

TECH NEED

Seeking Solutions to Support Cognitive Health Through Functional Food



KEY INFORMATION

TECHNOLOGY CATEGORY:

Foods - Ingredients

Foods - Processes

TECHNOLOGY READINESS LEVEL (TRL): **TRL4 TO TRL9**

COUNTRY: **SINGAPORE**

ID NUMBER: **TN174503**

BACKGROUND/DESCRIPTION

Stress, fatigue, and cognitive decline are growing concerns in Singapore. Younger adults often experience anxiety, insomnia, and difficulty focusing, while older adults face a higher risk of memory loss and cognitive decline. By 2030, one in four Singaporeans will be aged 65 or above, highlighting the need for accessible ways to support cognitive health. Many adults rely on supplements to maintain cognitive performance, but these are often perceived as medicinal and unnatural. With 60% of consumers in the Asia Pacific region viewing mental well-being as central to health, the market for brain health foods and beverages is expanding rapidly, projected to reach USD 40.34 billion by 2030 with a CAGR of 10.5%, highlighting a significant opportunity for enjoyable and familiar cognitive-supporting food products. This technology call therefore seeks proven cognitive ingredients and enabling technologies that improve ingredient stability, efficacy, and incorporation into foods and beverages.

TECHNOLOGY SPECIFICATION

There is an interest in technologies that can:

- Demonstrate cognitive benefits (e.g., improved focus, memory, stress regulation, or mental clarity) in human or animal studies
- Be safe for general consumption, with established regulatory approval or GRAS status
- Deliver innovative or differentiated ingredients or formulations compared to current market solutions
- Include unique or proprietary enabling technologies that allow effective incorporation or stability of the ingredients in food products

WHAT WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN

- Solutions that require substantial investment in new manufacturing infrastructure or process lines
- Pharmaceutical-grade compounds or ingredients without a history of consumption in food
- Ingredients that fall under medicinal classifications or face strict regulatory restrictions for use in general foods
- Companies seeking purely sales or distribution opportunities without collaboration potential
- Widely available, generic ingredients or standard formulations (e.g., fish oil, ginseng, caffeine)
- Widely used enabling technologies (e.g., encapsulation, particle size reduction, coating)

PREFERRED BUSINESS MODEL

- Business Collaboration (Joint Venture)
- IP Acquisition

- Licensing
- R&D Collaboration