Tetra Pak develops a processing method that utilises 'Whole Soya'



Tetra Pak has developed a processing method for soya drinks, which utilises the whole soyabean. Tetra Pak's new processing method will boost the nutrition content and remove waste.

Tetra Pak has developed a unique processing method for soya drinks, which utilises the whole soyabean in production. The resulting product comprises 1.2% fibre, compared to 0.26%, for traditional, extracted soyabean drinks. Plant-based beverages are a rapidly growing category in the USA and Europe and have been identified as a popular choice for consumers seeking a healthy option or broader variety. However, further innovation is required in the industry to meet these evolving consumer trends. Tetra Pak's new technology reduces waste and increases the fibre and protein content of the beverage by incorporating the fibre component of the soybean, okara, into the final beverage. The company experimented with different grinding solutions, reducing okara particles so they can be integrated into the final product without impacting taste or texture and producing a versatile, high-fibre beverage. This solution has shelf-life stability of six to 12 months without stabilisers or emulsifiers, making it a clean label product.

Hemang Dholakia, Centre of Expertise manager in plant-based processing solutions and equipment, Tetra Pak said: "At Tetra Pak, we have a long history of innovating to solve challenges in the food industry and reduce food waste. The combination of our processing know-how, technological advancements, and experience working with various soy-based solutions, made our decision to launch a new, commercially viable soya drink solution an easy one. Diversifying product range and boosting nutritional value with 'whole soya' products will help food and drink manufacturers reach new consumers in an increasingly competitive market."

The whole soya line was co-created with customers at the company's product development centre in Shanghai, producing a high-fibre product with no added sugar, creamy taste and texture, and a desirable smooth mouthfeel. Since then, more customers in Asia have added whole soya beverages as premium products complementing existing traditional soya beverages in their portfolio.

This innovation paves the way for many new products using the same method, presenting a commercial opportunity for yoghurt, spreads, ice cream, and meal replacements. The launch forms part of the company's drive to build an innovation ecosystem that helps open new opportunities in food safety and availability to develop more sustainable and resilient food systems.

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