Motivation

India is an agrarian country. Around 60% - 65% of the people directly or indirectly depend upon agriculture. Hence, agriculture is vital sector of Indian economy contributing about 17% to the total GDP. In the post green revolution period, Indian agriculture has exhibited an impressive growth. It is well known fact that today the food grain production has increased to a tune of 250 MT which is almost 5 times greater than the time of getting independence. According to Govt. of India agricultural statistics (2008-09), the rapid growth has helped Indian agriculture to mark its presence at global level. India stands among top three countries in terms of production of various agricultural commodities like wheat, pulses, paddy, groundnut, rapeseeds, fruits, vegetables, tea, jute, cotton, sugarcane, tobacco leaves, etc. However, the desired simultaneous development of food industry could not keep its pace with agriculture as compared to other countries such as USA, Canada, and Australia. Government of India’s Ministry of Food Industry analyzed the data and found that the growth of Indian Food Industry was estimated as Rs. 8,80,000 crores in the year 2006-07 and this growth will increase to new target of Rs. 13,20,000 crores by 2015(As per report of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry -FICCI- 13 Nov., 2008). This report also suggested that technology enhancement could lead to more growth. However, I personally feel that this can happen only through research and development. Fermentation Technology possesses this potential to utilize food and agro-wastes to bring a new products or technology enhancement that can cater to some extent to the national development. Hence, the need of research on fermentation processes in food and agro-waste utilization motivated me to focus on this field and contribute to genuine cause of development.