

Probiotics and Botanicals: The Next Healthy Food in Asia

August 2024

# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Why read this report? Key findings

#### INTRODUCTION

State of play

Naturally functional ingredients hold vast potential in foods

Growing awareness of the benefits of "super ingredients" brings opportunities

#### THE RISE OF NATURALLY FUNCTIONAL FOOD AS MEDICINE

The preventative stage is where natural/traditional ingredients shine

Preventative food as medicine must be accessible

#### POTENTIAL OF PROBIOTICS AND FERMENTATION

Asia leads potential of probiotics application in foods

Promoting the health profile of trendy fermented foods benefits probiotics

Probiotics expanding beyond dairy, leveraging a gut health positioning

Position as both indulgent and nutritious

Creating new segments of opportunity is a long game, but with high rewards to brand equity

Case study: Pilkul Miracle Care drinking yoghurt merges gut health with sleep quality

Case study: Swisse Me has made inroads into functional gummies

Biotics innovation must align with regulation and consumer acceptance

#### BOTANICAL INGREDIENTS FOR HEALTHY INDULGENCE

Understanding of botanicals in Asia has developed well from consumer health and tea

The profile of botanicals is shifting to a more premium one

Sleep and stress relief claims have surged in nutrition and indulgence categories

Case study: Nestlé's Yiyang Wanning utilises botanicals to convey sleep aid

Case study: itsherbs.com refreshes traditional Chinese medicinal herbs through snacks

Case study: Kind Kones infuses spices and ashwagandha in ice cream

Be mindful of evolving regulations, such as claim guidelines and consumption warnings

## CONCLUSION

Recommendations/opportunities for growth

Evolution of probiotics and botanicals for naturally functional food in Asia

Questions we are asking

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