

# Antimicrobial nanopackaging for food products: Prospects and limitations

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KUWAIT

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Michigan State University, USA

# Layout of the presentation

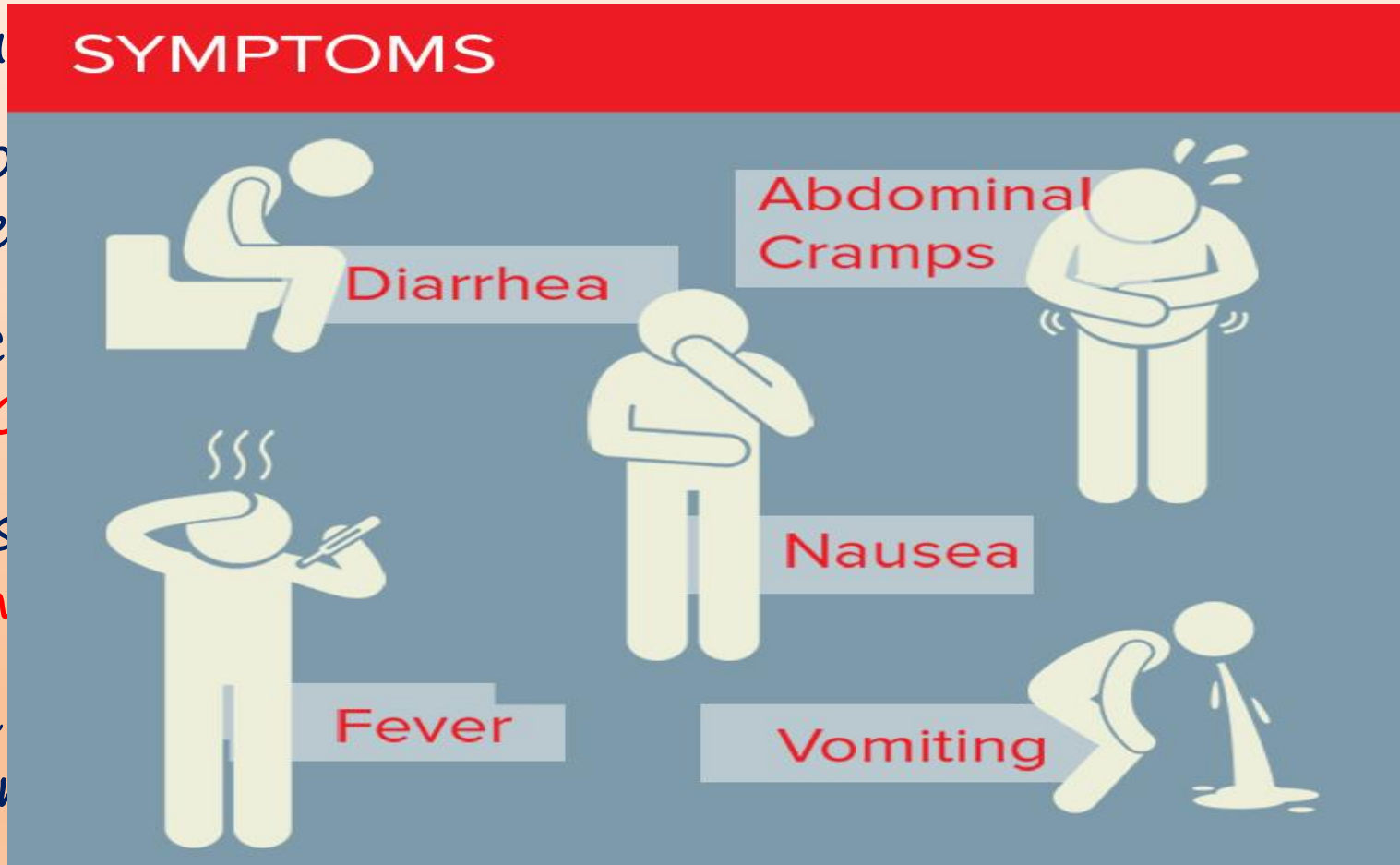
- Importance of Antimicrobial Packaging
- Nanoparticles as Antimicrobials
- Nanopackaging
- Essential oil as Antimicrobials
- Combinations of NPs and EOs
- Applications and limitations

# Our data

Company	Product #	Death	Fatal injury	Loss
Maple Leaf Canada-2008 Listeriosis	220	13	38	\$20 Million
<i>E. Coli</i> –outbreak 2011 Germany	Vegetables	22	2400	Huge
US in 2019	Beef/basil/ tahini....	-	-	-
Turkey 2019	Spinach	??		

# Food borne disease

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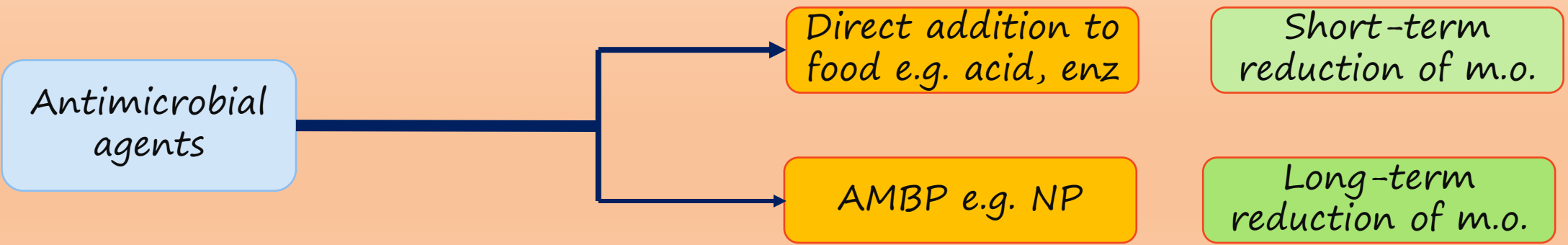


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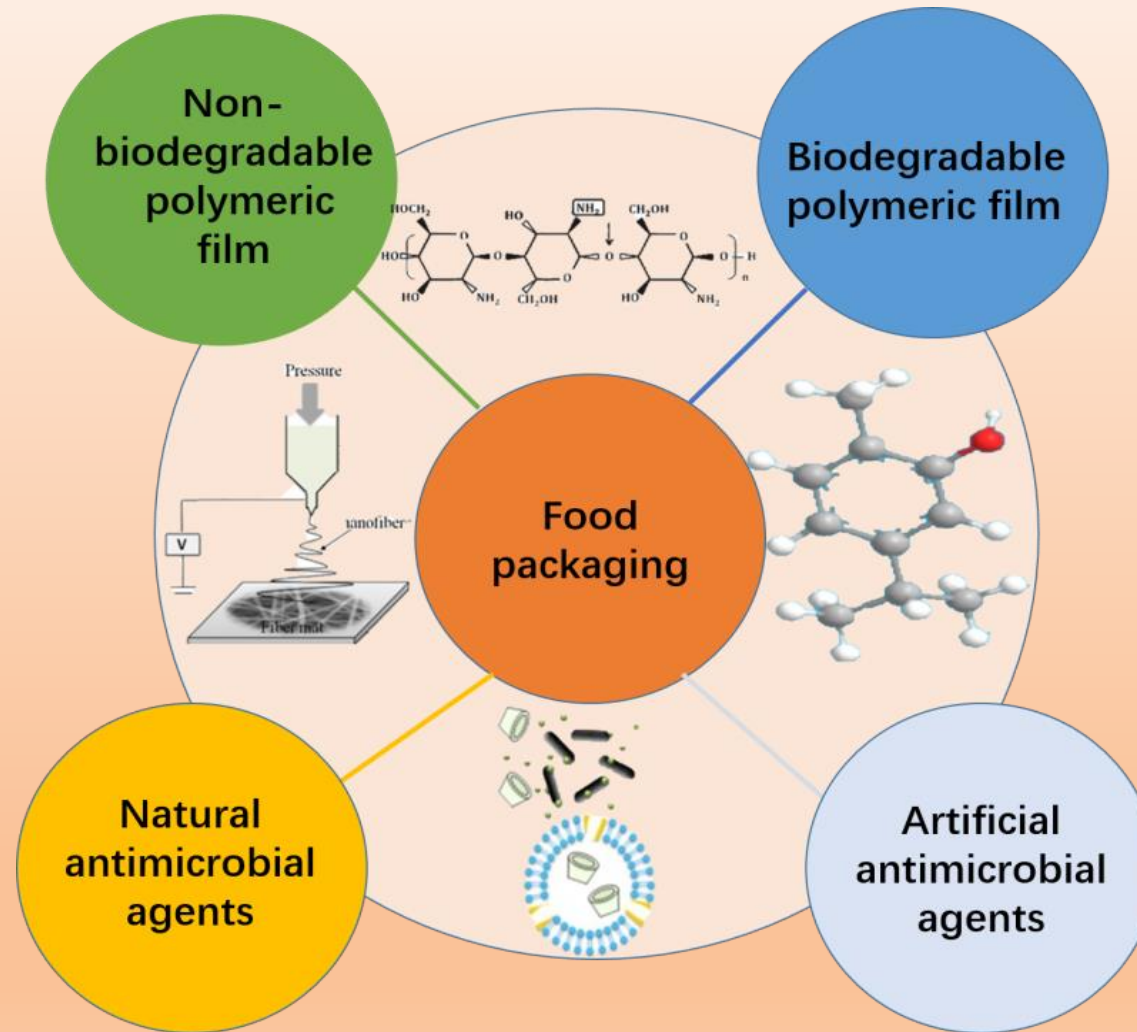
- Antimicrobial agents
- T... g... n...



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# Food Packaging and Antimicrobial agents



# Why do we need Biodegradable Packaging?

World

## A tsunami of plastic waste is about to be unleashed on the world, because China will no longer be the West's rubbish dump

China's decision to stop importing about half the world's scrap looks set to collapse the recyclables market and have profound implications for household recycling schemes around the globe

The  
Washington  
Post

The Washington Post

Published: 12:11pm, 21 Jun, 2018

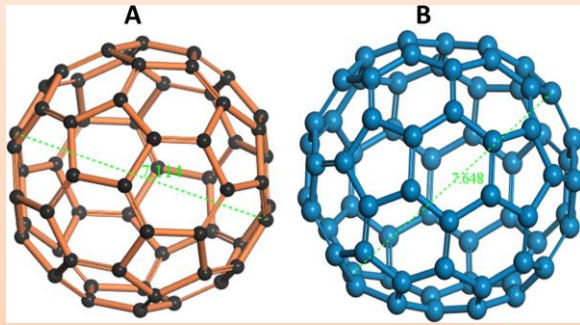


# Packaging Nanotechnology

- Packaging Nanotechnology is an interdisciplinary area of research, development & industrial activity which involves the design, manufacture, processing and application of packaging materials filled with particles with nanometer dimensions.
  - **Improved packaging:** NPs mix into the polymer matrix to improve the gas barrier properties e.g., polymer/clay nanocomposites.
  - **Active packaging:** NPs interact directly with the food or the environment to allow a better protection of the food, such as Ag NP as potent antimicrobial agents.

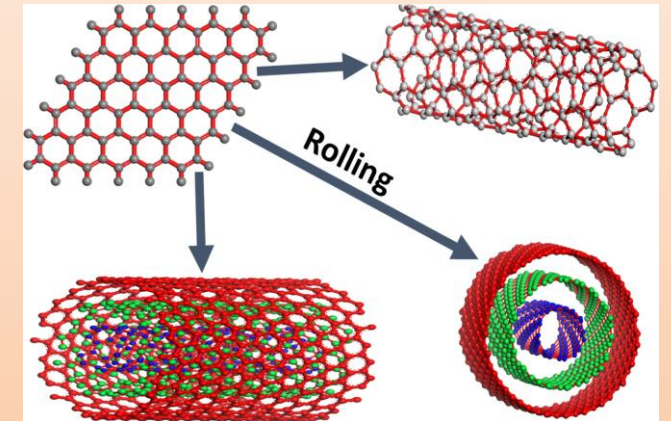


# Shapes of nanoparticles



(ii)

 Nanocrystal	 Nanoparticle	 Quantum dot	 Nanosheets
 Carbon Nanotube	 Fullerene	 Nanoshell	 Nanowire
 Dendrimer	 Liposome	 Polymeric Nanoparticle	 Nanocapsule



# Types of nanoparticles used in food packaging

## Inorganic

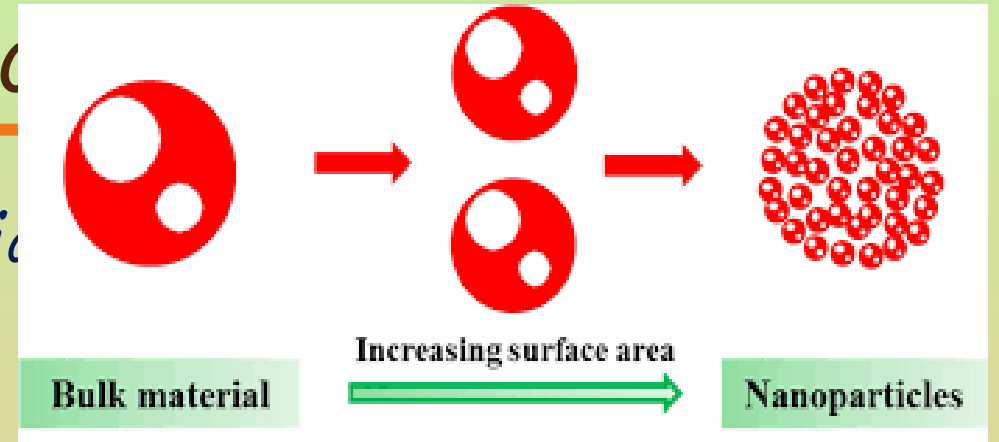
- Metals and metal oxides, clay nanoparticles & many more.
- Ag, Cu, CuO, ZnO, TiO<sub>2</sub>, MgO and Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>

## Organic

- Phenols, halogenated compounds, quaternary ammonium salts, plastic polymers,
- Natural polysaccharide or protein materials such as chitosan, chitin, cellulose and whey protein isolates

# Nanoparticles as antimicrobials

- NPs demonstrated the effective bactericidal activity.
- Because of their extremely large surface area, they have better contact with the microorganism.



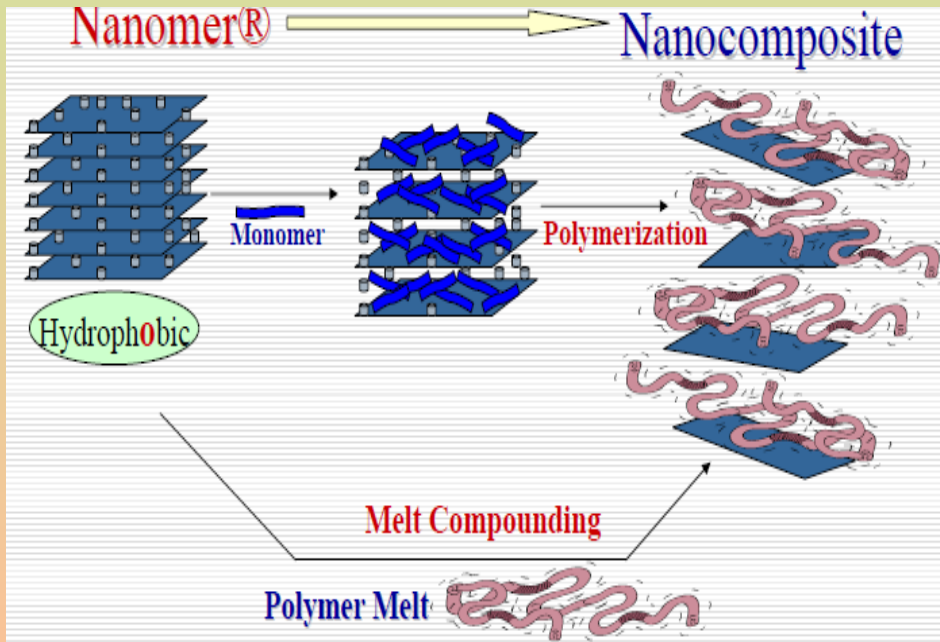
- Close or direct contact with the microorganism is an essential requirement for the mechanisms of action of the antimicrobial agents
- The contact can happen:
  - i) For a nonvolatile substance: it diffuses and solubilizes into the food surface in which the microorganisms are located.
  - ii) For a volatile substance: the headspace around the surface of the food and in the food itself is absorbed by indirect contact.

# Nanoparticles and microbial inactivation mechanism

- NPs can inhibit microbial growth by:
  - a) Influencing the *protein structure by denaturation or alteration*
  - b) Altering the *cell membrane proteins or membrane lipids*
  - c) *Blocking* the synthesis of cell wall components
  - d) Preventing *replication, transcription, and translation of nucleic acids*
  - e) Disrupting *cellular metabolism*

# Nanocomposites (NC) and its formation

NC forms by incorporation of particulate fillers (e.g. clay/metal) into neat polymer matrix.



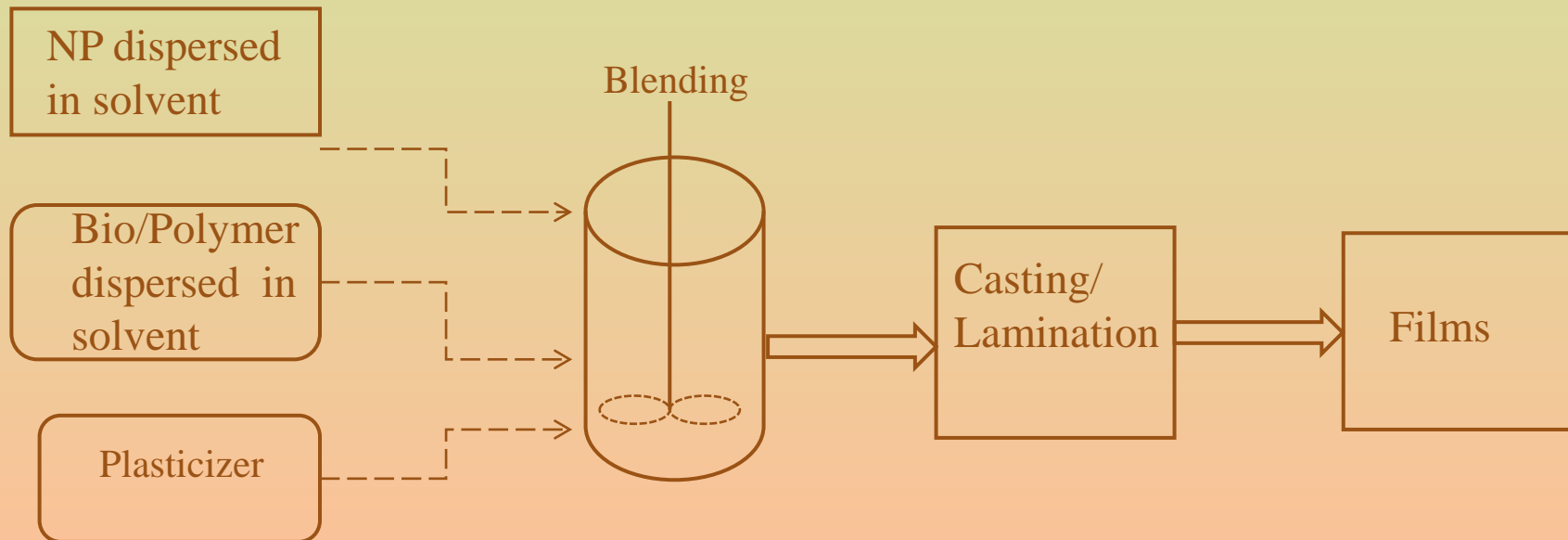
## Nanocomposite Preparation techniques:

- ▶ Solvent casting
  - Simple process
- ▶ Melt extrusion
  - Heat above melting point and extrude
- ▶ In situ polymerization

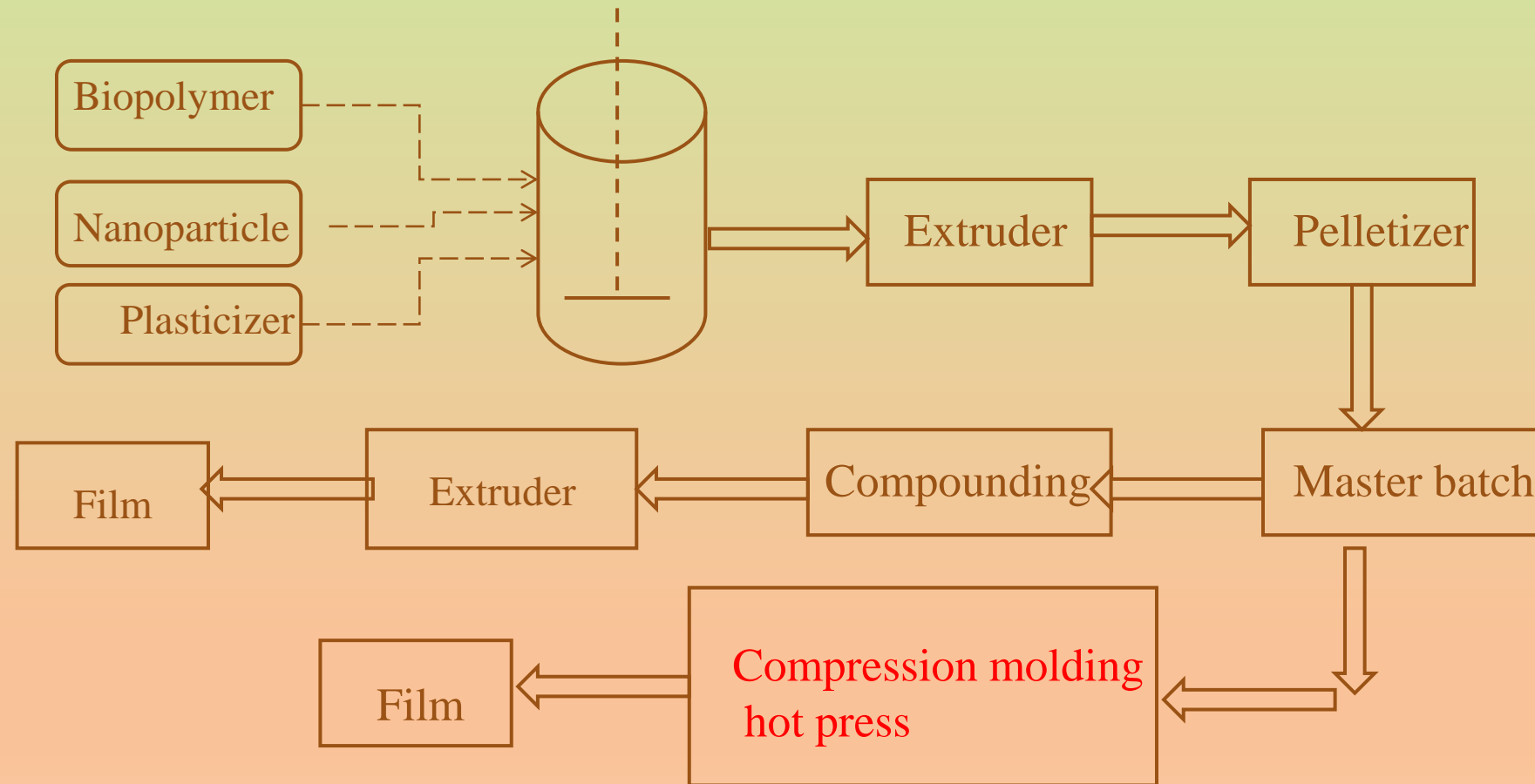
Courtesy: Nanocor

# Nanocomposite film preparation by solvent casting

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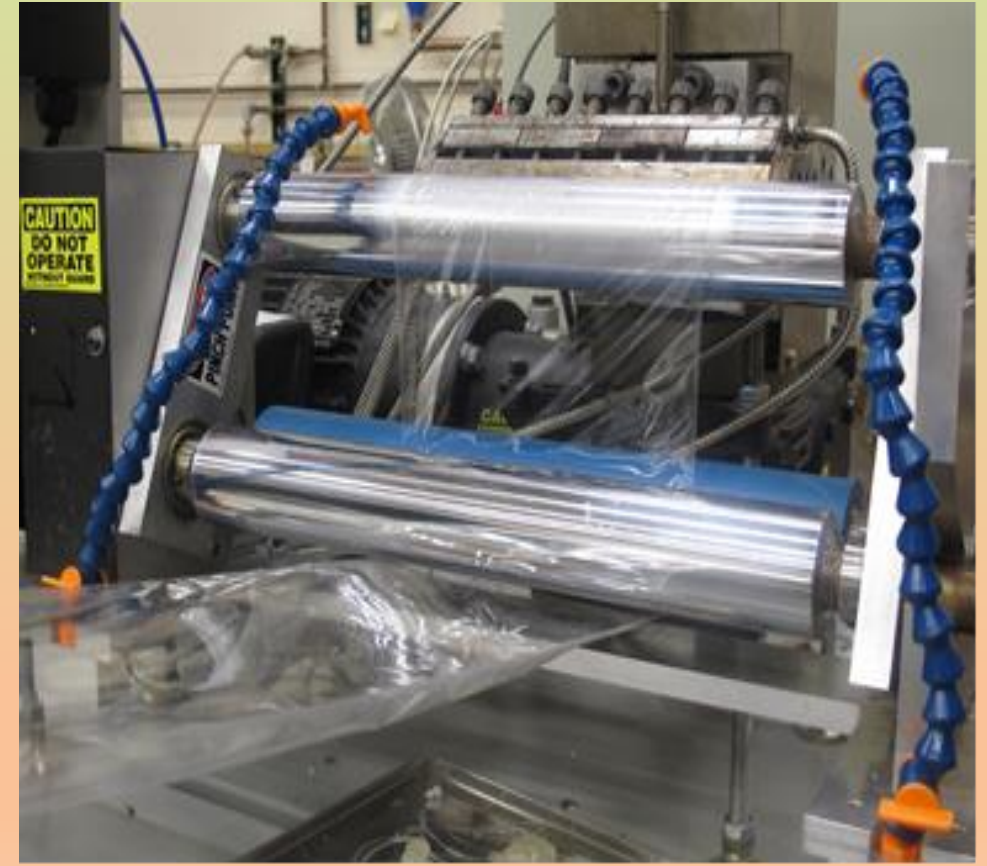


# Antimicrobial-nanocomposite preparation by extrusion



# Extrusion of PLA-based films & Packaging Development


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# Biodegradable Antimicrobial Nano-packaging-My lab

## Materials

- Polylactides (PLA)
-  Brittle, poor in thermo-mechanical properties  
Needs property improvement
- Agar

## Nanoparticles

- Zinc Oxide (ZnO)
- Surface treated ZnO
- Ag/Cu Alloy
- Graphene Oxide (GO)
- Nanoclay

## Plasticizers

- Polyethylene glycol (PEG)
- Glycerol

# Characterization of composites and films

## Thermomechanical and microstructural Properties

- Melt Rheology
- Thermal Analysis (DSC & TGA)
- Tensile Measurement
- Microstructure
  - SEM/TEM/AFM
  - XRD
  - FTIR

## Film Barrier Properties

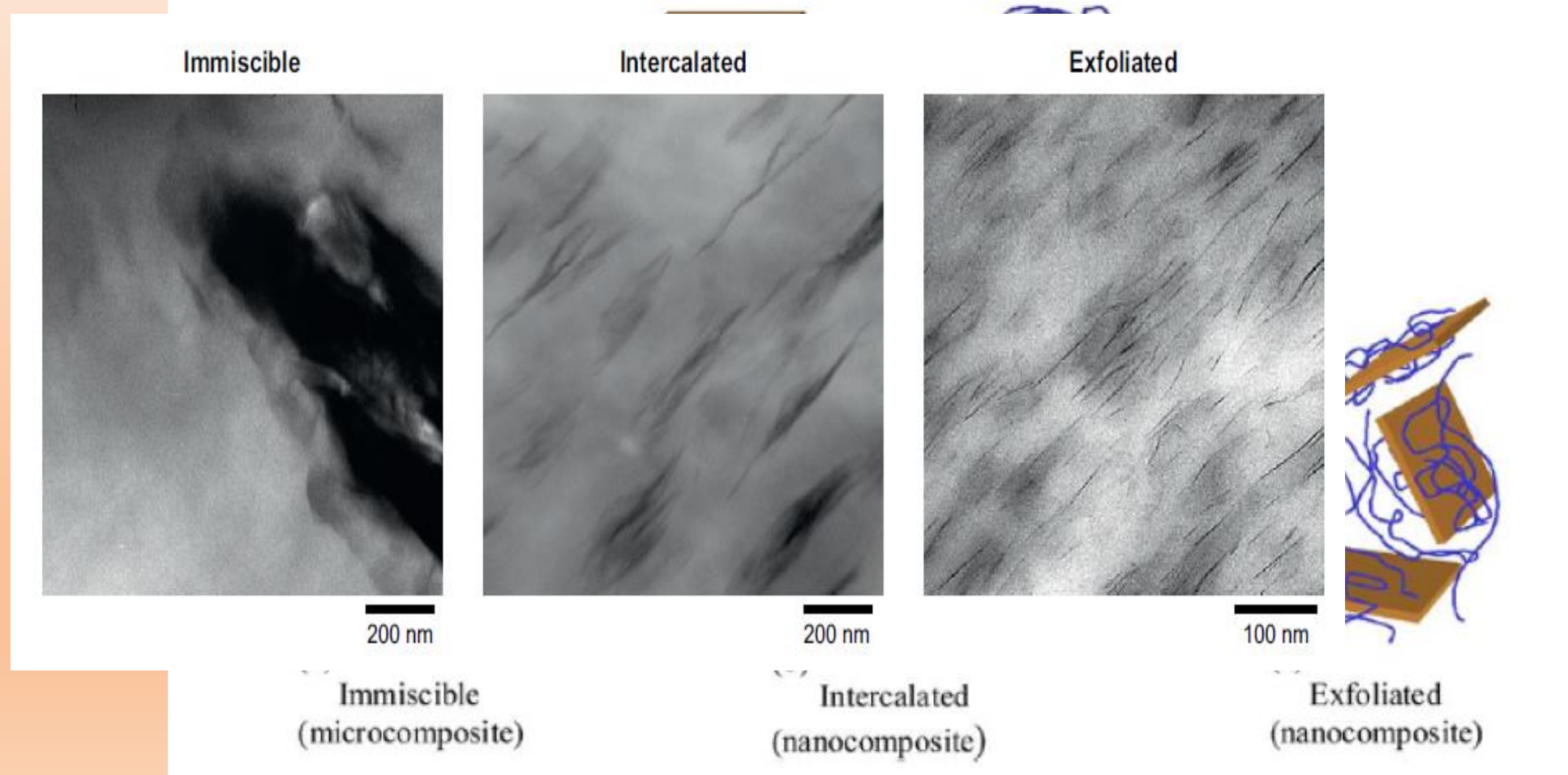
- Water vapor transmission rate (WVTR)
- Oxygen transmission rate (OTR)

## Antimicrobial Analysis

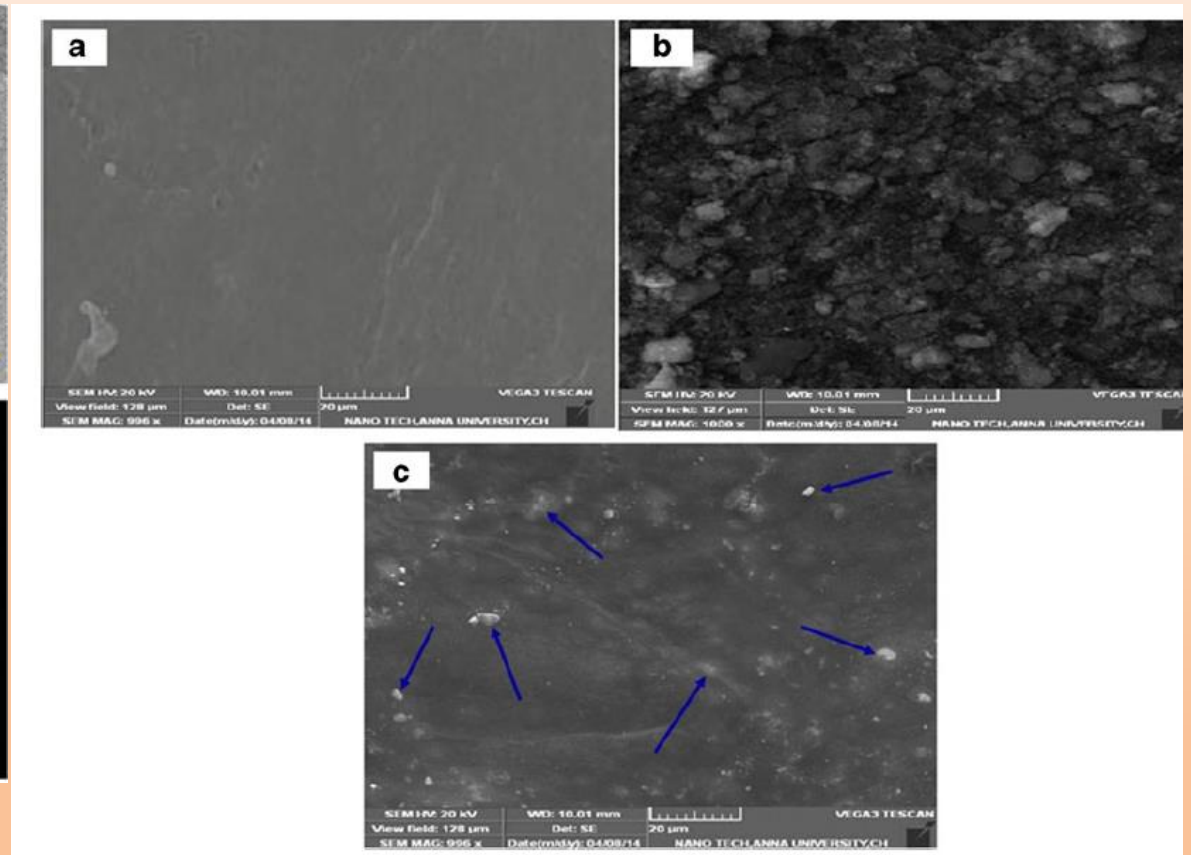
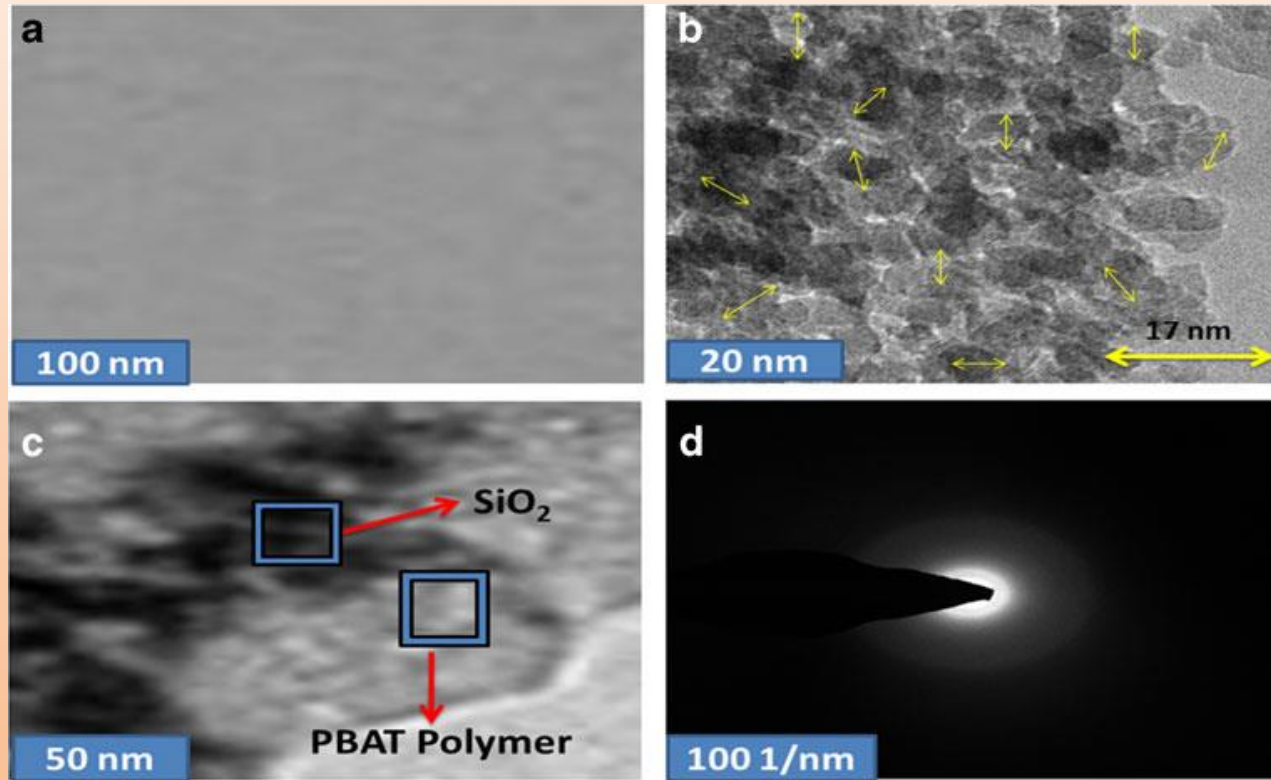
- Against gm +ve test organisms
- Against gm -ve test organisms

# Nanoparticles dispersion in polymer system

Distribution, property improvement and safety are the main keys for the nanoparticles.



# Poly(butylene adipate-co-terephthalate)/SiO<sub>2</sub> Films



TEM of **a** PBAT, **b** SiO<sub>2</sub> NPs, **c** PBAT/SiO<sub>2</sub>, **d** SAED pattern of PBAT/SiO<sub>2</sub> NC film

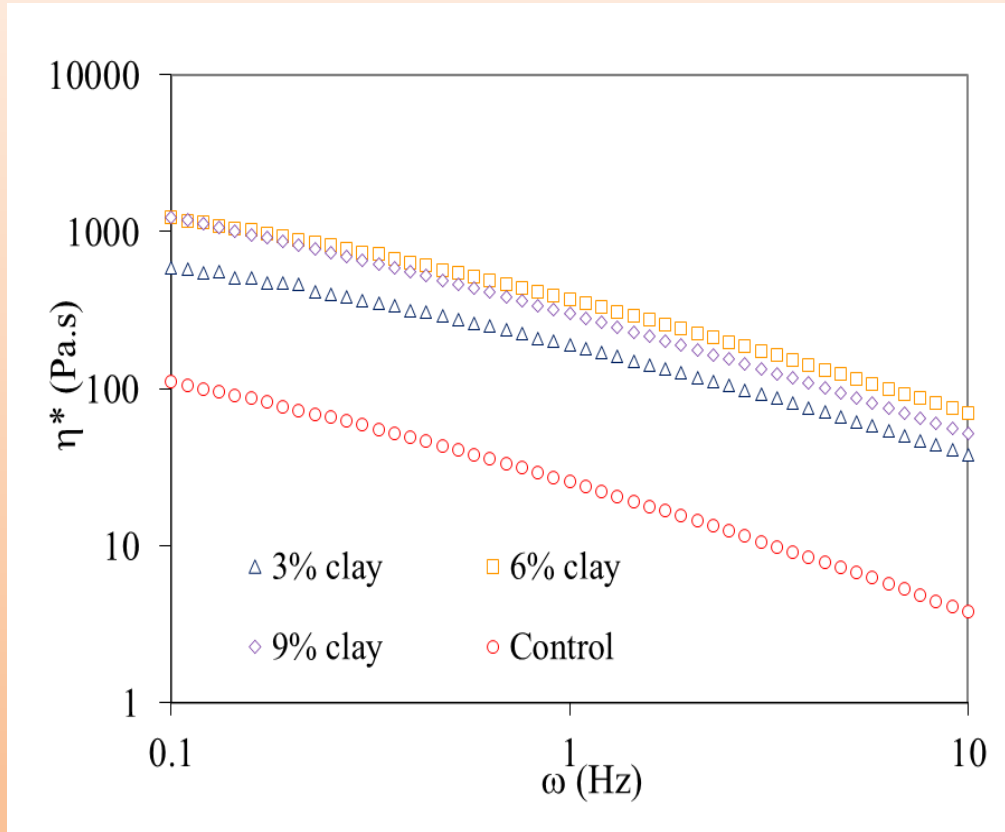
SEM of **a** PBAT, **b** SiO<sub>2</sub> NPs, **c** PBAT/SiO<sub>2</sub> NC film

# Melt rheology of Biopolymer Films

- Melt rheology provides a deep scientific and engineering understanding of how thermoplastics behave at melt whilst being processed.
- Study provides information on the processability of polymers or composites and also predict the dispersibility of fillers in the composite.

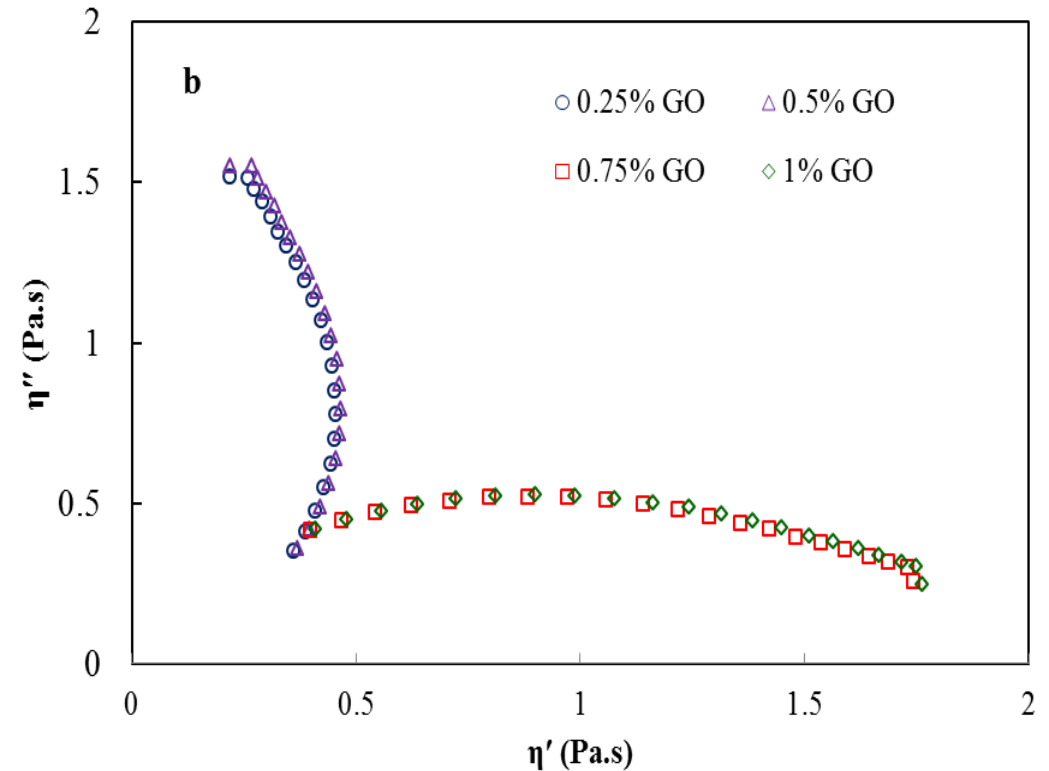


# Melt rheology of PLA/NC films at 190 °C



Mechanical property increases with clay concentration

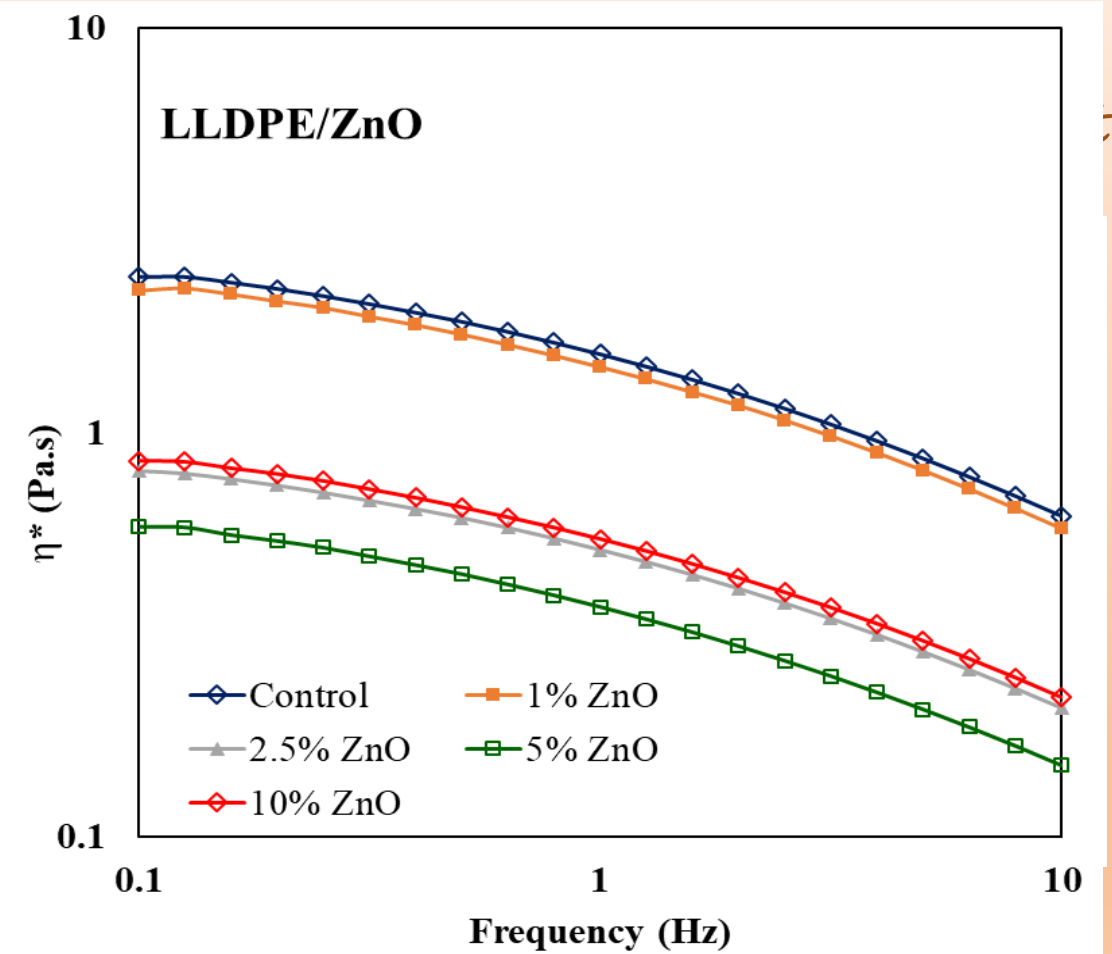
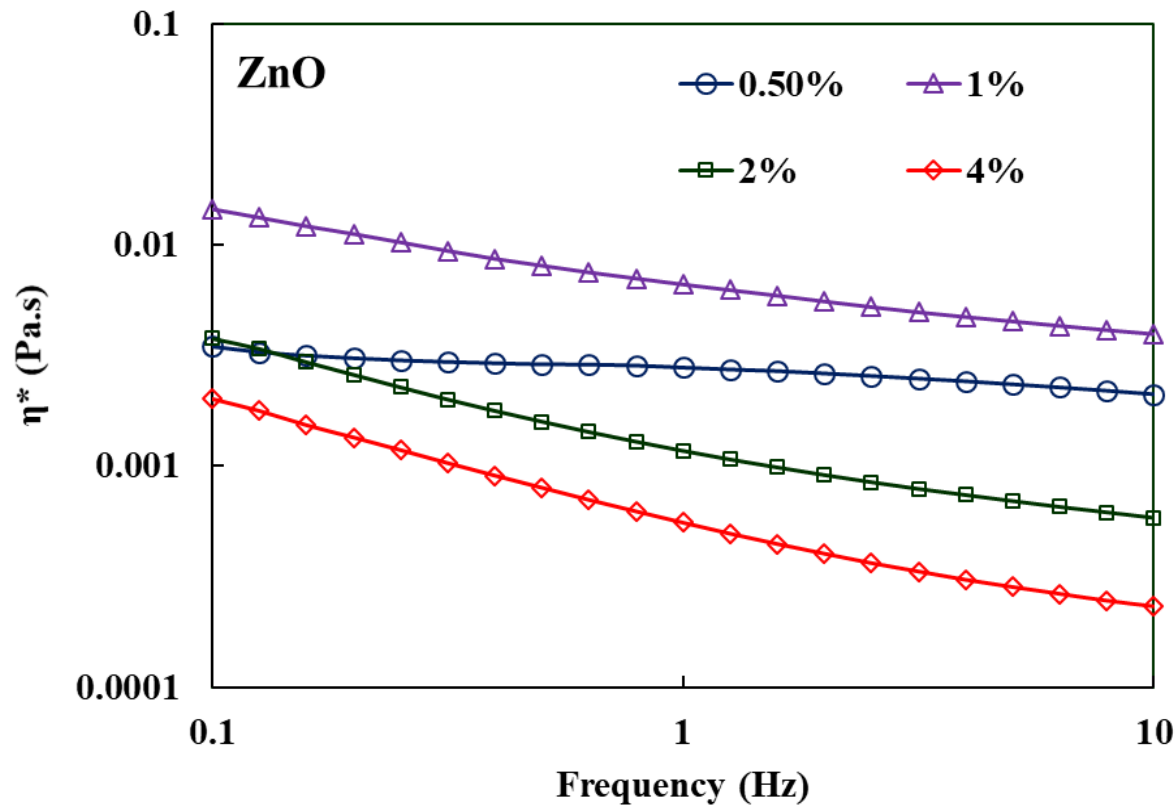
## Cole-cole plot (PLA/clay & PCL/GO)



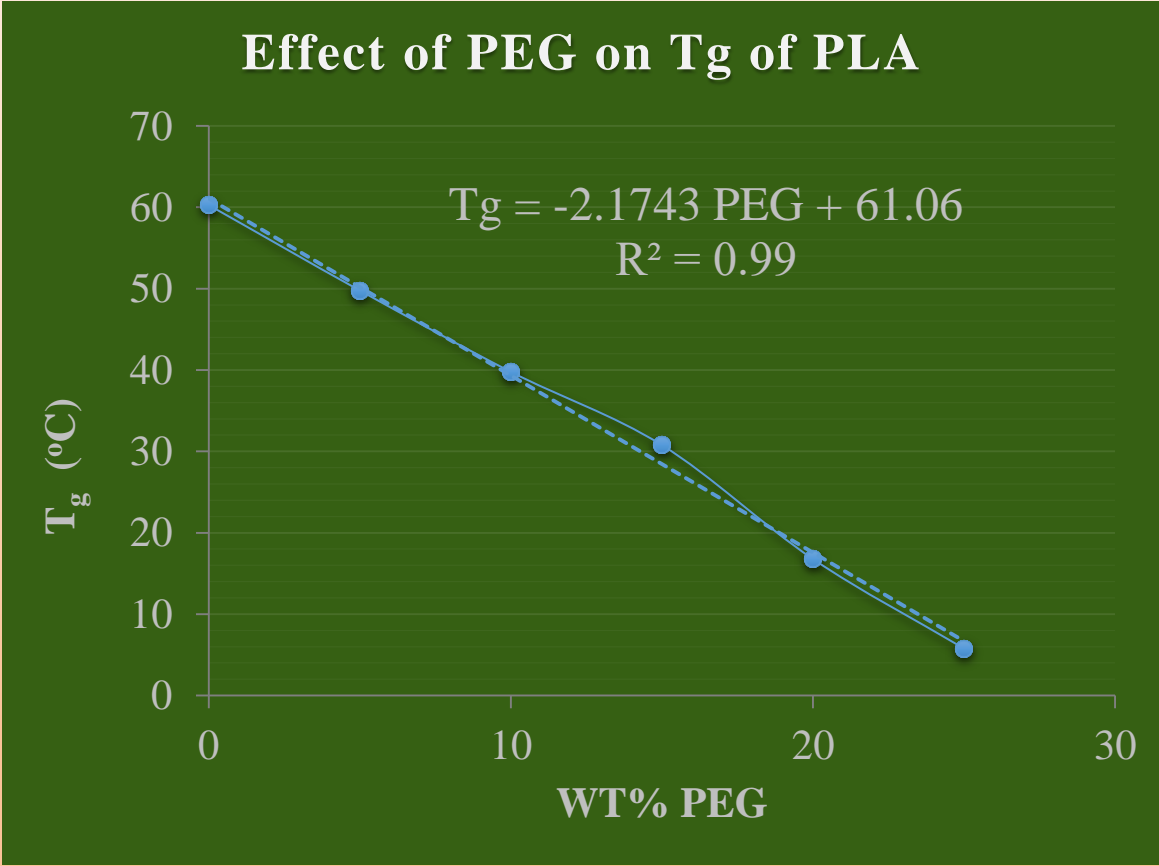
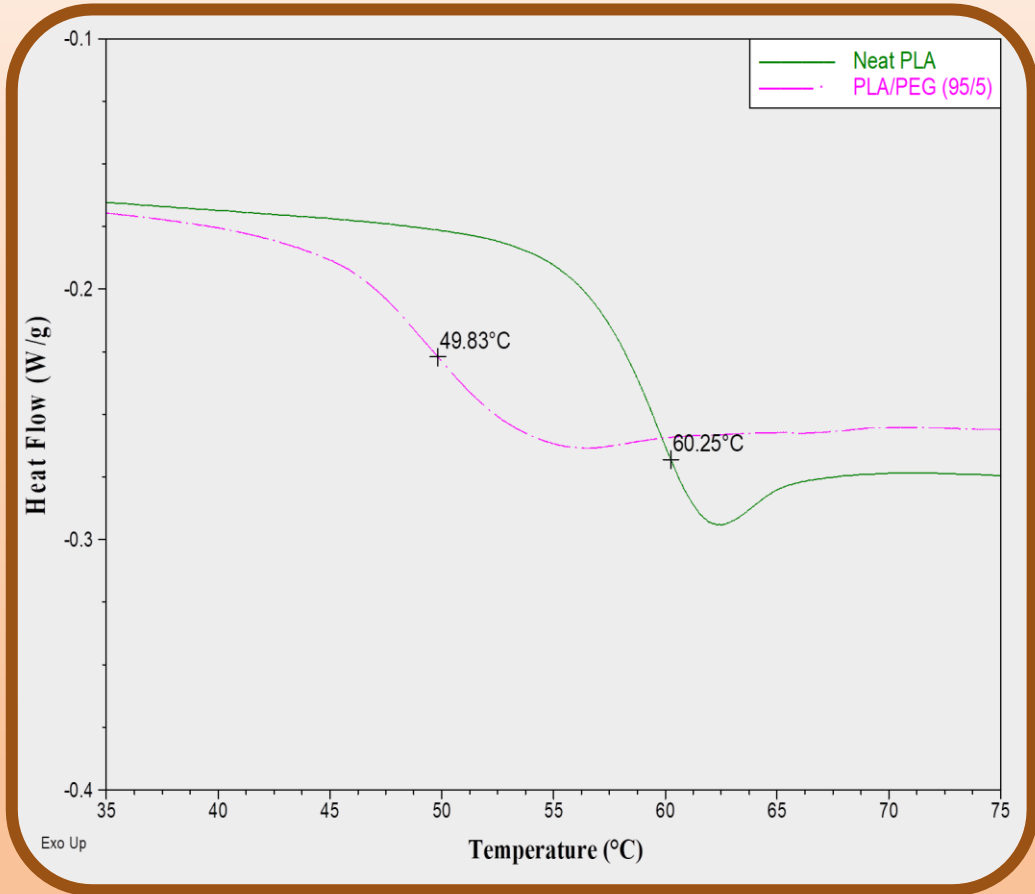
Semi-circular curve indicates uniform distribution of NP

# PLA/PEG/ZnO melt rheology

Melt rheology at 170 °C

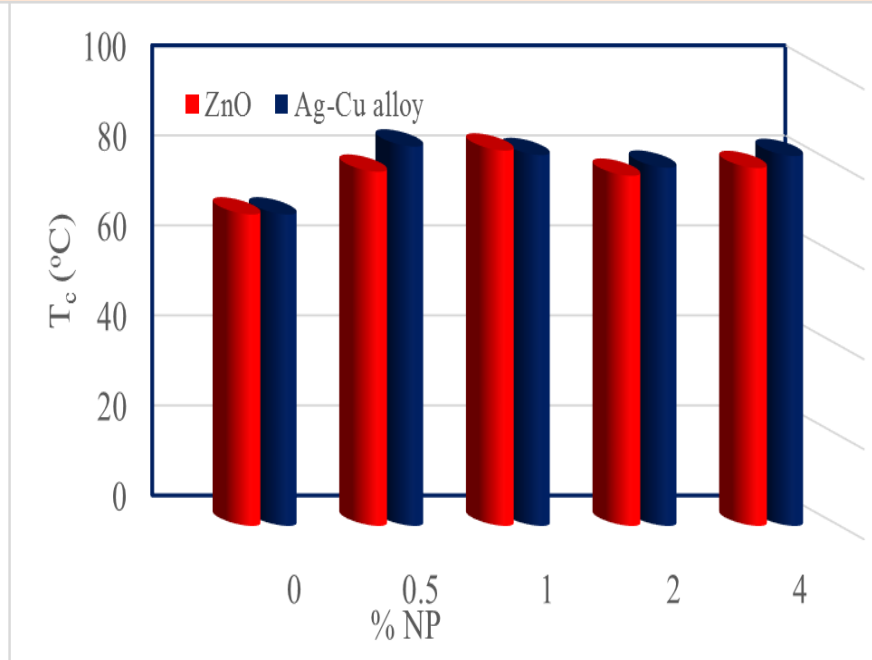
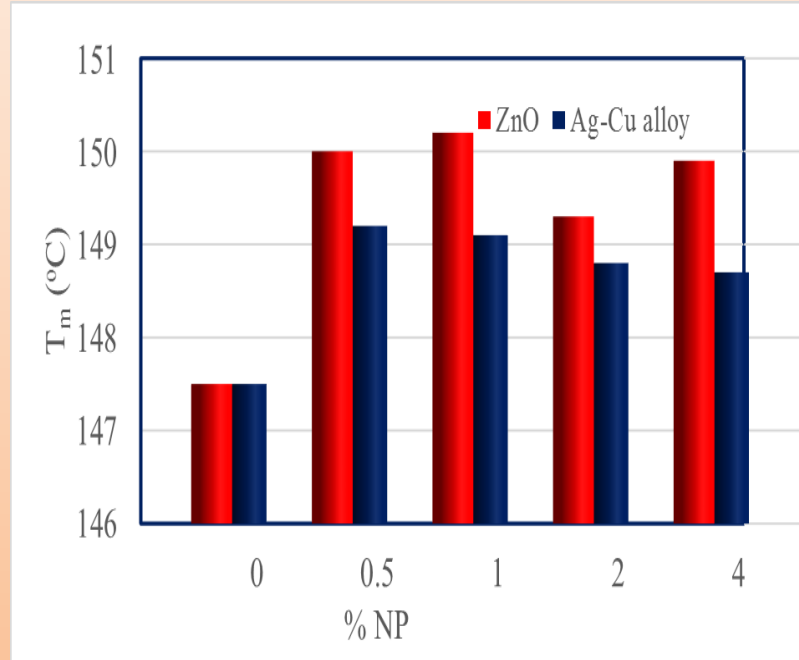
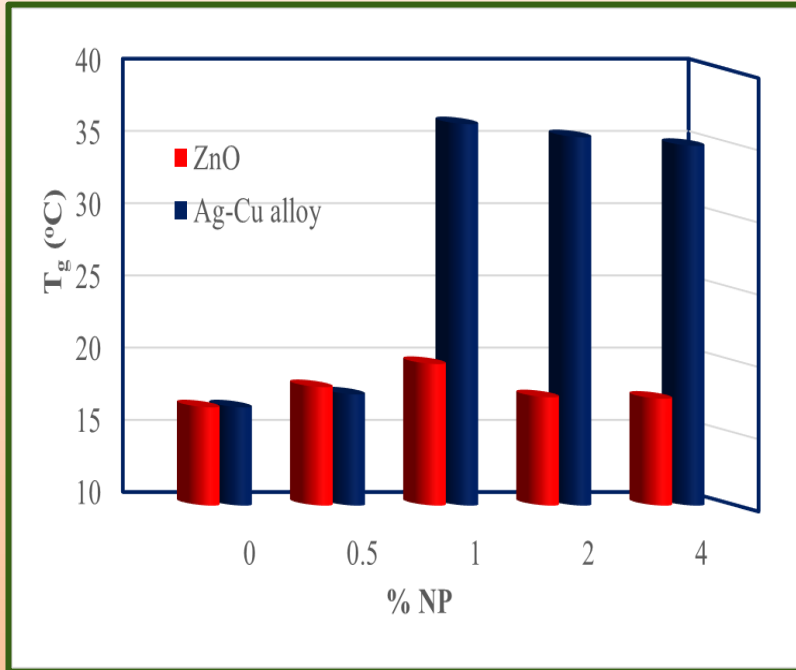


# Plasticization of Polyethylene glycol to PLA and the Tg

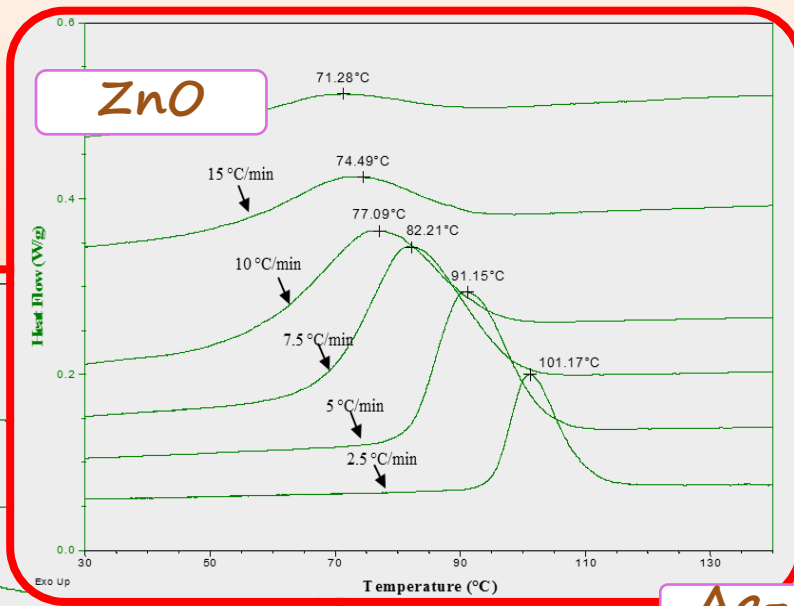
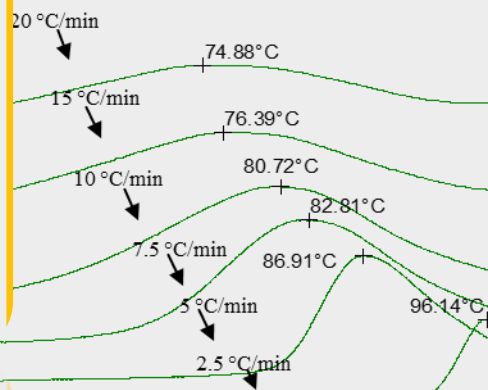
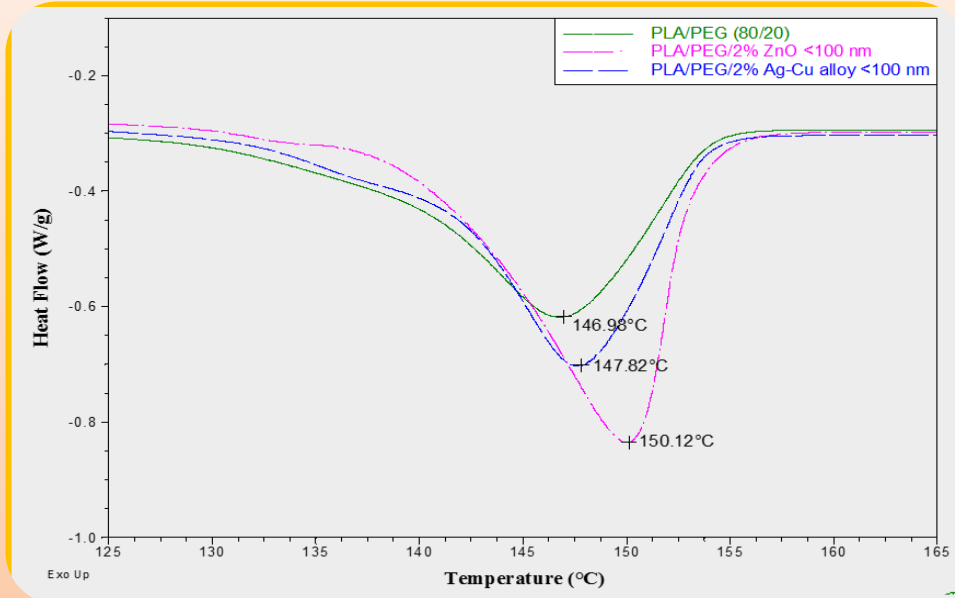




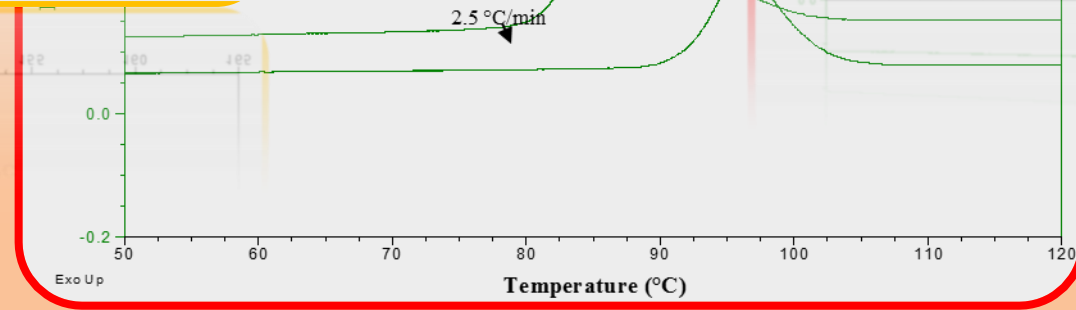
# Effect of metallic NP concentration on thermal properties of PLA/PEG NC films



# Effect of NP on melting and crystallization of PLA/PEG/NP



Ag-Cu alloy



# Mechanical properties of biocomposite films

Sample	Thickness (mm)	Tensile strength (MPa)	EAB (%)	Modulus (MPa)
PLA/PEG (80/20)	0.52±0.03	18.91±0.91	12.33±1.28	1312.3±28.68
PLA/PEG/2% ZnO-50nm	0.63±0.02	24.41±1.31	5.46±1	1613.23±31.5
PLA/PEG/2% ZnO-100nm	0.69±0.03	22.63±0.86	7.96±0.55	1541.8±23.69
PLA/PEG/2% Ag-Cu-100nm	0.71±0.05	23.59±1.1	10.93±2.18	1502.86±13.62

Film sample	Thickness (mm)	Tensile strength (MPa)	EAB (%)
Control FSG	0.061±0.002 <sup>e</sup>	19.2±1.2 <sup>c</sup>	54.2±2.1 <sup>a</sup>
FSG/0.5% Ag-Cu NPs	0.069±0.003 <sup>d</sup>	20.4±0.8 <sup>bc</sup>	50.7±3.8 <sup>ab</sup>
FSG/1% Ag-Cu NPs	0.077±0.002 <sup>c</sup>	23.9±2.6 <sup>b</sup>	45.4±2.4 <sup>bc</sup>
FSG/2% Ag-Cu NPs	0.089±0.004 <sup>b</sup>	28.6±1.7 <sup>a</sup>	40.6±3.9 <sup>c</sup>
FSG/4% Ag-Cu NPs	0.098±0.002 <sup>a</sup>	19.6±3.1 <sup>c</sup>	32.9±2.8 <sup>d</sup>



# Transparency of agar and fish skin gelatin films with Ag-Cu NPs

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Control



1% Ag-Cu



2% Ag-Cu



4% Ag-Cu



Control



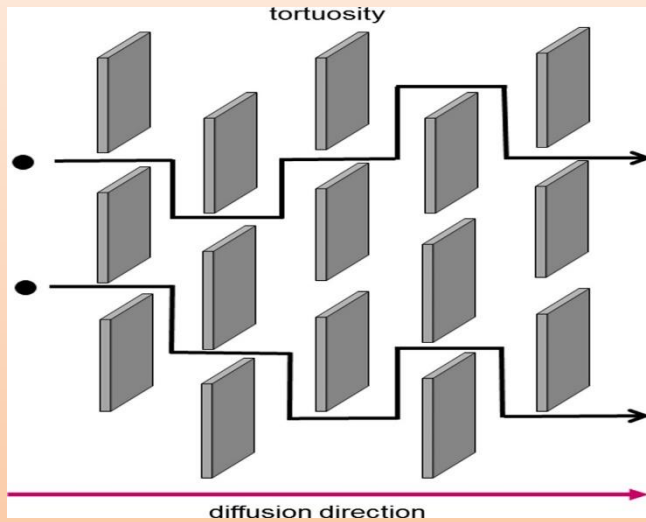
2% Ag-Cu



4% Ag-Cu

# Barrier properties of nanocomposite films

## Crab shell chitosan/GO

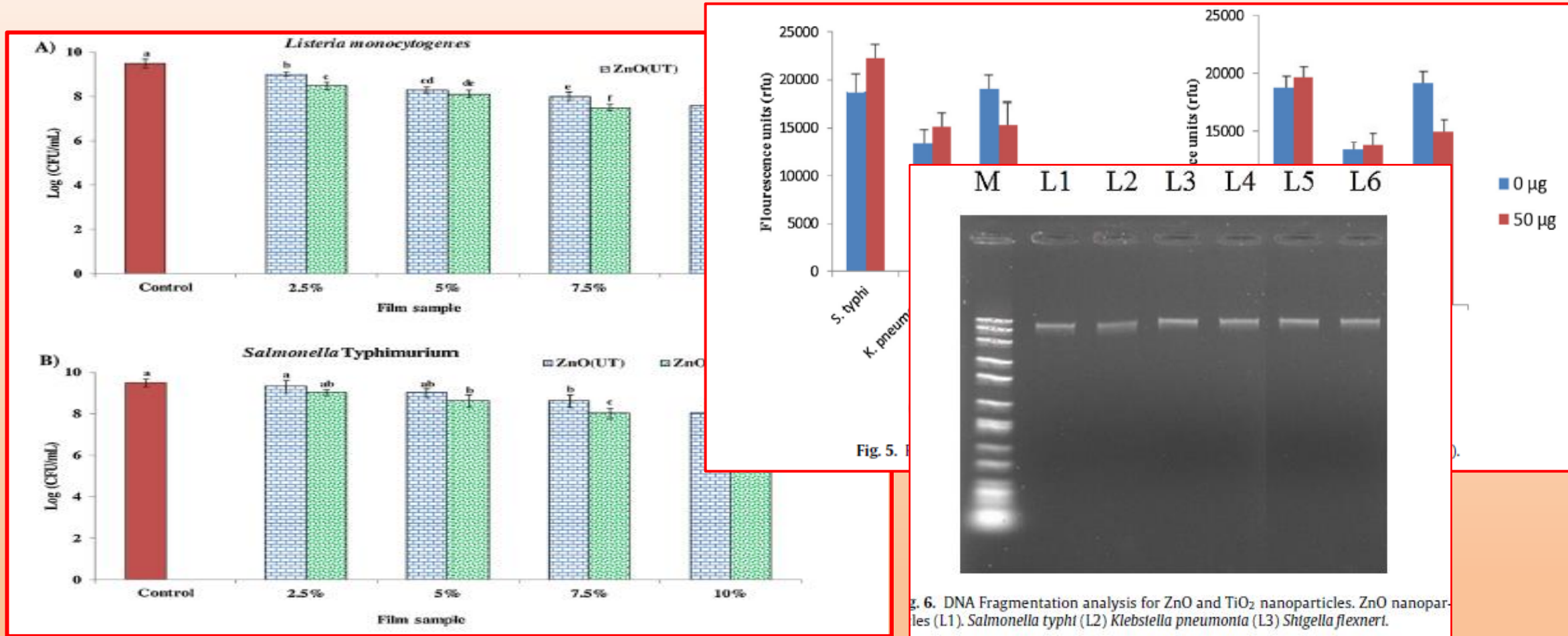


Sample	WVTR gm/[m <sup>2</sup> - day]	OP (cc mm/m <sup>2</sup> d atm)
CS	22.4±1.05 <sup>a</sup>	8.60±0.43 <sup>a</sup>
CS/0.5% GO	20.1±0.82 <sup>b</sup>	7.26±0.56 <sup>b</sup>
CS/1% GO	15.7±1.65 <sup>c</sup>	5.70±0.36 <sup>c</sup>
CS/2% GO	9.8±0.68 <sup>d</sup>	2.99±0.42 <sup>d</sup>

J. Ahmed et al. / Food Hydrocolloids 71 (2017) 141–148



# Antimicrobial activity of ZnO/PLA films



# Nanoparticles as AMB agents at a glance

NP
ZnO (Sig)
ZnO (Ev)
ZnO sur
Ag-Cu (S)
Ag
GO (Sign)
Clay (Sol)

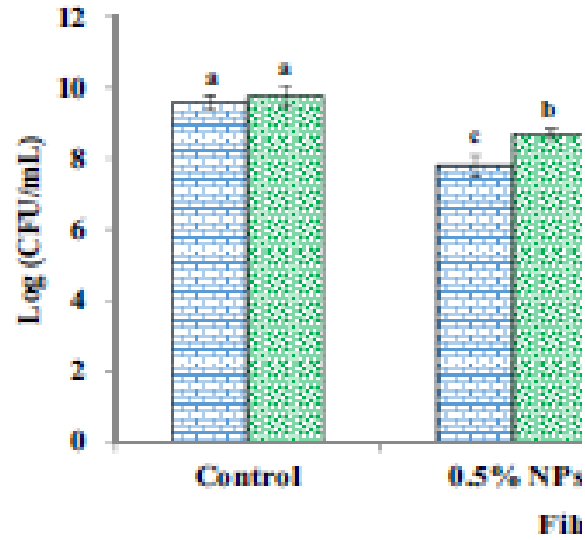


Fig. 5. Antibacterial activities of control (*L. monocytogenes* and *S. typhimurium*). Bars represent lowercase letters on the bars indicate sig

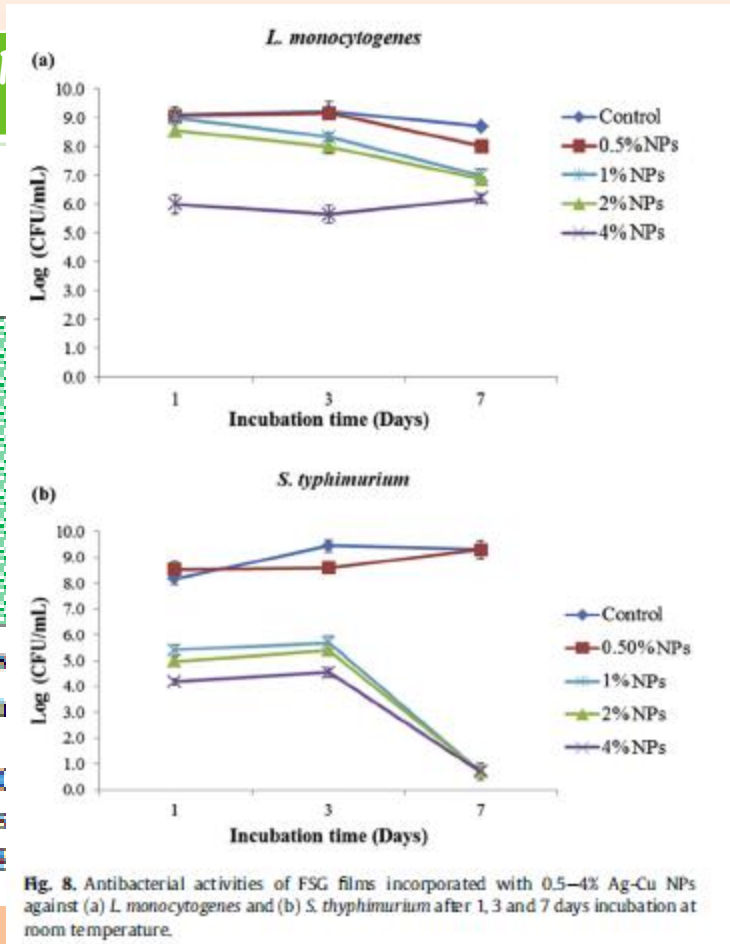


Fig. 8. Antibacterial activities of FSG films incorporated with 0.5–4% Ag-Cu NPs against (a) *L. monocytogenes* and (b) *S. typhimurium* after 1, 3 and 7 days incubation at room temperature.

## Results

log reduction

-3 log reduction

-4 log reduction

log reduction

significant reduction

no significant reduction <1

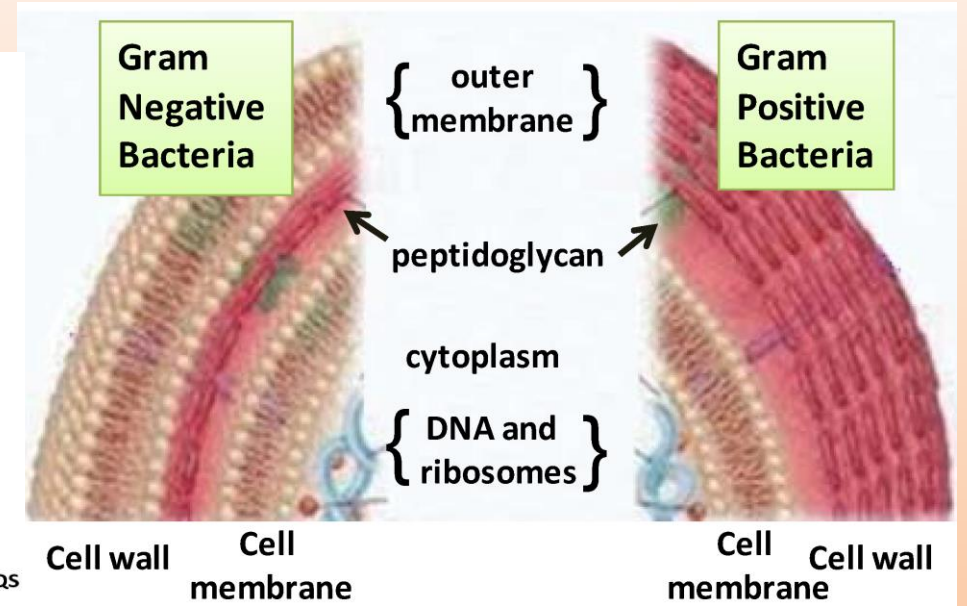
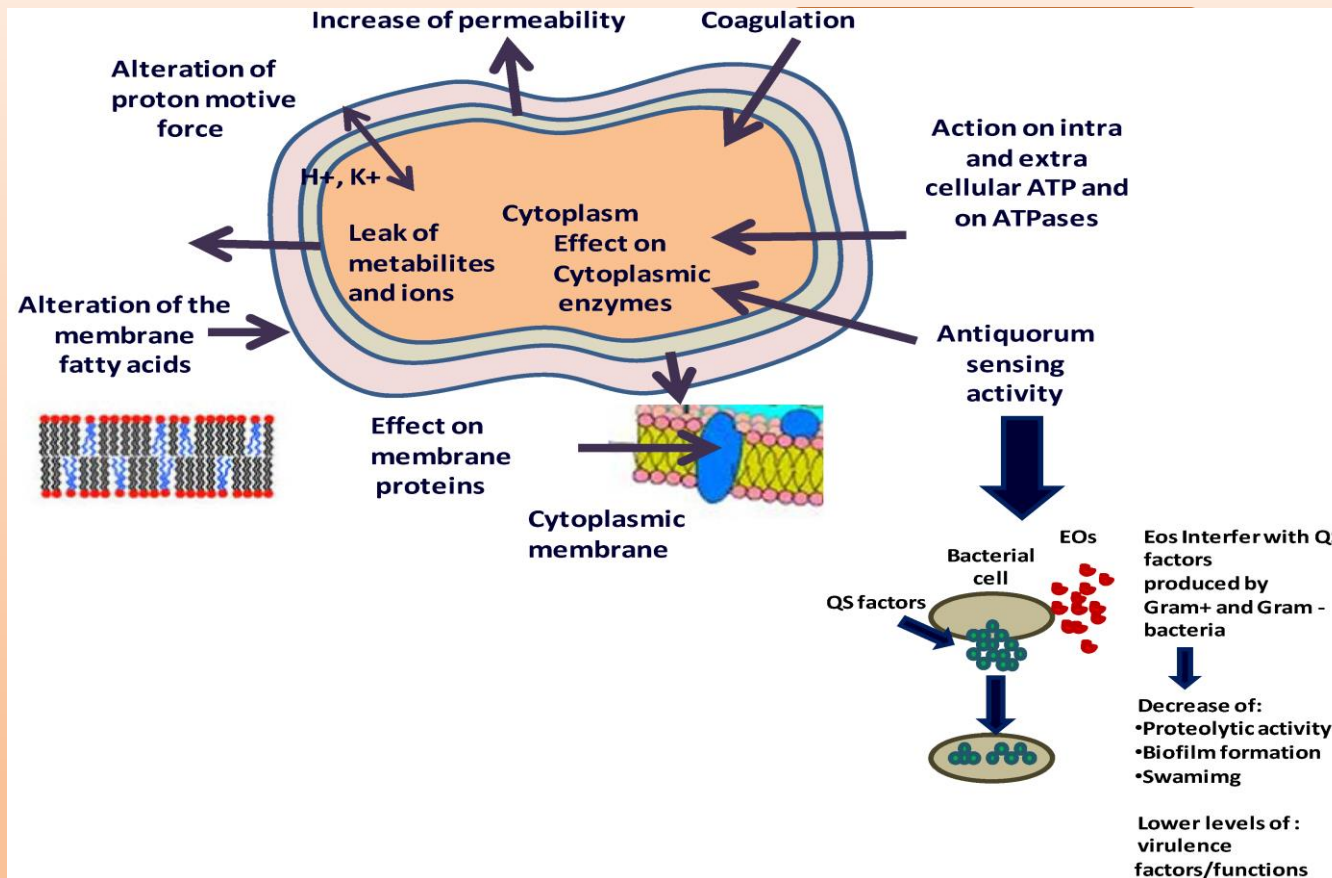
no significant reduction <1

# Conclusions of nanopackaging

- Property improvement *Excellent*
- Antimicrobial properties *Moderate*



# Essential oils and microbial inactivation



# Biodegradable Antimicrobial Nano-packaging

## Materials

- Polylactides (PLA)
- Chitosan
- Gelatin
- Hydrocolloids
- Agar

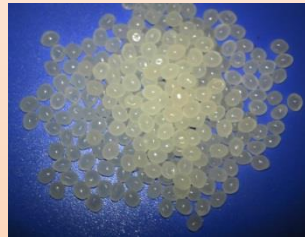
## Essential oils

- Clove
- Cinnamon
- Garlic

## Plasticizers

- Polyethylene glycol (PEG)
- Glycerol

# PLA/PEG/Essential oil based films by solvent casting



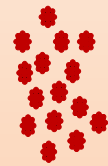
PLA

+



PEG

+



Essential oil



Active film



PLA film



PLA/PEG film



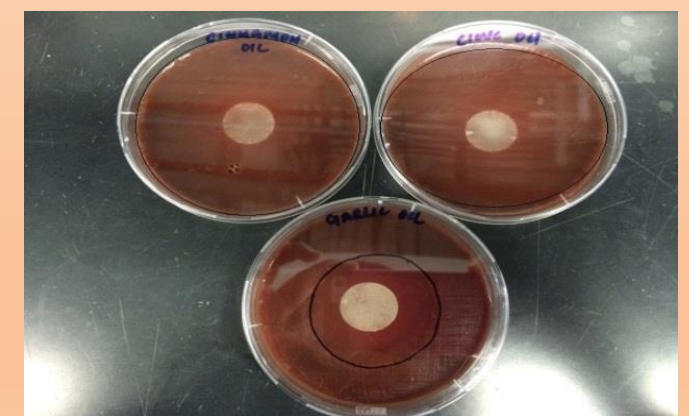
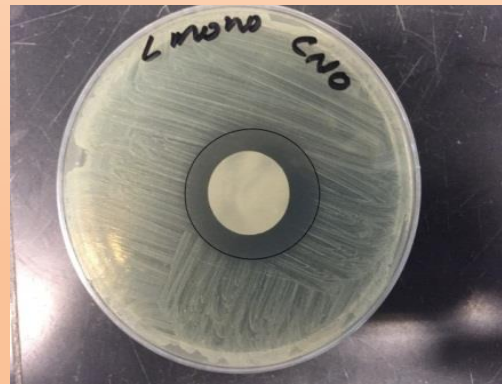
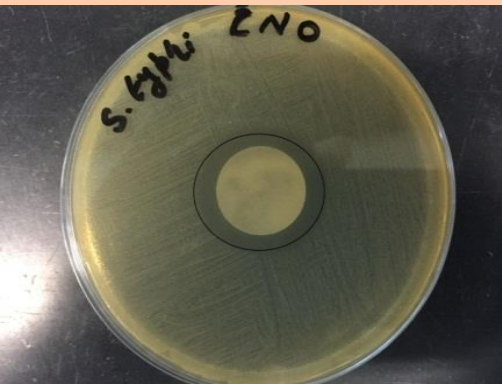
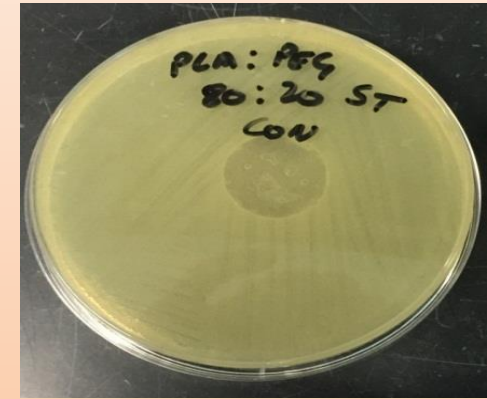
# Antimicrobial Properties of PLA-based films

## In vitro studies

- *Staphylococcus aureus* (gm +ve) and *Campylobacter jejuni* (gm -ve)
- Agar diffusion method
- Liquid incubation method

## PLA/EO films were tested with:

- Clove essential oil
- Cinnamon essential oil
- Garlic oil



**Zone of inhibition indicated by black circle**



Thermo-r  
performa  
films

Jasim Ahme

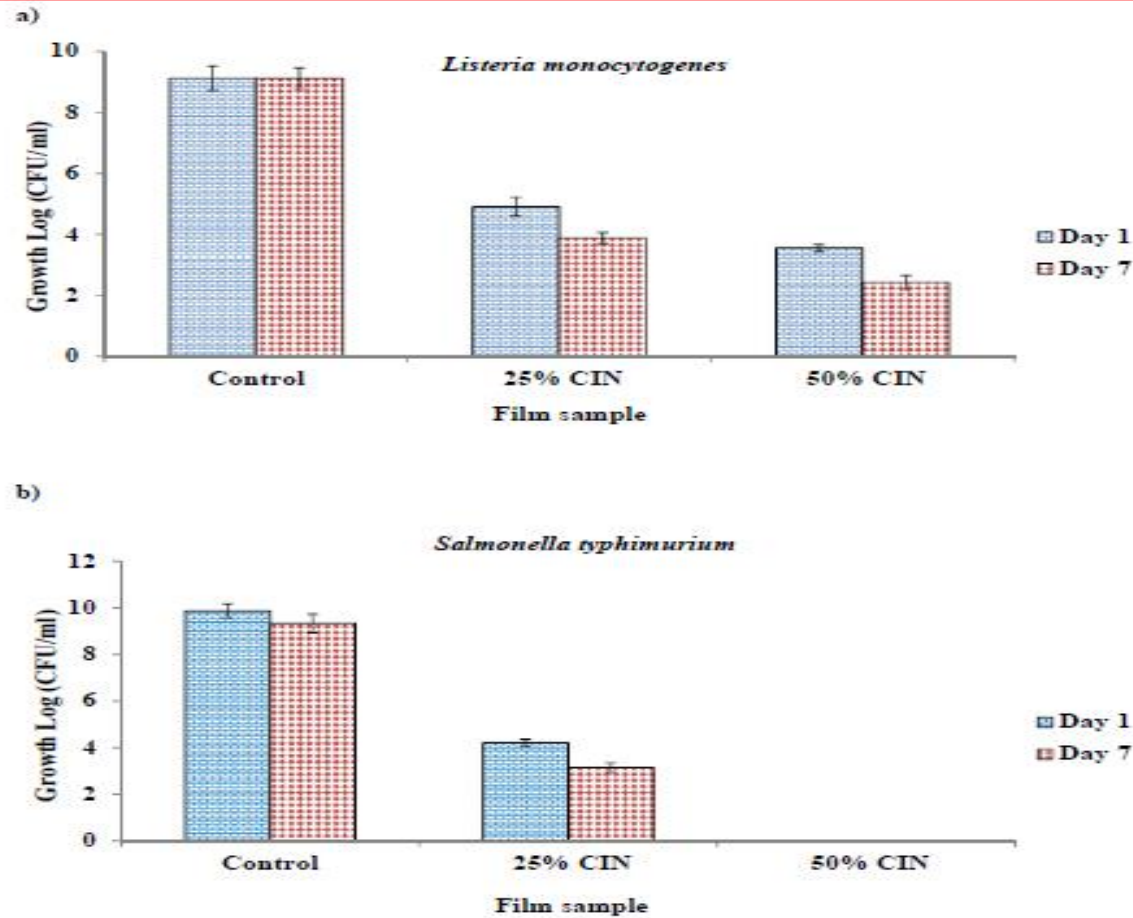
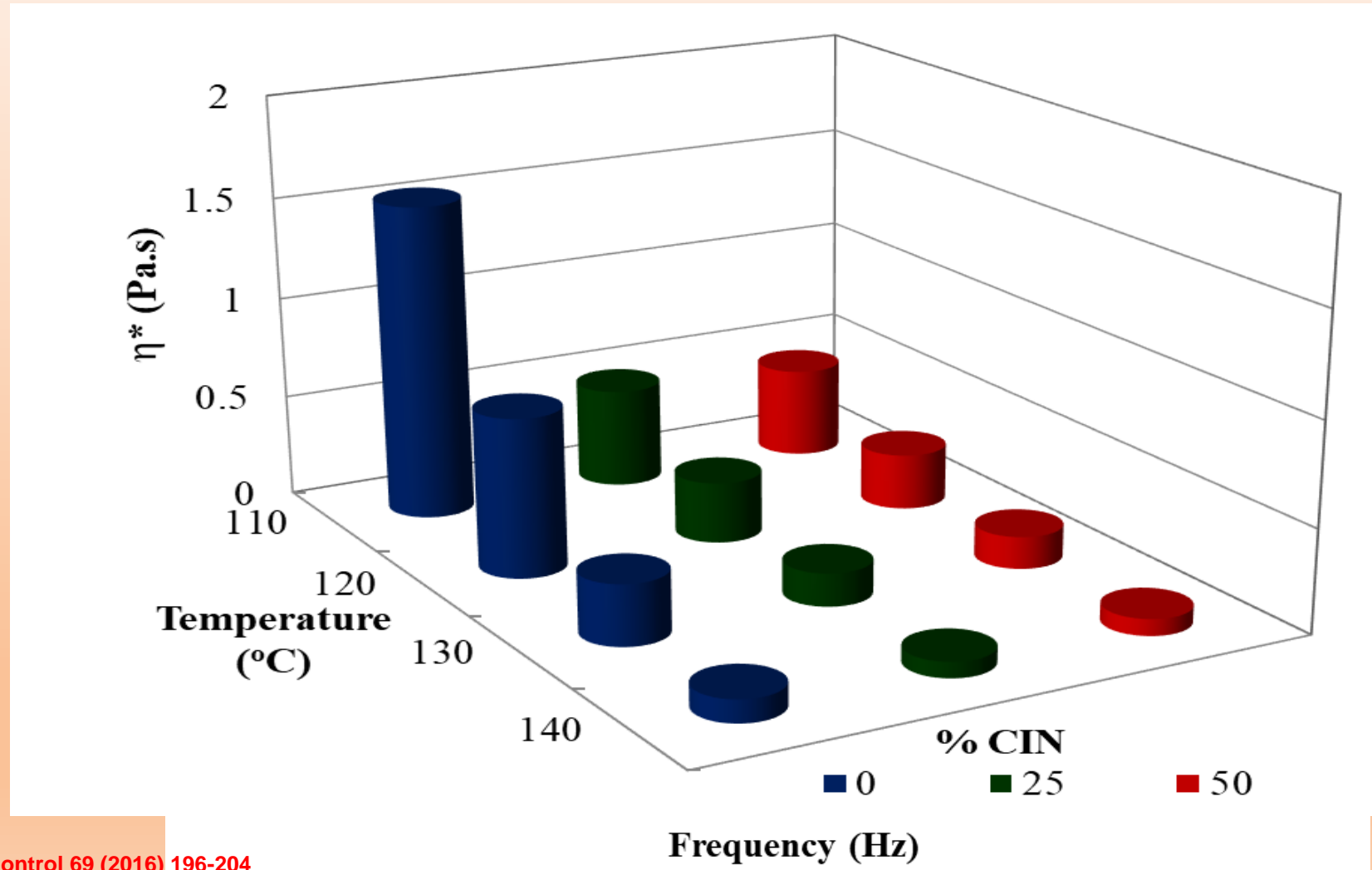


Fig. 5. Antibacterial activities of plasticized PLA films incorporated with 25% and 50% CIN against *L. monocytogenes* (a) and *S. typhimurium* (b) after incubation at room temperature for 1 and 7 days.

# Melt rheology of PLA/PEG/Cinnamon oil



# EO-based film properties

**Table 1**

Thickness and mechanical properties of pla

Sample	Thi
PLA/PEG (90:10)	0.08
PLA/PEG/25% CEO	0.10
PLA/PEG/50% CEO	0.12

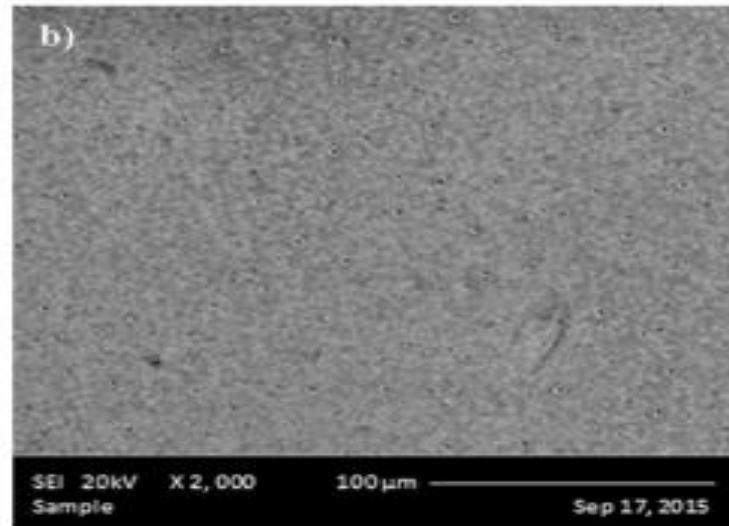
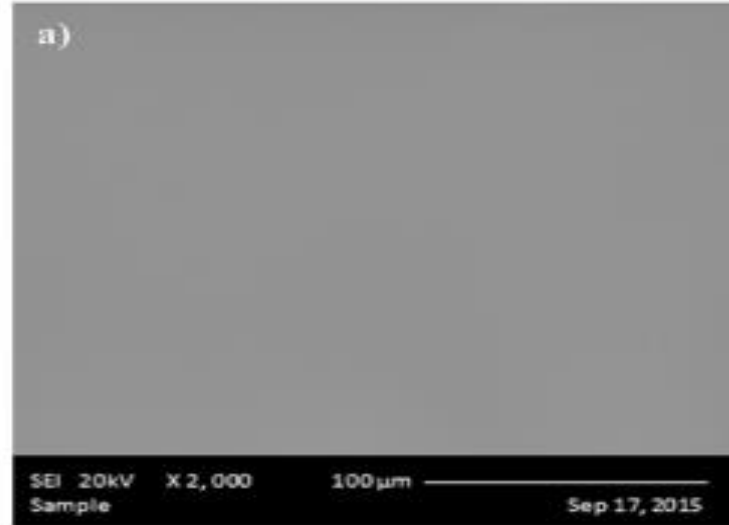
Values are given as mean  $\pm$  SD (n = 3).  
Different lowercase letters in the same col

**Table 3**

Thermal properties of plasticized PLA films

Sample	$T_g$ ( $^{\circ}$ C)
PLA:PEG (90:10)	39.30 $\pm$ 0.27
PLA/PEG/25% CEO	16.42 $\pm$ 0.32
PLA/PEG/50% CEO	6.81 $\pm$ 0.36c

Values are given as mean  $\pm$  SD (n = 3).  
Different lowercase letters in the same col



AB (%)	Tensile modulus (MPa)
5.37 $\pm$ 3.98c	797.90 $\pm$ 12.50a
10.60 $\pm$ 6.96b	382.97 $\pm$ 6.51 b
15.29 $\pm$ 8.72a	256.88 $\pm$ 1.70c

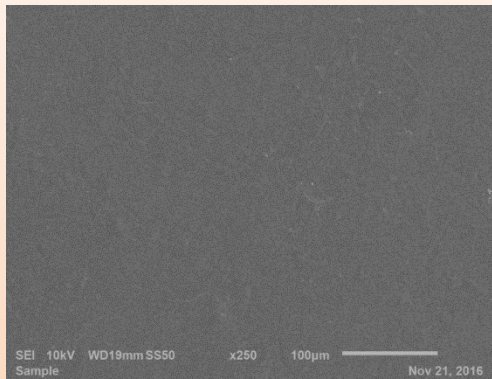
	$H_c$ ( $Jg^{-1}$ )	% $X_{cc}$
a	22.56 $\pm$ 0.42a	32.86 $\pm$ 0.64a
b	18.98 $\pm$ 0.14b	27.66 $\pm$ 1.26b
c	16.16 $\pm$ 0.25c	14.41 $\pm$ 0.31c

# What should be the next?

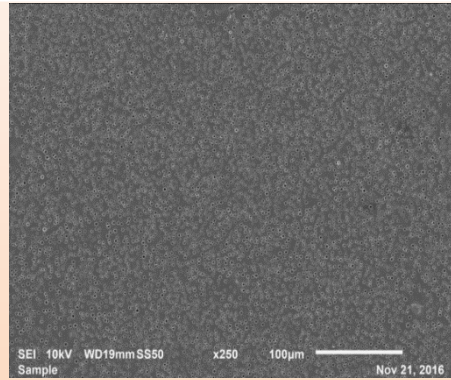
- Tailoring of food packaging using a combination of NPs and EOs.
- EO-based films have limitations to deliver the desirable mechanical and barrier properties
- NPs do have the same problem with the flexibility of the film and mostly the antimicrobial property



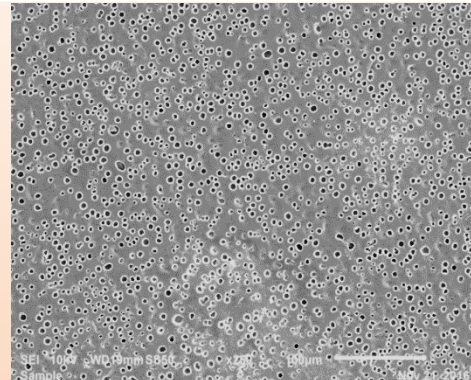
# SEM of surface and cross-section of PLA/GO/clove oil films



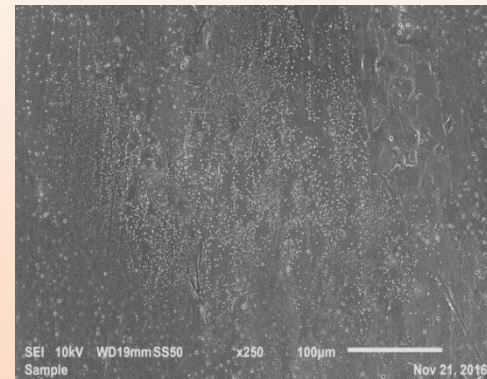
Control PLA/PEG



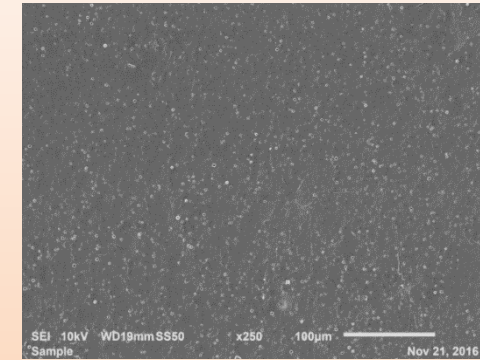
PLA/PEG/15% CLO



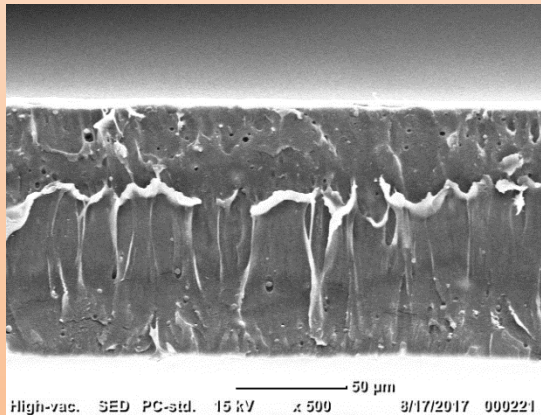
PLA/PEG/30% CLO



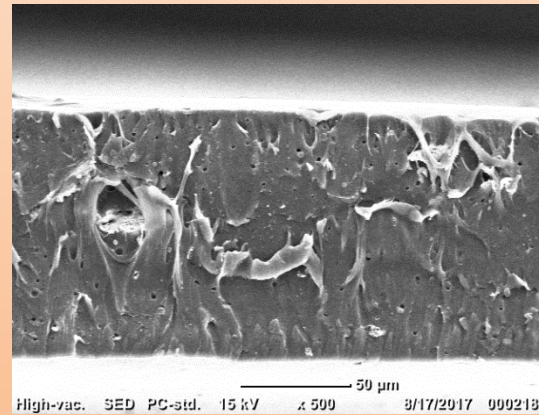
PLA/PEG/1% GO



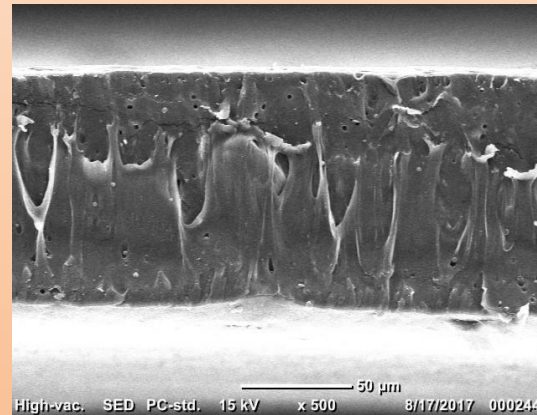
PLA/PEG/1% GO/30% CLO



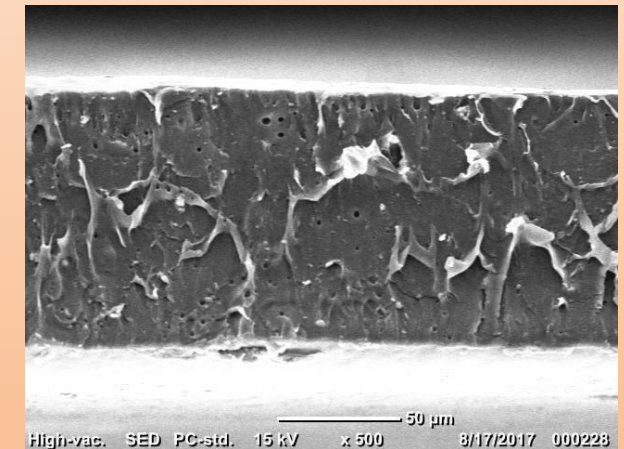
Control PLA/PEG



PLA/PEG/30% CLO




PLA/PEG/1% GO



PLA/PEG/1% GO/30% CLO

# Active Chicken Meat Packaging Based on Polylactide Films and Bimetallic Ag–Cu Nanoparticles and Essential Oil

Jasim Ahmed , Yasir Ali Arfat, Anibal Bher, Mehrajfatema Mulla, Harsha Jacob, and Rafael Auras

Food Packaging and Shelf Life 21 (2019) 100355



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journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/fpsl](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/fpsl)



Polylactide/poly( $\epsilon$ -caprolactone)/zinc oxide/clove essential oil composite antimicrobial films for scrambled egg packaging



Jasim Ahmed<sup>a,\*</sup>, Mehrajfatema Mulla<sup>a</sup>, Harsha Jacob<sup>a</sup>, Giorgio Luciano<sup>b</sup>, Bini T.B.<sup>c</sup>, Abdulwahab Almusallam<sup>d</sup>

Polylactide films Compression molded LLDPE films loaded with bimetallic (Ag-Cu) nanoparticles and cinnamon essential oil for chicken meat packaging applications



Yasir A. Jasim Ahmed<sup>a,\*</sup>, Mehrajfatemah Mulla<sup>a</sup>, Yasir Ali Arfat<sup>a</sup>, Anibal Bher<sup>b,c,d</sup>, Harsha Jacob<sup>a</sup>, Rafael Auras<sup>b</sup>

# 3D-Printing of Biopolymers

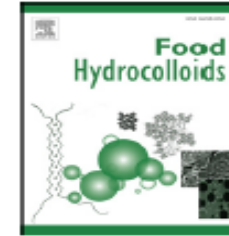
Food Hydrocolloids 98 (2020) 105256



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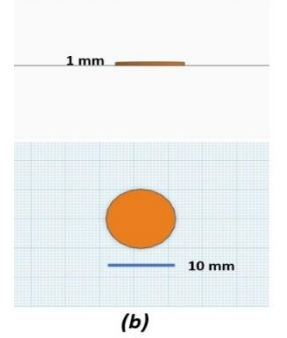
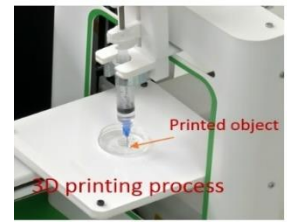
## Zinc oxide/clove essential oil incorporated type B gelatin nanocomposite formulations: A proof-of-concept study for 3D printing applications

Jasim Ahmed<sup>a,\*</sup>, Mehrajfatema Mulla<sup>a</sup>, Antony Joseph<sup>a</sup>, Mohammed Ejaz<sup>a</sup>,  
Mohammed Maniruzzaman<sup>b,c</sup>

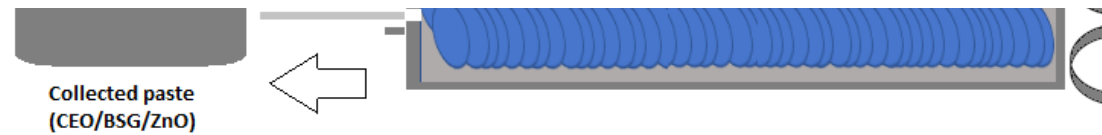
<sup>a</sup> Food and Nutrition Program, Environment & Life Sciences Research Center, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, P.O. Box 24885, Safat, 13109, Kuwait

<sup>b</sup> School of Life Sciences, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9QJ, UK

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3D printed Films



# 3D-Printing of Biopolymers



Texture of GO particles in the Ink solutions



D x L x H = 20 x 20 x 1 mm (L) and 0.5 mm (R)



GO Ink (~1 mg/ml)

Article

[cs.org/journal/abseba](https://www.nature.com/articles/nrn20190101)

an/

1 Rho

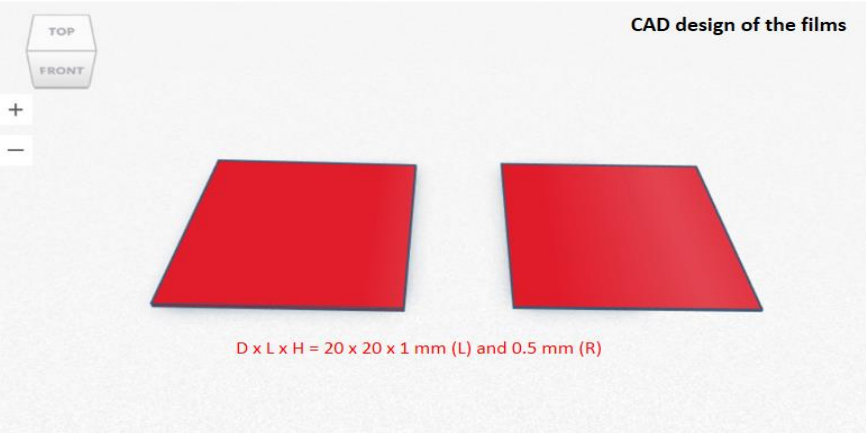
2 Gra

3 Jasim

4 †Food

5 Kuwa

6 ‡Depa

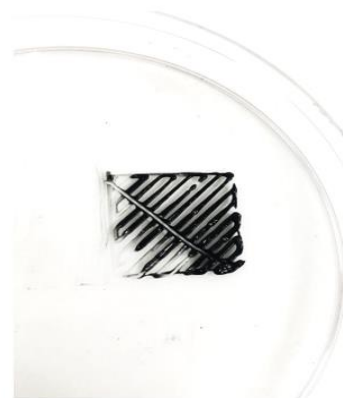


CAD design of the films

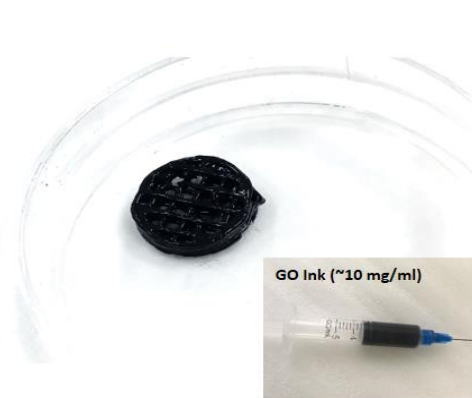
D x L x H = 20 x 20 x 1 mm (L) and 0.5 mm (R)

(a)

3D printed GO loaded films



3D printed GO loaded scaffold



GO Ink (~10 mg/ml)

rch, Safat 13109,

United Kingdom

(b)

# Packaging and High-pressure processing

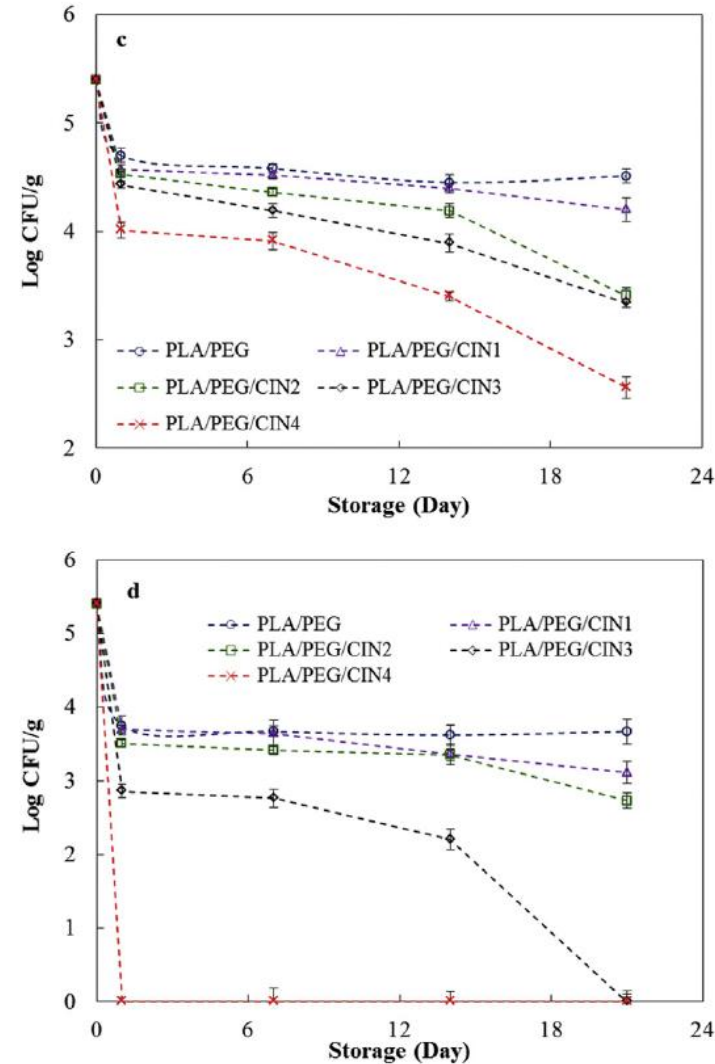
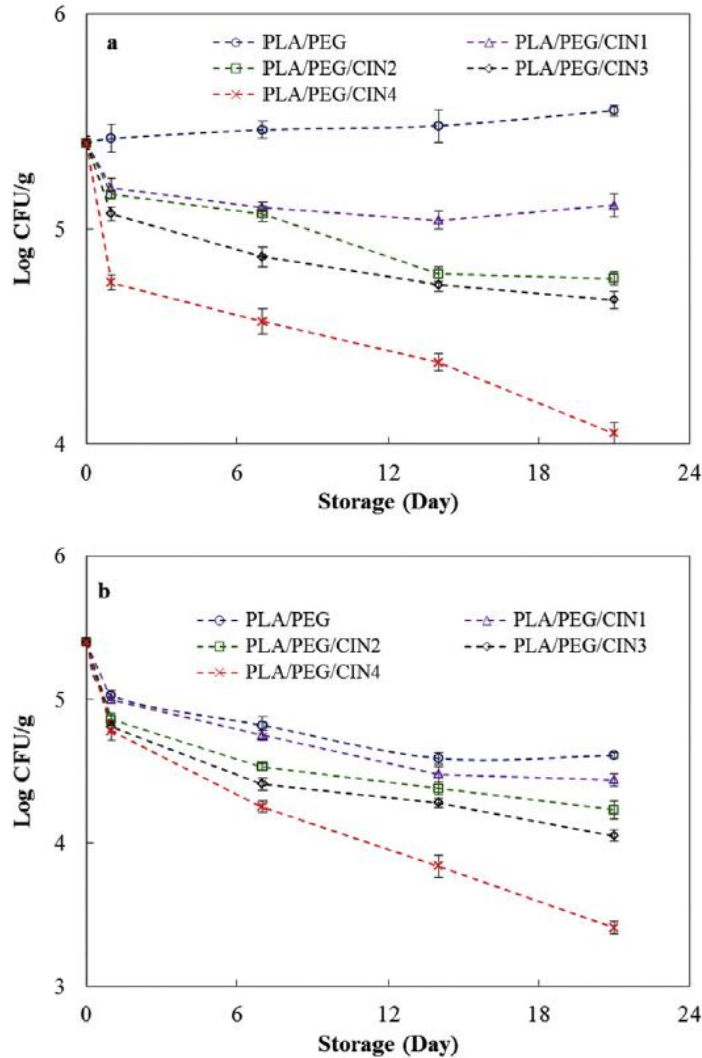
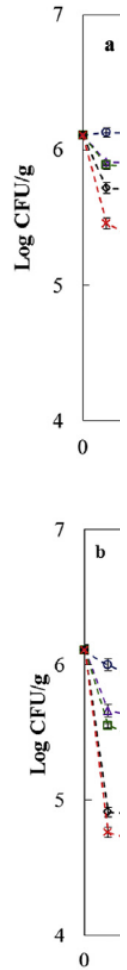


Fig. 1. Growth of *L. monocytogenes* 200 MPa c) 250 MPa and d)

Fig. 2. Growth of *S. Typhimurium* in chicken samples packed with PLA/PEG, PLA/PEG/CIN1, PLA/PEG/CIN2, PLA/PEG/CIN3, PLA/PEG/CIN4 films and treated at a) 0.101 MPa b)



# CONCERNS: Nanoparticle migration into food

- The migration of NP from different types of NCs into food simulants showed NP migrated into food simulants, but also that the migration was food and heating dependent.
- Acidic food and the classical oven presenting the highest migration level.
- The release of the detached NP from the composites, and dissolution of metal ions upon oxidation.
- The critical parameter driving the migration was the percentage of NP in the NCs more than particle size or storage temperature and time.
- ICPMS data mostly indicated metal migration appears to be below current migration limits established by the EU legislation.

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# Safety of nanoparticles

- The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) panel has strong reservation about products for food packaging and food supplements that contain NPs unless authorized.
- Recommendations are not to exceed 0.05 mg/L in water and 0.05 mg/kg in food.
- EFSA recommends in vitro genotoxicity, absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion tests are required by manufacturers.
- The FDA recommends that manufacturers should study and prepare a toxicological profile for each container with nanomaterials.
- The EPA prohibited the sale of plastic food containers with NPs produced by an American company because their products have not been tested according to USFDA regulations.
- At the moment Canada does not have any regulation on nanomaterials and in many other countries only incomplete food safety regulations are introduced.

## At the end.....

- Still it needs time to understand the fate of NPs in the environment and the human body.
- Extensive toxicological studies required for the implementation.
- Bionanoparticles could be used to get the benefits.



# Acknowledgments

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- Prof. Rafael Auras, MSU
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