

Study of the process and microbiological quality of *Gappal*, a fermented food from Burkina Faso based on milk and millet dough

Abel TANKOANO^{#,1}, Hagrétou SAWADOGO-LINGANI[#], Aly SAVADOGO[#], Donatien KABORE¹ and Yves TRAORE[#]

[#]Université Ouaga I Professeur Joseph Ki-Zerbo, UFR/SVT, Laboratoire de Biochimie et Immunologie Appliquée (LaBIA), 03BP 7021 Ouagadougou 03, Burkina Faso

¹Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique et Technologique, IRSAT, Département Technologie Alimentaire, 03 BP 7047, Ouagadougou 03, Burkina Faso

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Abstract

Gappal is a traditional fermented food of Burkina Faso's Fulani ethnic group, made with millet dough and milk and traditionally eaten in family. The aim of the present study was to characterize the process of *Gappal* production, to evaluate the good hygiene practices during production and to assess the microbiological quality of commercialized *Gappal*. For that, 21 *Gappal* producers from seven towns of Burkina Faso were surveyed. 106 samples of *Gappal* commercialized were collected and analysed for pH, titratable acidity, dry matter, total aerobic count, lactic acid bacteria, enterobacteria, yeasts and moulds, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Bacillus cereus* counts. The main operation units of the process were found to be: winnowing, washing, dehulling, pounding and/or milling, milk addition, fermentation, drying and packaging. The microbial values varied from producer to another and 86.8% of samples were found to have acceptable quality whereas 13.2% of samples were not conforms to microbiological quality criteria. No sample was satisfactory quality. The fermentation of millet dough mixed to milk gives to *Gappal* interesting nutritional properties and the drying increase the availability and the preservation duration. However, the presence of germs able to produce toxins in *Gappal* increases the risk to consumer health.

Keywords: *Gappal*, Process, Fermentation, Quality, Microbiology, Burkina Faso

1. Introduction

The millet is one of the main cereals cultivated and consumed in Africa. It constitutes the base of many fermented foods and often mixed with milk (A. Y. Tamime and D. Mc Nulty, 1999; F. Hama *et al.*, 2009; A. Georgala, 2013). Fermentation has been practiced since the early ages and still remains an important aspect of food process that cannot be ignored. With their preservative effects, fermented foods remain popular with people of all generations (P. K. Sarkar and M. R. Nout, 2014). Fermentation is highly involved in a variety of other traditional knowledge and domestic activities. It can make particularly an important contribution to the livelihoods of women, the disabled and landless poor who, with appropriate training and access to inputs, can increase their independence and self-esteem through income generation (E. Marshall and D. Mejia, 2011). This food policy is important in West Africa, where food production and commercialization is women's activities (F. Hama *et al.*, 2009). Traditional fermented foods based on milk and cereals have been produced in many countries. In the Middle East, a dried yoghurt-cereal mixture known as

kishk is a popular product. It is produced in several countries (Lebanon, Syria, Algeria Egypt, Qatar, Iraq, Iran, Nepal, Greece, Turkey) with different names such as *Kushuk*, *Klila*, *Keshkeh* or *Kichk*, *Zhum*, *Kushik*, *Kashk*, *Kaskg*, *Keshk*, *Churpi*, *Zurpi*, *Chum*, *Trahana*, *Tarhanocirv*, *Kapestoes* (A. Tamime and T. O'Connor, 1995). In West Africa for instance, *Dèguè* or *Tiacri* and *Fura* are also very popular (F. Hama *et al.*, 2009; J. Owusu-Kwarteng *et al.*, 2012). Another fermented foods based on milk and millet called *Gappal*, typical to the *Fulani* ethnic group is increasingly appreciated and consumed by Burkinabe.

But, fermented food based on milk and cereals obtained through a natural and spontaneous fermentation are generally associated to risk for consumers health. So, the microbiological quality of the natural fermented cereal based foods is of great importance because these foods are often given to children and the elderly (H. Abriouel *et al.*, 2007). Contamination of food by bacteria that form endospores is a widespread problem. For example, a study on phylogenetic relatedness and toxigenic potential of *Bacillus cereus* isolates from *Dèguè* and *Potopoto* revealed the presence of *Bacillus anthracis*. All the isolates in this study presented lecithinase activity and

beta-hemolytic activity and enterotoxin production was detected in two of the isolates (H. Abriouel *et al.*, 2007). The addition of milk to millet dough can increase the nutritional quality of the product, but it can be a source of pathogenic bacteria. Several studies indicated the presence of pathogenic bacteria like coagulase positive *Staphylococcus aureus* and other species as *Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella*, *Enterobacter*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and thermotolerant coliforms in dairy products from Burkina Faso. Some bacteria present a high resistance to antibiotics (A. Savadogo *et al.*, 2004; T. S. Bagré *et al.*, 2014; C. A. T. Ouattara *et al.*, 2015; M. Sissao *et al.*, 2015; A. Tankoano *et al.*, 2016). The aim of the present work was to study in detail the process of *Gappal* in seven towns from Burkina Faso, to establish a general flow diagram of production and then to determine the microbiological quality of commercialized *Gappal*.

2. Materials and methods

2.1 Investigation on *Gappal* process

The main traditional production and commercial sites of *Gappal* were identified in different provinces of Burkina Faso and production was followed for flow diagrams establishment. The process investigation was done in seven areas such as Dori, Djibo, Sebba, Gorom-Gorom, Fada N’Gourma, Koudougou and Ouagadougou (Figure 1). Twenty one (21) individual producers or groups were investigated. The process study was realized using inquiry form based on: (1) the identification of production site, (2) the raw materials used, (3) the packaging and the distribution channel, (4) the production process and (5) the implementation of good hygienic practices and good manufacturing practices.

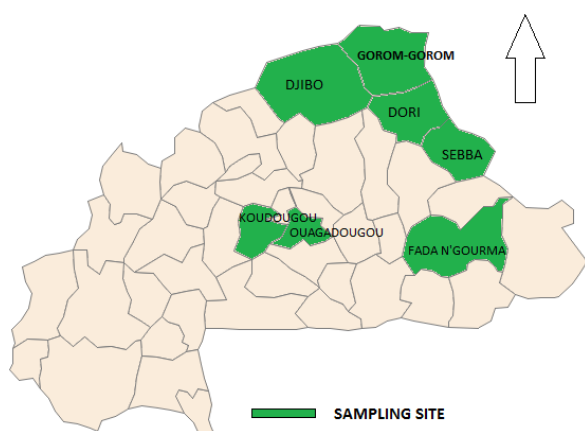


Figure 1: Inquiry site of *Gappal* production and commercialisation

2.2 Sampling for microbiological and physicochemical analyzes

A total of a hundred and six (106) samples of *Gappal* (dried and liquid) commercialized from six towns were collected between July and December 2015 for

microbiological and physicochemical analyses. The samples of *Gappal* in the liquid form (n=46) were collected in Koudougou, Fada N’Gourma and Ouagadougou whereas the samples of *Gappal* in dried form (n=60) were collected in Dori, Djibo, Sebba and Fada N’Gourma. All the samples were transported to the laboratory in cold chain under a temperature of 4°C for analyzes.

2.3 Physicochemical analyzes

The moisture content was determined by difference of sample weight before and after drying at 105 °C for 24 h (NFV03-707, 2000). The pH values were obtained using electronic pHmeter (CONSORT P901, Belgium) and acidity was determined according to the modified method of Nout *et al.*; 1989 using phenolphthalein as indicator with NaOH 0.1N (M. R. Nout *et al.*, 1989) .

2.4 Microbiological analyzes

In the current study, Total Aerobic Count (TAC), Lactic Acid Bacteria (LAB), Yeasts and Moulds (YM), *Enterobacteria*, coagulase positive *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Bacillus cereus* were investigated. For TAC, Plate count Agar (Liofilchem, Italy) was used incubated at 30°C for 72 h in aerobic condition (ISO4833, 2003). LAB were counted by cultivation on De Man, Rogosa and Sharpe Agar (Merck, Germany) using container with Generating Sachets (BD Diagnostic, USA) incubated at 37°C, for 72h (ISO15214, 1998) and on M17 Agar (Liofilchem,Italy) incubated aerobically at 30°C for 48h. Yeasts and moulds were counted by cultivation on Sabouraud Chloramphenicol Agar (Liofilchem,Italy) for 4 to 5 days at 25°C (ISO7954, 1988). *Enterobacteria* were counted on Violet Red Bile Glucose Agar (Liofilchem, Italy) for 48h at 37°C. *Staphylococcus aureus* was determined by surface plating on Baird Parker Agar (Liofilchem,Italy) supplemented with egg yolk-tellurite emulsion (37°C for 24-48 h). For the confirmation, coagulase test (Liofilchem, Italy) was realised according to ISO (ISO6888-2, 2003). Concerning *Bacillus cereus* count, *Bacillus cereus* Selective Agar (Liofilchem, Italy) supplemented with polymyxine B was used, incubated at 37°C for 48 h.

2.5 Statistical analyzes

All the results were test to Analysis of variance (ANOVA) using XLSTAT 7.5.2 software. Means, Standard deviation and the least significant difference between the means were determined ($p < 0.05$). Turkey correlations among microbiological and physicochemical values were estimated for all the investigated factors.

3. Results and discussion

3.1 Description of *Gappal* process

Gappal is produced with millet and different kinds of milk. The fermentation degree depending on producer and the type of *Gappal* desired.

The *Fulani* ethnic group producer, from Dori, Djibo, Gorom-Gorom and Sebba use raw milk from cow or sour milk for *Gappal* production. *Gappal* is their traditional food or beverage and this region is the largest area of breeding in Burkina Faso. For *Fulani* ethnic group, *Gappal* production is a cultural and social activity. The other producers from Ouagadougou, Koudougou and Fada N’Gourma, used generally powder milk for *Gappal* production. In this case, *Gappal* production is most a commercial activity and powder milk is most available and most benefit for them. A combined fermentation of milk and millet dough could increase the nutritional and sensorial quality of *Gappal*. The main operation units of *Gappal* process were: winnowing, washing, dehulling, pounding and/or milling (Figure 2, 3 and 4). For dried *Gappal* a operation unit of drying combined to fermentation is added. During this operation unit, the mixture of millet dough and milk was fermented and millet dough quantity was increased compared to liquid *Gappal*. Figure 2 presents the traditional process; Figure 3 and Figure 4 present the commercial liquid and dried *Gappal* process.

Winnowing: It is performed with metal sieves or calabashes to eliminate hulls, insects, and dust.

Washing: The grains of millet were washed thrice with potable water to eliminate all impurities.

Dehulling: This operation unit is not necessary. It consists to separate millet grain from the seed heads. The resulting *Gappal* is whiter and limp

Drying: The grains were sun dried for few minutes after the operation unit of washing.

Milling: This operation unit consists of transforming the millet grains obtained in the previous step into flour in popular milling units. Producers added ingredients such as ginger and baobab pulp before milling whereas mint, cloves or artificial aroma were added after milling.

Sieving: the flour was sieved with metal sieve.

Pounding and mixing: Millet grains were pounded into flour and semolina with traditional mortar. *Gappal* containing semolina is particularly appreciated by some consumers. This operation unit is very important in *Gappal* production. For dried *Gappal*, flour is mixed to milk and the mixture is pounded. For liquid *Gappal*, flour is pounded properly before mixing with milk or yogurt. Pounding eliminate the fresh taste of flour and promote a better mixing with milk. The ratio of milk to dough used in liquid *Gappal* production is usually 4:1 or 5:1. For dried *Gappal* this ratio is usually 1:4 or 1:5

Drying and fermentation: In the dried *Gappal* process, the mixture was sun dried during three to five days. The first

day, *Gappal* was dried in the room then exposed to sun covered with a thin fabric.

Storage: Liquid *Gappal* was packaged in cans and stored in a freezer or refrigerator. Dried *Gappal* is packaged in plastics bags and store at ambient temperature.

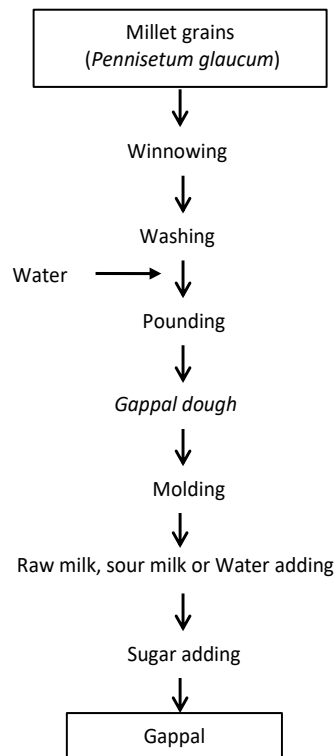


Figure 2: Traditional process of Gappal

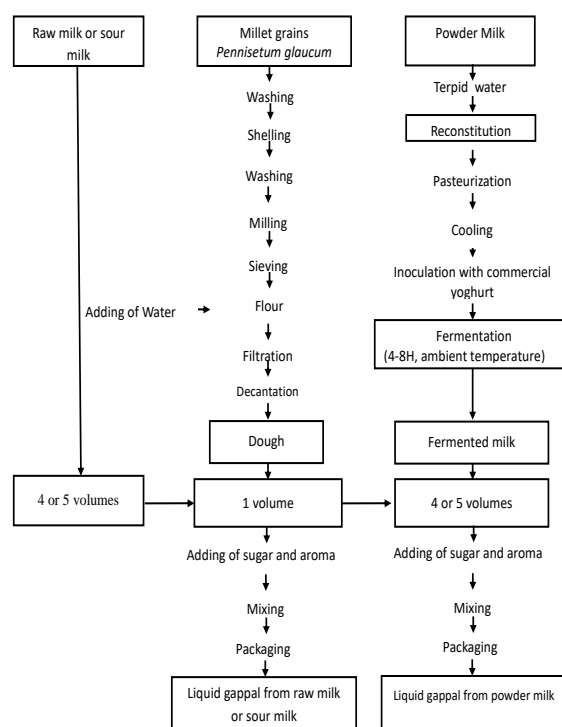


Figure 3: Process of commercial liquid Gappal

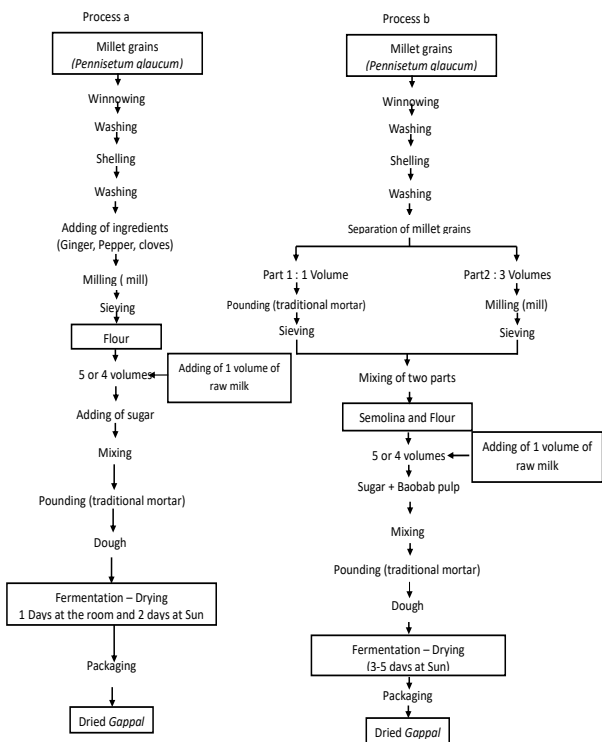


Figure 4: Process of commercial dried Gappal

3.2 Attributes and traditional uses of Gappal

Traditionally the preparation of Gappal in Burkina Faso remains in Fulani ethnic household for family consumption or foreigner welcome drink. Women prepare Gappal dough and store it in their house for eventual foreigner. According to traditional perceptions, Gappal consumption increase milk secretion, so it is also served to new mothers after the birth. In this case, there is no dehulling of the millet grains and Gappal is produced directly for mother’s consumption. With the increasing of dairy products demand, in order to transport and conserve during a long time, Gappal producers introduce sun drying after increasing of the quantity of millet dough compared to milk, madding the dried Gappal.



(a) Traditional Gappal, (b) Commercial liquid Gappal, (c) Gappal drying; (d) Commercial dried Gappal

Figure 5: Different forms of Gappal produced in Burkina Faso

3.3 Production, distribution channel and respect of good hygienic and good manufacturing practices

Dried Gappal and Liquid Gappal are produced from millet dough mixed with milk. Liquid Gappal was packaged in cans and dried Gappal was packaged in plastic bags. 85% of producers disturbed to kiosks, shops and supermarkets but 48% of Gappal producers are illiterates and 79% have never been trained for dairy food production. 42% of Gappal producers made only liquid Gappal and some producers especially those from Ouagadougou, Koudougou and Fada N’Gourma don’t know dried Gappal process. For the producers from these towns, Gappal production is most a commercial activity and powder milk is most available and most benefit for them. In these towns, Gappal is produced with powder milk unlike Dori, Djibo, Sebba and Gorom-Gorom towns where it is produced with raw milk from cows or sour milk; also, Gappal production is a cultural and social activity for these producers. Curd milk or commercial yoghurt were used as lactic ferment by all producers. Liquid Gappal fermentation is stopped after the production by conservation in a freezer. For dried Gappal, the mixture of milk and millet dough was dried during three to five days. The first day, Gappal was dried in the room at ambient temperature and it is exposed in sun covered with a thin fabric. Only one producer used solar dryer. 89% of producer used correctly soap during Gappal production for hands and materials washing, but only 11% of producers had appropriate clothing with apron. In these groups, members which were trained on raw milk quality control used lactodensimeter, pHmeter or resazurine. Despite the used of soap during Gappal production, some problems like inadequate local and equipments, the presence of animals in some production sites were unconformities to good hygiene recommendations during food production.

3.4 Physicochemical and microbiological results

Table 1 presents the physicochemical parameters of Gappal such as pH, titratable acidity, moisture and dry matter. The pH was 4.31±0.28 for liquid Gappal and 4.74±0.35 for dried Gappal. The titratable acidity was 1.31±0.23 percent of lactic acid for liquid Gappal against 0.87±0.05 percent lactic acid for dried Gappal with statistical difference between liquid and dried Gappal for these parameters. These values are similar to those obtained in other cereal-dairy based foods like Dèguè, Kashk-e Zard and Tarkhineh. In fact the pH of millet dèguè varied between 4.22 and 4.49 and acidity varied between 0.57 and 1.35% of acid lactic (F. Hama et al., 2009; C. C. Tchekessi et al., 2014). Kashk-e Zard and Tarkhineh, cereal-dairy based fermented foods from Iran, had low pH, 4.31 and 4.91 respectively (Z. Mashak et al., 2014). A combined fermentation of milk and millet dough could increase the nutritional and sensorial quality of Gappal. The few concentration of millet dough in liquid Gappal gives it a similar appearance to yoghurt.

Table 1: Physicochemical parameters of *Gappal*

Sampling site	pH	Acidity (%)	Moisture (%)	Dried matter (%)
	Liquid <i>Gappal</i>			
Fada (n=15)	4.30±0.10 ^a	1.31±0.25 ^a	74.63±2.17 ^a	25.37±2.17 ^a
Koudougou (n=15)	4.22±0.23 ^a	1.40±0.23 ^a	69.25±8.46 ^{ab}	30.75±8.46 ^{ab}
Ouagadougou (n=16)	4.44±0.41 ^a	1.19±0.03 ^a	64.31±1.57 ^b	35.69±1.57 ^b
Mean	4.31±0.28	1.31±0.23	69.52±6.83	30.48±6.83
Dried <i>Gappal</i>				
Djibo (n=15)	4.50±0.14 ^c	1.02±0.04 ^a	9.74±4.12 ^a	90.26±4.12 ^a
Dori (n=20)	4.66±0.11 ^b	0.93±0.05 ^a	6.97±0.28 ^b	93.03±0.28 ^b
Fada (n=20)	5.36±0.01 ^a	0.79±0.06 ^a	6.17±0.06 ^b	93.83±0.06 ^b
Sebba (n=5)	5.35±0.01 ^a	0.75±0.03 ^a	6.10±0.13 ^b	93.90±0.11 ^b
Mean	4.74±0.35	0.87±0.05	7.89±2.97	92.11±2.97

The same letter (a, b, c) in the same column indicated no statistical difference ($p \geq 0.05$) between the values obtained in the different towns for the same type of *Gappal*.

Liquid *Gappal* is more fermented than dried *Gappal* and the pH of liquid *Gappal* is similar to those of normal yoghurt ($\text{pH} \leq 4.5$) and indicates a good fermentation condition. At these values of pH and acidity, the development of many pathogens like enterobacteria and *Staphylococcus aureus* is reduced and food safety preserved (A. Savadogo et al., 2004). But the addition of millet flour during the production of *Gappal* increase the dried matter. Dried *Gappal* contains more dry matter (92.11±2.97% of dry matter) than Liquid *Gappal* (30.48±6.83 %). The dry matter of dried *Gappal* is similar to those obtained for *Kashk-e Zard* and *Tarkhineh* with respectively 95.08 % and 96.96 % (Z. Mashak et al., 2014). Table 3 presents the microbiological quality of commercial liquid *Gappal* and dried *Gappal* of samples from Dori, Djibo, Sebba, Koudougou, Ouagadougou and Fada N’Gourma. 82.6% of liquid *Gappal* samples were found to have an acceptable quality against 90.0% of dried *Gappal* samples using *Enterobacteria*, coagulase positive *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Bacillus cereus* criteria. Globally (Table 2), 86.8% of the total samples were acceptable quality. Only 13.2% of total samples were not satisfactory quality. Coagulase positive *Staphylococcus aureus*, other coagulase positives staphylococci and *Enterobacteria* are the mains microorganisms responsible of the bad microbiological quality of *Gappal*. However, the presence of coagulase positive *Staphylococcus aureus* (table 2 and table 3) in high concentration is potentially injurious to health and / or unfit for human consumption (HPA, 2009). In fact, figure 5 presents the mean values for Total Aerobic Count (TAC), Lactic Acid Bacteria (LAB), Yeasts and Moulds, *Enterobacteria*, coagulase positive *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Bacillus cereus* in liquid *Gappal* and dried *Gappal*. The values deviate to mean values with standard deviation frequently superior to mean, indicating that microbiological count change from a producer to another and also from a town to another. This observation was confirmed by statistical analyzes using ANOVA test. The mean value for TAC was $3.3 \times 10^8 \pm 4.5 \times 10^8$ cfu/mL for liquid *Gappal* and $2.0 \times 10^6 \pm 4.5 \times 10^6$ cfu/g for dried *Gappal*. These

values are similar to 7.31 ± 0.19 Log₁₀ cfu/g of total aerobic count obtained by Tchékessi in millet *Dèguè* from controlled production (C. Tchekessi et al., 2014). The mean LAB was $1.7 \times 10^8 \pm 3.5 \times 10^8$ cfu/mL for liquid *Gappal* and $1.8 \times 10^5 \pm 3.1 \times 10^5$ cfu/g for dried *Gappal*. LAB on M17 Agar were $2.8 \times 10^7 \pm 1.0 \times 10^8$ cfu/mL for liquid *Gappal* and $1.0 \times 10^5 \pm 3.9 \times 10^5$ cfu/g in dried *Gappal*. The content of yeasts and moulds was $1.9 \times 10^4 \pm 3.2 \times 10^4$ cfu/mL in liquid *Gappal* and $2.3 \times 10^4 \pm 6.0 \times 10^4$ cfu/g in dried *Gappal*.

Lactic acid bacteria, *Bacillus cereus*, yeasts and moulds count reveals that the dominant micro-flora of *Gappal* is composed of lactic acid bacteria, *Bacillus* and yeasts and moulds. The same conclusions were obtained for *Dèguè* and *kishsk* where, the number of lactic acid bacteria, yeasts and moulds increased during the fermentation (A. Y. Tamime and D. Mc Nulty, 1999; F. Hama et al., 2009; E. Marshall and D. Mejia, 2011; Z. Mashak et al., 2014). *Enterobacteria* were $2.0 \times 10^4 \pm 6.4 \times 10^4$ cfu/mL for liquid *Gappal* and $2.5 \times 10^4 \pm 1.5 \times 10^5$ cfu/g for dried *Gappal*. The concentrations of coagulase positive *Staphylococcus aureus* were $3.9 \times 10^2 \pm 2.0 \times 10^3$ cfu/mL for liquid *Gappal* and $2.0 \times 10^4 \pm 5.7 \times 10^4$ cfu/g for dried *Gappal* and *Bacillus cereus* were $4.5 \times 10^6 \pm 1.1 \times 10^7$ cfu/mL for liquid *Gappal* against $4.8 \times 10^4 \pm 1.3 \times 10^5$ cfu/g for dried *Gappal*. The investigation of Tamime on *Kishk* indicated that *B. cereus* strains that may produce toxins could be the major bacteriological risk associated with this product and Zinzerdof’s study on Ivorian *Dèguè* indicated that the enterotoxins of *S. aureus* were detected in 4.1% of the *Dèguè* from supermarkets against 29.6% of the *Dèguè* collected from the markets (A. Y. Tamime and D. Mc Nulty, 1999; N. Zinzerdorf et al., 2009). The low moisture contained of dried *Gappal* should permit a long storage at ambient condition comparatively to liquid *Gappal*. Enterotoxigenic strains need to grow at levels superior to 10^5 cfu/g before detectable toxin production which is influenced by parameters such as temperature, pH, water activity, redox potential. Previous studies indicated the presence of *Staphylococcus aureus* in milk and dairy product from Burkina Faso (T. S. Bagré et al., 2014; A. Tankoano et al., 2016).

Table 2: Microbiological criteria (cfu/g or cfu/mL)

	Enterobacteria	<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>B. cereus</i>
Unsatisfactory	>10 ⁴	>10 ⁴	>10 ⁵
Acceptable	10 ² ≤N≤10 ⁵	20≤N≤10 ⁴	10 ³ ≤N≤10 ⁵
Satisfactory	<10 ²	<20	<10 ³

According to Health Protection Agency. Guidelines for Assessing the Microbiological Safety of Ready-to-Eat Foods. London: Health Protection Agency, November 2009

Table 3: Microbiological quality of *Gappal* according to criteria

Nature of samples	Conformity	Prevalence of pathogenic microorganism			Global Interpretation
		<i>Enterobacteria</i>	<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>B. cereus</i>	
Liquid <i>Gappal</i>	Unsatisfactory	8/46 (17.4%)	1/46 (2.2%)	0/46 (0%)	8/46 (17.4%)
	Acceptable	17/46 (37.0%)	23/46 (50%)	43/46 (93.5%)	38/46 (82.6%)
	Satisfactory	21/46 (45.7%)	22/46 (47.8%)	3/46 (6.5%)	0/46 (0%)
Dried <i>Gappal</i>	Unsatisfactory	5/60 (8.3%)	9/60 (15.0%)	0/60 (0%)	6/60 (10.0%)
	Acceptable	6/60 (10.0%)	46/60 (76.7%)	9/60 (15.0%)	54/60 (90.0%)
	Satisfactory	49/60 (81.7%)	5/60 (8.3%)	51/60 (85.0%)	0/60 (0%)
Total samples	Unsatisfactory	13/106 (12.3%)	10/106 (9.4%)	0/106 (0%)	14/106 (13.2%)
	Acceptable	24/106 (22.6%)	67/106 (63.2%)	57/74(53.8%)	92/106(86.8%)
	Satisfactory	69/106 (65.1%)	29/106 (27.4%)	49/74(66.2%)	0/106 (0%)

Table 4: Microbiological count of commercial liquid *Gappal* and dried *Gappal* by sampling site

Sampling site	TAC	LAB on MRS	LAB on M17	Yeast	Enterobacteria	<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>B. cereus</i>
	<i>Liquid Gappal</i>						
Fada (n=15)	2.4x10 ⁸ ±2.9x10 ^{8b}	7.3x10 ⁵ ±1.0x10 ^{6b}	8.7x10 ⁵ ±2.8x10 ^{6a}	4.8x10 ³ ±9.2x10 ^{3b}	2.9x10 ² ±6.4x10 ^{2a}	2.5x10 ¹ ±2.8x10 ^{1a}	1.9x10 ⁴ ±3.0x10 ^{4b}
Koudougou(n=15)	1.0x10 ⁷ ±9.8x10 ^{6b}	1.3x10 ⁷ ±1.4x10 ^{7b}	2.5x10 ⁴ ±1.1x10 ^{4ab}	1.5x10 ⁴ ±1.7x10 ^{4ab}	4.8x10 ⁴ ±9.3x10 ^{4a}	9.0x10 ² ±3.1x10 ^{3a}	1.8x10 ⁴ ±1.5x10 ^{4b}
Ouagadougou (n=16)	9.1x10 ⁸ ±3.4x10 ^{8b}	5.9x10 ⁵ ±4.6x10 ^{5a}	1.0x10 ⁵ ±1.8x10 ^{5b}	4.1x10 ⁴ ±5.1x10 ^{4b}	6.2x10 ³ ±9.5x10 ^{3a}	3.7x10 ² ±1.1x10 ^{2a}	1.6x10 ⁷ ±1.6x10 ^{7a}
Total samples	3.3x10 ⁸ ±4.5x10 ⁸	1.7x10 ⁸ ±3.5x10 ⁸	2.8x10 ⁷ ±1.0x10 ⁸	1.9x10 ⁴ ±3.2x10 ⁴	2.0x10 ⁴ ±6.4x10 ⁴	3.9x10 ² ±2.0x10 ³	4.5x10 ⁶ ±1.1x10 ⁷
<i>Dried Gappal</i>							
Djibo (n=15)	6.4x10 ⁴ ±1.1x10 ^{5b}	3.3x10 ⁵ ±4.3x10 ^{5a}	3.8x10 ³ ±3.6x10 ^{3b}	2.2x10 ³ ±3.2x10 ^{3a}	1.1x10 ¹ ±3.0x10 ^{1a}	5.3x10 ² ±1.0x10 ^{3b}	1.3x10 ² ±1.8x10 ^{2b}
Dori(n=20)	7.5x10 ⁵ ±1.5x10 ^{6b}	3.5x10 ⁴ ±6.3x10 ^{4b}	2.3x10 ⁴ ±3.4x10 ^{4b}	5.0x10 ⁴ ±9.1x10 ^{4a}	2.6x10 ³ ±7.9x10 ^{3a}	1.3x10 ³ ±2.3x10 ^{3b}	6.2x10 ² ±1.5x10 ^{2b}
Fada(n=20)	1.3x10 ⁷ ±4.6x10 ^{6a}	2.4x10 ⁵ ±1.2x10 ^{5ab}	6.8x10 ⁵ ±9.6x10 ^{5a}	1.3x10 ⁴ ±4.2x10 ^{3a}	1.9x10 ⁵ ±4.1x10 ^{5a}	1.4x10 ³ ±9.5x10 ^{4a}	3.6x10 ⁵ ±1.2x10 ^{5a}
Sebba (n=05)	6.2x10 ⁴ ±2.4x10 ^{4b}	1.0x10 ⁴ ±3.6x10 ^{3b}	1.2x10 ⁴ ±1.3x10 ^{4b}	1.0x10 ⁴ ±6.7x10 ^{3a}	0±0a	3.9x10 ³ ±5.3x10 ^{3b}	5.0x10 ¹ ±4.4x10 ^{1b}
Total samples	2.0x10 ⁷ ±4.5x10 ⁶	1.8x10 ⁵ ±3.1x10 ⁵	1.0x10 ⁵ ±3.9x10 ⁵	2.3x10 ⁴ ±6.0x10 ⁴	2.5x10 ⁴ ±1.5x10 ⁵	2.0x10 ⁴ ±5.7x10 ⁴	4.8x10 ⁴ ±1.3x10 ⁵

The same letter (a, b, c) in the same column indicated no statistical difference (p>0.05) between the values obtained in the different towns for the same type of *Gappal*.

Once formed, toxins are extremely difficult to eliminate from foods and the absence of cooking in *Gappal* processes is an important factor. The microbiological values obtained although inferior to limits are generally beside to them. This observation is applicable to *Bacillus cereus*. In fact, all the samples are acceptable according *Bacillus cereus* criteria but large numbers of *Bacillus cereus* are capable to cause illness either by releasing toxin into the food prior to consumption or by producing a different toxin or toxins in the gut after eating the food (HPA, 2009). The ambient temperature of Burkina Faso can be suitable for *Bacillus cereus* diarrhoeal toxin production. Lactic acid bacteria are essential for metabolites production, mycotoxin degradation and enzymes production. Combined to yeast, their probiotic effects are actually confirmed and used to probiotic food production (E. Marshall and D. Mejia, 2011; A. Georgala, 2013; C. Tchekessi et al., 2014). The lack of cooking step during the *Gappal* process conserve the nutrients contained in milk and millet dough and a good fermentation could reduce anti-nutritional factor like phytates and tannins contained in millet grains (C. Mouquet-Rivier et al., 2008; O. Taiwo, 2009; P. Chelule et al., 2010; A. A. Soro-Yao et al., 2014) and increase the nutritional and sensorial quality of *Gappal*.

Conclusion

Gappal is a fermented food based on milk and millet dough present like beverage (liquid) or food (dried). It consumption in major towns of Burkina is increasingly significant. The introduction of drying for dried *Gappal* production increase its conservation and gives opportunities for its technology improvement using starter with interesting process properties. A good improvement of this product should permit a semi-industrial and industrial production. Microbiological quality of commercial *Gappal* is acceptable but varied from producer to another. However, spores forming bacteria counted and their probable toxin production reveal a risk for consumer. It is necessary to evaluate nutritional quality of this product and train producer for personal hygiene improved, good hygiene practices and good manufacturing practices.

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