

Non-thermal processing as a preservation tool for health-promoting beverages

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Abstract

In the recent past, non-thermal food processing methods have been promoted due to the limitations associated with conventional thermal processing methods such as poor nutrient quality, rheological properties, and sensory characteristics of food products. The microbial and enzyme inactivation in food products subjected to non-thermal processes occurs without the application of heat that in turn results in products of superior quality. Non-thermal food processing for health-promoting beverages is gaining popularity because of the various advantages like processing at ambient temperature resulting in minimal or no changes in the texture, sensory attributes, composition of nutrients, bioactive compounds (antioxidants, anthocyanin, β -carotene and flavonoids), and organic acids. Due to the continuous rise in the research in this field, it is very important to synthesize relevant literature to supplement existing information to benefit all researchers and industrialists in the food processing sectors. This review aims to critically discuss various non-thermal processing technologies like ultrasound, pulsed light, high hydrostatic pressure, supercritical carbon dioxide, cold plasma, membrane technology, and pulsed magnetic field for processing health-promoting beverages. The working principle, effect of non-thermal processing technologies on the nutritional quality, sensory attributes, and elimination of microbial load of health-promoting beverages are also discussed. Most of the studies are performed on a laboratory scale which exhibits the need for the development of industrial-scale trials. Non-thermal processes are potential alternatives to thermal processing methods due to the retention of superior product quality and lower energy requirements. It is concluded that the adaptability of the combination of non-thermal processes along with aseptic packaging and cold temperature storage will result in superior product quality.

Keywords Athermal processing · Functional beverages · Product quality · Pasteurisation

1 Introduction

Foods are derived from either plant or animal origin and contain various nutrients like carbohydrates, proteins, lipids, vitamins, minerals, and other bioactive components. They are prone to spoilage due to different physical, chemical, and microbial agents. Food preservation is defined as processes by which the shelf life of food products can be increased without affecting the product quality in terms of nutrient retention and sensorial attributes [1]. Beverages provide energy, water, and nutrients like vitamins, minerals, proteins, lipids, and carbohydrates. Beverages can be classified into

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water, unsweetened tea or coffee, milk, sweetened with non-nutritive sweeteners, energy as well as nutrient-rich, and only energy-yielding sweetened beverages [2–4]. The demand for health-promoting beverages in the global market is continuously growing due to consumers' continuous health awareness, and they prefer foods of nutritional value that can reduce the risk of diseases [5, 6]. Conventionally, fruit or vegetable-based beverages are processed using thermal processing methods [7, 8]. However, thermal processing can cause severe physical and chemical changes, affecting the organoleptic properties and nutrient bioavailability [9, 10].

Non-thermal processing techniques like ultrasonication, cold plasma technology, supercritical carbon dioxide (SC-CO₂), pulsed light, high hydrostatic pressure (HHP), membrane technology, and pulsed magnetic field can be used for processing health-promoting beverages (Fig. 1). These techniques can be used to prevent the aforementioned drawbacks of conventional thermal processing methods. The non-thermal processing methods can result in a preservation effect similar to thermal processing methods while minimizing the deleterious effects on nutrients, color, texture, and sensorial characteristics of food products [11–15]. Thermal processing requires huge energy requirements and also results in products of poor quality; hence, it can be replaced with environmentally friendly non-thermal processing techniques. During non-thermal treatment, the microbes are inactivated for a shorter duration due to the alteration in the membrane structure of bacteria and the unfolding of DNA structure [16–18]. It also affects the non-covalent bonds like hydrogen and ionic bonds to denature the protein, gelatinize the starch, and destroy the pathogenic or food spoilage-causing microorganisms [19–22]. The thermal treatment affects both covalent and non-covalent bonds, resulting in product quality deterioration [23]. In this review article, the principle and effect of different non-thermal processing technologies on the quality of health-promoting beverages are described.

2 Ultrasonication

In ultrasonication, the treatment of food products is carried out at lower temperatures whereas, in thermosonication, food products are subjected to both ultrasound and moderate temperature [24, 25]. Manosonication is the treatment in which food materials are exposed to ultrasound and pressure (100–300 kPa). In manothermosonication, food products are treated with ultrasound in combination with pressure and temperature [26, 27]. The thermophilic microorganisms can be inactivated by manothermosonication because both the temperature and pressure provide a synergistic effect leading to the collapse of created cavities.

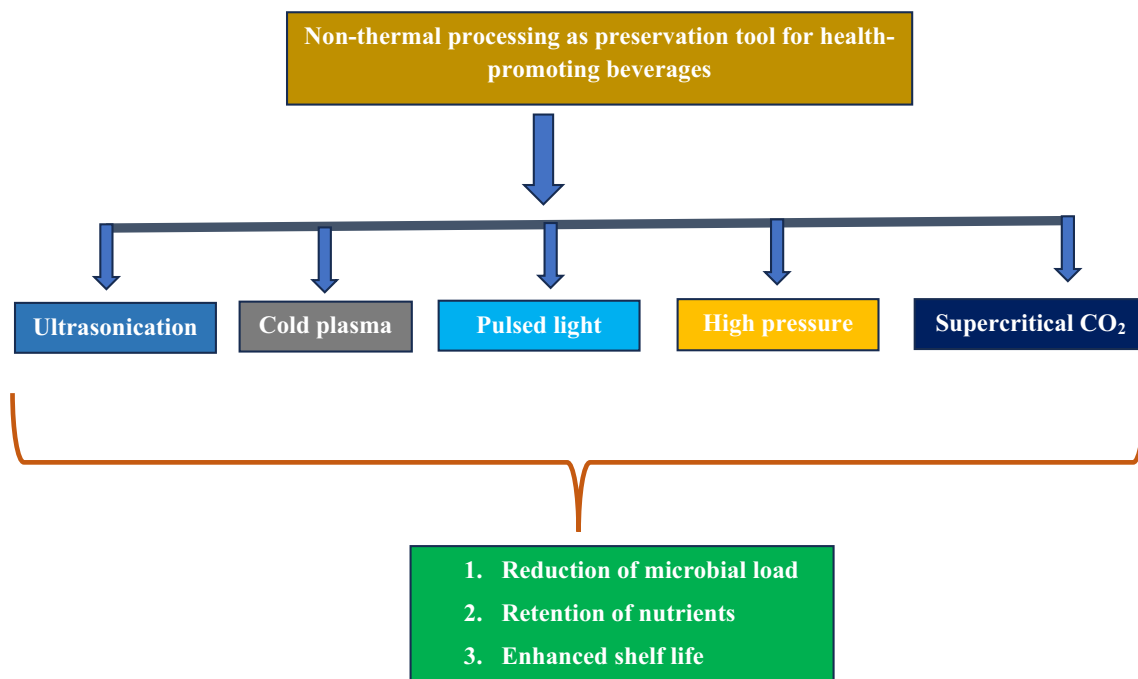


Fig. 1 Non-thermal processing technologies for health-promoting beverages

2.1 Working principle

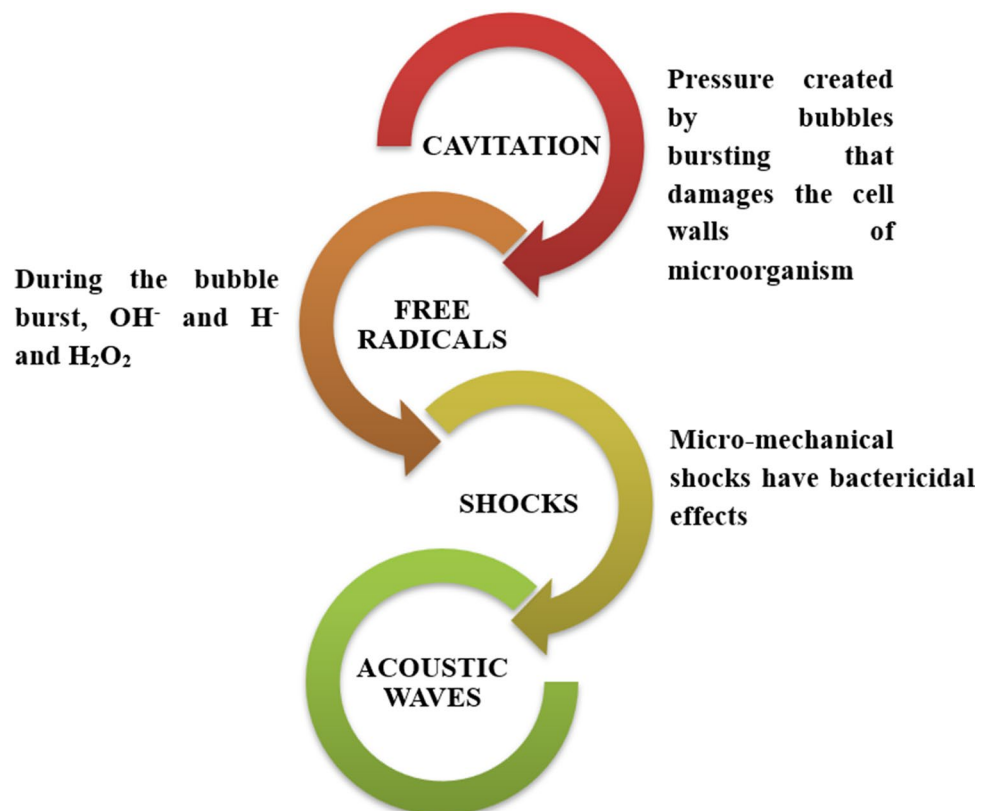
Ultrasound is a sound wave with a frequency higher than 20 kHz which is more than normal human hearing frequency. Ultrasound waves oscillate through the medium resulting in the creation of numerous cycles of expansion and compression [28]. The small cavities are formed due to the presence of air and the cavities expand to a definite size followed by collapse. This results in the generation of huge energy and local hot spots while increasing heat and mass transfer rates [29]. The direct heating of the product takes place during ultrasound treatment due to the release of high energy and intense agitation. Ultrasonication can be classified into low (20–100 kHz), medium (100 kHz–1 MHz), and high (1–100 MHz) range frequencies. Low frequency can produce a large shear force, while medium produces radical species and high frequency produces less shear force. The medium-range frequency of ultrasound waves is more suitable for various processes because that can cause the oxidation of lipids and proteins during food processing. It is carried out by immersion of the health-promoting beverages at a suitable frequency in an ultrasonic bath resulting in the desirable changes in the subjected food material [30]. The diagrammatic representation of ultrasonication is provided in Fig. 2.

2.2 Application of ultrasound in the processing of health-promoting beverages

Ultrasonication can also be used for degassing carbonated beverages by which microbial load reduction can also be attained. A continuous flow high-intensity ultrasound was used for the inactivation of various enzymes during the processing of milk [25]. The synergistic effect of heating (61–75.5 °C) along with ultrasound resulted in the denaturation of enzymes (alkaline phosphatase, gamma-glutamyltranspeptidase, and lactoperoxidase) and proteins (alpha-lactalbumin and beta-lactoglobulin). There was no change in the casein structure but fat globule size was reduced up to 81.5%. The particles were evenly distributed at ~70 °C compared to processing at lower temperatures. Ultrasound treatment improves the homogeneity of the solution due to the reduction in particle size and results in superior product quality.

The synergistic effect of carbonation and ultrasonication on nutrient quality and the microbial load reduction in guava juice was investigated by Cheng et al. [31]. Carbonation facilitates the formation of numerous nuclei for cavitation which in turn removes dissolved oxygen. This treatment resulted in the juice with higher ascorbic acid retention but microbial load reduction was low. Sonication of strawberry juice samples at 40–100% amplitude levels at 20 kHz for 2–10 min and

Fig. 2 Schematic representation of ultrasonication mechanism [99]



pulse durations of 5 s ON and 5 s OFF was reported [32]. The retention of anthocyanin and ascorbic acid content after 10 min of ultrasound treatment was 96.8 and 89%, respectively. The shelf life of sonicated orange juice (0.3–0.81 W/mL for 2–10 min) stored at 10 °C is 27–33 days while thermal pasteurized juice had 19 days of shelf life [33]. The sonicated orange juice retained higher ascorbic acid compared to thermally pasteurized samples. Anthocyanin retention of blackberry juice during ultrasound treatment at 100% amplitude for 10 min is more than 94% with negligible color change [34]. Sonicated passion fruit juice (20 kHz, 263 W, and 89.25 µm) retained the color, pH, and ascorbic acid content higher than thermal preservation while microbial load remained constant for 10 days upon storage at 4 °C [35].

Ultrasound treatment of Gulupa juice at 40 kHz for 30 min improved the shelf life to 20 days with minor color changes and a slight decrease in ascorbic acid level [36]. Extraction of noni juice using ultrasound improved the phenolic, and flavonoid content while the nutritional quality and suspension stability of the juice remained the same [37]. The color, pH, soluble solids, flavonoid, and phenolic content of kaji lemon juice are similar to that of thermally processed samples [38]. Ultrasound treatment of strawberry juice for 12 min retained phenolic, flavonoids, and ascorbic acid content similar to that of the unprocessed sample [39]. Conventional pasteurization of pear juice at 95 °C and ultrasound treatment at 65 °C inactivated the microbial load whereas ultrasound treatment resulted in the superior retention of phenolic compounds [40]. The sonicated barberry juice retained higher anthocyanin and phenolic compounds compared to thermally treated samples [41]. Ultrasonication of mulberry juice at 24 kHz for 30 min retained higher anthocyanin (95%) compared to thermally treated samples [42]. Ultrasound treatment of mango juice at 600 W for 40 min resulted in a complete reduction of microbial load and superior retention of nutrients [43]. The quality profile of matured coconut water exposed to ultrasound at 60% amplitude for 10 min was not affected while the microbial load reduction was 4.79 log CFU/mL [44].

The ultrasound treatment of apple juice at 20 °C and 25 kHz for 30–90 min did not alter the pH, color, soluble solids, and titratable acidity while the microbial load was significantly reduced. Ultrasound-treated apple juice also retained a higher amount of ascorbic acid, phenolics, and antioxidant activity [45]. A similar level of inactivation of aerobic mesophiles, yeast, and molds in prebiotic whey beverages using high-intensity ultrasound (600 W) and high-temperature short-time treatment (75 °C for 15 s) was reported by Guimaraes et al. [46]. The phase separation in ultrasound-treated beverages was prevented due to the decrease in particle size, and denaturation of proteins and polysaccharides (inulin and gellan gum). Ultrasound treatment of prebiotic-rich strawberry juice was carried out for 15–30 min at 40 kHz and 180 W [47]. The microbial load was reduced to 1 log CFU/ml and phenolics were increased by 25% compared to untreated samples. The sensorial attributes and ascorbic acid content of strawberry juice were not affected after ultrasound treatment. The various reports on the processing of health-promoting beverages using ultrasound are discussed in Table 1.

3 Cold plasma

Based on the generation of plasma, it is classified into thermal (fully ionized) and cold (partly ionized) plasma. Thermal plasma is composed of thermodynamically balanced ions, electrons, and gas molecules. In cold plasma, local thermodynamic equilibrium is maintained between electrons and gas molecules which in turn leads to the low temperature of the whole system. Cold plasma is more suitable for the processing of beverages because it is carried out under ambient temperature and does not use heat energy to inactivate microbial load, hence the thermolabile compounds are not degraded [12, 48].

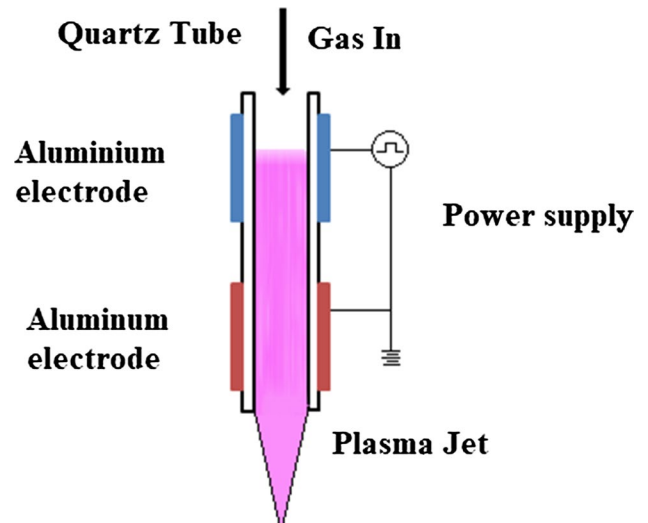
3.1 Working principle

Cold plasma is defined as the fourth state of matter and contains a high amount of internal energy that converts the matter from solid-state to liquid then to gas and finally to ionized gaseous state i.e., plasma [49, 50]. The formation of cold plasma occurs when gas is subjected to continuous high electrical energy that in turn facilitates the collision of particles leading to the generation of particles of smaller sizes (Fig. 3). It contains free radicals, electrons, photons, positive ions, negative ions, and excited or non-excited molecules [51, 52]. Atmospheric pressure and energy in the form of electrons are utilized for the formation of cold plasma. The molecules are maintained at ambient temperature; hence this is termed as cold plasma which can be effectively used for processing thermolabile food products [53]. The reactive species generated during cold plasma interact with lipids, proteins, and fatty acids leading to structural variations followed by microbial cell damage. Various factors that affect the efficiency of cold plasma processing are the degree of ionization, nature of gas, temperature source, treatment duration, nature of microbes, and food properties [54].

Table 1 Effect of ultrasound on the processing of health-promoting beverages

Juices	Parameters	Remarks	Reference
Guava juice	Frequency: 35 kHz Time: 30 min	Ultrasound treatment resulted in juice with better ascorbic acid retention and lower microbial load reduction	[31]
Strawberry juice	Frequency: 20 kHz Time: 2–10 min	Retention of anthocyanin and ascorbic acid content after 10 min of ultrasound treatment was 96.8 and 89%, respectively	[32]
Orange juice	Energy density: 0.30–0.81 W/mL Time: 2–10 min	Ultrasound-treated samples retained higher ascorbic acid and the predicted shelf life was 27–33 days	[33]
Blackberry juice	Frequency: 20 kHz Time: 2–10 min	Around 95% of anthocyanin content was retained after ultrasound treatment for 10 min with negligible color change	[34]
Passion fruit juice	Frequency: 20 kHz	Ascorbic acid retention was higher than thermal preservation and the microbial load remained constant for 10 days upon storage at 4 °C	[35]
Gulupa juice	Frequency: 40 kHz Time: 15–30 min	Improved the shelf life to 20 days with a minor color difference and minimal decrease in ascorbic acid content	[36]
Noni juice	Frequency: 40 kHz Time: 15–30 min	Improved the total phenolics, flavonoid content, and the nutritional quality	[37]
Kaji lemon juice	Frequency: 30 kHz Time: 15–30 min	Color, pH, flavonoid content, total phenolics, and soluble solids remained the same as control samples	[38]
Strawberry juice	Frequency: 40 kHz Time: 2–16 min	Total phenolics, flavonoids, and ascorbic acid content were similar to the control sample	[39]
Pear juice	Frequency: 20 kHz Time: 5 min	Complete inactivation of enzymes and microbial load while ascorbic acid content was similar to control	[40]
Barberry juice	Frequency: 70% Time: 2–10 min	Higher retention of anthocyanin and total phenolics	[41]
Mulberry juice	Frequency: 24 Hz Time: 20 min	Anthocyanin retention was 95% and the color was similar to fresh juice	[42]
Mango juice	Power: 0–600 W Time: 0–40 min	Complete inactivation of microorganisms and superior retention of product quality	[43]
Matured coconut water	Amplitude: 50–70% Time: 5–10 min	Quality profile remained the same upon exposure to 60% amplitude for 10 min and the microbial load was reduced to 4.79 log CFU/mL	[44]
Sweet lime juice	Frequency: 20 kHz Time: 15–30 min	Improved the phenolic content, antioxidant capacity, and ascorbic acid by 16, 10 and 14%, respectively	[151]
Carrot juice	Frequency: 20 kHz Time: 3 min	Microbial load was reduced and resulted in superior product quality	[68]
Amla juice	Frequency: 20 kHz Time: 6 min	90.72 and 73.18% inactivation of polyphenol oxidase and peroxidase, respectively while the biochemical attributes are retained	[148]

Fig. 3 Schematic diagram of cold plasma equipment. Adapted from [100]



3.2 Application of cold plasma in processing health-promoting beverages

The exposure of orange juice to cold plasma at a voltage of 70 V and pressure of 50 Hz for 1–6 min resulted in the reduction of volatile compounds. The reduction in limonene, γ -terpinene, linalool, α -terpineol, terpinene-4-ol, and p-cymene was observed after cold plasma treatment [55]. The effect of cold plasma on the processing of pomegranate juice for 3–7 min at 4 W increased the phenolic content (33%), especially ferulic acid, ellagic acid, and catechin. This treatment also lowered the content of caffeic acid, and punicalagin [56]. Processing of apple juice at a dielectric barrier discharge power of 50 W for 30 s resulted in a 4.3 log reduction of *E. coli* [57]. Blueberry juice treated with an atmospheric jet plasma power of 11 kW for 6 min resulted in the 7.2 log reduction of *Bacillus* and enhanced phenolic content [58]. The exposure of tomato juice to the frequency of 50 Hz and voltage of 230 V for 5 min in liquid plasma has not changed the compounds responsible for aroma especially trans-2-hexenal and n-hexenal [59]. The treatment of different juices at an atmospheric jet plasma power of 650 W at the gas flow of 50 L/min for 30–120 s resulted in microbial load reduction as follows: orange juice (1.59 log), tomato juice (1.43 log), apple juice (4 log), and sour cherry nectar (3.34 log). This treatment enhanced the phenolic content (10–15%) and significant changes in color and pH were not observed [60]. Treatment of tender coconut water with high voltage atmospheric cold plasma in the air at 90 kV for 120 s resulted in a 1.3 log reduction of *Salmonella enterica*. [61]. The formation of reactive gas species like ozone and hydrogen peroxide is responsible for microbial inactivation. Higher microbial cell leakage was further facilitated by the presence of citric acid (400 ppm), resulting in a 5-log reduction of *Salmonella enterica*. Exposure of white grape juice to dielectric barrier discharge for 4 min at 80 kV resulted in a 7.4 log reduction of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* without affecting pH and flavonoid content [62]. Processing of orange juice in dielectric barrier discharge at 90 kV for 2 min resulted in a 4.7 log reduction of *Salmonella enterica* without significant changes in pH, flavonoid, and phenolic content [63]. A 5-log reduction of *Zygosaccharomyces rouxii* in apple juice was attained by exposure to dielectric barrier discharge at 90 W for 140 s while oxidative enzymes were not affected [64]. The treatment of tomato juice in gliding discharge plasma at 3.8 kV and 40 W for 5 min resulted in a 5-log reduction of aerobic mesophiles and a 3.7-log reduction of *Candida albicans* without affecting the lycopene and ascorbic acid content [65]. The changes in the color, ascorbic acid, and vitamin B content of siriguella juice were not observed after glow discharge plasma treatment at 50 Hz for 5–15 min while the polyphenol oxidase activity was reduced to 20% [66].

Treatment of carrot juice with dielectric barrier discharge plasma at 70 kV for 4 min has not affected the content of pigments, sugars, and minerals [67]. The complete reduction of *E. coli* in sour cherry juice using atmospheric cold plasma at 25, 35, and 50 kV/cm was attained by processing for 1, 5, and 9 min, respectively. The phenolic content in sour cherry juice was not affected while the reduction in anthocyanin and ascorbic acid was 4 and 21%, respectively [68]. Cold atmospheric plasma treatment of apple juice at 30 kV for 7 s resulted in the 4.14 log reduction of *Alicyclobacillus acidoterrestris* while the complete reduction was attained in 240 s. The pH and color of juice were not affected but a slight reduction in phenolic content was observed [69]. The cold plasma treatment of Jujube juice at 10–30 kV for 2 min resulted in the degradation of mycotoxins like alternariol (1.3–56%) and alternariol monomethyl ether (8.1–62.8%) [70]. Atmospheric cold plasma inactivated acid and non-acid adapted *E. coli* strains in 120 and 90 s, respectively, without affecting the pH

and titratable acidity [71]. Dielectric barrier cold plasma treatment (500 Hz and 20 kV for 10–20 min) imparts a fresh and fruity flavor to the pineapple juice by demethylation of aromatic compounds [72]. Cold plasma treatment of milk at 70 and 80 V for 120 s retained the various physicochemical properties like pH, color, and viscosity while 5 log reduction of *Escherichia coli*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, and *Staphylococcus aureus* was reported [73]. The treatment of cow milk at 70 V for 120 s resulted in a 3.27 log reduction of *Cronobacter sakazakii* [74]. Treatment of whey protein solution in cold plasma at 70 kV for 30 and 60 min improved the foaming and emulsifying capacity [75]. Exposure of coconut water to cold plasma at 90 kV for 2 min resulted in a 5-log reduction of *Salmonella enterica* and increased the shelf life up to 45 days [76]. The various reports on the processing of health-promoting beverages using cold plasma are discussed in Table 2.

4 Supercritical carbon dioxide

The application of SC-CO₂ improves the shelf life of food products by reducing the microbial load and inactivating lipase that otherwise leads to the formation of free fatty acids, rancidity, and off-flavor development. It reduces the generation of toxic residues and minimizes nutrient loss [77]. The SC-CO₂-based processes result in better retention of color, texture, and bioactive compounds of milk, fruit, and vegetable juices [78]. The exposure of food products for a few seconds can eliminate the various spoilage and pathogenic microorganisms but the higher equipment and processing cost limits the application in industries [79, 80].

4.1 Working principle

Carbon dioxide has the properties of liquid and gas when maintained above the critical point generally at high pressure (7.38 MPa) and temperature (31.1 °C). This can inactivate oxidative enzymes and cause cell rupture in the microorganisms [81]. The negligible surface tension and lower viscosity of carbon dioxide facilitate the penetration in the complex microbial cell structure leading to cell rupture [82].

4.2 Application in the processing of health-promoting beverages

The effect of SC-CO₂ on the enhancement of the shelf life of orange juice after processing at 36 °C and 13 Mpa with a concentration of 0.385 g CO₂/g juice was studied by Fabroni et al. [83]. The product quality with acceptable microbial limit, sensory characteristics, and nutrient content similar to fresh juice was maintained for up to 20 days at refrigerated storage conditions. The treatment of mulberry juice at 15 MPa and 55 °C for 10 min followed by refrigerated storage resulted in the superior retention of bioactive compounds and the shelf life was improved to 21 days [84]. Grape-whey juice treatment at 35 °C and 14–18 MPa for 10 min improved the inhibitory activity of the Angiotensin-converting enzyme due to the interaction of whey protein with the phytochemicals present in the grape juice [85]. About 80% of polyphenol oxidase activity in apple juice was inactivated when treated for 30 min at 25 MPa and 40 °C [86]. The exposure of pomegranate juice to 600 MPa for 3 min enhanced the phenolic content (22%), color, and antioxidant activity at the end of storage for 28 days [87]. The safety and quality of the health-promoting beverages are mainly affected by the oxidative enzymes and microorganisms. The exposure of beverages to SC-CO₂ at a pressure range of 10–60 MPa and temperature range of 35–55 °C can improve the shelf life for an additional 20 days with product quality similar to that of fresh juices [77].

The combined treatment of SC-CO₂ with ultrasound for 3–4.6 min at 100 bar and 31.5 °C resulted in the complete elimination of microbial load with minimal loss in ascorbic acid, pH, and soluble solids in pineapple juice [88]. The stability of pineapple juice was maintained for up to 4 weeks with a lower reduction in ascorbic acid (8%) and an acceptable microbial limit. Pomegranate juice subjected to SC-CO₂ and combined SC-CO₂ with ultrasound treatment resulted in the decrease of limonene, 1-hexanol, and camphene content. The treated juice can be differentiated from fresh juice in terms of odor and concentration of volatile compounds (increase in aldehydes and decrease in alcohols, esters, ketones, and terpenes). The flavor of treated juices was not significantly different from fresh juice. The aqueous extract of *Pfaffia glomerata* roots containing higher fructooligosaccharides (1-kestose, nystose, and fructofuranosyl nystose) was added to apple juice [77]. The pH and soluble solid content were not affected by the SC-CO₂ treatment while the fructooligosaccharides content remained unchanged indicating SC-CO₂ can maintain the prebiotic functionality of beverages. The treatment of strawberry juice at 60 MPa and 45 °C for 30 min resulted in a 3.7 log reduction of aerobic mesophiles [89]. The exposure of apple juice to 6–18 MPa and 20–45 °C resulted in higher inactivation of polyphenol oxidase and complete inactivation of lactic acid bacteria, yeasts, and molds was attained at 12 MPa and 35 °C [90]. The treatment of elderberry

Table 2 Effect of cold plasma on the processing of health-promoting beverages

Juices	Parameters	Remarks	Reference
Orange juice	Voltage: 70 V Pressure: 50 Hz Time: 1–6 min	Volatile compounds remained stable after cold plasma treatment compared with thermal treatment	[56]
Pomegranate juice	Power: 4 W Time: 3–7 min	Enhanced phenolic content (33%) especially ferulic acid, ellagic acid, and catechin	[57]
Blueberry juice	Voltage: 11 kV Time: 1–6 min	7.2 log reduction of <i>Bacillus</i> and enhanced phenolic content	[59]
Tomato juice	Voltage: 230 V Time: 5 min	Compounds responsible for aroma like trans-2-hexenal and n-hexanal were not affected	[60]
White grape juice	Voltage: 80 kV Pressure: 60 Hz Gas: Air Time: 4 min	7.4 log reduction of <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> with no changes in pH, color, and taste	[63]
Orange juice	Voltage: 90 kV Frequency: 60 Hz Gas: MA65	4.7 log reduction of <i>Salmonella enterica</i> with no changes in pH, color, and taste	[64]
Apple juice	Power: 50 W Time: 30 s	5 log reduction of <i>Zygosaccharomyces rouxii</i>	[65]
Tomato juice	Voltage: 3.8 kV Frequency: 50 Hz Gas: Nitrogen Time: 1–5 min	5 log reduction of aerobic mesophiles, total yeast, and molds 3.7 log reduction of <i>Candida albicans</i> in 1 min and 3.5 log reduction of <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> in 5 min	[66]
Siriguela juice	Frequency: 50 Hz Gas: Nitrogen Time: 5–15 min	No changes in ascorbic acid and the color	[67]
Carrot juice	Voltage: 70 kV Time: 4 min	Complete reduction of <i>E. coli</i>	[68]
Sour cherry juice	Voltage: 25–50 kV Time: 1–9 min	Phenolic content was not affected while the reduction in anthocyanin and ascorbic acid was 4 and 21%, respectively	[69]
Apple juice	Voltage: 0–30 kV Frequency: 7 kHz Time: 1–12 min	Complete reduction of <i>Alicyclobacillus acidoterrestris</i> was attained at 240 s and no change in pH and color	[70]
Jujube juice	Voltage: 10–30 kV Time: 2 min	Degradation of alternariol and alternariol monomethyl ether up to 62% with slight changes in juice quality	[71]
Apple cider	Voltage: 50 kV Time: 1–2 min	Both acid-adapted and non-acid-adapted <i>E. coli</i> strains were inactivated in a short time	[72]

Table 2 (continued)

Juices	Parameters	Remarks	Reference
Pineapple juice	Voltage: 20 kV Frequency: 50–1000 Hz Time: 10–20 min	Demethylation of esters and conversion of methyl esters to ethyl esters gives a fresh and fruity appearance	[73]
Milk	Voltage: 40–80 V Time: 15–120 s	5 log reduction of microbes like <i>Escherichia coli</i> , <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> , and <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	[74]
Whey protein solution	Voltage: 4.4 kV Time: 2 min	No significant changes in amino acid composition and phenolic content	[75]
	Voltage: 70 kV Time: 30 and 60 min	Improves the foaming and emulsifying capacity by altering the protein structure	[76]
Coconut water	Voltage: 90 kV Time: 2 min	5-log reduction of <i>Salmonella enterica</i> and increased the shelf life up to 45 days	[77]

juice at 18 MPa and 45 °C for 90 min extended the shelf life up to 2 weeks without any changes in sensory characteristics with complete inactivation of microbes like aerobic mesophiles, yeast, and mold [91]. Orange juice at 74–351 MPa and 33–67 °C for 20–70 min resulted in the prevention of cloud formation by inactivating pectin methyl esterase [92]. Treating blackcurrant juice at 30–60 MPa and 45 °C for 10 min resulted in superior retention of anthocyanin and ascorbic acid compared to thermal pasteurization at 85 °C for 10 min [93]. The pomegranate juice treated with SC-CO₂ (12.7 MPa, 45 °C for 15 min) resulted in the reduction of yeast and mold to less than 2 log CFU/ml while aerobic mesophiles was reduced below 2.4 log CFU/ml [94]. The volatile components, pH, and soluble solids of treated juice were not affected during storage for 28 days at 4 °C. These studies indicate that SC-CO₂ can be effectively used for developing novel health-promoting beverages with better nutrient quality and better shelf life (Table 3).

5 High hydrostatic pressure

High hydrostatic pressure (HHP) is a non-thermal processing technique wherein food products are subjected to a pressure of 100–1000 MPa at low temperatures to achieve pasteurization, enzyme inactivation, and protein denaturation [95, 96]. The efficiency of this process is dependent on temperature, treatment duration, pressure range, and characteristics of food products [97].

5.1 Working principle

The food product is immersed in a liquid medium and then exposed to high pressure for about 10–20 min in a closed chamber to provide uniform exposure of products to pressure irrespective of their size and shape [88]. Le Chatelier's principle states that applied force can cause any change in the temperature, pressure, and volume of an equilibrium system leading to the development of a new equilibrium. Adiabatic heating is caused due to the exposure of food products to high pressure that in turn increases the temperature of the liquid medium by 3 °C for a pressure increase of 100 MPa [98].

5.2 Applications of high hydrostatic pressure for processing of health-promoting beverages

The processing of beverages using HHP can prevent the Maillard reaction and caramelization. The texture, color, flavor, and bioactive compounds of food products can be retained after HHP-based processing [99]. The HHP-based processing induces chemical reactions that can prevent microbial growth and also cause cell death by affecting the membranes [100]. The HHP-based treatment of soy smoothie at a pressure of 650 MPa and 20 °C for 3 min resulted in ascorbic acid retention of 55% and no changes in color and bioactive compounds [101]. It has also improved the antioxidant activity due to the increase in the content of β -carotene and lycopene. The sensory characteristics of treated smoothies (450 MPa) and fresh smoothies were similar. The HHP treatment of cucumber juice at 500 MPa for 5 min improved the sensory characteristics compared to high-temperature short-time treated juices [102]. The treatment of watermelon juice at 50 °C and 30 MPa for 30 min reduced polyphenol oxidase activity to 4% [103]. Mulberry juice exposed to the pressure of 500 MPa for 10 min resulted in the inactivation of aerobic mesophiles from 4 log CFU/ml to an undetectable level followed by the complete elimination of yeast and molds [104]. This has also increased flavonoids, phenolics, antioxidant capacity, resveratrol, and volatile compounds like aldehydes, alcohol, and ketones. The HHP-based treatment of strawberry puree at a pressure of 400–600 MPa resulted in higher retention of anthocyanin, phenolics, and ascorbic acid [105]. Aronia berry puree processed at 400 and 600 MPa for 5 min decreased yeast and mold to 1 log CFU/g and aerobic bacteria to < 2 log CFU/g without altering the phenolic content as well as antioxidant activity [106].

The HHP-based process (30–90 MPa, 10–25 °C for 1–7 cycles) reduced the methanol content in sorghum spirits while the sensorial characteristics were improved due to the formation of aroma compounds like methyl acetate [107]. The HHP-based processing of fruit and vegetable smoothies at 630 MPa and 20 °C for 6 min inactivated the peroxidase, polyphenol oxidase, and pectin methyl esterase by 31.4, 9.7%, and 83.9%, respectively [108]. The pH and soluble solid content of smoothies were not affected. The exposure of reconstituted cow milk powder containing *E. coli*, *P. fluorescens*, and *Enterobacter aerogenes* to 500–600 MPa and 25 °C for 3–5 min resulted in the inhibition of these gram-negative bacteria [109].

Milk treated at a pressure of 600 MPa for 3 min resulted in the 5 log reduction of *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, and *L. monocytogenes*. This treatment also enhanced the shelf life to 7 days which is comparable to commercial pasteurized milk. The casein content and particle size of fat molecules were similar between HHP-treated and raw milk [110].

Table 3 Effect of supercritical carbon dioxide on processing of health-promoting beverages

Juices	Parameters	Remarks	Reference
Orange juice	Pressure: 13 MPa Temperature: 36 °C CO ₂ ratio: 0.385 g CO ₂ /g juice	Sensory qualities and nutritional content comparable to fresh juice were preserved at cold storage conditions for up to 20 days	[84]
Mulberry juice	Pressure: 10 MPa Temperature: 55 °C Time: 15 min	Retention of bioactive compounds was enhanced, and the shelf life was extended to 21 days with an acceptable microbial load	[85]
Grape whey juice	Pressure: 14–18 MPa Temperature: 30 °C Time: 10 min	Combination of whey protein with the phytochemicals found in grape juice increased the inhibitory activity of the Angiotensin-converting enzyme	[86]
Apple juice	Pressure: 25 MPa Temperature: 40 °C Time: 30 min	Polyphenol oxidase activity was inactivated up to 80%	[87]
Pomegranate juice	Pressure: 600 MPa Temperature: 35–65 °C Time: 3 min	Improved the phenolic content (22%), color, and antioxidant activity up to 28 days of storage	[88]
Fresh juices	Pressure: 10–60 MPa Temperature: 35–55 °C Time: 30 min	Improved the shelf life by 20 days while keeping product quality equivalent to fresh juices	[78]
Pineapple juice	Pressure: 100 bar Temperature: 31.5 °C Time: 3–4 min	Combined treatment of SC-CO ₂ with ultrasound resulted in the stability of processed pineapple juice for up to 4 weeks with an acceptable microbiological limit and a lesser drop in ascorbic acid (8%)	[96]
Strawberry juice	Pressure: 10–60 MPa Temperature: 50 and 75 °C Time: 10–30 min	3.7 log reduction of aerobic mesophiles	[90]
Apple juice	Pressure: 6–18 MPa Temperature: 20–45 °C Time: 30 min	High enzyme inactivation was attained with an increase in CO ₂	[91]
Elderberry juice	Pressure: 10–60 MPa Temperature: 50 and 75 °C Time: 20–40 min	3.4 log reduction of <i>Alicyclobacillus acidoterrestris</i>	[121]
Orange juice	Pressure: 18 MPa Temperature: 45 °C Time: 90 min	Less impact on enzyme inactivation and complete microbial inactivation without affecting the sensory attributes of juices and also extends the shelf life of juice up to 2 weeks	[92]
Blackcurrant juice	Pressure: 74–351 MPa Temperature: 33–67 °C Time: 20–70 min	Prevents cloud formation on juice by inactivation of pectin methyl esterase	[93]
Pomegranate juice	Pressure: 10–60 MPa Temperature: 45–85 °C Time: 10 min	Reduction in ascorbic acid and anthocyanin content observed at higher processing temperature	[94]
Pomegranate juice	Pressure: 12.7 MPa Temperature: 45 °C Time: 15 min	Significant changes in volatile compounds after 20 weeks of storage at 7 °C	[95]

Milk processed using HHP for yogurt production resulted in the improvement of product firmness and controlled syneresis [111]. Multifruit-soymilk smoothies processed at 450–650 MPa for 3 min at 20 °C have not modified the color and bioactive compounds (lycopene, β -carotene, and antioxidants). The stability of these compounds was also maintained during refrigerated storage.

The HHP treatment (200–600 MPa for 5–15 min at < 40 °C) of goat milk resulted in the 7-log reduction of *Staphylococcus aureus* [112]. The viscosity and soluble solid content remained unaltered after HHP treatment and shelf life was improved to 10 days at refrigerated conditions. The treatment of orange juice at 400–600 MPa and 20 °C for 15 min improved the lightness and redness without altering the content of cyanidin-3-glucoside [113]. Treatment of citrus fruits in HHP retained the color and enhanced the shelf life [114]. Raw milk from Bordaleira, as well as Churra Mondegueira da Serra da Estrela sheep breeds treated using HHP of 121 MPa for 30 min, resulted in better curd yield (> 9%) and retained the microbiota beneficial for cheese preparation [115]. Shiikuwasha juice processed at a pressure of 600 MPa for 150 s resulted in > 5 log reduction of *E. coli* and provided shelf life stability for 28 days without affecting the color, aroma, phenolics, and flavonoids [116]. Carrot orange juice blend treated using HHP of 200–400 MPa for 300 s resulted in the extension of shelf life up to 28 days without altering the phenolic and carotenoid content [117].

Sea buckthorn juice treated at 500 MPa for 5 min retained aroma and flavor similar to fresh juice while the carotenoid and phenol content is comparatively higher than the thermally processed sample [118]. Microorganisms in HHP-treated aronia juice (200–600 MPa for 10 min) after storage for 80 days at 4 °C were below the detection limit and about 8–12% loss in phenolic content was observed [119]. The HHP treatment of apple juice (300 MPa for 10 min) resulted in a 3.7 log reduction of *A. acidoterrestris* without significantly affecting the pH and color of the juice [120].

The exposure of beetroot juice to HHP treatment at 500 MPa for 10 min resulted in the degradation of betacyanin (12.2%) and betaxanthin (8.9%) while the lactic acid bacteria was reduced up to 4.5 log [121]. Treatment of tomato juice in HHP at a pressure of 500 MPa for 5 min resulted in the superior retention of lycopene content and volatile compounds compared to the thermal pasteurization process. Treatment of kiwi juice in HHP at a pressure of 500 MPa for 10 min resulted in a 2-log reduction of aerobic mesophiles and enhanced the shelf life to 42 days [122]. The exposure of kiwi juice at 200 MPa for 3 cycles in HHP resulted in the extension of shelf life up to 48 days and 7 days in cold storage conditions and room temperature, respectively [123]. The HHP treatment of peanut sprout juice at a pressure of 600 MPa for 5 min retained aroma, color, and pH while the shelf life was extended up to 90 days [124].

The HHP treatment (250 MPa for 4 min) of grape juice resulted in the inhibition of *B. cinerea* without altering the sensory properties [125]. The HHP treatment of orange juice at a pressure of 600 MPa for 10 min resulted in the reduction of *A. acidoterrestris* spores to 3.5 log with the extension of shelf life up to 60 days [126]. About 22% of pectin methyl esterase was inactivated while a high reduction of molds (1.85–3.72 log) and yeast (3.19 log) in raspberry juice was attained at HHP treatment of 600 MPa for 10 min [127]. The shelf life of tender coconut water increased up to 120 days after HHP treatment at a pressure of 593 MPa for 3 min without any changes in aroma, pH, color, and taste [128]. Cloudy hawthorn berry juice treated at 300–600 MPa for 30 min at 65 °C inhibited the aerobic mesophiles, lactic acid bacteria, yeast, and mold which in turn improved the shelf life to > 150 days [129]. It has not affected the pH, or titratable acidity but enhanced the sugar content and aroma compounds leading to better flavor and taste. The various reports on the processing of health-promoting beverages using HHP are discussed in Table 4.

6 Pulsed light treatment

The pulsed light treatment is one of the non-thermal processing technologies which is recently been used for processing food products to enhance the shelf life of foods by inactivation of food spoilage and food-borne pathogenic microorganisms [129–131]. This is due to the inactivation of double-bonded carbon atoms in proteins and nucleic acids leading to the disruption of structure, transcription, and translation processes [132]. The high energy intensity of pulsed light flashes also contributes significantly to microbial inactivation. The effect of microbial inactivation by pulsed light is higher in clear liquids compared to opaque liquids because of the decrease in light intensity due to the absorption and scattering of the light [96].

Table 4 Effect of high hydrostatic pressure on processing of health-promoting beverages

Juices	Parameters	Remarks	Reference
Cucumber juice	Pressure: 30 MPa Time: 30 min	Significant reduction in aerobic mesophiles with increased juice clarity and shelf life of 20 days	[103]
Mulberry juice	Pressure: 500 MPa Time: 10 min	4 log CFU/ml reduction of aerobic mesophiles with no change in color and increase in several volatile compounds	[105]
Strawberry puree	Pressure: 400–600 MPa Time: 5 min	Higher retention of volatile compounds and phenolic compounds than thermal treatment	[106]
Aronia berry puree	Pressure: 400–600 MPa Time: 10 min	1 log CFU/g reduction of yeast and mold with no change in total phenolic content	[107]
Sorghum spirits	Pressure: 30–90 MPa Time: 10 min	Improved the aroma compound retention while the methanol content was decreased	[108]
Cow milk	Pressure: 600 MPa Time: 3 min	5 log reduction of <i>E. coli</i> , <i>Salmonella</i> , and <i>L. monocytogenes</i> was attained without any changes in color, taste, and aroma	[111]
Multifruit-soymilk smoothies	Pressure: 450–650 MPa Time: 3 min	Increased carotenoid and antioxidant levels with no change in the content of bioactive compounds	[112]
Goat milk	Pressure: 200–600 MPa Time: 5–15 min	No changes in viscosity and soluble solids with an enhanced shelf life of 10 days at refrigerated storage	[113]
Orange juice	Pressure: 400–600 MPa Time: 15 min	Improved lightness and redness of orange juice without altering the content of cyanidin-3-glucoside	[114]
Shiikuwasha juice	Pressure: 600 MPa Time: 150 s	Shelf life of the juice improved up to 28 days without any changes in physical properties	[117]
Carrot – orange juice blend	Pressure: 200–400 MPa Time: 5 min	Total carotenoid and total phenolic content remained the same as untreated juice and shelf life extended up to 28 days	[118]
Sea buckthorn juice	Pressure: 500 MPa Time: 5 min	Total carotenoid and total phenolic content were higher than the thermal pasteurized sample	[119]
Aronia juice	Pressure: 200–600 MPa Time: 15 min	Microorganisms were below the detection limit after storage for 80 days at 4 °C with about 8–12% loss in phenolic content	[120]
Apple juice	Pressure: 300 MPa Time: 5–15 min	3.7 log reduction of microbial load	[121]
Beetroot juice	Pressure: 500 MPa Time: 10 min	Slight degradation of betacyanin (12.2%) and betaxanthin (8.9%) while the microbial growth reduction was up to 4.5 log	[122]
Kiwi fruit juice	Pressure: 500 MPa Time: 5 min Pressure: 500 MPa Time: 5 min	Completely inactivated yeast and maintained the bacterial level less than 2 logs up to 42 days	[124]
Peanut sprout juice	Pressure: 400–600 MPa Time: 5 min	Increased the shelf life up to 90 days	[125]

Table 4 (continued)

Juices	Parameters	Remarks	Reference
Grape juice	Pressure: 250 MPa Time: 4 min	Combined with proteolytic fraction inhibit <i>B. cinerea</i> and the sensory properties remained unaltered	[126]
Orange juice	Pressure: 600 MPa Time: 5 and 10 min	Microbial growth was reduced to 3.5 logs	[127]
Raspberry juice	Pressure: 400–600 MPa Time: 10 min	22% of pectin methyl esterase was inactivated while a high reduction of molds (1.85–3.72 log) and yeast (3.19 log) was attained	[128]
Coconut water	Pressure: 500–600 MPa Time: 10 min	Extended shelf life of up to 120 days without any changes in odor, color, pH, and taste upon treatment at 593 MPa for 3 min	[129]
Hawthorn berry juice	Pressure: 600 MPa Time: 30 min	Improved taste and flavor while the shelf life was improved up to > 150 days	[130]

6.1 Working principle

Pulsed light technology emits high-power pulses either in single or continuous modes of wavelength ranging between 170 and 1000 nm with a gradual increase in energy by using inert gas flash lamps like xenon [133]. The electromagnetic radiation is stored in the capacitor and light flashes can be emitted using inert gas flash lamps to inactivate microorganisms [134, 135]. The process efficiency depends on treatment duration, nature of the food product, packaging material, nature, and number of microorganisms present in the sample [11, 136, 137].

6.2 Application of pulsed light in the processing of health-promoting beverages

The *E. coli* in apple and orange juices treated with a pulsed light dose of 4 J/cm² was reduced by 2.9 and 4 logs, respectively [138]. Pulsed light treatment of whey protein isolate at 4–16 J/cm² improved the formation of carbonyl and free sulfhydryl groups that in turn induced dissociation and partial unfolding of proteins [139]. These changes enhanced the different functional properties like foaming and solution stability. The lactic acid fermented mulberry juice exposed to 2–8 s at a pulse range of 14 J/cm² resulted in the reduction of microbial load to 1 log CFU/ml [140]. There were no significant changes in the pH, titratable acidity, and soluble solids between pulsed light-treated juice and fresh juice. A slight increase in the phenolic content was observed in the mulberry juice after pulsed light treatment. A decrease in anthocyanin concentration was observed which can be attributed to the adverse photochemical reactions. A slight decrease in the lightness of juice was observed after pulsed light treatment because of the changes in the pigment concentration. The concentration of volatile compounds and odor activity values were enhanced during pulsed light treatment.

The reduction of *E. coli* in tender coconut water, orange, and pineapple juice using pulsed light treatment (95.2 J/cm²) for 15 s was 4, 4.5, and 5.33 log, respectively [141]. The pulsed light treatment of apricot juice at two different intensities (7 and 14 kV/cm) for 500 μs has not significantly affected the pH, °Brix, and color compared to unprocessed samples. The pulsed light treatment resulted in increased content of phenolic compounds, flavonoids, and antioxidant activity [142]. Apple juice was exposed to pulsed light of different cycles like 4, 6, and 8 with a total number of pulses in the range of 200–400 pulses [143]. The changes in bioactive compounds, ascorbic acid, and polyphenol content were not observed in pulsed light-treated juice even after 72 h of refrigeration. Pulsed light treatment of pineapple juice at 13 kV/cm resulted in higher microbial load reduction compared to treatment at 9 and 11 kV/cm [144]. The total phenolics, flavonoids, ascorbic acid, and β-carotene content was not affected. The pulsed light treatment (31.2 kV/cm, 20 pulse widths at 100 Hz frequency) retained higher antioxidant activity and sensorial properties of ready-to-serve beverage containing tender coconut water and nannari extract in comparison to conventional pasteurization (96 °C for 360 s) [145]. Raspberry juice exposed to pulsed light treatment at 200 Hz retained higher phenolic content (426.4–567.2 mg GAE/100 g) and around 19% of pectin methyl esterase enzyme was inactivated [127]. Complete inactivation of peroxidase and polyphenol oxidase in amla juice was attained when exposed to pulsed light at 3.32 kV/cm for 3 min [146]. The exposure of mixed fruit beverage containing amla, pineapple, and coconut water to pulsed light at 3.3 kV/cm for 3 min resulted in 5 log reduction of aerobic mesophiles, yeast, and mold counts while the oxidative enzymes were completely inactivated [147]. The pulsed light treatment of bael fruit juice at 3.3 kV/cm for 4.5 min inactivated the oxidative enzymes like polyphenol oxidase, and peroxidase (73.5–90%) better than the thermal process [148]. The 5 log reduction of *Listeria monocytogenes* and *E. coli* in sweet lime juice was attained after pulsed light treatment at 3.3 kV/cm for 4.5 min without any changes in pH, color, or taste of the juice [149]. The continuous flow pulsed light treatment of coconut water, pineapple, and orange juice for 43, 44, and 45 s resulted in 5-log reduction of aerobic mesophiles, yeast, and mold without altering their physicochemical properties [150]. Processing tender coconut water with pulsed light at 2.5 kV for 2.5 min resulted in a 5 log reduction of *B. cereus* and *L. monocytogenes* [151]. Pomegranate juice treatment with pulsed light at 2.7 kV/cm for 90 s resulted in a 5-log reduction of aerobic mesophiles, yeast & molds and retained a higher amount of phenolics (97%), antioxidants (94%), and ascorbic acid (83%) [152]. Pineapple juice treated with pulsed light at 2.4 kV/cm for 3.5 s resulted in the reduction of aerobic mesophiles, yeast, and molds without affecting the sensory attributes [153]. The treatment of mulberry juice using combined pulsed light (1.2 kV/cm for 3.5 s) and ultrasonication treatment (15 min at a frequency of 28 kHz) retained phenolic and antioxidant activities at higher levels compared with the thermal process [154]. Exposure of verjuice to pulsed light at 6.12 J/cm² for 3.5 s resulted in a 5.1 log reduction of *S. cerevisiae* and the shelf

life of the juice extended up to 6 weeks without any changes in fresh-like characteristics (color, aroma, taste) and sensory attributes [155]. The pulsed light treatment of grape juice at 66 J/cm² for 3.5 s resulted in a 2.6 log reduction of *E. coli* [156]. The shelf life of pulsed light-treated (2.9 kJ/cm² for 3.5 s) pomegranate juice extended up to 41 days with higher retention of phenolics and antioxidant activity compared to thermal-treated samples [157]. The various reports on the processing of health-promoting beverages using pulsed light are discussed in Table 5.

7 Membrane technology

The application of membrane technologies is suitable for the processing of health-promoting beverages due to several advantages like lesser energy consumption, mild processing conditions, and superior product quality compared to conventional thermal processes.

7.1 Working principle

The pressure-driven membrane operations such as microfiltration and ultrafiltration are used for the clarification and concentration of beverages [158]. These processes involve a semipermeable barrier (membrane) for selective separation of compounds from feed solution and pressure gradient acts as the driving force for mass transfer through the membrane. The feed solution is separated into permeate (molecules permeated through the membrane) and retentate (molecules rejected by the membrane). The degree of rejection depends on the pore size, charge, and surface properties of the membrane [159–161]. The performance of the pressure-driven membrane process is assessed by permeate flux and degree of separation [162].

7.2 Application of membrane technology in the processing of health-promoting beverages

The pore size of microfiltration and ultrafiltration membranes is 0.1–10 µm and 0.001 to < 0.1 µm, respectively [163]. These membranes can reject the molecules larger than the pore size without causing physicochemical changes in the feed solution. The pathogenic microorganisms can be removed from the beverages by proper selection of membranes of suitable pore size. Ultrafiltration can be used to remove macromolecules like proteins and polysaccharides that in turn cause turbidity in health-promoting beverages. This can also be used for removing all microorganisms. Thereby ultrafiltration can be simultaneously used for clarification and cold sterilization of beverages. The processing of apple juice at the pilot scale level by ultrafiltration membranes composed of ceramic and organic polymer resulted in a 9 and 5-log reduction of bacteria, respectively [164]. The application of an ultrafiltration membrane of 0.03 µm pore size for the processing of white birch sap reduced the microbes from 1.6×10^4 to 2.0×10^2 CFU/mL. The combination of ultraviolet with ultrafiltration resulted in the complete elimination of microorganisms during 40 days of storage at 4 or 25 °C [165]. Banana juice processed using ultrafiltration enhanced the shelf life to 30 days with superior product quality [166]. The quality of bottle gourd juice processed by ultrafiltration was not adversely affected even after 8 weeks of storage [167]. The processing of jamun juice using polysulfone hollow fiber of 50 kDa pore size eliminated the microorganisms [168]. A flat membrane module composed of polyethersulfone (pore size < 0.01 µm) also reduced the microbial load to an undetectable level in coconut water [169].

Microfiltration can be used as a pretreatment prior to ultrafiltration in order to avoid the fouling problem of the membrane by removing the microorganisms and particles of larger size. Coconut water containing 140 CFU/mL of aerobic mesophiles was processed sequentially using 0.8 µm and 0.45 µm of cellulose nitrate membrane. The growth of microbes was not observed even after 180 days of storage and a slight increase in total soluble solids was observed due to the hydrolysis of carbohydrates [170]. The membrane of 0.3 µm pore size resulted in the reduction of microorganisms in pineapple juice to the desired level [171]. The processing of watermelon juice using an ultrafiltration membrane of polyethersulfone (50 kDa molecular weight cut off) resulted in the reduction of soluble solids (2.8%) and ascorbic acid (11.2%) [172]. Dragon fruit juice treated using ultrafiltration membrane of polyethersulfone of different pore sizes (5, 10, and 20 kDa molecular weight cut off) resulted in the retention of betacyanin (30.6%) at a higher level compared to phenolic compounds (11.3%) level [173]. Processing of broccoli juice in an ultrafiltration membrane of polyethersulfone with 5, 10, and 50 kDa molecular weight cut off decreased the phenolic content by 2.7, 9.6, and 5.5%, respectively [174]. Orange juice processed in ultrafiltration membranes composed of polyethersulfone retained better clarity compared to polysulfone membranes [175]. Lemon juice treated with cellulose acetate membrane (100 kDa) retained higher

Table 5 Effect of Pulsed light treatment on processing of health-promoting beverages

Juices	Parameters	Remarks	Reference
Apple juice	Pulse range: 4 J/cm ² Time: 5 s	Resulted in 4 log reduction of <i>E. coli</i> and no changes in color	[140]
Whey protein isolate	Pulse range: 4 J/cm ² Time: 5 s	Enhanced functional properties like foaming and solubility ability	[141]
Mulberry juice	Pulse range: 14 J/cm ² Time: 2–8 s	Resulted in microbial load reduction to 1 log CFU/ml without significant changes in pH, titratable acidity, and soluble solids	[142]
Tender coconut water, orange, and pineapple juice	Pulse range: 95.2 J/cm ² Time: 15 s	4, 4.5, and 5.33 Log reduction of <i>E. coli</i> in tender coconut water, orange, and pineapple juice, respectively	[143]
Apricot juice	Pulse range: 0–14 kV/cm Time: 5 s	No changes in pH, °Brix, and color with increase in phenolic compounds, flavonoids, and antioxidant activity	[144]
Apple juice	Pulse range: 30 kV/cm ² Time: 2–4 s	No changes in bioactive compounds, ascorbic acid and phenolics content even after 72 h of refrigeration	[145]
Pineapple juice	Pulse range: 9–13 kV/cm Time: 2–8 s	Treatment at 13 kV/cm resulted in higher microbial load reduction compared to treatment at 9 and 11 kV/cm	[146]
Tender coconut water	Pulse range: 31.2 kV/cm ² Time: 20 s	Pulsed electric field-treated samples were stable for up to 120 days at ambient storage conditions	[147]
Amla juice	Pulse range: 3.3 kV/cm ²	Resulted in 100% inactivation of peroxidase and polyphenol oxidase enzyme and 7% loss in total phenolic content	[148]
Mixed fruit Beverage (Amla + Pineapple + coconut water)	Pulse range: 3.3 kV/cm Time: 3 min	5 log reduction of aerobic mesophiles, yeast, and mold	[149]
Bael fruit	Pulse range: 3.3 kV/cm Time: 0–4.5 min	70–90% inactivation of peroxidase and polyphenol oxidase	[150]
Sweet lime	Pulse range: 3.3 kV/cm Time: 0–4.5 min	5 log reduction of <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> and <i>E. coli</i>	[151]
Coconut water	Pulse range: 1492 V Time: 43 s	Continuous flow of pulsed light achieved 5 log reduction of aerobic mesophiles, yeast, and mold	[152]
Coconut water	Pulse range: 2.5–2.9 kV Time: 2.5 min	5 log reduction of <i>B. cereus</i> and <i>L. monocytogenes</i>	[153]
Pomegranate juice	Pulse range: 2.7 kV/cm Time: 90 s	5-log reduction of aerobic mesophiles, yeast & molds and retained a higher amount of phenolics (97%), antioxidants (94%), and ascorbic acid (83%)	[154]
Pineapple juice	Pulse range: 1.8–3.3 kV/cm Time: 3.5 s	Reduction of aerobic mesophiles, yeast, and molds without affecting the sensory attributes	[155]
Mulberry juice	Pulse range: 1.2 kV/cm Time: 3.5 s	Retained phenolic and antioxidant activities at higher levels compared with the thermal process	[156]
Verjuice	Pulse range: 6.12 J/cm ² Time: 3.5 s	5.1 log reduction of <i>S. cerevisiae</i> and the shelf life of the juice extended up to 6 weeks	[157]
Grape juice	Pulse range: 66 J/cm ² Time: 3.5 s	Exposure to 3.5 s resulted in a 2.6 log reduction of <i>E. coli</i>	[158]
Pomegranate juice	Pulse range: 2.9 kJ/cm ² Time: 3.5 s	Shelf life of pomegranate juice extended up to 41 days	[159]

antioxidant activity with a significant amount of eriocitrin and hesperidin [176]. The treatment of cashew apple juice in an ultrafiltration membrane improved the shelf life by 12 weeks [177]. Cloudy apple juice processed in an ultrafiltration membrane of polyethersulfone (10 kDa molecular weight cut off) enhanced the shelf life to 4 weeks without any changes in the quality [178]. The processing of sugarcane juice by ultrafiltration (polysulfone membrane of 30 kDa) extended the shelf life up to 4 weeks by inactivating the bacteria (*Streptomyces*, *Staphylococcus*, *Lactobacillus*) [179]. Apple beetroot and apple juice processed in the ceramic membrane (15 kDa) retained 68 and 71% of soluble solids, respectively [180]. Mulberry juice treated in an ultrafiltration membrane (100 kDa) retained better color and phenolic compounds [181]. Ultrafiltration of watermelon juice in 1 kDa membrane improved the enrichment efficiency which in turn increased the concentration and purity of lycopene [182]. The various reports on the processing of health-promoting beverages using membrane technology are discussed in Table 6.

8 Pulsed magnetic field

The pulsed magnetic field is one of the emerging non-thermal techniques in recent years for enzyme and microbial inactivation in health-promoting beverages. The major parameters that affect the pulsed magnetic field process are magnetic field intensity and number of pulses.

8.1 Working principle

The electric current flow in a coiled wire or solenoid leads to the generation of magnetic current across the coil. The pulsed magnetic field is generated by the generator in the form of short energy pulses which are stored in the capacitor bank. Superconducting coils can be used to generate magnetic field intensities in the range of 5–50 T. Microorganisms and enzymes contain charged particles that undergo drifting under the influence of Lorentz force in the magnetic field. This results in the formation of induced currents followed by the inactivation of microbes and enzymes. Magnetoporation induced by a pulsed magnetic field leads to microbial death due to the loss of cytosol and nucleic acid together with the increase in intracellular Ca^{2+} content. The pulsed magnetic field affects the enzyme activity by the unfolding of tertiary structure. The microorganisms respond to the domain of a pulsed magnetic field by stimulation which is known as the “window effect” [183].

8.2 Application of pulsed magnetic field in the processing of health-promoting beverages

The pulsed magnetic field processing of orange juice at 7 T and 20 pulses resulted in the 0.61 log reduction of aerobic mesophiles [184]. The pulsed magnetic field range used in this study was not effective in microbial inactivation indicating the possible window effect. Pulsed magnetic field treatment of 8 T with a pulse number of 60 in cucumber juice resulted in a 1.36 log reduction of *E. coli* [185]. The increase in intensity to three times reduced the bacteria to an undetectable level even after 4 days of storage at 4 °C. The inactivation of bacteria in vegetable juices (cucumber, carrot, spinach, and bitter melon) was further facilitated by the combination of a pulsed magnetic field (3 times 8 T with 60 pulses) with Litsea-cubeba essential oil at a concentration of 1.5 mg/ml [186]. The addition of essential oil slightly masked the natural flavor of the juice but the sensorial attributes were not significantly affected. The cell membrane rupture and the inhibition of intracellular enzymes are the major mechanisms responsible for cell death. The higher bacterial load reduction (99.9%) in bovine colostrum was attained during pulsed magnetic field treatment of 2.53 T with a pulse number of 20 with minimal loss of IgG and sensorial characteristics [187]. Maximum inactivation of *E. coli*, mold, and yeast in milk was attained at 16.02 T with a pulse number of 6–8 [188]. The pulsed magnetic field processing of apple juice at 6 T with 15 pulses inactivated various oxidative enzymes such as polyphenol oxidase, peroxidase, and pectin methyl esterase [189]. The various reports on the processing of health-promoting beverages using a pulsed magnetic field are discussed in Table 7.

9 Current challenges and future prospective

At present, most of the studies are performed on a laboratory scale and very few pilot-scale studies are reported. Hence more scale-up studies have to be performed and economic feasibility studies have to be undertaken to ensure sustainable utilization and implementation. Additionally, more studies focused on the combined or sequential approach of various

Table 6 Effect of membrane technology on processing of health-promoting beverages

Juices	Parameters	Remarks	Reference
Apple juice	Ultrafiltration membranes of ceramic and organic polymer	Ceramic and organic polymer-based membranes resulted in a 9 and 5-log reduction of bacteria, respectively	[166]
White birch sap	Ultrafiltration membrane of 0.03 μm pore size	Microbes reduced from 1.6×10^4 CFU/mL to 2.0×10^2 CFU/mL	[167]
Banana juice	Ultrafiltration membrane of polysulfone-based cartridge	Shelf life of banana juice filtered by ultrafiltration membrane is 30 days without any product quality deterioration	[168]
Bottle gourd juice	Ultrafiltration membrane of polyacrylonitrile and cellulose acetate phthalate	Juice quality was not adversely affected even after 8 weeks of storage	[169]
Jamun juice	Ultrafiltration membrane of polysulfone hollow fiber (50 kDa pore size)	Complete elimination of microorganisms was attained	[170]
Coconut water	Ultrafiltration membrane of polyethersulfone (pore size < 0.01 μm)	Microbial load was reduced to an undetectable level	[171]
Coconut water	Microfiltration membrane of cellulose nitrate	Microbial growth was not observed even after 180 days of storage	[172]
Pineapple juice	Microfiltration membrane of pore size 0.3 μm	Reduction of microorganisms to an acceptable level	[173]
Watermelon juice	Ultrafiltration membrane of polyethersulfone (50 kDa molecular weight cut off)	Reduction of soluble solids (2.8%) and ascorbic acid (11.2%)	[174]
Dragon fruit juice	Ultrafiltration membrane of polyethersulfone (5,10,20 kDa molecular weight cut off)	Retention of betacyanin (30.6%) and phenolics (11.3%)	[175]
Broccoli juice	Ultrafiltration membrane of polyethersulfone (50 kDa molecular weight cut off)	Total phenolic content retention decreased. Rutin only phenolic compound retained in higher level	[176]
Orange juice	Ultrafiltration membrane of Polyethersulfone (30 kDa) and Polysulfone (20 kDa)	Polyethersulfone has higher clarification than polysulfone. Both membranes preserved the original composition	[177]
Lemon juice	Cellulose acetate membrane (100 kDa)	Retained higher antioxidant activity with a significant amount of eriocitrin and hesperidin	[178]
Cashew apple juice	Ultrafiltration membrane	Improved the shelf life by up to 12 weeks	[179]
Apple juice	Ultrafiltration membrane of Polyethersulfone (10 kDa molecular weight cut off)	Shelf life extended up to 4 weeks	[180]
Sugarcane juice	Ultrafiltration membrane of polysulfone (30 kDa)	6 log reduction in the bacterial count and shelf life extended up to 4 weeks	[181]
Apple-Beetroot and apple juice	Ceramic membrane (15 kDa)	68 and 71% of soluble solids and sugars retained in Apple-Beetroot juice	[182]
Mulberry juice	Ultrafiltration membrane (100 kDa)	Clarified juice with a bright color and enriched phenolic compounds was obtained	[183]
Watermelon juice	Ultrafiltration membrane (1 kDa)	Lycopene enrichment efficiency was attained	[184]

Table 7 Effect of pulsed magnetic field on the processing of health-promoting beverages

Juices	Parameters	Remarks	Reference
Orange juice	5–7 T and 5–30 pulses	Exposure to 7 T and pulse number of 20 resulted in the 0.61 log reduction of aerobic mesophiles	[186]
Cucumber juice	8 T with a pulse number of 60	Resulted in a 1.36 log reduction of <i>E. coli</i> . An increase in intensity to three times reduced the bacteria to an undetectable level	[187]
Vegetable juices (cucumber, carrot, spinach, and bitter gourd)	3 times 8 T with 60 pulses and essential oil (1.5 mg/ml)	Microorganisms were reduced to the desirable level	[188]
Bovine colostrum	2.53 T with a pulse number of 20	99.9% microbial load reduction with minimal loss of IgG and sensorial characteristics	[189]
Milk	16.02 T in the pulse number range of 6–8	Higher inactivation of <i>E. coli</i> , mold, and yeast	[190]
Apple juice	5–7 T with pulse range 5–30	Polyphenol oxidase, peroxidase, and pectin methyl esterase were inactivated to residual levels	[191]

non-thermal processing methods have to be applied to food products for microbial decontamination, and inactivation of oxidative enzymes. Ultrasonication can be applied for food preservation in combination with other methods to further improve enzyme inactivation and microbial load reduction. The synergistic effect of the ratio of beverage and CO₂ in the SC-CO₂ process can be studied to improve the process reliability to meet the global demand. In HHP treatment, heat generation leads to process instability and non-uniformity. The other challenges include a lack of data on the synergistic effect between pressure and packaging materials. Dielectric barrier discharge is a type of cold plasma that can be efficiently used for in-pack sterilization of beverages. Further optimization studies of processing variables in pulsed light treatment are needed to obtain products of superior quality. Studies should also focus on the structural integrity, bioavailability, and flow behavior of processed beverages [190]. Ultrafiltration membranes of tiny pore size can result in fouling and poor permeability of nutrients with smaller molecular weight. The proper selection of ultrafiltration membrane of suitable pore size should be selected for the removal of viruses and improved process efficiency. Microfiltration can be used as a pretreatment to remove larger microorganisms to minimize the fouling problem. The application of coagulation agents is also effective in controlling the fouling of membranes [191]. Studies on pulsed magnetic field for microbial load reduction and enzyme inactivation in beverages are very limited. Thus, more studies are required to understand the effect of pulsed magnetic field on the nutritional quality and sensorial attributes of food products [183].

In the future, novel processing techniques can be developed by combining different non-thermal processes to improve product quality and process efficiency. There is also scope for process equipment design and process economics for non-thermal processes to make them more accessible and cost-effective. There is an urgent need for the establishment of streamlined regulatory bodies concerning the utilization of these technologies to make the approval process faster and less expensive. Customized equipment can be developed to process health-promoting beverages to meet consumer demands. Algorithms, artificial intelligence, and data analytics can be incorporated with these advanced techniques for the real-time monitoring and control of the process. For the widespread adoption of non-thermal processing in the beverage industry, it is pivotal to overcome the current challenges as well as to work with future opportunities in this field.

10 Conclusion

Non-thermal food processing techniques are a promising alternative for food processors and provide a glimpse of future innovations in food technology. Conventional thermal treatments are commonly used for the pasteurization of liquid food products but they can affect the product quality in terms of nutrient retention and changes in sensorial attributes. The application of novel green technologies like non-thermal processing methods is environmentally friendly, rapid, and effective in microbial inactivation without affecting product quality. The action mechanisms of various non-thermal food processing techniques driven by different energy sources have been explored in the present review paper. The non-thermal processing methods come under a sustainable approach for microbial inactivation that in turn can improve the shelf life of food products. The non-thermal processes can be combined with preservatives to attain complete sterilization of food products. The low-temperature storage and distribution of non-thermal food products are essential for maintaining their sensorial properties. The HHP treatment can be applied to packaged food products and it has minimal effect on nutrients and sensorial attributes. The pulsed electric field is suitable for processing only liquid food products and reduces the degradation of heat-labile compounds. Ultrasound and membrane technology are economically feasible and also meet the requirements for scale-up. The HHP and SC-CO₂ are suitable for both microbial and enzyme inactivation in the temperature range of 35–55 °C. In conclusion, this literature can provide a paramount reference to help the food processors planning to execute these non-thermal techniques for processing several food products.

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Declarations

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