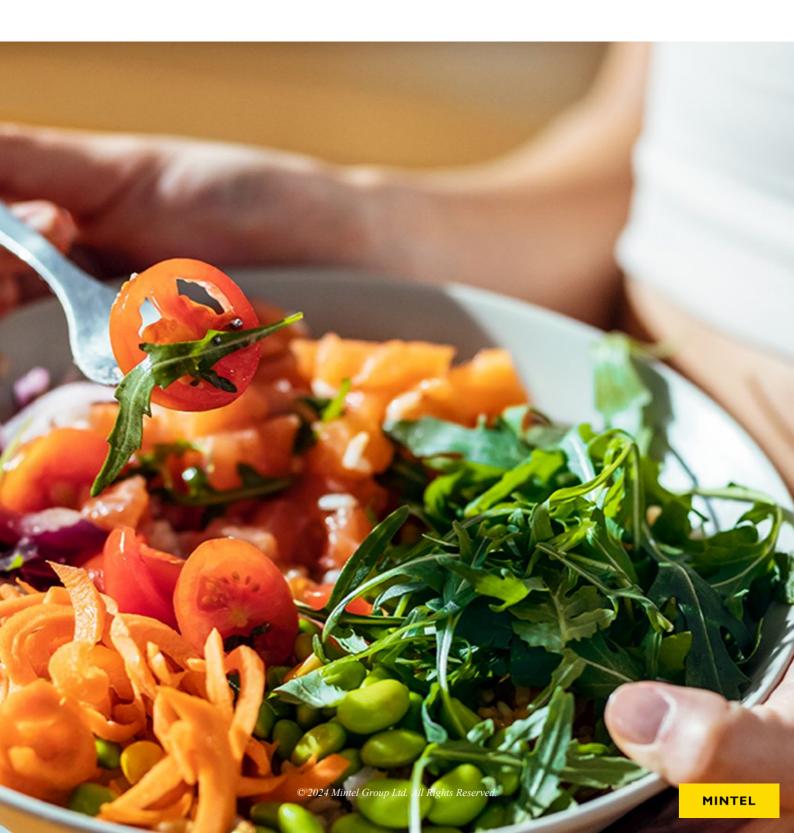
# FUNCTIONAL FOODS – INDIAN CONSUMER – 2023

Indians are embracing functional foods. Offer multifunctionality, mental health and science-backed claims; innovate with fruit-, vegetable- and protein-based ingredients.



Anamika Banerji, Research Analyst - Food and Drink, India



# Functional Foods - Indian Consumer - 2023

### This report looks at the following areas:

- Consumption and drivers of functional foods
- Functional foods' core users willing to pay a premium
- Opportunities to expand consumption across different food categories
- Consumer segmentation based on health and fitness behaviours, and analysis of how functional foods can be positioned for these segments
- Health benefits of interest, and scope to expand usage through multifunctionality
- Ingredients of interest in functional foods
- Routes to prove value and efficacy to discerning consumers
- Global and Indian innovations inspiration for players looking to explore the functional food category

### Overview

Indian consumers are warming up to functional foods, as they recognise the need for complete nutrition and holistic wellness. Women and younger consumers are most likely to purchase functional foods, even at a premium.

Mintel's findings help in understanding the target audience and scope for expanding consumption of functional foods, classifying consumers into three wellness segments based on their fitness-related behaviours.

# BUY THIS REPORT NOW €2600.00 | £2195.00 | \$2995.00\*

store.mintel.com

Americas: +1 (312) 932 0400 China: +86 (21) 6032 7300 Germany: +49 (0) 211 3399 7411 India: +91 22 4445 1045 Singapore: +65 6653 3600 Thailand: +66 2 821 5122 UK: +44 (0) 20 7606 4533

#### MINTEL

Indians are embracing functional foods. Offer multifunctionality, mental health and sciencebacked claims; innovate with fruit-, vegetableand protein-based ingredients.





Consumers have become cautious shoppers keen to read product labels, ingredient lists and claims when choosing products. This Report gives a detailed account of people's key health goals and ingredients of interest to inspire innovation in the functional food space.

While there is interest in functional foods, consumers want to be sure of their efficacy before investing. This Report notes that only science-backed evidence can win their trust.

# BUY THIS REPORT NOW €2600.00 | £2195.00 | \$2995.00\*

store.mintel.com

Americas: +1 (312) 932 0400 China: +86 (21) 6032 7300 Germany: +49 (0) 211 3399 7411 India: +91 22 4445 1045 Singapore: +65 6653 3600 Thailand: +66 2 821 5122 UK: +44 (0) 20 7606 4533

# **Report Content**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- What is functional food and drink?
- Mintel's perspective

#### Key issues covered in this Report

- Overview
- Win consumers over through multifunctionality
- Mental wellbeing is valued by consumers with an advanced approach to wellness
- Leverage the interest in fruit, vegetables and protein
  Graph 1: ingredients of interest in foods with added health benefits, 2023
- The outlook for the Indian functional food category

## **KEY TRENDS AND MARKET FACTORS**

• What you need to know

#### Consumers seek healthy food & drink for holistic wellbeing

- · Indians proactively seek preventive healthcare
- Consumers prefer functional foods over supplements
  - Graph 2: agreement with select statements about nutraceuticals, 2022
- · Consumers expect functional foods to support 'total wellbeing'
- Innovations in the functional food space see an uptick in India
  - Graph 3: top 10 markets with food launches carrying functional claims, 2021-23
  - Graph 4: functional claims as a share of total food launches, 2018-23
- Indian brands are differentiating food products through functional claims

#### Consumers exercise caution when choosing food & drink

- Social media influencers inspire consumers to read product labels
- Consumers need proof and guidance to make the right choice
- Indians seek clear and detailed product information
- The Whole Truth extends support in understanding the ingredients and nutrients in products
- True Elements differentiates with clean label and traceability

#### Affordability is key to promoting healthy eating

- Economic uncertainty prompts anxious Indians to be In Control of their financial wellbeing
- Nearly seven in 10 Indians find functional food and drink unaffordable for daily consumption

- Graph 5: top three factors considered when choosing food and drink with added health benefits, 2022

- Demand for affordable nutrition challenges the status quo of brands using functional health benefits to premiumise
  Graph 6: average price of select food and drink categories, with and without functional claims, 2022-23
- Consumers need trusted nutrition that doesn't break the bank

### WHAT CONSUMERS WANT AND WHY

• What you need to know

#### The emergence of functional foods

- · Indian consumers embrace foods with additional nutrients and health benefits
  - Graph 7: consumption of foods with added nutrients/health benefits (functional foods), by category, 2023
  - Graph 8: functional claims as a share of total food launches, 2018-23
- · Indian consumers embrace foods with additional nutrients and health benefits
- · Young Indians and metro dwellers lead in consumption of functional foods
  - Graph 9: consumption of foods with added nutrients/health benefits (functional foods), by category, by city tier, 2023
  - Graph 10: consumption of foods with added nutrients/health benefits (functional foods), by category, by age, 2023
- Need for complete nutrition and holistic wellness drive adoption of functional foods
  Graph 11: agreement with select statements about foods with added health benefits, by consumers of functional foods, 2023
- Women and young consumers are more likely to purchase functional foods at a premium
  - Graph 12: agreement with select statements about foods with added health benefits, 2023
  - Graph 13: consumer willingness to pay more for foods with added health benefits, by age and gender, 2023
- · Women and young consumers are more likely to purchase functional foods at a premium
- · Indian brands begin to take the functional route to engage with health-conscious consumers
- · Global inspiration for functional food innovation across different food categories

#### Health and wellness behaviours

- · Consumers want to take the path to health and wellness
  - Graph 14: key factors driving consumer behaviour around health\*, 2023
- · Indian consumers can be classified into three major segments based on efforts to manage health and wellbeing
- Introducing the three wellness-based segments
- Activity profile of the three consumer segments
- Exercise is a priority across all ages, but diet restrictions are more prominent among 35+ High Wellness Achievers
  Graph 15: activities to manage health and wellbeing, by age of High Wellness Achievers, 2023
- Attraction to functional foods is higher among the Moderate and High Wellness consumer segments
  Graph 16: consumption of foods with added nutrients/health benefits (functional foods), by category, 2023

#### Multifunctionality is the route to growth

· Consumers will sway towards foods offering multiple health benefits

- Graph 17: select factors that would motivate consumers to choose a packaged food product with added health benefits, 2023

- Graph 18: 'multiple health benefits' as a factor that would motivate consumers to choose a packaged food product with added health benefits, 2023

- Consumers will sway towards foods offering multiple health benefits
- Consumers are interested in a range of health benefits from food products
  - Graph 19: health benefits of interest in food products, 2023
- Cardiovascular health is a leading functional claim; there is opportunity to innovate more in the health space
  Graph 20: functional claims in food launches, 2021-23
- Motivate consumption of functional foods with multifunctionality
- An energy-immunity combo can align with the majority's health goals
  - Graph 21: 'added benefits that align with consumer health goals' as a motivating factor for packaged food products with added health benefits, 2023
- Attract consumers with bold on-pack energy and immunity claims
- · Justify a premium with multifunctionality, without compromising on taste
  - Graph 22: select factors that would motivate consumers to choose a packaged food product with added health benefits, 2023
  - Graph 23: health benefits of interest in food products, 2023
- Deliver health benefits without taking away the fun
- High Wellness Achievers have the longest wish list for health benefits
- Graph 24: repertoire of health benefits of interest in food products, 2023
- Mental wellbeing is valued by consumers with advanced wellness behaviours
- Respond to the emerging interest in mental wellbeing

#### Ingredients of interest

- Consumers are realising the importance of checking ingredients
- Fruit- and vegetable-based ingredients are top-of-mind when choosing functional foods
  - Graph 25: ingredients of interest in foods with added health benefits, 2023
- · Leverage familiarity and consumers' trust in the inherent health halo of fruits and vegetables
  - Graph 26: perceived health benefits of fruits or vegetables\*, 2023
  - Graph 27: interest in select ingredients in foods with added health benefits , by employment and gender, 2023
- Leverage consumers' trust in the inherent health halo of fruits and vegetables
- Make vegetables a key ingredient to bolster interest in functional foods
- Use fruit to strengthen the healthy image of functional foods
- The majority will see health value in a combination of vegetables and protein
- Interest around the amount and source of protein is emerging
  - Graph 28: agreement with select statements about protein, 2023
  - Graph 29: interest in protein as an ingredient in foods with added health benefits, 2023

- Interest around the amount and source of protein is emerging
- · Protein as an ingredient is gaining traction in functional food launches
  - Graph 30: share of plant and milk protein in food launches with a high/added protein claim, 2021-23
  - Graph 31: % of functional food launches with a high/added protein claim, 2018-23
- Sweet spreads have a higher average protein content than other categories
  Graph 32: average protein content of foods with high/added protein claim, by category, 2021-23
- Help consumers understand how much protein they can derive from the product
- Spotlight protein source
- The opinion on plant vs whey protein is divided
  - Graph 33: agreement with select statements about protein source, 2023
- Trust in traditional ingredients is growing
  - Graph 34: select ingredients of interest in foods with added health benefits, 2023
- Millet takes baby steps into the functional food category
  - Graph 35: share of functional food launches with millet, herbs and spices and herbal extracts as ingredients, 2020-23
- It is time to return to ancient grains and millet
- Differentiate products by adding a touch of Ayurveda
- Pro- and prebiotics and omega-3 find a niche audience among metro dwellers and High Wellness Achievers
  Graph 36: select ingredients of interest in foods with added health benefits, 2023
  Graph 37: select ingredients of interest in foods with added health benefits, by city tier, 2023
- Pro- and prebiotics and omega-3 find a niche audience among metro dwellers and High Wellness Achievers
- · Introduce a healthy twist with pre- and probiotics
- Link omega-3 with brain and heart wellness

#### Opportunities to expand consumption across different food categories

• Packaged staples and biscuits have the highest category penetration; opportunity exists to migrate more users to the functional segment

- Graph 38: consumption of regular and functional versions of different food categories, 2023

- Graph 39: consumption of functional versions (with added nutrients/health benefits) as a share of the total consumption, by category, 2023

- Fortified packaged staples remain largely unexplored in lower-tier cities
  Graph 40: consumption of regular and functional versions of packaged staples, 2023
- Functional claims are emerging in packaged Indian staples

- Graph 41: functional claims as a share of total launches, by select sub-categories, 2021-23

- Make staples the vehicle to deliver additional health benefits
- Global inspiration for functional packaged staples
- Promote nutrition equity through functional biscuits, dahi and staples

- Graph 42: consumption of foods with added nutrients/health benefits (functional foods), by category, by socioeconomic group, 2023

- The breakfast cereals category leads in calling out functional claims
  - Graph 43: functional claims as a share of total launches, by food category, 2021-23
- Design salty snacks with added benefits for High Wellness Achievers; leverage yogurt/dahi to reach all wellness segments
- Multifunctional health claims can be the next big thing in yogurt and yogurt drinks
- Leverage the popularity and inherent health halo of dahi
- Reach the masses through the biscuit format
- Design functional salty snacks for High Wellness Achievers
- Diversify the health benefits of snack/energy bars

#### Routes to communicate value

- Consumers are vigilant when choosing functional foods
  - Graph 44: consumer agreement that they would include foods with added health benefits in their diet if they were convinced about their effect, 2023
- Consumers rely more on scientific evidence than reviews, celebrity endorsements and brand assurances
  - Graph 45: factors that would motivate consumers to choose a packaged food product with added health benefits, 2023
- The need for scientific evidence grows with rising commitment to health and wellness
- Establish credibility by referring to scientific/clinical studies
- Spotlight the role of functional foods in meeting nutritional needs
  - Graph 46: select factors that would motivate consumers to choose a packaged food product with added health benefits, 2023
  - Graph 47: agreement that foods with added health benefits help to make up for the imbalance/deficiency in my diet, 2023
- Let communication around nutrition be simple and engaging
- Offer products designed to fulfil the unique needs of the young and the elderly
- · Communicate superior nutrition by equating nutritional content with that of whole foods known to be rich in that nutrient
- Explain how products can help consumers meet their nutritional goals

### **APPENDIX**

- Report definition
- Consumer survey methodology
- Methodology for consumer segmentation

# About Mintel India Consumer

Access our reports now and we'll tell you how major trends are affecting India. We also hone in on the regional differences from socio-economic groups to demographics such as age, gender and household composition. We research consumers in Metro and Tier 1 to 3 cities across the 4 main regions and in 6 local languages.

In each report, we're analysing the trends and the innovations, the behaviours and the influencers of consumers across India. Our local expert analysts then examining the primary research and consumer data and translating it into what it means for you.

- Find out what Indian consumers want, what they need and what influences their purchasing decisions.
- Understand the Indian market and see how it fits into wider trends on a local and global level.
- Take advantage of the gaps and opportunities that exist today, tomorrow and beyond.

### How Mintel Indian Consumer will help your business grow:



Segment consumers across India according to their regional and demographic differences so you can target them more effectively.



Analyse the latest trends and innovations and see how they fit at a local level to identify opportunities for your next big idea.



See action-oriented summaries to understand an area quickly or investigate the data to get an in-depth understanding of your market.

# BUY THIS REPORT NOW €2600.00 | £2195.00 | \$2995.00\*

store.mintel.com

Americas: +1 (312) 932 0400 China: +86 (21) 6032 7300 Germany: +49 (0) 211 3399 7411 India: +91 22 4445 1045 Singapore: +65 6653 3600 Thailand: +66 2 821 5122 UK: +44 (0) 20 7606 4533

#### Disclaimer

This is marketing intelligence published by Mintel. The consumer research exclusively commissioned by Mintel was conducted by an Indian licensed market survey agent (See Research Methodology for more information).

#### **Terms and Conditions of use**

Any use and/or copying of this document is subject to Mintel's standard terms and conditions, which are available at <u>http://www.mintel.com/terms</u>

If you have any questions regarding usage of this document please contact your account manager or call your local helpdesk.

#### Published by Mintel Group Ltd

www.mintel.com

#### Help desk

UK	+44 (0)20 7778 7155
US	+1 (312) 932 0600
Australia	+61 (0)2 8284 8100
China	+86 (21) 6386 6609
India	+91 22 4090 7217
Japan	+81 (3) 6228 6595
Singapore	+65 (0)6 818 9850