

CLAIMS

1. An agent for stimulating growth and/or improving viability of a lactic acid bacterium of genus *Lactobacillus* in a composition, comprising κ -caseinoglycomacropeptide as an active ingredient, wherein the lactic acid bacterium of genus *Lactobacillus* is the *Lactobacillus gasseri* species.

~~2. The agent for stimulating growth and/or improving viability of a lactic acid bacterium of genus *Lactobacillus* according to claim 1, wherein the lactic acid bacterium of genus *Lactobacillus* is the *Lactobacillus gasseri* species.~~

32. The agent for stimulating growth and/or improving viability of a lactic acid bacterium of genus *Lactobacillus* according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the lactic acid bacterium of genus *Lactobacillus* is at least one selected from *Lactobacillus gasseri* OLL2716 strain and *Lactobacillus gasseri* OLL2959 strain.

43. A method for stimulating growth and/or improving viability of a lactic acid bacterium of genus *Lactobacillus* in a composition containing a lactic acid bacterium of genus *Lactobacillus*, wherein the agent for stimulating growth and/or improving viability of a lactic acid bacterium of genus *Lactobacillus* according to ~~any one of claims 1 or 2 to 3~~ is added to the composition containing a lactic acid bacterium of genus *Lactobacillus*.

54. The method according to claim 43, comprising adding the agent for stimulating growth and/or the agent for improving viability of a lactic acid bacterium to the composition containing a lactic acid bacterium prior to fermentation of the composition containing a lactic acid bacterium.

65. A food composition comprising an agent for stimulating growth and/or improving viability of a lactic acid bacterium of genus *Lactobacillus* according to ~~any one of claims 1 or 2 to 3~~ and a lactic acid bacterium of genus *Lactobacillus*.

76. Use of κ -caseinoglycomacropeptide for stimulating growth and/or improving viability of a lactic acid bacterium of genus *Lactobacillus* in a composition containing a lactic acid bacterium of genus *Lactobacillus*, wherein the lactic acid bacterium of genus *Lactobacillus* is the *Lactobacillus gasseri* species.