

## PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF FINGER MILLET DE-STONING MACHINE

**K.S.Karunaratna<sup>1</sup>, D.M.S.P.Bandara<sup>2</sup> and G.V.T.V.Weerasooriya<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>*Department of Agricultural System, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Puliyankulama, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka.*

<sup>2</sup>*Institute of Post Harvest Technology, Jayanthi Mawatha, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka.*

The objective of this study was to evaluate the performance of a finger millet de-stoner machine with a view of recommending it as a de-stoner to enhance the product quality of finger millet. Finger millet is a valuable food for diabetic patients due to slow digestion rate and high fiber content. Therefore different products of finger millet are available in the market. De-stoning of finger millets is an essential post harvest operation. Finger millet seeds get contaminated with sand, straw, dust and other foreign matters and removing sand from finger millet is a major problem faced by the Finger millet processors. Small and large sand particles can be easily removed using different methods like sieving, winnowing and blowing. But removing sand particles of this size of finger millet grains is the problem faced by farmers. The performances were evaluated in terms of cleaning efficiency, machine capacity, power requirement and cost of production. Evaluation was based on three positions of blower adjustments; as fully closed, semi closed, fully opened and three passes as one, two and three with constant inclination angle of the deck, deck oscillation frequency and feeding rate.

The capacity of the machine was 120 kg/hr with a product recovery of 77%. The combination of three passes through the machine with semi closed blower opening showed the best performance and the cleaning efficiency and power requirement by this combination (semi closed and three passes) were 67% and 0.67KW respectively. The operating cost of the machine was LKR 2.24 per kilogram of finger millet. This study revealed that this finger millet de stoner has to be further improved to obtain the higher cleaning efficiency.

**Key words:** Finger millet, De-stoning