

# Summary

The extraction and purification of fermented products may be difficult and costly. Ideally, one is to obtain a high-quality product as quickly as possible at an efficient recovery rate using minimum investment operated at minimal costs. Unfortunately recovery costs of microbial fermented products may vary as low as 15% to as high as 70% of the total costs. Obviously, the chosen process, and therefore its relative cost, will depend on the specific product. To ensure good recovery or purification, speed of operation may be the over-riding factor because of the labile nature of a product. The processing equipment must therefore be of the correct type and also the correct size to ensure that the harvested broth can be processed within a satisfactory time limit. In some of the fermented factory, recovery equipment cost four times more than the fermentor. The necessity of having a well-planned and reliable recovery process and an efficient recovery plant is therefore of utmost importance.