BIOTECHNOLOGY FOR PLANT DISEASE DIAGNOSTICS AND MANAGEMENT

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Nanoencapsulation Technology for Management of Postharvest Biodeterioration of Stored Food Commodities

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INTRODUCTION

Different environmental factors influencing the biodeterioration of stored food commodities may be grouped into extrinsic, intrinsic, implicit and processing factors (Fig. 1). Today, postharvest deterioration of food commodities caused by implicit factors such as those resulting from fungi, pathogenic bacteria and microbial toxins has led to negative perception of utilization of stored foods in public community (Das et al., 2019). Most of the general population in the developing countries has developed their potential attributes for natural antimicrobials instead of synthetic preservatives. Undesirable side effects of synthetic preservatives include toxicological and immunosuppressive activities as well as severe environmental non renewability. However, the utilization of plant products, bioactive compounds and essential oils are recognized as alternative against postharvest deterioration of food commodities (Chen et al., 2019). These natural antimicrobials would fulfil the criteria of product availability and Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS) status due to inclusion under food grade qualities (Gorris and Smid, 2007). Essential oils are complex aromatic terpenoid and phenolic mixtures with pleasant odour and characteristic taste (Caputi and Aprea, 2011). Bioactive components of essential oils such as oxides, phenols, ethers, aldehydes, alcohols, terpenes, hydrocarbons and acids affect differently on targeted organisms based on the number and stereochemical nature of essential oils (Akthar et al., 2014). Due to presence of excessive aromatic components, essential oils are easily degraded because of changes in physical parameters viz. light, temperature, oxygen and pressure. Furthermore, water insolubility and uncontrolled release of aroma significantly reduce the efficacy of essential oil within a limited time periods.

Encapsulation of essential oils and their bioactive components efficiently conserve the physical stability and improve bioefficacy with targeted applications and absorption