility (Howard *et al.*, 1968).

Effect of independent variables on specific volume

The relationship between the independent variables and specific volume is mentioned by the equation and figure 2 below. Independent variables had significant effect on the specific volume of cake.

The adjustment of the second order to the specific volume indicated that barnyard millet flour was the variable that most influenced the specific volume of cake.

From the equation 2, it was observed that the binary system chickpea flour x barnyard millet flour and barnyard millet flour x maize flour exerted negative influence on the specific volume of cake.

$$\text{Specific volume} = 0.09 + 1.64 X_1 + 3.07 X_2 + 1.64 X_3 - 2.19 X_1X_2 + 0.96 X_1X_3 - 2.39 X_2X_3 + 2.62 X_1X_2X_3 \quad (R^2 = 0.99\dots\dots)$$

.....2

The cake prepared from the combination in the level of 56.25 to 70 g of chickpea flour, 20 to 30 g of millet flour and 6.25 to 21.5 g level of corn flour had highest specific volume (1.883). In addition, increasing or decreasing the level of corn flour was found to significantly affect the specific volume of cake.

Also, with increase in the level of extruded bean flour from 45 to 75%, significant effect on specific volume and density of the cake were observed by Gomes *et al.*, (2015).

Pulses had maximum total dietary fiber content compared to other food ingredients used (Bassinello *et al.*, 2011; Carvalho *et al.*, 2012), and according to Souza *et al.*, (2013), the fibers were long chain polymers that impair the aeration process of the mass, since they are able to disrupt the structure of the

dough and release the trapped air, responsible for aeration in bakery products such as breads and cakes.

Effect of independent variables on cake density

All the independent variables showed significant effect on the density of the cake.

The relationship between the overall acceptability and independent variables are described in the equation - 3 and figure 3. All the variables exhibited as a special cubic effect and its interaction.

The adjustment of the second order to the cake density indicated that chickpea flour was the variable that most influenced the density of the cake.

Based on the equation - 3, it was observed that the binary system of chickpea flour x barnyard millet flour and tertiary system chickpea flour x barnyard millet flour x maize flour exerted negative influence on the density of the cake.

$$\text{Cake density} = 8.543E-003 + 0.61 X_1 + 0.11 X_2 + 0.62 X_3 + 0.84 X_1X_2 - 0.19X_1X_3 + 0.82 X_2X_3 - 1.43 X_1X_2X_3 \quad (R^2 = 0.99\dots\dots)$$

.....3

The combination having the highest and lowest quantity of a pulse and corn flour respectively and medium quantity of barnyard millet flour brought about changes in the density of the cake.

Gomez (2009) reported that with increase in the level of chickpea flour, decrease in batter density was noted due to the less incorporation of air. It was also expected that lower batter density would result in higher cake volume, as was the case with the wheat and chickpea flour blended sponge cakes.

Effect of independent variables on OAA score

Consumer acceptance is one of the most important criteria for any newly developed product. Since overall acceptability represents the consumer acceptance; it was also taken as one of the responses for the development of pulse based gluten free cake. The relationship between the overall acceptability and independent variables are shown in the

equation - 4. Cakes containing highest levels of pulse flour and barnyard millet flour levels were rated high due to their overall acceptability by sensory evaluation.

Equation - 4 shows that up to a certain limit, the product acceptability changed due to interaction of barnyard millet flour with the other variables. All the variables were exhibited for special cubic effect (Equation- 4 and Fig. 4).

Table.1 Experiment for D-optimal design for gluten free cake mix

Sample No.	Independent variables			Dependent variables					
	CPF (g)	BMF (g)	CF (g)	Cake weight (g)	Specific volume (cm ³ /g)	Cake density (g/cm ³)	OAA score	Protein g/100g	Fiber g/100g
S ₁	68.75	25.00	6.25	236.21	1.754	0.581	7.36	20.43	5.34
S ₂	60.00	30.00	10.00	238.04	1.812	0.555	7.39	18.06	5.43
S ₃	80.00	20.00	0.00	234.04	1.641	0.604	7.36	23.87	5.80
S ₄	56.25	22.50	21.25	235.41	1.753	0.587	7.22	15.9	4.67
S ₅	56.25	27.50	16.25	237.43	1.746	0.584	7.30	16.12	4.81
S ₆	50.00	20.00	30.00	235.01	1.637	0.618	7.15	14.79	3.94
S ₇	75.00	25.00	0.00	236.42	1.584	0.642	7.38	22.46	5.08
S ₈	70.00	30.00	0.00	238.44	1.639	0.626	7.50	21.08	4.66
S ₉	65.00	20.00	15.00	234.52	1.882	0.564	7.26	20.05	4.71
S ₁₀	70.00	30.00	0.00	238.12	1.631	0.628	7.42	21.29	4.48
S ₁₁	50.00	30.00	20.00	237.4	1.582	0.629	7.34	17.98	4.28
S ₁₂	50.00	20.00	30.00	234.9	1.641	0.613	7.15	17.98	4.08

Table.2 Regression coefficients, R², adjusted R² and probability (P) values for the gluten free cake mix

Term model	Response					
	Cake weight (g)	Specific volume (cm ³ /g)	Cake density (g/cm ³)	OAA score	Protein g/100g	Fiber g/100g
F value	96.45	1341.23	123.94	28.08	8.02	31.43
P>F	<0.0001*	<0.0001*	<0.0001*	0.0011*	0.0187*	0.008*
Mean	236.33	1.69	0.60	7.32	19.17	4.77
SD	0.21	3.515E-003	3.390E-003	0.027	1.28	0.13
CV %	0.089	0.21	0.56	0.37	6.67	2.79
DF	11	11	11	11	11	11
R ²	0.9914	0.9994	0.9933	0.9712	0.9058	0.9742
Adjusted R ²	0.9812	0.9986	0.9853	0.9366	0.7928	0.9432
Predicted R ²	0.8903	0.9947	0.9109	0.8618	0.1161	0.7388
Adeq. Precision	26.168	111.146	32.666	15.10	8.253	17.678

*significant at 0.05 level

Fig.1 Response surface plot showing the effect of flours X, Y and Z on cake weight

DESIGN-EXPERT Plot
Cake weight
X1 = A: Chickpea flour
X2 = B: Barnyard millet flour
X3 = C: Corn flour

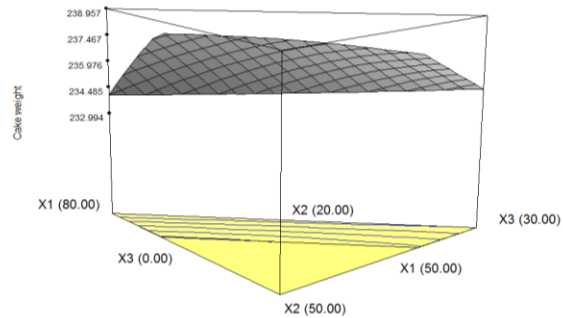


Fig.2 Response surface plot showing the effect of flours X, Y and Z on specific volume

DESIGN-EXPERT Plot
Specific Volume
X1 = A: Chickpea flour
X2 = B: Barnyard millet flour
X3 = C: Corn flour

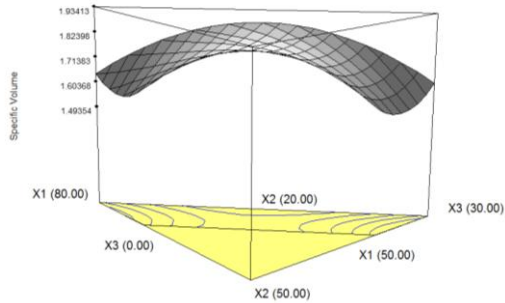


Fig.3 Response surface plot showing the effect of flours X, Y and Z on cake density

DESIGN-EXPERT Plot
Cake Density
X1 = A: Chickpea flour
X2 = B: Barnyard millet flour
X3 = C: Corn flour

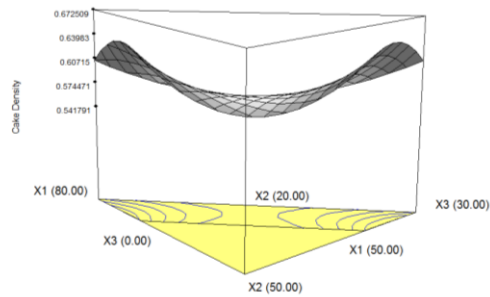


Fig.4 Response surface plot showing the effect of flours X, Y and Z on OAA score

DESIGN-EXPERT Plot
OAA score
X1 = A: Chickpea flour
X2 = B: Barnyard millet flour
X3 = C: Corn flour

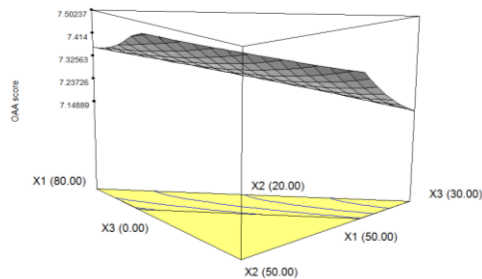


Fig.5 Response surface plot showing the effect of flours X, Y and Z on protein content

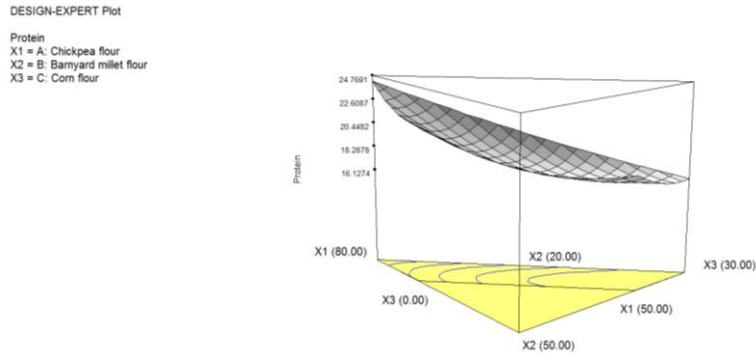
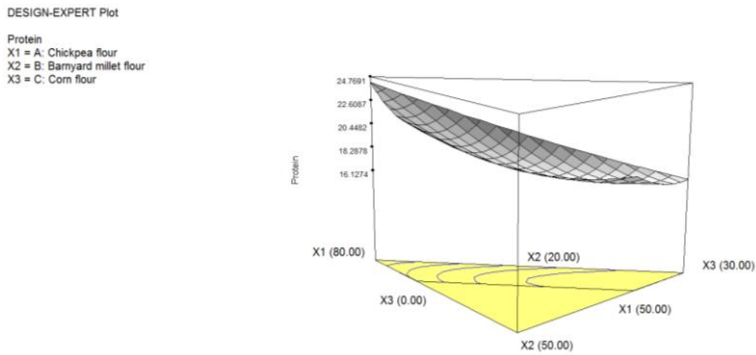


Fig.6 Response surface plot showing the effect of flours X, Y and Z on fiber content



$$\text{Overall acceptability} = 0.12 + 7.36 X_1 + 8.22 X_2 + 7.15 X_3 + 0.84 X_1 X_2 - 0.028 X_1 X_3 - 0.76 X_2 X_3 - 0.25 X_1 X_2 X_3 \quad (R^2 = 0.97 \dots \dots \dots) \quad 4$$

According to the equation 4, it can be observed that the binary system chickpea flour x maize flour and barnyard millet flour x corn flour exerted negative influence decreasing the overall acceptability, whereas the binary system of chickpea flour x barnyard millet flour showed an antagonistic effect and increased the overall acceptability score of the cake.

All formulation of cakes had overall acceptability scores ranging from 7 (liked moderately) to 8 (like very much). The combination of below the level of 50, 20 and 20 g of chickpea, barnyard and corn flour respectively had low overall acceptability scores as was also absent with increasing level of corn flour and above medium level of barnyard millet flour. Gomes *et al.*, (2015)

reported that all the extruded bean flour added cakes had an acceptability score of above six. The property of legumes to promote greater hardness of cakes was also reported by Gularte *et al.*, (2011) who found a significant increase in hardness of cakes prepared with beans, chickpeas and peas.

Effect of independent variables on protein content

The interaction between the independent variables and protein responses were significantly (P<0.05) different and it is shown in the equation - 5 and figure 5. The variable interacted with its protein value in the special cubic model.

The adjustment of the second order to the protein indicated that chickpea flour was the variable that most influenced the protein content of the cake. The interaction between barnyard millet flour and maize flour was not significant for the protein content of the cake.

According to equation - 5, it can be observed that the binary and tertiary system of one factor with other factor and interaction with other two factors exerted negative influence increasing the protein content.

$$\text{Protein} = 78.50 + 24.24 X_1 + 33.44 X_2 + 16.19 X_3 - 29.32 X_1X_2 - 1.81 X_1X_3 - 19.50 X_2X_3 - 42.45 X_1X_2X_3 \quad (R^2 = 0.97\dots\dots) \dots\dots\dots 5$$

The developed gluten free cake combination had protein levels ranging from 14.79 to 23.87 g/100 g. Increasing the level of chickpea flour was found to have a significant influence the protein content of the cake as also with increasing the level of barnyard millet flour. In addition to the increase in protein content of the prepared cake samples from the investigated cake mix, the added advantage was that the protein was gluten free and confers health benefits to consumers particularly the celiac patients as a protein source which is needed for physiological functioning (Ugwuona *et al.*, 2012).

Effect of independent variables on fiber

Independent variables such as chickpea flour, barnyard millet flour and maize flour had profound interaction in terms of the fiber content of the cake as show in equation - 6 and figure 6. The suitable interaction was made for special cubic model.

$$\text{Fiber} = 3.35 + 5.82 X_1 + 5.91 X_2 + 4.02 X_3 - 5.63 X_1X_2 - 0.70 X_1X_3 - 1.83 X_2X_3 + 26.96 X_1X_2X_3 \quad (R^2 = 0.97\dots\dots) \dots\dots\dots 6$$

The adjustment of the second order to the fiber content indicated that all the independent variables mostly influenced the gluten free cake. The interactions of one variable with other variable were significant for the cake fiber content. The tertiary system

of the chickpea flour, barnyard millet flour and corn flour exerted positive influence on the fiber content increasing the fiber content of the product.

Decreasing the level of CPF, BF and CF was found to highly influence the changes in the fiber content of the product. The fiber content ranged from 4.08 to 5.80 g/100g of developed cake. Morkos *et al.*, (2013) reported that with increasing level of the chickpea flour in development of gluten free butter cake, there was concomitant increase the level of crude fiber content up to 9.95 g/100g. The same results were recorded in other studies by Saura-Calixa *et al.*, (2000) and Rosin *et al.*, (2002). Dietary fiber in these cake preparations is important due to its functional effect on the gut. For instance, viscous fiber containing foods may elicit low postprandial glycemic responses due to delayed glucose absorbance (Tover *et al.*, 1992).

Optimization

The numerical optimization technique has been implemented to desire the best optimum combination for development of gluten free cake. It is one of the best techniques which result in radically reducing the amount of time and effort required for the investigation of multifactor and multiple-response systems (Kathiravan *et al.*, 2015). To optimize the raw materials, the response surface models for independent variables were fixed in the level for maximum in chickpea flour, optimum level for barnyard millet flour and minimum level for corn flour with dependent variables, which were fixed in maximum level of cake weight, specific volume, OAA score and minimum level of weight loss and cake density. From the analysis of optimization the independent variable levels were as 64.85 g of chickpea flour, 30 g of barnyard millet flour and 5.15 g of corn flour. The cake mix was prepared using the optimized composition and

was verified for the predicted values and the actual values for the responses.

In conclusion, the present study demonstrated that gluten free cake mix could be optimized by the experiments of D – Optimal Design in RSM. According to the RSM results and the numerical optimization technique, the CPF 64.85 g; BF 30 g and CF 5.15 g can be recommended as the best optimum combination of the cake mix. In this optimized combination, the cake had a weight 238.23 g, specific volume - 1.773 cm³/g, cake density - 0.571 g/cm³, overall acceptability score - 7.42, protein - 19.11 g and fiber - 5.20 g per 100 g. From the technological, nutritional and sensory perspectives, the complete utilization of chickpea and barnyard millet flour is viable and recommended in the food industry for the development protein rich gluten free cake, with the objective of addressing the health concerns, especially for celiac disease with affordable economic value to pulse utilization and its byproducts and diversification in the bakery market.

Acknowledgement

This research was supported by Saskatchewan Pulse Crop Development Board, Canada.

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How to cite this article:

Thirukkumar Subramani, Hemalatha Ganapathy and Senthamaraiselvi Lakshmanan. 2017. Standardization of Gluten Free Chickpea Flour Based Cake Mix by Using Response Surface Methodology. *Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Sci*. 6(8): 963-974.

doi: <https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2017.608.118>