

# Matching technological and nutritional benefits: the arabinoxylan-oligosaccharide case

---

C.M. Courtin<sup>1</sup>, W.F. Broekaert<sup>1</sup>, P. Verjans<sup>1</sup>, B. Damen<sup>1</sup>,  
I. Van Haesendonck<sup>2</sup>, I. Trogh<sup>2</sup>, F. Arnaut<sup>2</sup>, and J.A. Delcour<sup>1</sup>

1 Laboratory of Food Chemistry and Biochemistry, KULeuven, Leuven, Belgium

2 Puratos NV, Groot-Bijgaarden, Belgium



Healthgrain Open Conference, Lund, Sweden

May 6, 2010



# Presentation overview

- Introduction and scope
- Production of wheat bran AXOS
- *In situ* AXOS production in bread
- General conclusions

# Introduction

## *Functional foods and ingredients*



- Interest in functional foods and functional ingredients
- In the past: a lot of attention on the technological properties and impact of arabinoxylans (AX) in cereal based processes
  - Selected xylanases improve processing and end products
- More recent: interest in the nutritional importance of AX as part of whole grain
  - WU-AX: insoluble dietary fibre, water holding, bulking agent
  - WE-AX: soluble dietary fibre, highly viscousifying

***But: what about wheat derived arabinoxylan-oligosaccharides (AXOS)?***

# Introduction

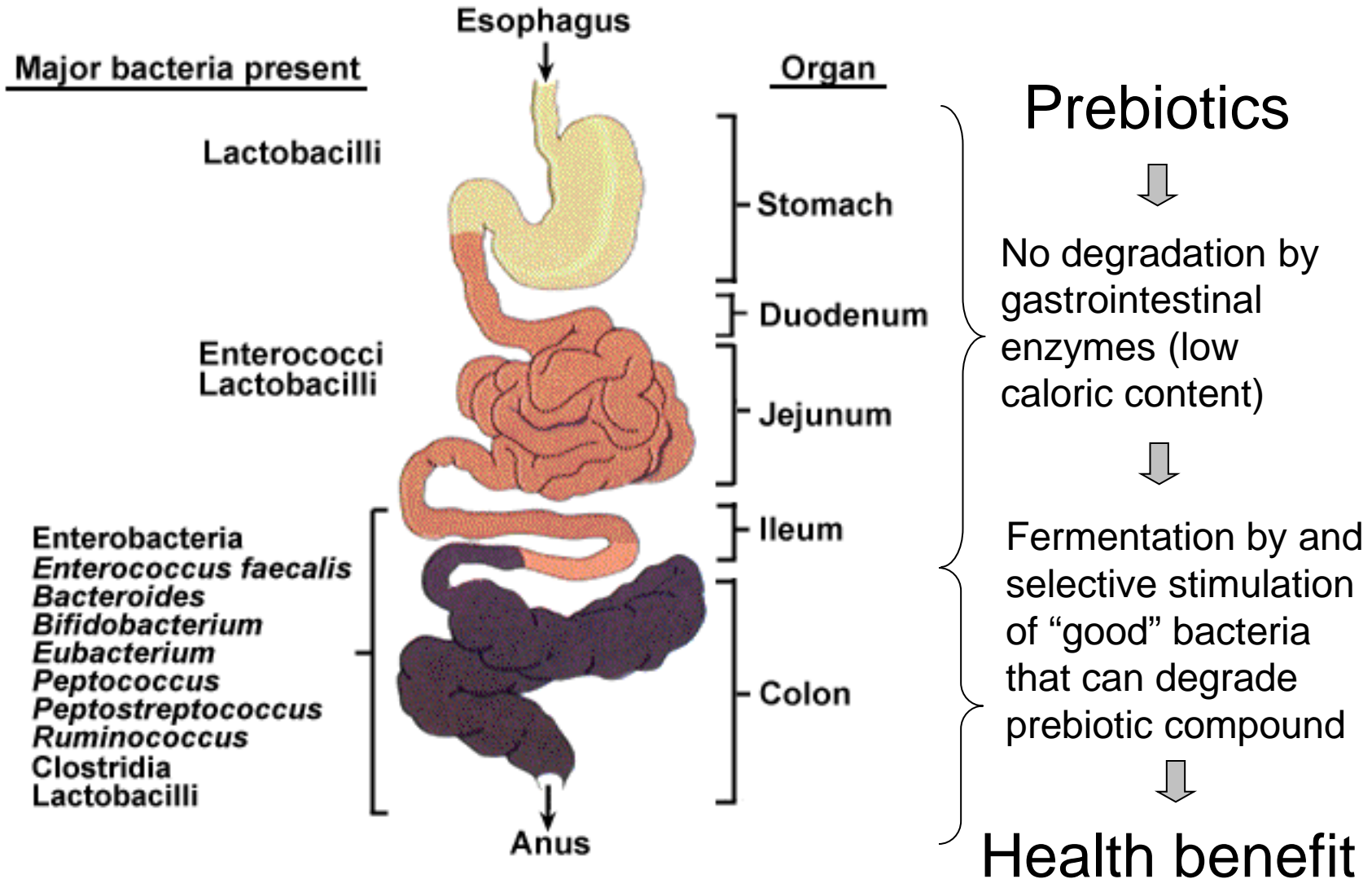
## *Functional foods and ingredients*



- Suggestion that AXOS act as prebiotics
- Prebiotics?
  - One type of functional food ingredients
  - Non-digestible food components that affect the host in a beneficial way by selectively stimulating growth and/or activity of one or a limited number of bacteria in the colon such as Bifidobacteria or Lactobacilli (Gibson et al. 2004)
  - Mainly non-digestible oligosaccharides (e.g. inulin, fructo-, galacto- and xylooligosaccharides)

# Introduction

## Functional food ingredients: prebiotics

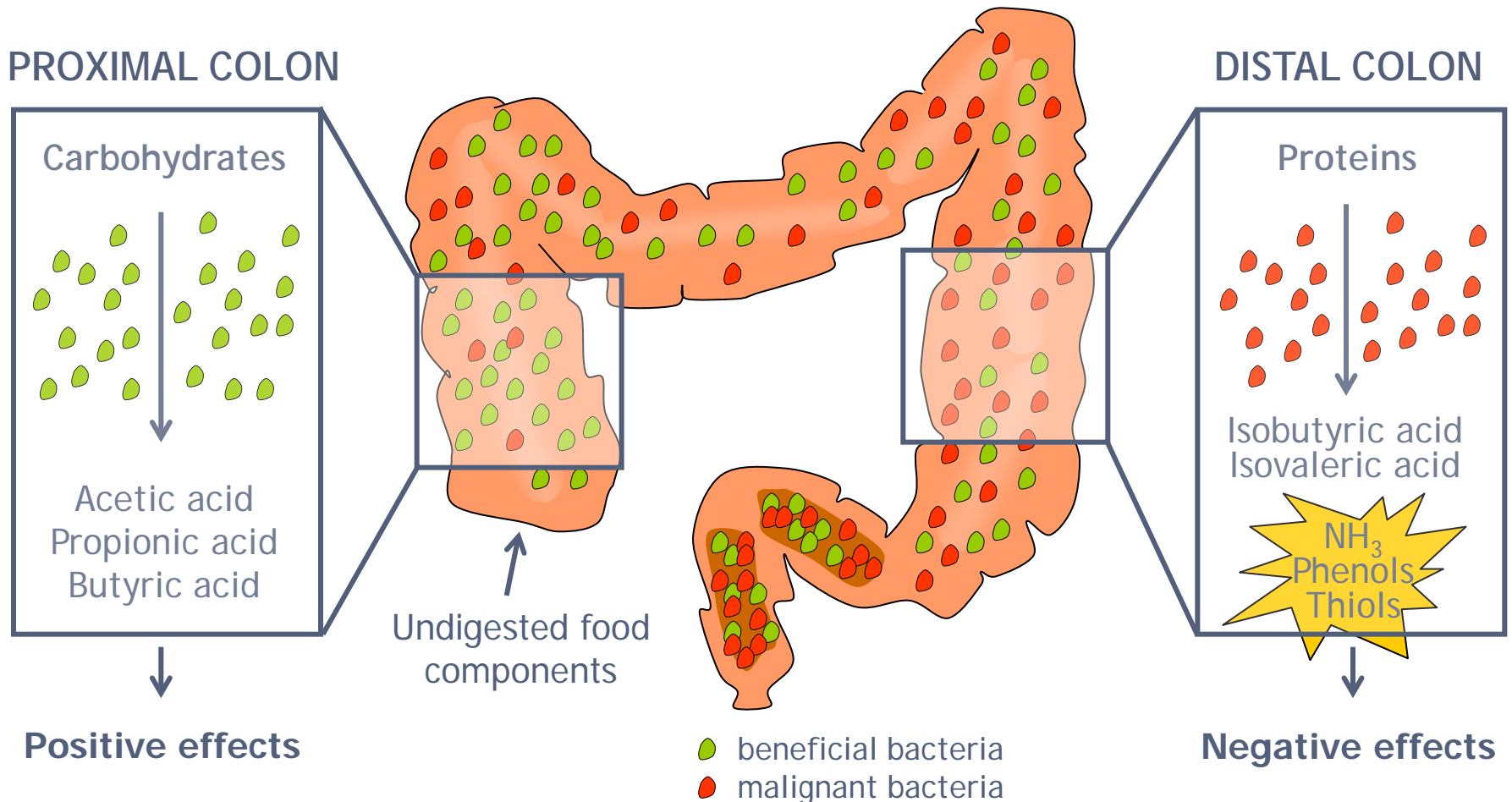


# Introduction

## *Functional food ingredients: prebiotics*



### ■ Fermentation in the human colon

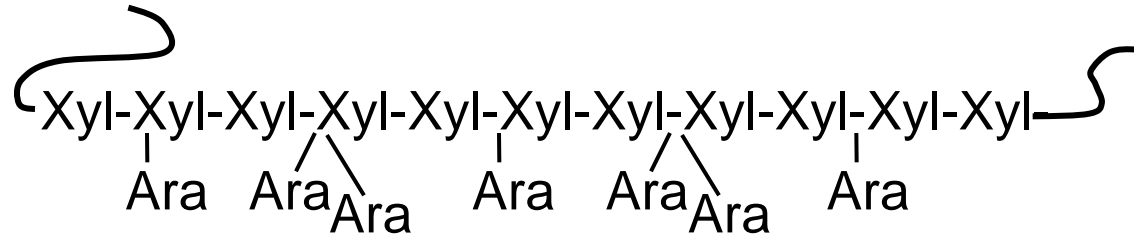


# Introduction

## *Functional food ingredients: prebiotics*



Arabinoxylan



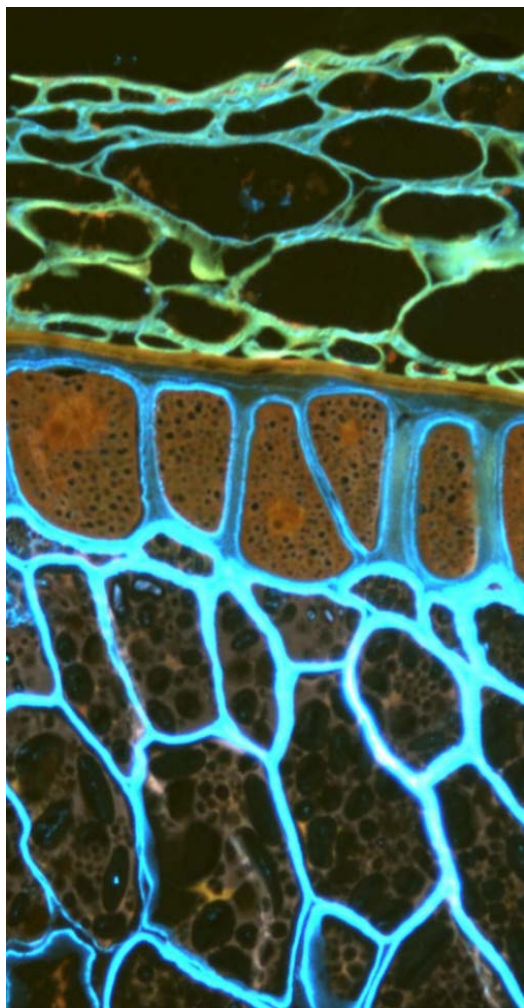
Mol. Mass: 800,000 Da

# Introduction

## *Functional food ingredients: prebiotics*



Wheat 4 – 7 % AX – A/X: 0.55



Fruit coat (pericarp) 40% AX – A/X: 1.1

Seed coat (testa) 40% AX – A/X: 0.10

Aleurone layer 30% AX – A/X: 0.35

Starchy endosperm 2% AX – A/X: 0.55

Technical bran  
35% AX - 0.55

Red: protein, blue: cell walls, yellow: lignified cell walls

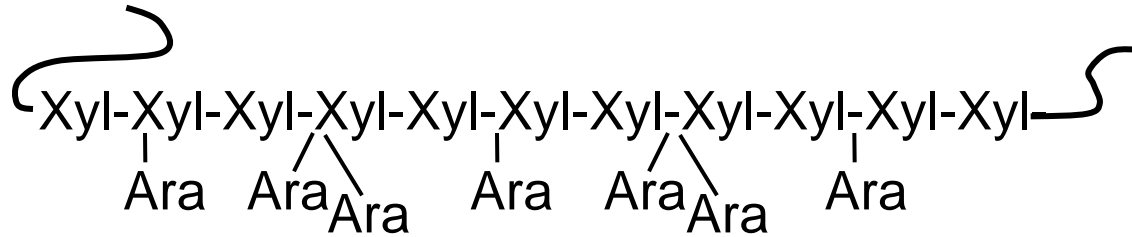
Slide courtesy of  
Dr. Karin Autio,  
VTT, Finland

# Introduction

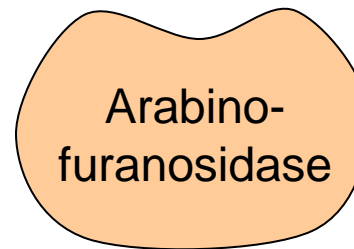
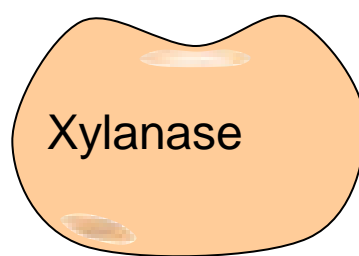
## *Functional food ingredients: prebiotics*



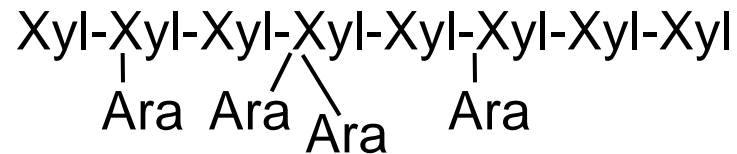
Arabinoxylan



Mol. Mass: 800,000 Da



Arabinoxylo-  
oligosaccharide  
(AXOS)



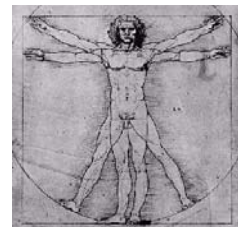


# Introduction

## *Functional food ingredients: prebiotics*



- Over the past 5 years, we were able to show:
  - Fermentation of AXOS with the production of short chain fatty acids & selective stimulation of bacteria in rat trials; structure dependency
  - Less preneoplastic lesions in the distal colon of rats through the administration of AXOS
  - Much less translocation of pathogens to the spleen upon infection in chicken trials
  - Increase of efficiency of food utilisation in chicken feeding trials
  - Extension of carbohydrate fermentation to the distal colon to the disadvantage of protein fermentation in humans
  - High tolerance levels in humans



# Introduction

## *Functional food ingredients: prebiotics*



- Additional evidence for prebiotic effect of AXOS from
  - *In vitro* tests (monocultures, SHIME, ...)
  - *In vivo* trials (human, chicken, rat trials)
  - Literature

⇒ **AXOS works as a prebiotic**

⇒ **Results suggest a dosage of 2.0 to 2.5 g /day for physiological effect in humans**

**How can we supply 2.5 g AXOS / day?**

# Scope of this presentation



To illustrate how we can possibly improve the nutritional profile of grain products, *in casu* bread, by using xylanase technology and the AXOS concept

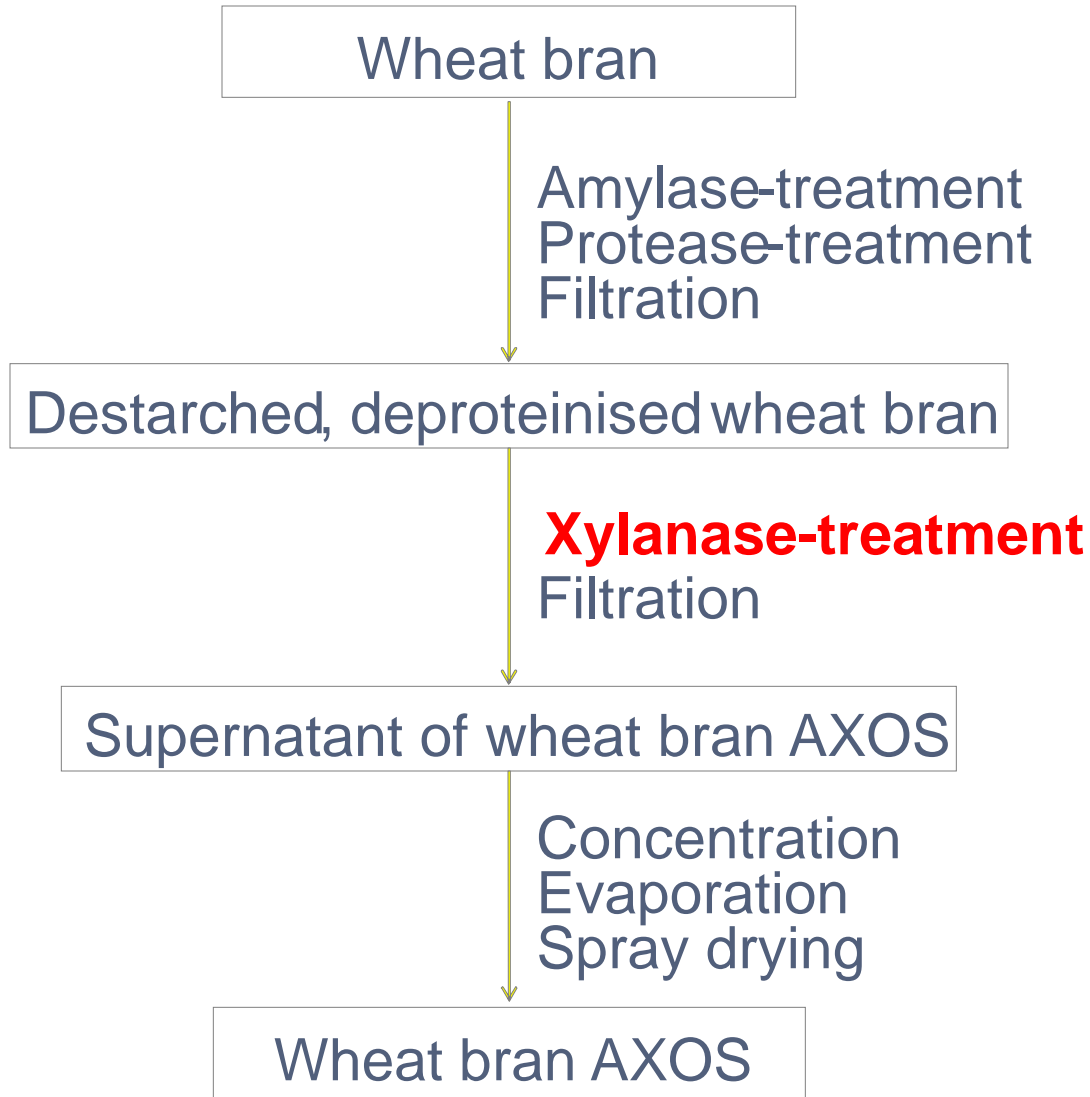


# Presentation overview

- Introduction and scope
- Production of wheat bran AXOS
- *In situ* AXOS production in bread
- General conclusions

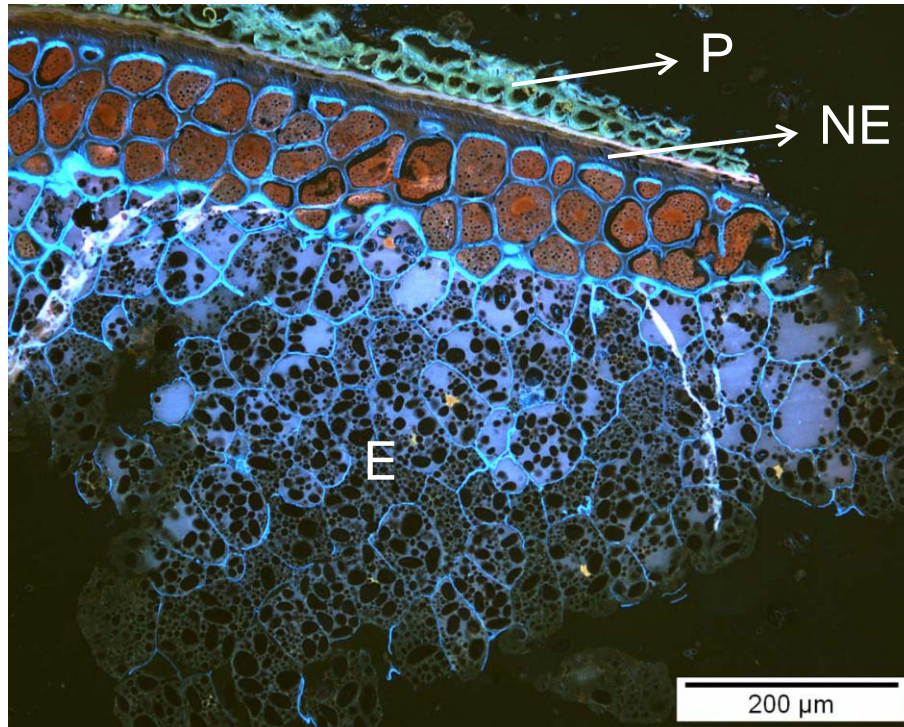


# Production of AXOS from wheat bran

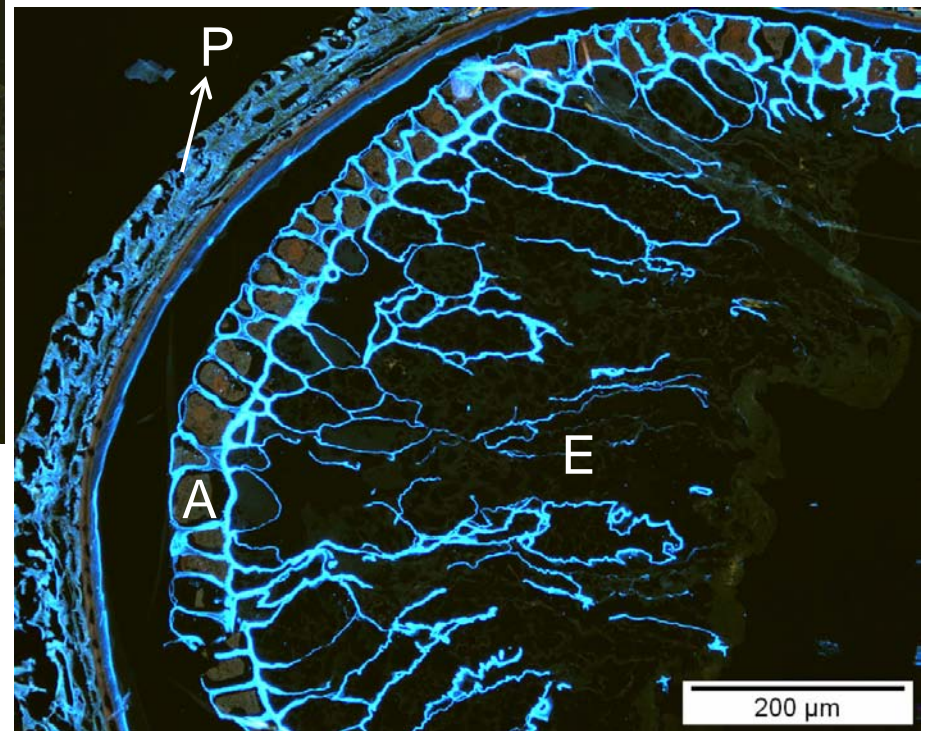




# Production of AXOS from wheat bran



Xylanase treatment



Pictures produced by  
Dr. Emilia Selinheimo,  
VTT, Finland

# Production of AXOS from wheat bran



- AXOS preparation: purity of 85% and up
- Pilot scale production
- Possibility to include in all sorts of products such as bread



Picture courtesy of Elin Ostman (LU)  
Very high level AXOS bread for nutritional test  
(see poster)



# Presentation overview

- Introduction
- Production of wheat bran AXOS
- *In situ* AXOS production in bread
- General conclusions

# *In situ* AXOS production in bread

## *Unique opportunity*



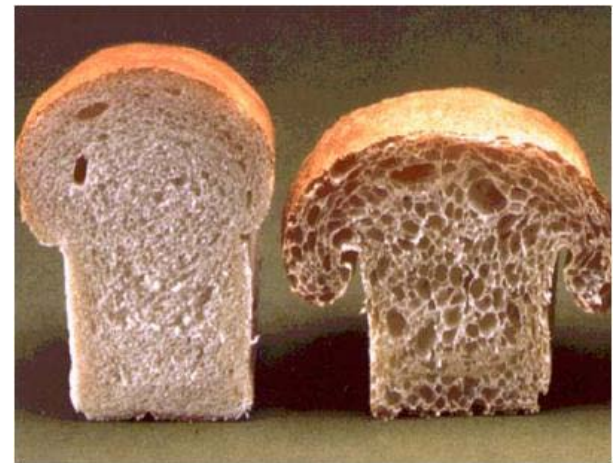
- Bread(making) = unique opportunity to introduce AXOS in the diet:
  - Presence of AX in the raw material
  - Xylanases provide possibility of *in situ* AXOS production
  - Xylanases are already in use in bread making
  - No need for AXOS as an ingredient

# *In situ* AXOS production in bread

## *Challenges*



- But:
  - AX content in starting material should be sufficiently high
    - White wheat flour contains only approx. 2% of AX
  - Average DP of AXOS should be low enough
  - Dough has to be manageable & bread has to be OK
    - Significant AX degradation gives rise to slack and sticky dough and 'droopy' breads



McCleary, 1986, *Int. J. Biol. Macromol.*, 8: 349-354

# *In situ* AXOS production in bread

## *Solution for AX content challenge*



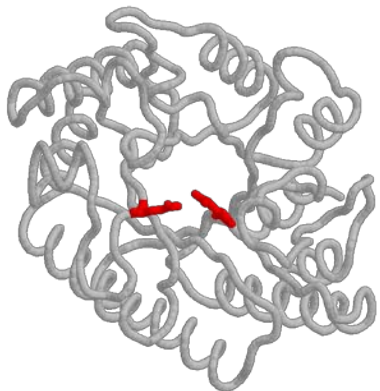
- Solution for AX content:
  - Use or introduce AX rich material under the form of
    - Whole meal
    - Bran from different cereal origins
    - Aleuron enriched material
    - AX enriched isolates
  - AX material should be (partially) degradable (low A/X ratio)
- Correction of the recipe necessary
  
- **Bonus: better nutritional profile of the bread**

# *In situ* AXOS production in bread

## *Solution for the xylanase challenge*

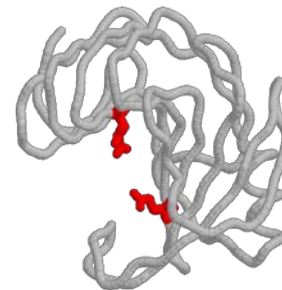


- Xylanases classified in Glycoside Hydrolase Families:
  - GHF 5: Large variety of enzymes; only a few xylanases
  - GHF 8: Large variety of enzymes; only a few xylanases
  - GHF 10: } Mostly xylanases, most common xylanases
  - GHF 11: }
  - GHF 43: Few multi-domain enzymes



GHF 10 xylanases

- Molecular mass: > 30 kDa
- Origin: fungal, bacterial and plant
- Structure:
  - $(\beta/\alpha)_8$ -barrel or 'Salad bowl'
  - Catalytic & non-catalytic domains
- Specificity: catalytic diversity



GHF 11 xylanases

- Molecular mass: ca. 20 kDa
- Origin: fungal and bacterial
- Structure:
  - $\alpha$ -helix and 2  $\beta$ -sheet or 'partly-closed right hand'
  - Single domain (catalytic domain)
- Specificity: little catalytic diversity

# *In situ* AXOS production in bread

## *Solution for the xylanase challenge*



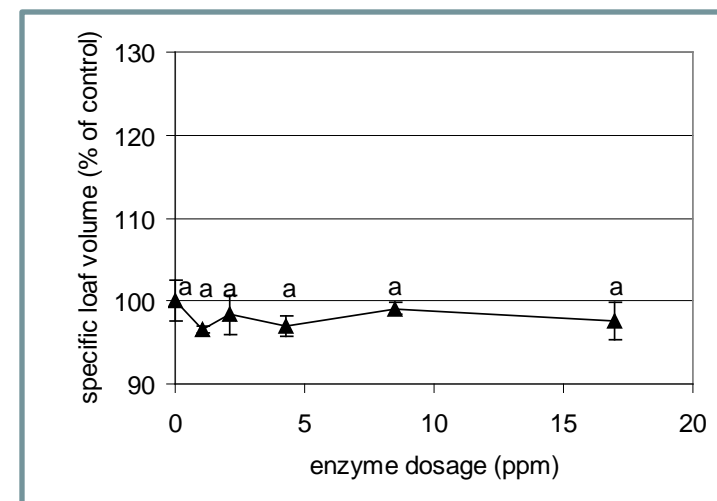
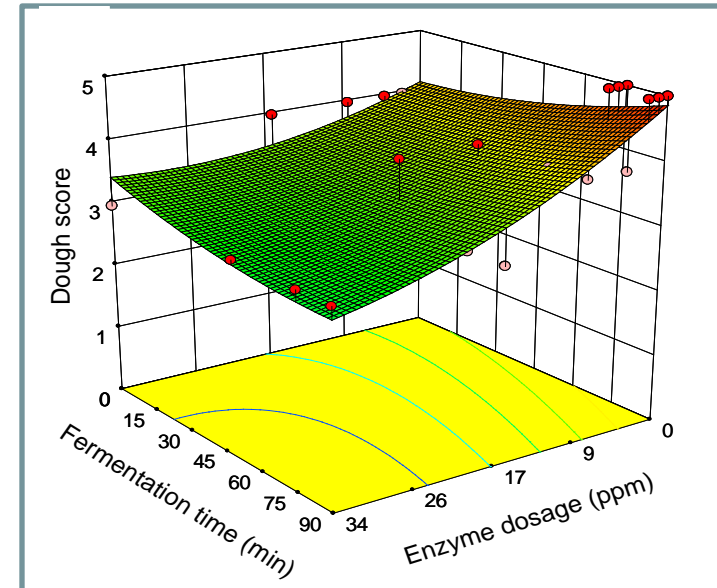
- Select and develop xylanases that
  - Work primarily in the baking phase of bread making and not during mixing and fermentation: thermophilic xylanases
  - Produce AXOS of sufficiently low molecular weight: the right specificity should be selected: GHF10 xylanases
- Example: *Thermotoga martima* XynA and XynB xylanases
  - XynA: structure dependent T-optimum between 65 and 85°C
  - XynB: optimally active at 100°C

# *In situ* AXOS production in bread

## *Results*



- *T. maritima* XynB:
  - Almost no impact on dough manageability, even at very high concentrations
  - No impact on loaf volume
  - But: significant production of low DP AXOS!
- Works only during baking
  - To our surprise: strong synergetic volume improving effect when used in combination with a breadmaking active xylanase

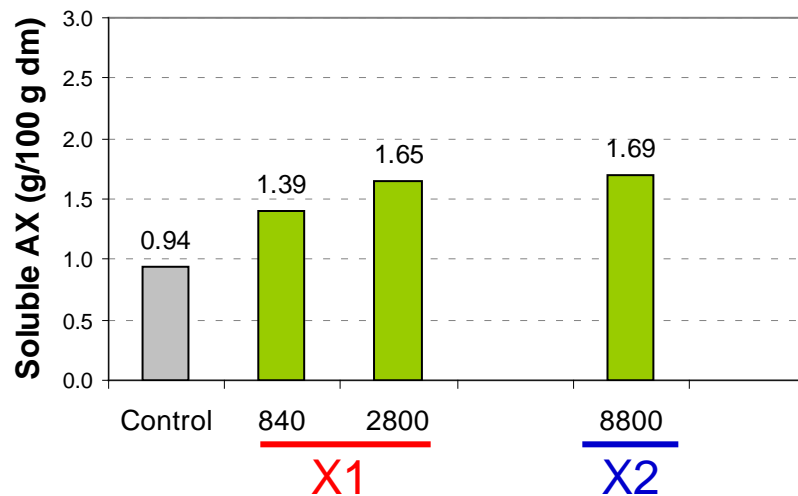


# *In situ* AXOS production in bread

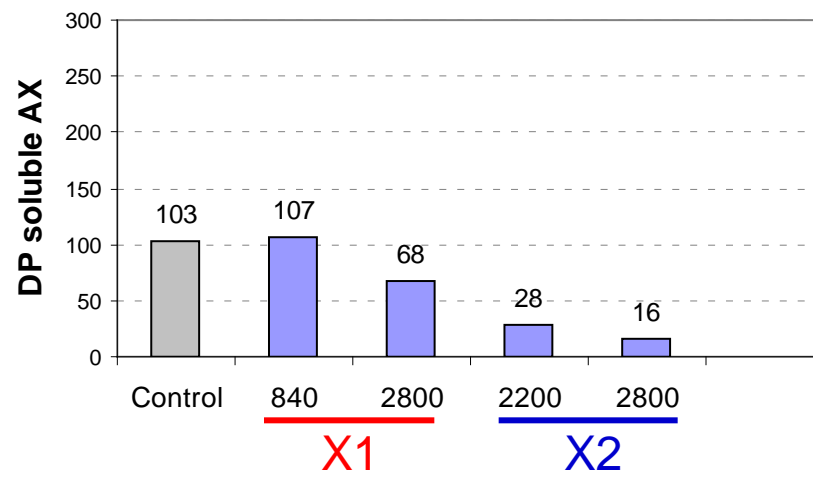
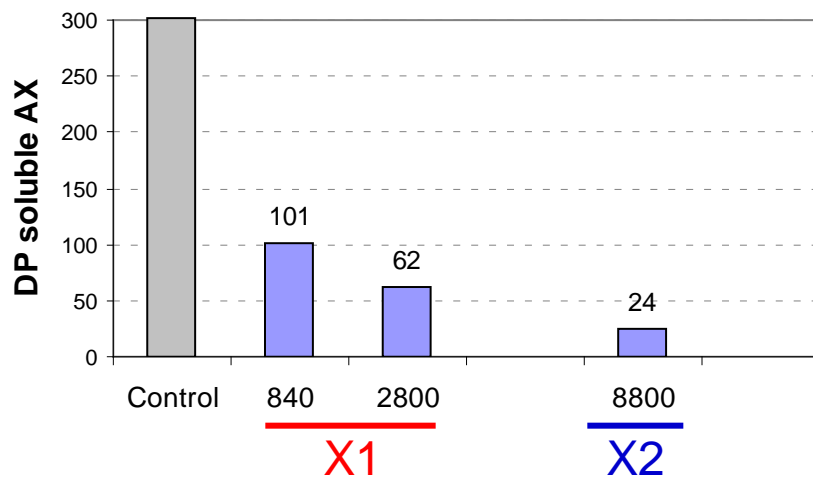
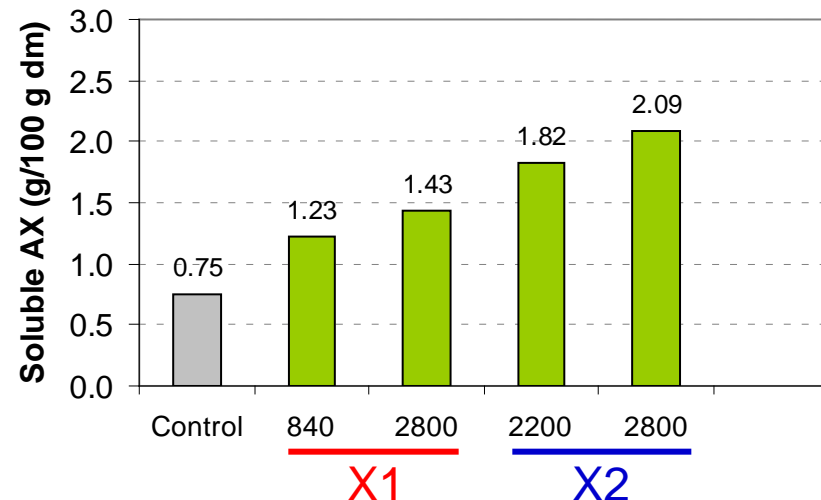
## *Results*



### Wheat endosperm



### Wheat wholegrain

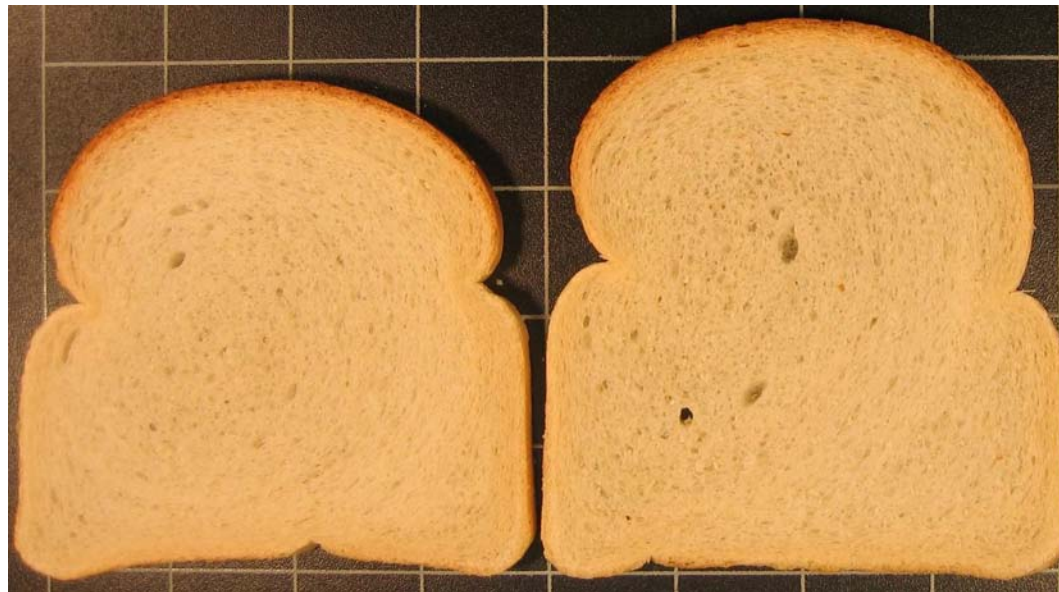


# *In situ* AXOS production in bread

## *Results*



### Wheat endosperm flour



control  
(avDP sol AX = 302)  
(S-AX = 0.9%)

+ X2  
(avDP sol AX = 24)  
(S-AX = 1.7%)

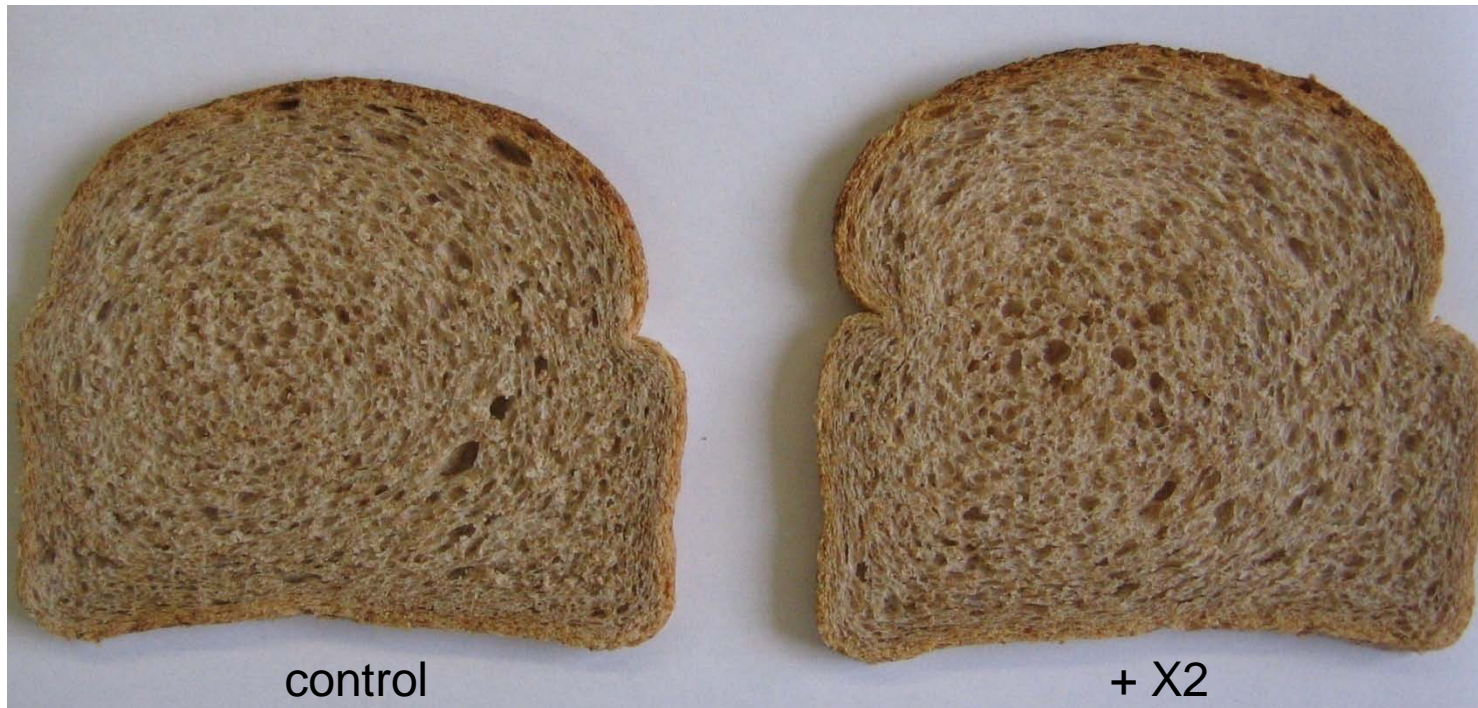
# *In situ* AXOS production in bread

## *Results*



Wheat wholemeal

Matching the nutritional and  
the technological need!



control

avDP sol AX = 103  
S-AX content = 0.7%

+ X2

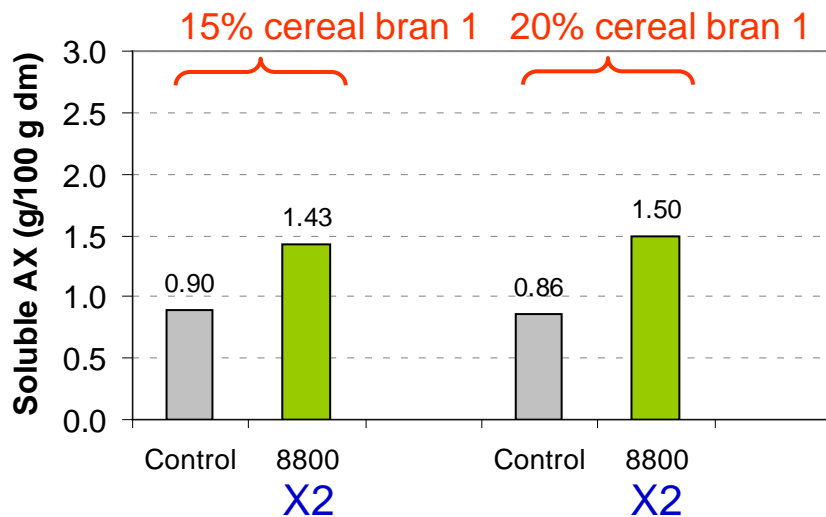
avDP sol AX = 14  
AXOS content = 2.1%

# *In situ* AXOS production in bread

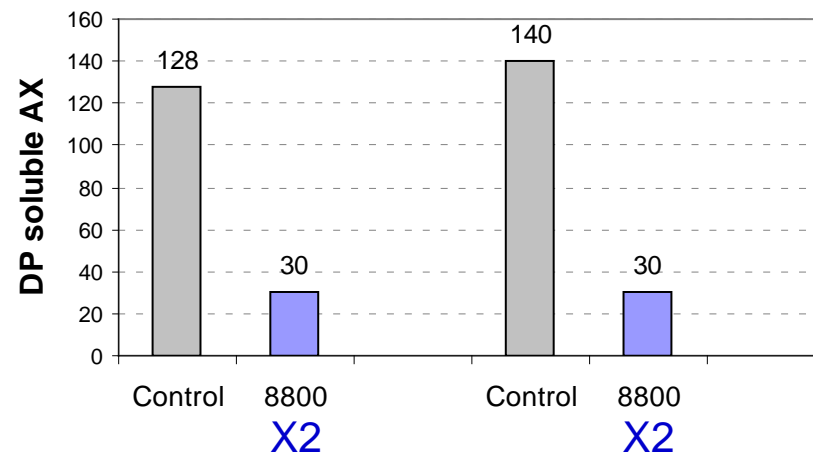
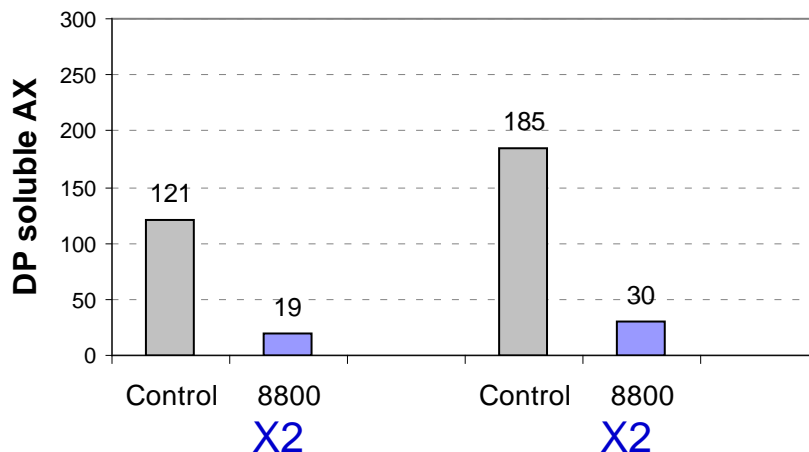
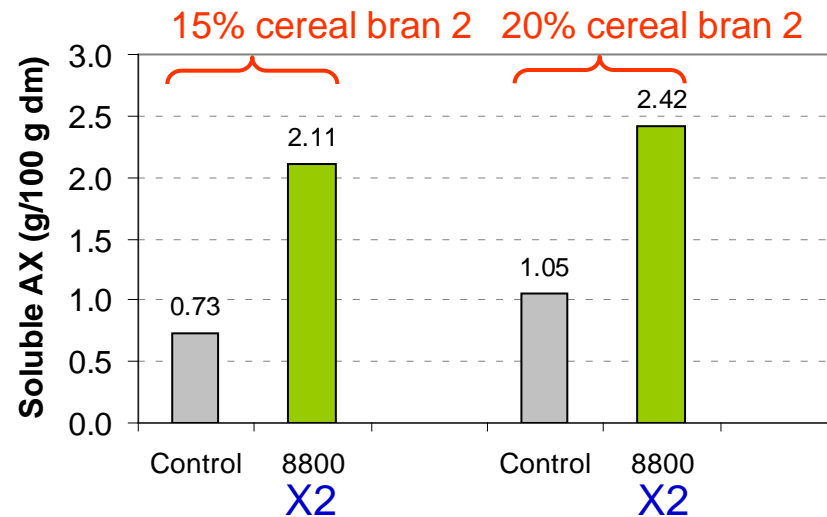
## *Results*



### Wheat flour + Cereal bran 1



### Wheat flour + Cereal bran 2

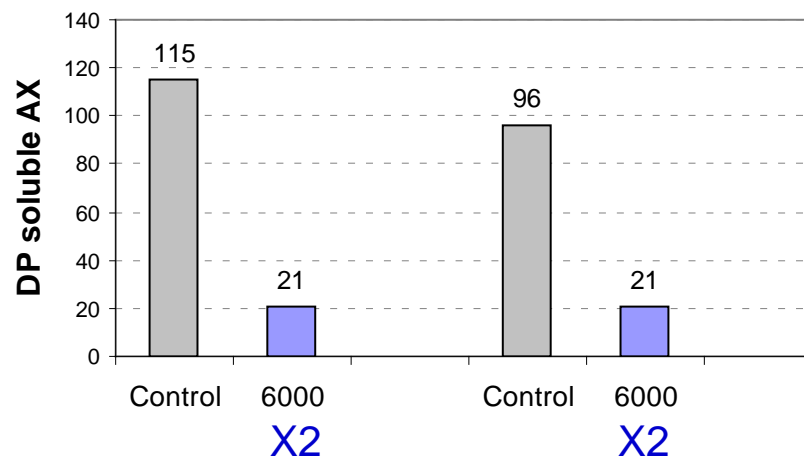
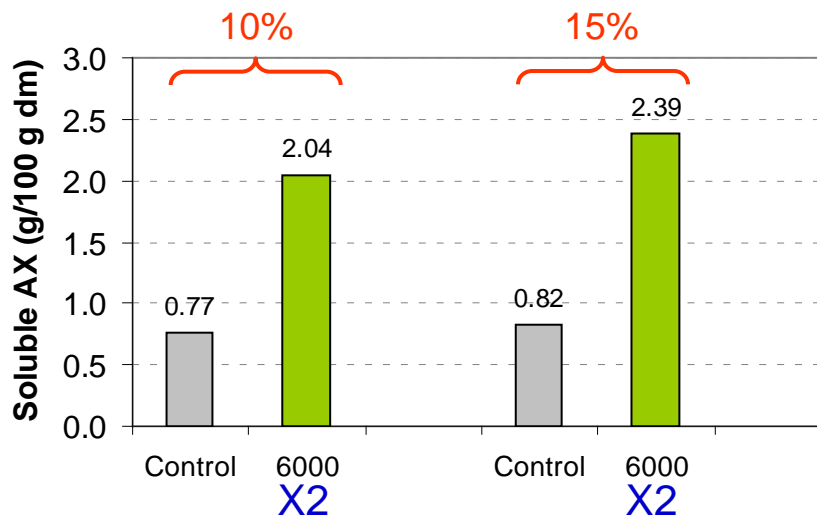


# *In situ* AXOS production in bread

## Results



### Wheat flour + aleurone enriched bran fraction





# Presentation overview

- Introduction
- Production of wheat bran AXOS
- *In situ* AXOS production in bread
- General conclusions



# General conclusions

- Using

- 1. the right AX rich starting material and
- 2. (thermophilic) xylanase technology

whole meal or bran enriched AXOS products and breads with sufficiently high AXOS levels can be made, without compromising processing or end product quality

- A similar concept can be designed for HMW soluble fibre, but more evidence needed on their physiological effects
- Matching technological and nutritional needs!