

Bio-processing of fruits

especially Seabuckthorn berries

Karl Heilscher, Prof. Dr. sc. techn., independent consultant

Rüdiger Flocke, Dipl.-Ing. Brewing and Beverage Technology
GEA Westfalia Separator Group GmbH

The request for reproducible standardized half-finished and finished products, started with the 1st ISA conference 2003 in Berlin, has not been yet successfully completed.

The focus was to utilize the “fruit-own“, bioactive dynamics of the Seabuckthorn throughout the all processing steps.

This is still missing the acceptance of the industry.

What is bio-technology?

What do we want to achieve with it?

Searching the word

Bio-technology

in a dictionary
delivers:

**“use of productive services of cell groups, fungi in
a controlled environment”**

It does not concern the use of any natural raw material
like grapes or milk.

**We use lactic acid bacteria for
acidification of milk
and
yeast strains for alcoholic fermentation of grape
mash.**

Spontaneously and naturally initiated degradation of natural compounds is prevented and redirected into a productive process.

For a top quality end-product the entire process from the raw material until the final consumption by the consumer has to be validated as a closed entity.

The German doyen of wine technology, Gerhard Troost wrote 1955 in his textbook:

“A good winemaker must be also a qualified vineyard manager, as the quality of the wine is determined primarily in the vineyard”.

The basic principles apply to every organic product. In any case, the initial product quality and the impact on quality during storage and processing must be well known and considered.

Every Seabuckthorn product, whether from the lipid – or from the juice/pulp has a strong organoleptic character, which reflects the technological processing ability of the producer.

When the sensoric attributes result in a declaration explained by the English expression “buck”, the bio-processing was insufficient.

Both kinds of products coming from the pulp-oil or the skimmed juices, must be fruity without any impure smell and taste.

Smell and taste indicate as well the healing abilities of the different Seabuckthorn products. The products from oil seemed to be more powerful than the ones from pulp or juice.

This is NOT correct.

Watch-out the RPF-values!

The need to use all compounds of Seabuckthorn berries was pointed out before, but also essential is the separation of oil and juice.

Why?

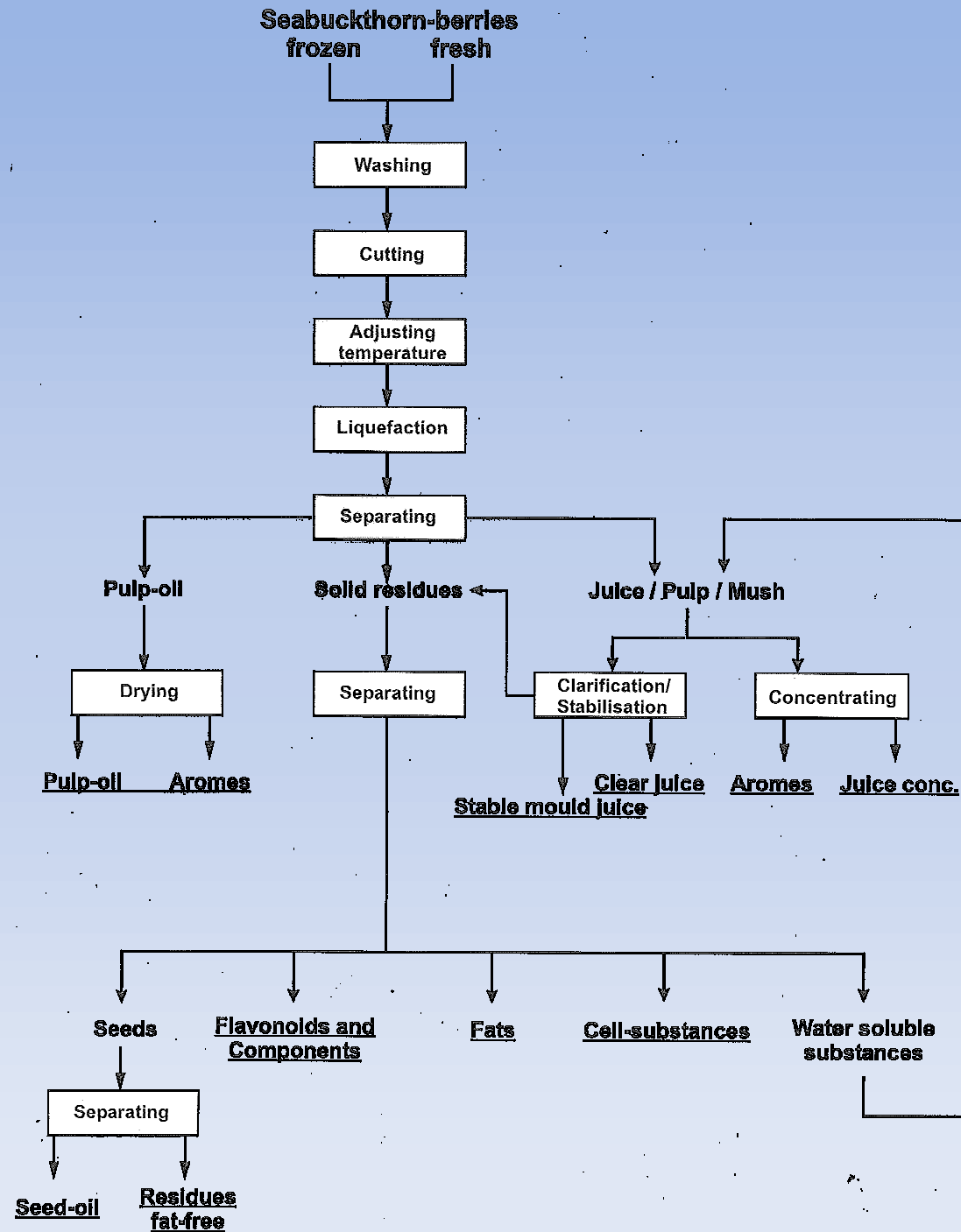
The mechanism and chemistry of the Seabuckthorn-berry and the human-being are quite different.

We have to adapt the natural properties of the Seabuckthorn-berry to the demands of the human-being.

The processor, the scientist for biotechnology has to respect without compromise the given properties of the raw material and its origin.

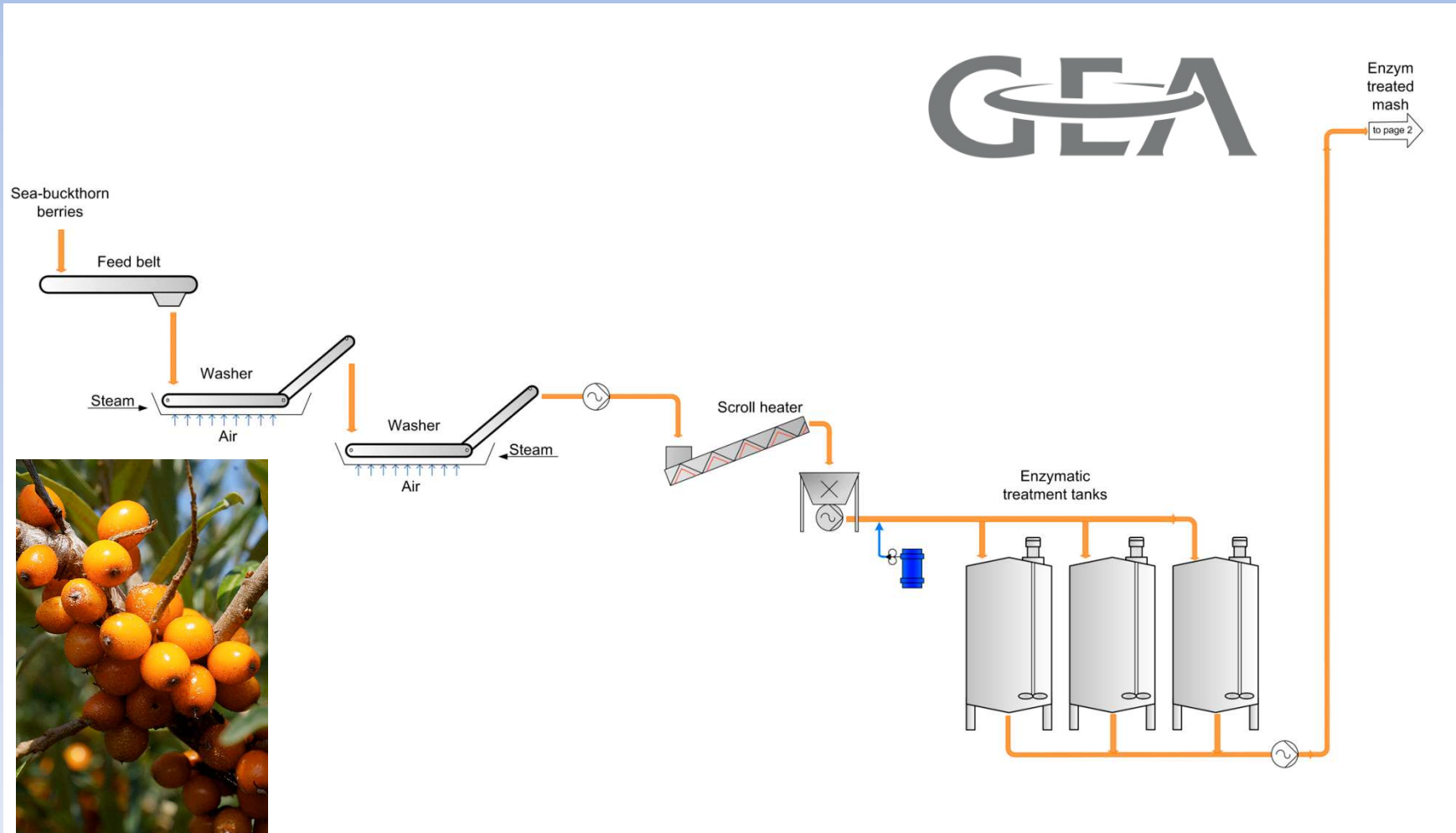
How?

The procedure of “Waste-free-bio-processing” is shown schematically in the following flow chart.

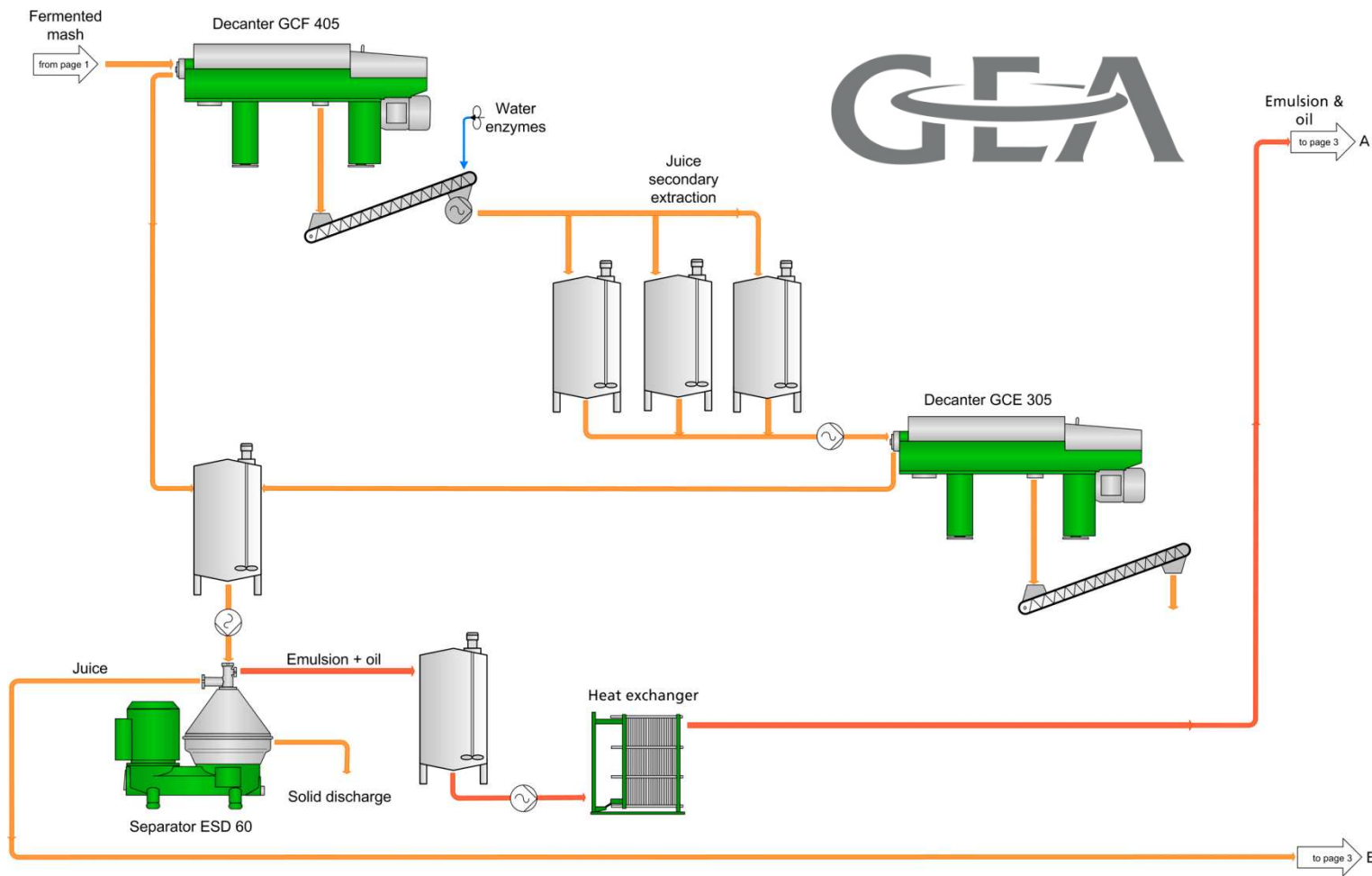


**Main features of a technical solution,
the processing line,
you can see on the following slides.**

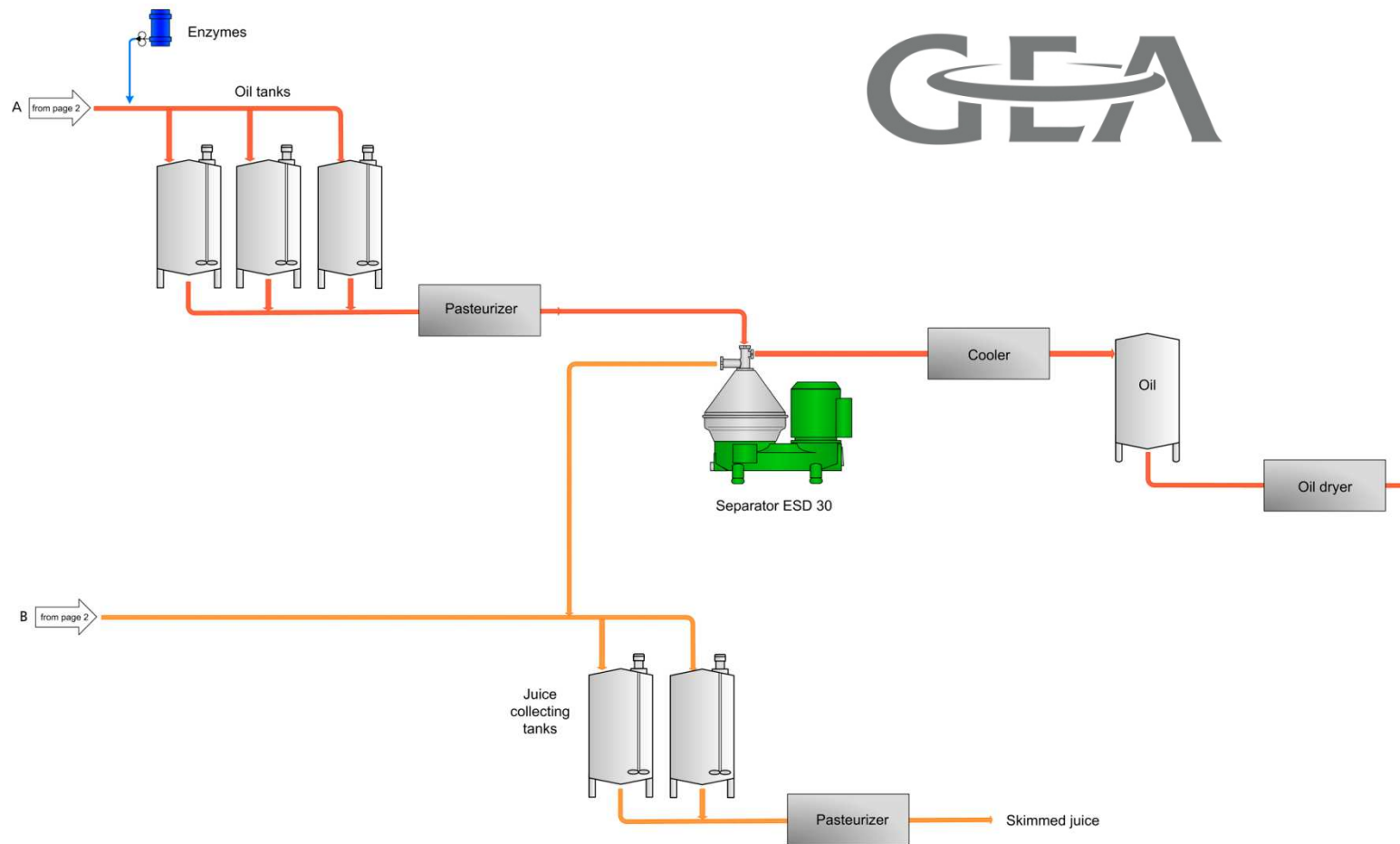
The right raw material AND the right mash preparation are the key for the downstream process and the final product quality.



Fast & gentle separation of the liquid and solid phase in an inert gas atmosphere eliminates the oxygen and protect the product.



The efficient separation of oil and juice are mandatory for a stable quality and longer shelf life.



The process itself is well known.

But how has the quality management to be executed for the production and the final product?

**The classical comparative method of measurement:
The content of single valuable constituents is
measured and compared before, during and after
processing.**

This classical method is still valid but insufficient.

There are beneficial abilities similar like the RPF-value recognized, which can not be characterized by a single chemical compound.

But still this have to be considered and described in the one or the other way.

Quality management according to the actual bio-technology meets these requirements, the classical measurement method does not. Physical-chemical methods detect the abilities in a different way and not only by detecting single compounds.

The bio-technological abilities have to be considered as an overall entity in its own, as we are consuming the whole fruit/berry as well.

They are in strict adherence to the above objectives, apart of already highlighted criteria of degustation like:

- Viscosity**
- Ranzemat-value**
- RPF-value**

**The large spectrum of healing abilities of
Seabuckthorn products must be reflected
in the analyzing methods.**

**The wide range of ingredients can explain the in
East Asia well known pharmaceutical effects
generated by the Seabuckthorn.**

Among the variety of methods the most important is the analysis of antioxidants with the Radical Protection Factor (RPF), determining the scavenging capacity of free radicals.

Definition and measurement:

The Radical Protection Factor (RPF) determines the scavenging activity of an antioxidant against a test substance.

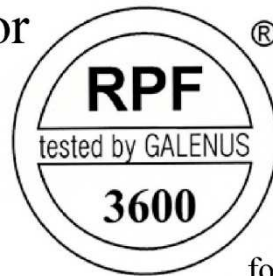
This test substance consists of a very reactive semi-stable radical which reacts with all known antioxidants.

evaluation of Antioxidants against Free Radicals

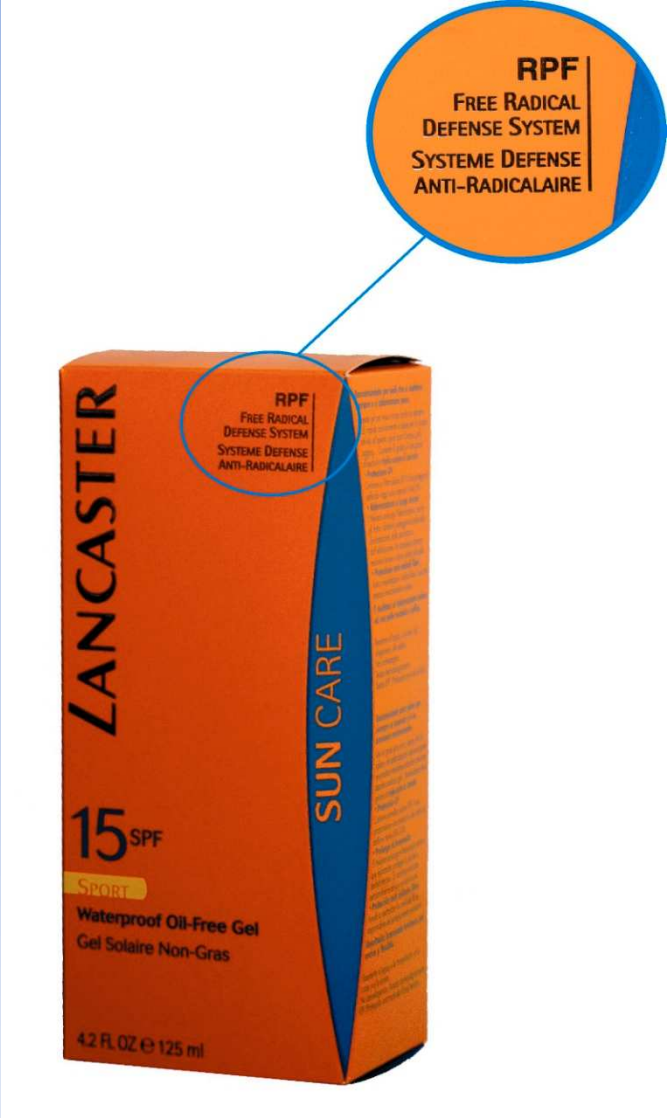
measured with ESR-Spectroscopy



Radical Protection Factor



for example:
RPF of 5 means a reduction of 5×10^{14}
radicals per mg substance



natural antioxidant	α-Tocopherol vitamin E mg %	Beta-Carotin mg %	Ascorbin-acid mg %	Flavonoide mg %	Unsaturated fatty acids C 16 %	Unsaturated fatty acids C 18 %	Ranzemat in value h (20l air with 110°C)	RPF 10 ¹⁴ rad/mg
Aronia	0.8-3.1	1.1-2.4	10-50	170-700				1300
Rose hip	-	1.0-2.7	470-4700					1570
Seabuck-thorn berry	3.0-18.0	0.0-18.7	100-1200	50-250				520
Sb pulp.-oil	45	120			38.8	16.2	35.5	290
Sb seed-oil	77	140			11.2	72.7	2.0	500
Sb pulp without seeds		145						625
Sb pulp with grounded seeds		141.9						1100

First essays to define with the phytoncides a common value for Seabuckthorn products were not successful.

We shall continue on this field.

Our residual free biotechnology and the quality management by determining the RPF value are innovations for the processing of Seabuckthorn-berries.

Thank you very much for your attention.