


Implementation of hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) in yogurt production

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Invited Review

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Abstract

This study aimed to review hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) in the dairy industry for the production of yogurt. The food safety management system (FSMS) was implemented over the last several decades with several amendments. The need for practical and proactive procedures in the dairy industry was identified so that HACCP implementation could ensure that consumers would always have safe food. The concept of HACCP is a systemic and science-based method that can result in safe dairy products such as yogurt based on the complete analysis of manufacturing processes, recognition of hazards potentially present at all stages of production, and risk prevention. In yogurt production, raw milk receipt, pasteurization, packaging, and storage are the steps most susceptible to contamination and were considered critical control points. Further steps also need to be implemented to achieve other related control measures, and these will be discussed.

Introduction

Functional foods are one of the most valuable parts of the dairy industry and contribute to human health by decreasing the risk of ailments and modulation of colonic microbiota. Fermented milk products, such as cheese and yogurt, are widely consumed due to their healthy nutritional content, sensorial attributes, and compatibility with various diets (Delgado-Fernández *et al.*, 2020). Yogurt is a widely marketed and popular dairy product worldwide, prepared through the fermentation of milk by thermophilic lactic acid bacteria (LAB), especially *Lactobacillus delbrueckii* subsp. *Bulgaricus* and *Streptococcus thermophilus*. These strains are conventionally selected as starter cultures (Fazilah *et al.*, 2018; Meybodi *et al.*, 2020). In the process of milk fermenting with a pH dropping to 4.5, electrostatic repulsion between the casein micelles subsides, consequently accumulating in a homogeneous gel structure (Delgado-Fernández *et al.*, 2020). Due to the different forms, manufacturing processes, and components of yogurt as well as diverse consumer preferences, it is challenging to standardize the quality of yogurt. In dairy products, the majority of safety concerns are related to the presence of contamination in milk, including residuals of veterinary drugs, chemical pollutants, pathogens (such as *Escherichia coli* O157:H7, *Salmonella* spp., and *Listeria monocytogenes*), spoilage agents (such as molds), anaerobic spore-forming bacteria (such as *Clostridium tyrobutyricum*) and aerobic spore-forming bacteria (such as *Stearothermophilus* and *Bacillus cereus*). Nowadays, milk and milk products are widely available, and these contaminants can jeopardize the health of many individuals. Therefore, the production of safe and high-quality dairy products can contribute to protecting public health and satisfy consumers (Ortuzar *et al.*, 2018; Prabhurajeshwar and Chandrakanth, 2019; Zubairi *et al.*, 2021). Food safety requires conformity with good manufacturing practices (GMP) which would typically require a food safety management system (FSMS) and a sanitation standard operating procedure (SSOP) as well as good hygiene practices (GHP), also called operation prerequisite programs (OPRPs), and adherence to the principles of hazard analysis of critical control points (HACCP) (Mureşan *et al.*, 2020). The HACCP program is a global approach to risk management designed to identify and predict potential hazards during each stage of food manufacturing, from farm to fork (Hoolasi, 2005). The origins of HACCP date back to the 1960s during the collaboration of Pillsbury Company, the United States Army Laboratories at Natick and NASA to develop the tool for monitoring and managing food safety in manned space missions. Later, HACCP was standardized by Codex Alimentarius in 1996 and is currently widely employed for ensuring food safety because it maintains, identifies, evaluates, controls and monitors each manufacturing point (Murphy, 2010). HACCP is considered synonymous with food safety and was initially developed as a 'zero defects' program (Abd Rabo *et al.*, 2016). It is a scientific method

systematically employed to identify food safety risks and prevent the consumption of unsafe food. HACCP emphasizes preventative measures instead of depending on end-product evaluation for control, and in addition to identifying and preventing hazards, recommends precautions for their control (Murphy, 2010). There is no doubt that HACCP is a well-known, efficient and preventive method of managing food safety. Following its implementation in the industry, the principal benefits and barriers associated with HACCP are identified and discussed. Currently, the HACCP system has been adopted by numerous countries and international organizations such as the WHO and FAO (Mureşan *et al.*, 2020). Food safety systems (HACCP principles), prerequisite programs (PRPs), and OPRPs have been described for quality control in small-scale yogurt production factories (Mureşan *et al.*, 2020). Psomas and Kafetzopoulos (2015) investigated the effectiveness of HACCP between ISO 22000 certified and non-certified dairy companies, while Abd Rabo *et al.* (2016) gave safety specifications for dairy processing. These studies were designed based on the HACCP program, as defined by its 7 principles in the Codex Alimentarius (Codex Alimentarius, 2020), which is abbreviated hereafter as classical HACCP. To the best of our knowledge, only a limited number of studies have addressed the implementation of HACCP in yogurt production. Since yogurt occupies a special place in the diet of many people, the production of safe and high-quality yogurt is crucial. Implementing HACCP in yogurt production is one of the most effective methods for ensuring yogurt safety. Hence, the purpose of this study was to review the literature about implementing and evaluating the hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) during different stages of the yogurt manufacturing process.

Materials and methods

Search strategy

We undertook a qualitative descriptive study in the form of a literature review, conducted in May 2022. The literature study method involved various written sources in the form of books, journals, scientific articles, etc. Articles were searched in databases in May 2022, and there was no limitation on searching for them. The chosen databases were Scholar, PubMed, Science Direct, Web of Science, and Scopus. The keywords used in the systematic search included: ('yogurt' or 'dairy') and ('HACCP plan' or 'food management systems' or 'ISO: 22000' or 'CCP' or 'chemical hazard' or 'biological hazard' or 'physical hazard' or 'control measures').

Methods

The implementation of international standards in companies is a crucial component of promoting their competitiveness in the marketplace. Food producers are obligated to fulfill their responsibility for hygienic and safe food, consumer care and compliance with environmental standards. Therefore, implementing management systems and verifying them with an emphasis on the product's safety and quality to ensure consumer health and enhance their confidence is critical for foodstuff firms. According to numerous studies examining the experience of companies in diverse sectors, FSMS may be implemented for widely varying reasons, for instance, interpretation and inferences of information and identification or description of FSMS problems.

HACCP system is an essential part of the food safety management system, therefore, many studies focus on HACCP. However, a number of the factors that lead to the adoption of HACCP would also be attributed to the implementation of ISO 22000 (Chen *et al.*, 2020; Mureşan *et al.*, 2020).

Pre-requisite programs of HACCP

Elaboration of PRPs

The HACCP team is accountable for organizing and implementing corrective measures to enhance conformity to the PRPs (GAP, GHPs, GMPs, and SSOPs). Prior to implementing HACCP, it is necessary to execute pre-requisite programs efficiently, otherwise the implementation of HACCP is intricate and severely challenging. PRP is an umbrella term to describe all activities from the farm to the final consumer. These refer to good hygiene practices that are the fundamental requirements and actions for providing a hygienic environment, including premises and structure (such as appropriate and adequate employee facilities, hygienic facilities, and proper structure of floors, walls, and doors); equipment calibration; technical maintenance; sanitation and cleaning; area delineation (such as avoiding cross-contamination); controlling and eliminating environmental contaminations; control of raw material suppliers (such as ingredients, additives, packaging material); storage, distribution, and transport; pest control; waste management; hygiene of employees; training and supervision; provision of working instructions (Ali, 2015).

Elaboration of OPRPs

In food safety, O-PRPs refer to specific PRPs that are recognized by hazard analysis necessary for controlling the probability of introducing food safety hazards, therefore O-PRPs are directly related to PRPs. O-PRPs are control measures or incorporation of control measures used to eliminate or diminish a significant food safety hazard to an allowable level (Chen *et al.*, 2020).

Elaboration of the HACCP/implementation of the HACCP plan

Twelve steps for implementing a HACCP plan in different process of yogurt production according to Codex Alimentarius were considered (Table 1).

Step 1: Establish a food safety team

The HACCP team must comprise experts from a range of disciplines to ensure that decisions are based on a complete comprehension of the commodity system and can precisely detect potential hazards and, further, that their implementation and control is undertaken by individuals who possess the suitable combination of professional training, skill and experience to recognize the potential hazards to consumer health and prevent them from occurring. One of the strength points of HACCP is the food safety team which should include:

- Team leader: must be a trained person and experienced in HACCP teamwork in order to coordinate and guide the team's work.

Table 1. Steps of HACCP implementation

Step 1	Establish a HACCP team
Step 2	Describe the product
Step 3	Identify the product's intended use
Step 4	Draw up flow diagram
Step 5	On-site confirmation of flow diagram
Step 6 (principle 1)	Identify and analysis hazard(s), and consider control measures
Step 7 (principle 2)	Determine the critical control points (CCPs)
Step 8 (principle 3)	Establish critical limits for each CCPs
Step 9 (principle 4)	Establish a monitoring procedure for each CCPs
Step 10 (principle 5)	Establish corrective actions
Step 11 (principle 6)	Verify the HACCP plan
Step 12 (principle 7)	Keep record

- Specialists: a group of experts each of them knowledgeable about specific hazards associated with the product and process, such as, chemist, toxicologist, microbiologist, QC manager, and process engineer.
- Production specialist: with a well-developed knowledge of the commodity system.
- Depending on the situation and necessity, other people may also participate in the team; for example, hygiene specialists, packaging experts, purchasers of raw materials, distribution staff or production staff, farmers, etc.

Team members may require training before implementing HACCP. Therefore, to effectively contribute to the HACCP plan, they should be fully trained and updated with a comprehensive knowledge of the HACCP principles (Ali, 2015).

Step 2: Prepare a description of the product

To initiate a hazard analysis, a detailed description of the yogurt should be prepared, including information regarding its ingredients and its processing, biological, chemical and physical properties as well treatments to be applied, durability of the product, storage conditions required and distribution systems. This information will guide the team to identify potential hazards at different stages of process which must be considered. Table 2 summarizes yogurt's typical characteristics.

Step 3: Identify the intended use

It is crucial to consider how the product will be used. Intended use and consumer group information are part of the product and process description. Information such as whether the product will be consumed directly, or be cooked or further processed as well as information on storage methods, all influence hazard analyses. Furthermore, the characteristics of the target group of the product may also be pertinent, especially in the case of infants, the elderly, malnourished individuals and those with compromised immune systems. Yogurt is a suitable product for consumption by all individuals of all ages except vulnerable people (those with a milk allergy or intolerance) and marketed to final consumers through food retailers (Ali, 2015).

Step 4: Prepare a flow diagram

In a HACCP study, flow diagrams are designed to elicit a comprehensive evaluation of the process, then documented in a way that facilitates and guides the following stages (Hoolasi, 2005). The flow chart of yogurt production is illustrated in Fig. 1.

Step 5: Confirmation of flow diagrams on site

The HACCP team should validate the flow diagram on-site. A flow diagram should include any effect of shift patterns and weekend working, as well as any reclaim or rework activity. It should be noted that in case of any change in the production process, a new flow chart must be prepared (Hoolasi, 2005).

Step 6, principle 1: Identify and analyze hazards, and consider control measures

Food safety hazards are known as contaminants, which can make food products unsafe for manufacturers. Food safety hazards in the manufacturing process of dairy products are generally classified into major groups: chemical, biological, and physical (Kristiningrum and Permatasari, 2020). Also, the Codex Alimentarius Commission identified the hazards as chemical, biological, and physical contamination in food products or the specific condition of a food product with a potentially harmful impact on human health (Codex Alimentarius, 2020). Dairy chain hazards can occur at every stage, including receiving milk (microbial such as coliforms, somatic cell count, and chemical, such as antibiotic residues), formulation and preparation (microbial e.g. *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Coxiella burnetii*, chemical such as acidity, physical such as foreign materials), packaging and labeling (physical such as foreign materials) transportation and storage (microbial such as total count increase, chemical such as acidity). From raw milk receipt during processing to the consumer, milk is threatened by numerous hazards, which affect the quality and safety of the final food product. Some of these types of hazards may be caused by animal husbandry techniques, during feeding, milking, and processing (Tiwari *et al.*, 2013). Hazard analysis is developed from the receiving of raw material stage to the delivery of the final food product (Mureşan *et al.*, 2020). The food supply chain (from farm to fork) contains a wide variety of observable risks (biological, chemical, and physical). The global food safety initiative (GFSI) identified hazards in different groups: allergens (including mislabeling) at 46.2%, cross-contamination (including biological hazards) at 40%, chemical hazards at 2.3%, physical hazards at 9.3% and others at 2.1% from 2008–2018 (Soon *et al.*, 2020). Hazards may possibly enter a food chain from the food product ingredients and cause contamination through food processing. HACCP is a preventive and management system that is considered to guarantee safety and security of food. It enables product protection and error correction, minimizes the expenses resulting from quality defects and improves the food control. From the primary manufacturer to the last customer, the HACCP system can be applied to the whole food supply chain. It helps to find the best approaches to control hazards by avoiding their entry into the process, eliminating them, or decreasing the contamination to an acceptable limit (Manning *et al.*, 2006).

Physical hazards

Physical hazards generally include solid particles (for instance, glass pieces, metal and bone fragments, insects or their parts,

Table 2. Description of yogurt's properties

Product name	Yogurt
Composition and ingredients	Pasteurized milk, whole milk powder and cultures of selected dairy bacteria All factors that can influence the yogurt characteristics should be recorded including solids/moisture levels, protein and fat levels.
Yogurt process description	Receiving raw milk, milk standardization and pasteurization, cooling, adding starter and inoculation, filling, packaging, storage
Organoleptic characteristics	The specific flavor of yogurt, fresh smell and taste, sourness, unique aroma, adhesiveness and smoothness texture, without gas bubbles, uniform white or yellowish color.
Physico-chemical characteristics	Yogurt should be without physical impurities. protein content minimum 2.8%, Fat value minimum $3.0 \pm 0.1\%$, total solids substances minimum 11%, acidity minimum 0.6% lactic acid
Microbiological characteristics	<i>Salmonella</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , <i>Campylobacter</i> , <i>Shigella</i> , <i>Coliform</i> - absent
Nutritional values	Energy value 61 kcal, 88% water, 3.3 g fat, 4.7 g carbohydrates, 4.7 g sugar, 3.5 g protein, 0 g fiber, and 0.2 g salt.
Treatment	Pasteurization
Packing method	It is packed in sealable and barrier film enabled containers, pouches, and cups that keep safe from light, dust and moisture and extend its shelf life, as well as conditions process environment during filling should be recorded.
Terms of validity	21 d Yogurt are usually consumed without further processing (heating), it's important the record instructions given with regard to refrigerated storage time limit for consumption after opening, due to safety reasons, together with overall 'best before' or 'use by' dates.
Storage instructions	Packed yogurt, in whatever form, should be stored at refrigerated less than 10°C, but preferably below 5°C, also clean, dry, disinfected, ventilated, no foreign smell.
Labeling instructions	Labeling information required must be: accurate, easy to see and understand, not misleading, indelible, name of the food, ingredient list (including any additives), allergen information, quantity of certain ingredients, nutrition facts, date marking (best before/use by), country of origin, name and address of the food business, net quantity, any special storage conditions and/or conditions of use, instructions for use if needed, date of manufacture (day, month, batch).
Delivery/sales conditions	Refrigerated vehicles clean, ventilated and without toxic substances or pungent smell should be used to transport dairy products. Above- zero refrigerated vehicles are often used to transport dairy products that are not very sensitive to temperature (between 2–8°C for yogurt), as well as the product is sold at the temperature in the storage refrigerator is between 2–8°C.
Importance product characteristics	pH
How it is to be used?	Direct consumption
Where it well be sold?	Retailers

jewelry, stones/soil/dust and hair/fur) and relative to other hazards are usually easily detectable (Codex Alimentarius, 2020). They can happen as accidental contamination and are more associated with contact with different objects, packaging and labeling (McSwane *et al.*, 2003; Van Asselt *et al.*, 2018). The safety and quality of raw milk are of paramount importance, as it potentially ensures the safety and quality of the dairy products derived from it. Ideally, in addition to having a pleasant taste without off-odor, the milk needs to be free of physical hazards such as forage pollutants (Merrzlov *et al.*, 2018).

Biological hazards

Organisms that can result in serious harm through intoxication or infection such as pathogenic bacteria, toxigenic molds or fungi and parasites are known as biological hazards (Codex Alimentarius, 2020). Biological and chemical hazards are more important and more common than physical ones, due to the complexity of their effects on body interactions (Merrzlov *et al.*, 2018). Recently, food safety legislative demands have increased due to extensive food scares such as microbiological hazards (including *Salmonella*, *E. coli*), contaminants (including dioxins), and also animal disease (Kendall *et al.*, 2018). Several investigations have

identified pathogenic organisms in milk, containing Shiga-toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC), *Campylobacter jejuni*, *Salmonella* spp., *L. monocytogenes*, and *Yersinia enterocolitica*. The skin and gastrointestinal tracts of livestock and the environment of farms are potential sources of many pathogens found in milk (Oliver *et al.*, 2005). These pathogenic microorganisms could arrive in meat products and milk through slaughter and milking processes (McEwen and Fedorka-Cray, 2002). Most of the dangerous microbiological hazards can be removed by thermal treatments (e.g. sterilization or pasteurization) (Abd Rabo *et al.*, 2016). Recently, food-borne disease outbreaks have been highly related to four genera of organisms, namely *Salmonella* spp., *Campylobacter* spp., *L. monocytogenes* and *E. coli* (Yilmaz *et al.*, 2009). In the study of Makita *et al.* (2012), the annual incidence rate of staphylococcal poisoning through consumption of informally-marketed milk and home-made yogurt was calculated at 20 per 1000 people. Additionally, this study found that milk fermentation reduced staphylococcal poisoning risk by 93.7%, so that when this step was eliminated, the annual incidence rate increased to 315.8 per 1000 people (Makita *et al.*, 2012). However, cow's raw milk contains numerous types of pathogens including *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 (Tsegaye and Ashenafi, 2005) and *Brucella abortus* (Tesfaye *et al.*, 2011). *E. coli* O157:

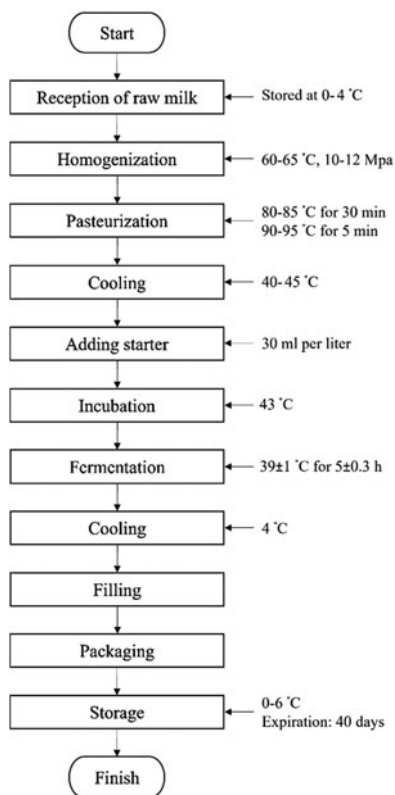


Figure 1. Flow diagram of yogurt processing (Fazilah *et al.*, 2018).

H7 can survive for up to 72 h even when pH has fallen to 3.8 or 3.9 (Tsegaye and Ashenafi, 2005), but *Brucella* will be inactivated quickly when the acidity decreases below pH 4, and very quickly below pH 3.5 (Codex Alimentarius, 2020).

Chemical hazards

Long-term or short-term exposure to toxic chemicals can lead to adverse effects on human health. Naturally occurring toxins, veterinary drug residues, pesticide residues, heavy metals, direct and indirect food additives, environmental contaminants and chemicals coming from packaging material are classified as chemical hazards. In the study, 66% of milk samples contained H₂O₂, which is usually added in the summertime to increase milk quality (Abd Rabo *et al.*, 2016).

Step 7, principle 2: Identify the critical control points

Critical control points (CCPs) refer to the stages where hazards are more likely to occur and must be meticulously controlled. The CCP decision tree of the Codex is a practical approach that is commonly applied by HACCP teams (Fig. 2). Critical limits need to be assessable and recognized for total CCPs (Codex, 1997). Mureşan *et al.* (2020) implemented ISO 22000:2018 in the production of yogurt containing 3.6% fat on a small-scale, and findings revealed that pasteurization was the most significant CCP as it could eliminate many pathogenic bacteria (Mureşan *et al.*, 2020). Implementing proper management practices, especially monitoring the temperature and time of pasteurization

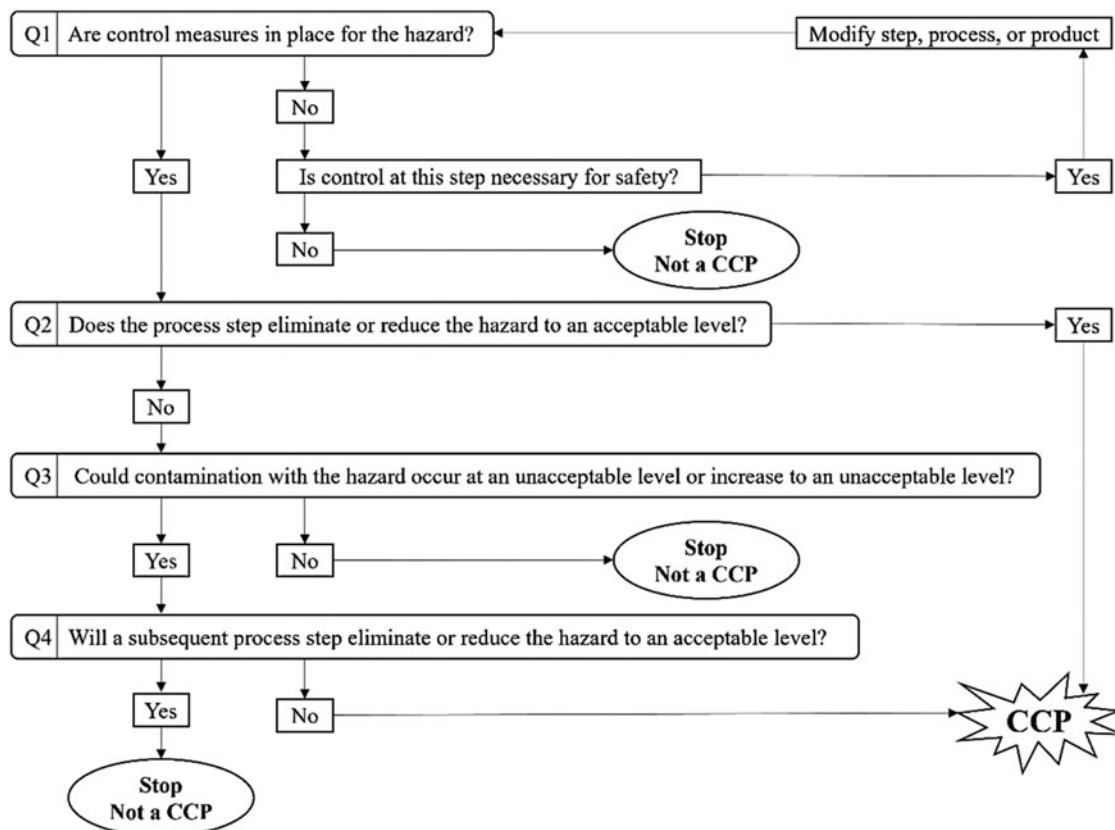


Figure 2. HACCP decision tree for the determination of critical points in HACCP plans (Jervis, 2002).

(72°C for 15 s) will greatly improve pasteurization efficiency (Azar and Rofehgari-Nejad, 2009). The cooling stage was reported as the second CCP, where the temperature declined from 85 to 2–8°C in 1 h. This stage can be effective in preventing the growth of thermos-tolerant bacteria through careful time and temperature monitoring. The last CCP was delivery and sales, however, the reception of milk, packaging, and reception of lactic acid bacteria starter cultures were also considered as CCPs (Mureşan *et al.*, 2020). Musaj *et al.* (2012) reported eight CCP, namely receipt of fresh milk, filtration, separation, pasteurization, fermentation, filling of cups, packaging and storage, and in the manufacture of yogurt with honey products 6 CCP were determined: receiving of raw milk, receipt of raw non-dairy materials, cooling and reservation steps, pasteurization, fermentation and packaging (Merrzlov *et al.*, 2018). Chountalas *et al.* (2009) identified 8 CCPs for yogurt production which were receiving raw milk (CCP1), raw milk and cream storage (CCP2), heat treatment (CCP3), starter culture ingredients storage (CCP4), flavorings storage (CCP5), cream receipt (CCP6), packaging (CCP7) and finished product quarantine (CCP8), as did Shapton and Shapton (1991) for manufacture of yogurt with added fruit or nut puree, which in this case were receiving milk, fruit or nut removed from the container and stabilizer added, pasteurization, starter incubation, filling, chill storage of fruit or nut processed off-site and distribution (Shapton and Shapton, 1991). Aly *et al.* (2011) reported that identified CCPs in probiotic Talbina processing (a dairy product) included raw milk receipt, pasteurization treatment, probiotic bacteria addition, container filling and storage. Due to the possibility of contaminating the final product through damage to filling containers and presence of toxic residuals in them, the filling containers stage was considered CCP. Furthermore, storage is one crucial stage to provide food safety because storage at higher temperatures may increase the growth of different fungal species and/or pathogenic microorganisms (Aly *et al.*, 2011). The HACCP study of yogurt produced by small and medium-sized enterprises in the Semarang region of Indonesia reported 8 CCPs in raw materials and manufacturing process, and it was emphasized that the suppliers require to be chosen carefully and the storage condition (time and temperature), equipment sanitization, instrument calibration, performance control and record keeping should all be well controlled (Kristiningrum and Permatasari, 2020). In Table 3 HACCP plan for different process steps in production of yogurt defines hazards with the related control measures, critical limits and monitoring. Deviations detected by monitoring are treated by the proper corrective actions.

Step 8, principle 3: Establish critical limits for each CCP

The establishment of critical limit(s) is recognized as a criterion for distinguishing acceptability from unacceptability. A critical limit is known as a maximum and/or minimum assessment to which a biological, chemical, or physical hazard must be carefully controlled at a CCP in order to prevent, remove or reduce to an acceptable level the risk of incidence of a food safety hazard. It should be quantifiable in real-time (throughout the yogurt preparation process) and might contain determinations of time, temperature, acidity, pH, moisture, the phosphatase activity for pasteurized milk efficiency and ATP testing method to determine cleaning efficiency (Hoolasi, 2005). In the Galochkina study, changes in temperatures have been applied as the main criterion for the determination of

CCPs for the probiotic dairy product (Galochkina and Glotova, 2019).

Step 9, principle 4: Establish a monitoring procedure for each CCP

Monitoring is a good guarantee for ensuring whether the critical limit at every single CCP can be constantly performed. Additionally, monitoring contains an organized system of measurements or observations against critical limits to measure whether a CCP is entirely under control. Deviations in the CCPs can occur due to various reasons, such as failures in monitoring, absence of enough equipment and problems with providers (Cusato *et al.*, 2013). Steps involved in monitoring are shown in Table 4 and might include the following items: object (e.g. additive concentration); method (requirement for inspection report); frequency (each batch); personnel (operators) (Abd Rabo *et al.*, 2016). Strict monitoring of technological procedures and the corrective actions will reduce the risk in the manufacture of unsafe fermented dairy products like yogurt (Galochkina and Glotova, 2019). The implementation of HACCP plays an important role in improving monitoring tactics and making validation data which leads to the effectiveness of the processing control. Monitoring can take place offline when corrective action might involve rejecting each implicated product, or online with automated corrective action such as flow diversion devices on pasteurizers. Physical and chemical tests are considered over microbiological measurements because they can be performed quickly and often indicate the conditions controlling the microbiology of the product (phosphatase test for pasteurized milk is an example: Hoolasi, 2005).

Step 10, principle 5: Establish corrective actions

Corrective actions for dairy products would include the following procedures:

- 1) Receiving milk and other raw materials from approved providers and registered vendors.
- 2) Rejecting milk when the contamination is detected during raw milk receipt.
- 3) Calibration and adjusting of all equipment effecting quality and safety of yogurt.
- 4) Re-heat process (temperature and time) when the monitoring outcomes are modified (Mureşan *et al.*, 2020)
- 5) Training of operators and staff for operational controls and laboratory tests and also re-training for personnel hygiene.
- 6) Providing control devices for monitoring the temperature and relative humidity in stores, production facilities etc.
- 7) Washing and sanitizing plastic cups with hot water (Abd Rabo *et al.*, 2016).

The aim of monitoring is to control the critical control limits in the specified intervals, and in case of leaving this range, corrective measures will be taken. These actions assist in controlling the process before critical limits are exceeded or will remove the product that has violated the critical limits. Monitoring and corrective actions should be undertaken by all HACCP team members, and appropriate decisions should be taken. Also, the individuals who are responsible for executing corrective actions should be identified and all records must be documented (Hoolasi, 2005). Cusato *et al.* (2013) showed that incorrect monitoring and the

Table 3. HACCP plan for the management of the manufacture of yogurt (Ali, 2015; Mureşan *et al.*, 2020)

Steps	Process step	Hazards	Control measures	Control point	Critical limits	Monitoring procedures	Corrective action
1	Receive raw milk	Presence of microorganisms	Microbiological analysis. Keep records for each tanker route	CP	Bactoscan results pH	Raw milk procedure	Reject milk if not compliant to microbiological limits
	Release tests (raw milk)	Antibiotics	Rosa test Kundrat test ATK test	CCP	Negative	Raw milk procedure	Reject milk Follow up
		Foreign material	In-line filter. Inspect tanker before offloading. Quality of gaskets	CCP	No damaged gaskets	Raw milk procedure	Daily tanker inspections
	Cooling (raw milk)	Microbial	Temperature	CP	Milk cooled to <3°C	Cold chain procedure	Maintenance of ice banks
	Silo release (raw milk)	Microbial	Temperature and time Cleaning	CP	Milk to be kept at minimum of 3°C	Cold chain procedure	Maintenance of silos
Chemical risk			GMP	Within parameters	GMP /WI	Quarterly check by supplier of chemicals	
2	Cream separation	Chemical risk	Cleaning	GMP	Within parameters	GMP SOCP	Quarterly check by supplier of chemicals
3	Homogenization	Chemical risk	Cleaning	GMP	Within parameters	GMP SOCP	Quarterly check by supplier of chemicals
4	Pasteurization	Microbial	Temperature and time	CCP	Temperature and time	GMP WI, GLP	Re-pasteurize
	Transfer of milk to holding tank	Microbial	Cleaning	GMP	Wash not more than 24 h before	Visual on PC display	Cleaning and disinfection
5	Loading milk for mixing	Microbial	Cleaning	GMP	Wash not more than 24 h before	Visual on PC display	Cleaning and disinfection
6	Powder mixing	Physical foreign material	Production and process control	GMP	Wash not more than 24 h before	Visual on PC display	Cleaning and disinfection
7	T105 to storage tank	Microbial	Cleaning	GMP	Wash not more than 24 h before	Visual on PC display	Cleaning and disinfection
8	Pasteurization and homogenization process	Microbial	Time and temperature	CCP	Pasteurization temperature and time	Temperature and recorder and visual on PC display	Empty pasteurizer and repeat washing and sanitization
9	Cooling down to incubation temperature and inoculum	Microbial	Temperature	CCP	Temperature	Temperature recorder and visual on PC display	Too high : can be cooled with ice water; too low: stop the process
10	Incubation and breaking of curd	Microbial	Cleaning	GMP	Wash not more than 24 h before	Visual on PC display	Cleaning and disinfection
11	Cooling down, smoothing with filter and transfer to storage tank	Microbial	Cleaning	GMP	Wash 1 h before	Visual on PC display	Cleaning and disinfection
12	Addition of sterile fruit	Microbial	Cleaning	GMP	Wash 24 h before	Visual on PC display	Visual on PC display
13	Packing	Microbial	Cleaning	GMP	Wash 24 h before	Visual on PC display	Visual on PC display
14	Storage	Microbial	Lab test	CP	<4°C 24 h	Viscosity Coliform count	Visual on PC display
15	Dispatch	Microbial	Temperature	CP	<4°C	Pre-cool temperature checklist	Visual on PC display

Table 4. Monitoring procedure (Abd Rabo *et al.*, 2016; Chountalas *et al.*, 2009)

Process stages	What	How	Where	When	Who
Raw milk receipt	Temperature and pH measures – quantifying of time and temperature	Perform a visual inspection and lab test	Milk receiving platform and food lab	-At single receiving time -At every thermal treatment	Quality control and manufacturing supervisors
Clarification of milk and separation	Visual inspection	Perform a visual inspection	Place of separator	at every clarification	Separation section
Heat treatments (pasteurization)	Time and temperature measurements	Observed the time and temperature of the milk processing and lab testing report	Place of pasteurization	At every heat treatment	Technological engineer
Yogurt processing	Time and temperature measurement	Observed the time and temperature of the processing	Cooling area	At every handling	Quality control and manufacturing supervisors
Packaging	Visual inspection	Perform a visual inspection	On the packing site	At every packaging	Packing section
Storage	Visual inspection	Perform a visual inspection	In the storage area	at every storage period	storage section

lack of corrective actions in the yogurt production line resulted in increasing the temperature of the cold storage up to 24°C and led to the deterioration of several yogurts kept there. As a solution, the group of personnel was trained for the dispatching process, and subsequently, monitoring was carried out successfully.

Step 11, principle 6: Verification of the HACCP plan

Verification procedures affirm that the performance of HACCP program is effective. *Validation* and *verification* are recognized as confirmation tools. These are distinct and a variety of activities are well-defined by Codex (2020) (Codex Alimentarius, 2020).

Validation

Obtaining sufficient evidence to prove the parts of the HACCP plan are effective.

Verification

The employing of techniques, tests, procedures, and other measurements, also monitoring, to evaluate conformance to the HACCP plan. A complete HACCP system needs a verification procedure, like randomized sampling and different analyses, to ensure the HACCP system can successfully control and ensure food safety. Verification actions were established to verify whether HACCP controls work efficiently and correctly during yogurt processing (Abd Rabo *et al.*, 2016). The verification would be completed by validation system so that it can satisfy all Codex needs and be updated in the event that the materials or manufacturing process stages change. The verification procedure for yogurt includes checking thermal treatment records, analysis of the final product, checking the calibration of monitoring instruments and testing the transport of raw milk and other materials, frequently (Abd Rabo *et al.*, 2016). Furthermore, verification of conformity with equipment maintenance, the pest control process, and the sanitation of manufacturing spaces, work equipment and annexes have been reported (Mureşan *et al.*, 2020). For instance, the alkaline phosphatase activity may be evaluated to verify the efficiency of thermal treatment (Harding, 1991).

Step 12, principle 7: Record keeping and documentation

Documentation and record-keeping consists of a team member list and their tasks, a detailed description of the food product and intended use of it, a flow chart, hazards related to every CCP and prevention measures, identification of CCP and establishment of critical limits for every single one of them, monitoring, corrective action for deviation from critical limits, HACCP plan, maintenance of records and actions for verification of HACCP system (Abd Rabo *et al.*, 2016).

The HACCP approach will be an integral component of the documentation, drawing the CCPs and their controlling methods (critical limits, monitoring, and corrective actions), which shows the validation of the HACCP plan. The success of HACCP is heavily dependent upon the maintenance and keeping of HACCP records. Documents can be archived in both paper and computer forms (Kamboj *et al.*, 2020). Documentation must contain the precise details of total operations such as times, temperatures and microbiological factors accurately. Moreover, the operator's responsibilities related to that particular section of the production line should be recorded. Complaints from consumers or authorities provide evidence that the adopted HACCP program failed to effectively control the manufacturing process. To determine whether the HACCP program is completely implemented and provides the indicated control, it is necessary to audit all monitoring and corrective action archives. In addition, validation records must be reviewed, and additional testing at determined CCPs may be necessary to confirm the effectiveness of the control measure (Hoolasi, 2005).

Effectiveness of the HACCP plan

HACCP plan's implementation is a reliable and cost-effective method to ensure food safety (Papademas and Bintsis, 2010). Implementation is advantageous in all stages of the yogurt production process and contributes to the production of a higher quality and safer product, increasing customer satisfaction, boosting factory profitability, restricting financial losses, and improving brand reputation and credibility (Musaj *et al.*, 2012).

According to the study by Mureşan *et al.* (2020) HACCP plan's implementation in a small-scale yogurt factory, reduced the microbiological load of the final product. The study identified pasteurization, cooling/storage and distribution stages as CCPs. The implementation of the HACCP plan resulted in decreased microbial load of raw milk, pasteurized milk and final product (yogurt). The results of the study indicated that after the HACCP implementation, the CFU in the raw milk decreased from 250 000 to 80 182 CFU/ml, and the CFU of *Enterobacteriaceae* in the final product (yogurt) decreased from 3 to 0 CFU/ml. These values were within the maximum allowed (Mureşan *et al.*, 2020). In addition, Abd Rabo *et al.* (2016) reported similar results and detected a decrease in mold, yeast, *Staphylococcus aureus*, Coliform group, and *Salmonella* species following the implementation of HACCP in raw milk, fresh yogurt, and yogurt stored for 7 and 14 d (Abd Rabo *et al.*, 2016).

Another research by Musaj *et al.* (2012) indicated microbiological results before the implementation of HACCP were beyond the limits of the Kosovo national standard and after the implementation of HACCP, the results were within the standard. In this study, when HACCP plans were implemented, the recognized CCP diminished from 8 to 2, as well as the results indicated a significant diminution in the CFU number of *Escherichia coli* and Coliform (Musaj *et al.*, 2012). In contrast to Musaj *et al.* (2012) study, Cusato *et al.* (2013) found no substantial difference between the mean total coliform and fecal coliform counts before and after HACCP implantation. However, after HACCP implementation, the amount of yeast and mold decreased (Cusato *et al.*, 2013).

Ibrahim (2019) analyzed the physicochemical, chemical, and microbiological properties of yogurt samples in two companies, only one of which was implementing FSMS, and realized that FSMS had a positive effect on the mentioned parameters. In the company without an FSMS, yogurt samples were contaminated with coliforms, yeast, and mold. Moreover, the chemical components and total solids content of yogurt samples in the company that implemented FSMS were higher (Ibrahim, 2019). Hoolasi (2005) evaluated raw milk, the manufacturing process, and yogurt before and after the implementation of HACCP to assess its effectiveness. In the case of raw milk, 4004 samples were analyzed. The average percentage of butterfat in 434 raw milk samples following HACCP adoption was 3.761, while it was 3.982 for the same number of samples prior to HACCP adoption. Moreover, HACCP implementation improved the microbiological quality, shelf life, and overall quality of raw milk. In the production process, 1638 samples were tested. There was statistical significance in the pH value of the yogurt in the intermediate tank. In addition, 2898 yogurt samples were analyzed, and results demonstrated that HACCP implementation enhanced final product quality, such as improving the viscosity and PH, reducing the presence of foreign objects and decreasing yeast and mold count (Hoolasi, 2005).

According to the reviewed literature, the following operational recommendations for different stages of yogurt production can enhance the effectiveness of the HACCP program:

Receiving raw milk

Microbiological hazards can be controlled by cooling milk rapidly to 0–4°C following collection and keeping it at that temperature of 0–4°C throughout transportation and storage. Moreover, foreign substances can be removed by filtering milk (Chountalas *et al.*, 2009; Ilozue *et al.*, 2012).

Homogenization

The objective of the homogenization process is to diminish the diameter of milk fat globules to below 2 microns. As a result, the formation of the cream is prevented. The homogenization temperature must be above 50°C because the milk fat must remain in a liquid like state to prevent any accumulation (Ali, 2015). It is recommended that homogenization be carried out at 60–65°C under 10–12 MPa pressure (Merrzlov *et al.*, 2018).

Pasteurization

The objectives of the pasteurization of yogurt are: (1) to kill food-borne pathogens (2) to diminish food spoilage agents to permissible levels, including molds such as *Aspergillus*, *Penicillium*, *Rhizopus*, and *Fusarium*, and yeasts such as *Candida* spp., *Debaryomyces*, and *Saccharomyces* spp. (3) to minimize the total number of microorganisms in order to form a suitable environment for the growth of starter microorganisms (Hoolasi, 2005). Also, heat treatment through denaturing whey protein has a substantial impact on yogurt texture formation. Milk pasteurization is performed at a temperature of 80–85°C for 30 min to 90–95°C for 5 min (Soukoulis *et al.*, 2007).

Cooling of milk

After pasteurization, milk must be immediately cooled to 4–5°C (Pal *et al.*, 2015).

Adding starter and incubation

The starter must be free of bacteriophages and contaminating bacteria and must grow rapidly. The starter culture consists of *Streptococcus thermophilus* and *Lactobacillus bulgaricus* in proportion 1:1 should be added at 40–45°C. The temperature of the incubation period should be 43°C and during this period the temperature and acidity must be persistently monitored (Pal *et al.*, 2015; Sandrou and Arvanitoyannis, 2000).

Cooling

After reaching the desired acidity (pH = 4.5–4.6), the fermented yogurt immediately cools, and the fermentation process is stopped by decreasing the temperature to 4°C (Pal *et al.*, 2015).

Filling and packaging

After cooling, the filling operation should be done promptly and fruit or nut puree is added to the yogurt at this stage (Sandrou and Arvanitoyannis, 2000). Yogurt is packaged in plastic containers with metal or plastic foil (Sandrou and Arvanitoyannis, 2000).

Storage

Yogurt should be stored at a temperature of 0–6°C and its expiration date is about 40 d after the production date (Chountalas *et al.*, 2009).

Conclusions

Yogurt is one of the most widely consumed dairy products in many communities. The implementation of the HACCP plan with

practical preventive procedures for manufacturing this product can guarantee food safety. Numerous potential hazards in terms of biological, chemical, and physical have been reported during yogurt processing (from the stage of raw materials until distribution). It is necessary to watch out for the cooling system and pasteurization step because both of them are more likely to have contamination potential. The records and documentation of the HACCP system can provide traceability of the origin of contamination, and prevent poor-quality products and reduce the material consumption, personnel and financial issues. Moreover, the implementation of the HACCP plan can lead to complaints reduction from the consumers through improving the safety and quality of the yogurt, efficient management of control points and CCP, and augments in sales and reputation of the company.

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