

## Process technology for production of steviosides from *Stevia rebaudiana*: A low calorie sweetener

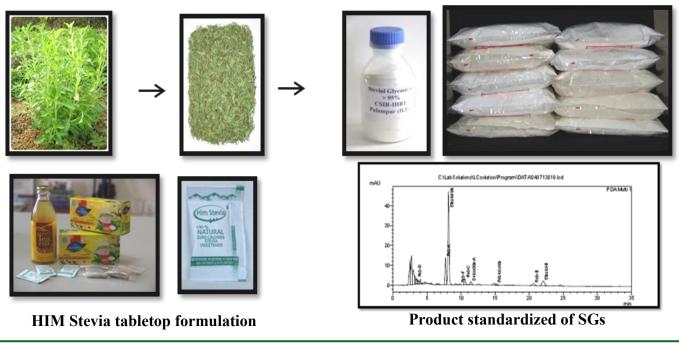
## Introduction

Steviol glycosides (SGs) are natural low calorie high intensity sweetner (200 to 300 times sweeter than sugar) extracted from the leaves of the Stevia rebaudiana plant and serves as a sugar substitutes. SGs represent the perfect, unprecedented opportunity for consumers who are looking for a naturally sourced calorie-free sweetening option for a healthy lifestyle balance and weight management program. The global stevia market is sub-segmented on the basis of type into liquid, powdered and leaf form. The powdered stevia sub-segment is projected to account for around 65.4% share of the total stevia market by 2020, owing to ease of availability and use. CSIR-IHBT has developed a complete agronomy package for stevia cultivation.

The cultivar 'Him Stevia' (CSIR-IHBT-ST-01; selection U-22-5-1) of *Stevia rebaudiana Bertoni* (Bertoni) has been developed by CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology, Palampur which has Rebaudioside-A content in U-22-5-1 in higher proportion (1.25) than stevioside. In addition to this, a green process has also been developed for the production of steviol glycosides from *S. rebaudiana* leaves with a total purity of SGs  $\geq$ 95%.

## **Major applications**

Pharma, Food and Beverage Industry including dairy food products, bakery products, dietary supplements, confectionery, table top sweeteners, beverages, packaged food products, snacks, and others.



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