

البحث رقم (١)  
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**Potential of Multispectral Imager to Characterize Anisotropic French PDO Cheeses: A Feasibility Study**

Sylvain Jacquot<sup>1</sup>, Romdhane Karoui<sup>2</sup>, **Khaled Abbas**<sup>3</sup>, Annick Lebecque<sup>1</sup>, Cécile Bord<sup>1</sup>, and Abderrahmane Aït-Kaddour<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>U.R CALITYSS, Clermont Université, VetAgro Sup, Campus agronomique, France.

<sup>2</sup>Université d'Artois, Faculté des Sciences Jean-Perrin, Lens, France

<sup>3</sup>Department of Dairy Science and Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, Fayoum University, Egypt

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**Abstract:** The present study was aimed to investigate the potential of multispectral images coupled with chemometric tools (PLSDA and PLS-R) for: (1) discriminating different French blue veined cheeses belonging to four brand products (*Fourme d'Ambert*, *Fourme de Montbrison*, *Bleu d'Auvergne*, and *Bleu des Causses*) and (2) predicting some of physicochemical (pH, ash, dry matter, total nitrogen, water soluble nitrogen,  $Ca^{2+}$ ,  $Na^+$ ,  $Cl^-$ , and P) and rheological properties (softening and dropping points). The results obtained showed that multispectral imaging system applied to anisotropic blue cheeses succeeded to: (1) discriminate cheeses based on their blue veins features in spite of the visual similarity of their structure and appearance with percentage of correct classification varying between 30 and 100%; and (2) predict selected parameters (i.e.,  $Ca^{2+}$ ,  $Cl^-$ , WSN, dropping, and softening points) since  $R^2_{cv} \geq 0.62$  and  $RPD \geq 1.62$  were obtained. Moreover, the predictive results suggested that the image texture of cheese was strongly related to its physicochemical composition and rheological characteristics (softening and dropping points).

**Keywords:** Blue cheeses, Image texture, Discrimination, Prediction, Physicochemical properties, Rheological behaviour.

