



Because formula development requires so much disparate data and information, it can quickly become overwhelming for teams to manage the product criteria, raw materials, costs, and regulatory requirements needed to explore variances and uncover the best formulas. Add to that shifting regulations, tighter restrictions, evolving preferences, and disrupted supply chains, and it's not surprising that it's become harder for teams to innovate. We've outlined the top 10 formulation challenges facing food, beverage, and supplements companies and how TraceGains can help.



1. Decentralized Data and Information:

The data and information required to create and manage formulas and recipes both in-house and with contract manufacturers sits in silos, spanning ERP and PLM systems, and static tools like shared drives and spreadsheets with as much as 75% of it living with suppliers. With TraceGains, teams can create, modify, review, edit, and update formulas and recipes in one place, with side-by-side onscreen and printable comparisons.



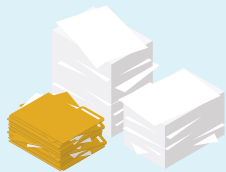
2. Finding Suppliers & Ingredients:

To find the suppliers and materials they need, companies use online search, emails, and phone calls producing slow and off-target results. Suppliers are backlogged and slow to respond, further delaying formula development. And if teams can't find the right ingredient or need to wait for a sample, progress stops. With TraceGains, you no longer have to chase down suppliers for information or documents because it's available at your fingertips. How? When most companies log into TraceGains Network, 80% of their suppliers are already there.



3. Slow Formula Iteration:

PLM software can be rigid and requires manual formula and recipe iteration, slowing down the process to meet desired product criteria for allergens, nutrition, price, and claims. With TraceGains, you can create and manage formulas and recipes while collaborating across departments and with suppliers or co-manufacturers. Network connectivity gives teams instant access to two million supplier-provided documents for rapid digital prototyping with real ingredient and supplier data to reach ideal product criteria faster.



4. Crucial Data Lives on Paper:

Hard copy lab notebooks used in the bench process are often stored in files, making it impossible for teams to see all recipe variations and comparison data at once to gain insight and drive better decisions quickly. With TraceGains, a single networked platform organizes and digitizes all relevant formula and recipe data and documentation for all facilities in one place that's searchable and accessible from any connected device.



5. Version Control:

How often have you wondered if you're working on the latest version of a document? In the world of paper, file shares, and email, it's hard to know without built-in version control. Being able to go back in time to understand changes is also nearly impossible without automatic version mechanisms. TraceGains Formula Management reduces the effort to create new products or enhance existing formulas and recipes with all changes tracked and instantly available to everyone on the team.



6. Allergen Management:

One of the most significant areas of risk in formula management is allergens. Teams must take extra caution to identify and control allergens when creating or updating formulas correctly. First, they need to know which allergens are prohibited — for instance, if the product needs to be dairy-free or nut-free. Next, they need to control and manage all types of allergens in their products. With TraceGains, teams can view allergen declaration attributes for approved ingredients, comparing allergen presence and impact across recipe variants.



7. Cost and Limits:

Cost is an essential factor in new product development. After the marketing department conducts market research and analysis to determine the price consumers are willing to pay for a product, the development team conducts additional research and calculations to determine feasibility. And that's just for cost. There are several other crucial criteria and limits product teams must consider. With networked Formula Management from TraceGains, teams can compare formulation factors against predetermined limits for cost, compliance, additives, and more to find the best combinations before physical trial testing.



8. Managing Labels and Claims:

In an era where consumers are engaged, informed, and making purchases based on dietary restrictions, ingredient considerations, and health concerns, ensuring labels and claims are compliant and accurate is crucial for manufacturers and brand owners. Finding compliant ingredients from qualified suppliers is half the battle. Add FDA requirements for function claims, demand for clean labels, and teams can quickly fall behind schedule or go over budget. TraceGains delivers a single source of truth for qualified ingredients and materials so teams can address claims, labeling issues, and other compliance-related requirements up-front.



9. Cross-Department Requirements:

While R&D is at the center of formula management, quality, procurement, and regulatory departments provide input along the way. Collaboration barriers across departments can create bottlenecks for formula management. TraceGains connects departments over a networked platform. Automated workflows allow teams to conduct real-time tasks alongside automated steps to increase speed, eliminate errors, and vastly improve product quality. The status of recipes and formulas is clear, and stakeholders receive alerts to take action, ensuring progress continues.



10. Change Management:

Even the slightest update to formulas or recipes can significantly impact cost, compliance, product quality, claims, and more. With dynamic change management from TraceGains, teams gain insight into the potential upstream and downstream impact of changes before they happen. Mass update capabilities allow teams to quickly substitute obsolete ingredients or materials across all recipes or formulas at once to save time with all associated recipes and formulas, and all claims remain updated.

TraceGains Formula Management orchestrates recipe development from concept through production, accelerating iteration, claims verification, and change management.

[Request a Demo](#)