

# DEPARTMENT

OF

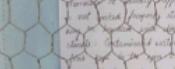
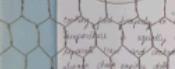
CHEMISTRY

## The Chemistry of Food

Food is not just something we eat, it's a complex mixture of carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins, and minerals that provide energy and maintain health. Chemistry plays a crucial role in understanding food and its various components. For instance, vitamins and minerals are essential for maintaining healthy bones and teeth. Carbohydrates provide energy for physical activity. Proteins are important for muscle growth and repair. Fats are needed for insulation and energy storage. Water is necessary for all biological processes. Chemical reactions like oxidation and reduction occur during food preparation, which can affect taste and texture. For example, the Maillard reaction is responsible for the flavor of baked goods like bread and pastries.

## TRADITIONAL FOOD OF DIMA HASAO

The Dima Hasao community is one of the oldest inhabited areas in Assam, known for its unique blend of traditional and modern culinary styles. Their dishes are often noted for their bold, earthy flavors, reflecting their close connection with nature. Some of the most popular traditional foods include: Daliya (steamed rice), Chapori (a type of rice porridge), and Daliya Rasgulla (a dessert made from rice flour). They also have their own unique version of Kheer (pudding) made with local ingredients like jaggery and cardamom. These traditional dishes are not only delicious but also hold significant cultural and historical value.



CHEM-MYSTERY



## National Nutrition Week

"Eat Right For A Better Life"

1-7 Sep



## NATIONAL NUTRITION WEEK

### Junk Food - A Challenge to Good Health

Nutrition is the foundation of good health. Every year, National Nutrition Week is celebrated to encourage people to eat the right food for a healthy and active mind. But today, junk food has become a serious challenge to this goal. Chips, pizzas, soft drinks, and other fast foods are highly processed. They are loaded with sugars, salt, and unhealthy fats.

While lacking vitamins, minerals, and protein, they are high in fat, sugar, and sodium. These foods contribute to obesity, heart disease, and other chronic diseases. It's important to remember that eating a balanced diet with fresh fruits and vegetables can help prevent these diseases.

### Did You Know?

- A single packet of chips can contain as much salt as 5 teaspoons.
- Soda drinks contain added sugar because of excess sugar and acids.
- Eating junk food regularly increases the risk of lifestyle diseases like diabetes and heart attacks.
- Baby food is also a common source of lead.

### HEALTHY TIPS

- Eat more fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Drink 7-8 glasses of water daily.
- Replace packaged snacks with home-cooked meals.
- Avoid buying drinks; choose fresh juices.

### SAY NO TO JUNK

SAY YES TO HEALTH!

### A BALANCED DIET



A balanced diet is one that contains all the necessary nutrients in the right amounts to maintain good health. It includes a variety of food groups, including carbohydrates, proteins, and fats. It also includes vitamins, minerals, and fiber. A balanced diet can help prevent many diseases and improve overall health.



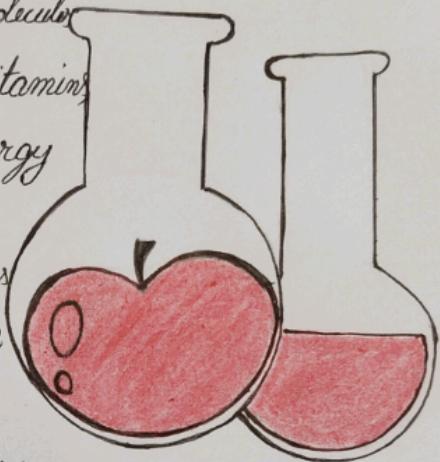


# The Chemistry of food

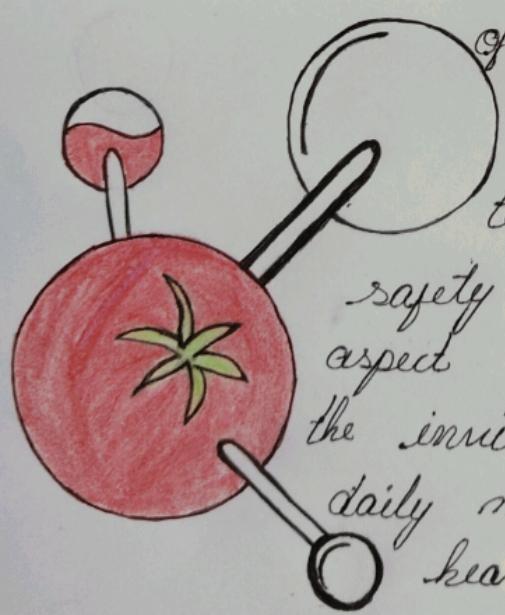
Food is not just nourishment; it is a mixture of biomolecules like carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins, and minerals that provide energy and maintain health.

Cooking triggers chemical reactions

- Maillard reaction, caramelization and protein denaturation - that shape flavour, colour, and texture.



Chemistry also preserves food: salt, sugar, vinegar, and antioxidants prevent spoilage, while awareness of additives ensures safety.



From aroma, flavour, and texture to nutrition and safety, chemistry governs every aspect of the food we eat. It is the invisible chef shaping our daily meals and influencing our health.

# TRADITIONAL FOOD OF DIMA HASAO

The Dimasa community, one of the oldest indigenous tribes of Assam, is known for its simple yet flavorful cuisine that uses fresh, locally sourced ingredients and traditional cooking methods. Dimasa dishes are often mild in spices but rich in natural flavors, relying on herbs, fermented ingredients, and bamboo shoots for their distinct aroma and taste.

Some of the popular preparation includes: Hajing Hen (a dish made with ginger paste, rice flour for thickening, and often cooked with chicken or greens), Panthao Khami (a stew featuring Phanthao (Brinjal) Kari). Some chutneys and side dishes are Laikontha Mudue (a boiled of banana flower and dry fish), Mojokhamau Naplam (a chutney made from fermented fish and heart leaves, a local herb.). One of the famous beverages of Dima Hasao, Tudemia (rice wine), a traditional homemade rice wine with a beautiful flavor. It is culturally significant and was awarded a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2021. The food of Dima Hasao is a living taste in nature, tradition and togetherness.



## SAFETY

Food Safety is the key to good health because the food we eat directly affects our body. Safe food means food that is clean, fresh and free from harmful bacteria, chemicals or dirt. To ensure this, we must follow simple important habits like washing our hands before eating or cooking, keeping the kitchen and utensils clean and cooking food properly to kill germs. Storing food at the right temperature is equally important to stop spoilage. We should also separate raw and cooked food to avoid cross-contamination and always check expiry dates on packaged food. By practising food safety we can prevent food borne diseases, enjoy nutritious meals and protect our families.

Food Poisoning is one of the most common health problems caused by eating food that is contaminated with harmful bacteria, viruses or chemicals. It usually happens when food is not cooked properly, stored in the wrong way or handled with dirty hands and utensils. Contaminated water and street food kept in the open are major sources of food poisoning. The symptoms of food poisoning can appear within a few hours of eating unsafe food and often include stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, fever and weakness. In severe cases, it can even lead to dehydration and even hospitalization.

Food Safety is the key to good health because the food we eat directly affects our body. Safe food means food that is clean, fresh and free from harmful bacteria, chemicals or dirt. To ensure this, we must follow simple important habits like washing our hands before eating or cooking, keeping the kitchen and utensils clean and cooking food properly to kill germs. Storing food at the right temperature is equally important to stop spoilage. We should also separate raw and cooked food to avoid cross-contamination and always check expiry dates on packaged food. By practising food safety we can prevent food borne diseases, enjoy nutritious meals and protect our families.

## FOOD POISONING



## NATIONAL NUTRITION

### WEEK

#### Junk Food - A Challenge to Good Health

Nutrition is the foundation of good health.

Every year NATIONAL

NUTRITION DAY

reminds us to eat the right food for a strong body and an active mind. But today, junk food has become serious challenge to this goal.

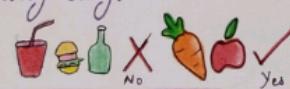


Chips, pizzas, soft drinks, and other fast foods are tasty but harmful. They are loaded with sugar, salt and unhealthy fats.

while lacking vitamins, minerals, and protein. Eating such food regularly can lead to obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, weak bones, and even poor mental concentration. Children and teenagers are especially at risk, as junk food harms their growth and energy.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

- A single packet of chips can contain as much salt as 5 teaspoons
- Soft drinks weaken bones because of excess sugar and acids
- Eating junk food regularly increases the risk of lifestyle diseases at an early stage.



#### HEALTHY TIPS

- ✓ Eat more fresh fruits and vegetables
- ✓ Drink 7-8 glasses of water daily
- ✓ Replace packaged snacks with nuts or sprouts
- ✓ Avoid sugar drinks, choose fresh juices.

SAY NO TO JUNK,  
SAY YES TO HEALTH

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- 7 Sep

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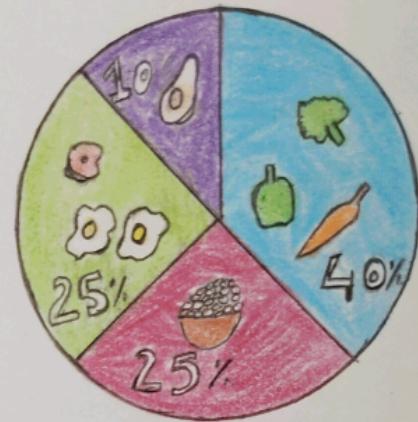
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# A BALANCED DIET

A diet that contains adequate amounts of all the necessary nutrients required for healthy growth and activity.

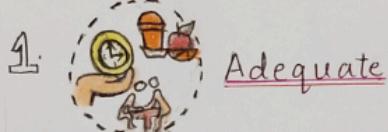
What are the nutrients?

- Carbohydrates
- Proteins
- Lipids
- Minerals
- Vitamins
- Dietary fibres
- Water



- Fruits and vegetables
- Protein
- Fibre
- Fats

## Principles of Healthy Diet



### Adequate

Providing enough essential nutrient to prevent deficiencies and promote health, without excess.



### Balanced

In energy intake, and energy sources to promote healthy weight, growth and disease prevention.



### Moderate

In consumption of foods, nutrients or other compounds associated with detrimental health effect.



### Diverse

Including a wide variety of nutritious foods within and across food groups to favour nutrient adequacy and consumption of other health promoting substances.