

TEXTILE ENGINEERING

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

DEPARTMENT OF TEXTILE AND GINNING ENGINEERING

FINAL YEAR PROJECT REPORT

ON

**DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF BANANA FIBER
PSEUDOSTEM EXTRACTOR MACHINE**

BY

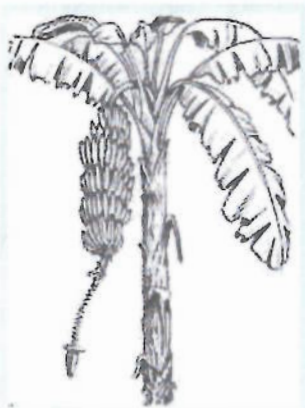
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award of Bachelors in Textile Engineering.*

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APPROVAL

This project report has been submitted for examination with approval from the following supervisors:


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DEDICATION

I dedicate this final year project to my mother, Hope, sisters Elon, Daphine, and brothers Evans and Owen. For all the support they gave me during my carrier of Education.

To God be the glory

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I would like in special way to thank the Almighty God for looking me through my entire life up to-date. May His Name be praised.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPROVAL.....	ii
DEDICATION.....	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	iv
LIST OF FIGURES.....	viii
LIST OF TABLES.....	ix
ABSTRACT.....	x
CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1. Background.....	1
1.3. Objectives.....	3
1.3.1 Main objective.....	3
1.3.2 Specific objective.....	3
1.4 Justification.....	3
1.5. Scope of the project.....	4
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW.....	5
2.1. Introduction.....	5
2.2. Banana fiber extraction.....	7
2.3. Manual stripping.....	8
2.3.1. Bacnis method.....	9
2.3.2. Loenit method.....	9
2.4. Mechanical Extraction of Banana Fiber:.....	9
2.5. Banana fiber extraction machines on market.....	10
2.5.1. The Riddhi machine.....	10
2.5.2. The Banana Fiber Separator Machine.....	10
2.6. Extraction methods.....	10
2.6.1. Japanese Method.....	11
2.6.2. Nepalese Method.....	11
2.7. Mechanical decorticator:.....	11
2.8. The Banana Fiber Separator Machine.....	12
2.9. Banana Fiber Processing and Weaving:.....	13

2.10. Innovation in Extraction Process of Banana Fiber	13
CHAPTER THREE METHODOLOGY	14
3.1. Project flow chart	14
3.2. Methods and materials	15
3.3. General Description of the Machine	15
3.4. Design Considerations and Calculation procedures	15
3.4.1. Design considerations	16
3.5. Power requirements	16
3.6. Drive design	16
3.6.1. Design Horsepower	16
3.7. Pulley design.....	17
3.7.1. Diameter of the drum pulley	17
3.7.2. Motor pulley diameter	17
3.7.3. Speed ratio.....	17
3.7.4. Width of the pulley.....	18
3.7.5. Weight of the drum pulley	18
3.8. Belt Design.....	18
3.8.1. Length of the belt	18
3.8.2. Determination of Number of Belts.....	19
3.8.3. modified power rating	20
3.8.4. Belt material	20
3.9. Roller (drum) design:	22
3.9.1. Weight of the drum	22
3.10. Design of the Shaft.....	23
3.10.1. Torque transmitted by the shaft (T)	24
3.10.2. Shaft material.....	26
3.10.3. Shaft analysis.....	26
3.11. Bearing selection	28
3.11.1. Dimension selection	28
3.11.2. Dynamic load rating of bearings	28
3.12. Design for Static Strength of the Support Columns	29
3.13. Design of key and key way	29

3.14. Force required for decortication:	30
3.15. Construction of machine	30
3.15.1. Material selection.....	30
3.15.2. The fabrication of the frame.....	32
3.15.3. The extraction chamber.....	33
3.15.4. The Pulleys	35
3.15.5. The shaft	35
3.15.6. Machine housing.....	35
3.15.7. Assembly of the various parts	35
3.16. ASSEMBLY, MAINTENANCE AND COST ANALYSIS.....	37
3.16.1. Assembly	37
3.16.2. Maintenance:.....	37
3.16.3. Cost analysis	37
3.16.4. Material cost.....	38
CHAPTER FOUR RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	40
4.1. Machine capacity	40
4.2. Yield of banana fiber	40
4.3. Market potential.....	40
4.4. Target customers	41
4.5. Cost of the machine	41
CHAPTER FIVE CHALLENGES, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION	42
5.1. CHALLENGES.....	42
5.2. RECOMMENDATIONS.....	42
5.3. CONCLUSIONS	42
REFERENCES.....	43
APPENDIX.....	47

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Project flow chart	14
Figure 2: The frame	32
Figure 3: The extraction cylinder	33
Figure 4: Saw tooth bar cylinder	33
Figure 5: Saw tooth bar type fiber	33
Figure 6: Rasp bar type cylinder	34
Figure 7: Rasp bar type fiber.....	34
Figure 8: Cylinder pulley	35
Figure 9: The shaft	35

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Production level of banana in Uganda from 1997-2001, (*Source; UBOS Statistical Abstract June 2001*)..... 5

Table 2: Service factor for V-belts (ANSI/RMA IP-20-1977)..... 17

Table 3: Density of belt materials 21

Table 4: Material selection criteria..... 31

Table 5: Materials selected 32

Table 6: Tools used in fabrication..... 37

Table 7: Material cost. 38

Table 8: Dimensions of standard v-belts 47

Table 9: Standard width of pulley 47

Table 10: Belt selection chart..... 48

Table 11: Typical service factors 49

Table 12: Combined shock and fatigue factors..... 49

Table 13: arc-of-contact correction factor 50

ABSTRACT

Banana fiber is a natural fiber textile which is popular used produced by farmers using manual scraping leading to a slow process and failure to meet a demand requirement. This study emphasizes on banana fiber extraction. The comparison of extraction fiber machine of rasp bar and saw-tooth bar was studied. This basic information was used for mechanical design, construction and testing the performance of the extraction fiber machine in a farmer scale. The testing factors of this study were clearances of 0.75, 1.00 and 1.5 mm, extraction drum speeds of 645, 775, and 905 rpm (6.8, 8.1 and 9.5 m/s, respectively) and feeding positions of 45 and 90 degree. For the banana leaf sheath prepared from the second to the sixth layer at the length of 0.8 m, it found that the width, thickness and weight of banana stems were not significantly different. When compared the extraction fiber unit, the rasp bar type could separate a good texture of banana leaf sheath, while the saw-tooth bar type made a damage texture until the machine could not work. The results of factors affecting machine operation found that the extraction drum speed and clearance had no significant effect on percent of fiber extraction and force, while, the feed position had a significant difference on percent of fiber extraction and force. The clearance of 1.5 mm, drum speed of 645 rpm and feed position of 90 degree were suitable condition for extraction which provided a good quality of fiber by visual observations which gave the least residual amount of tissue and a small damage fiber. Moreover, the extraction capacity was 231 of prepared sheath/h that was higher than using the existing machine and manual scrapping approximately 1.5-2 and 20-34 times, respectively

CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Banana is one of the important fruit crops grown almost in every state of the world. Apart from fruit, it generates huge quantity of biomass as waste in the form of pseudostem, leaves and suckers. Of these, on an average about 60 to 80 t/ha is pseudostem alone (*Johnston, 2003*). Presently, the banana pseudostem is absolute waste in most parts of the world.

The baseline survey conducted by the researcher in Uganda covering 53 banana growers during 2012 revealed that 40 per cent are either composting the pseudostem or chopping and incorporating it into soil while rest of the farmers are disposing it either on field bunds. Among the farmers interviewed, no one knew about preparing any value added from the pseudostem. Further, at national level work related to developing value added products from banana pseudostem is mostly restricted to manual fiber extraction and products like handicrafts, hand woven fabrics, are prepared on a small scale. With the sizable area under banana, it was thought to develop a machine for extracting banana fiber with high output.

After harvesting of fruits and leaves, pseudostem is cut near to the ground level. Presently, fiber extraction from pseudostem is being done mostly by hand extraction in villages. The major drawback of this method is extremely poor fiber output (0.5 kg/day/man). In order to mechanize the fiber extraction from pseudostem, research has been carried out

Starting from the manual procedures to extract banana fibers, a range of ideas have been developed to design a prototype to produce banana fibers. Different stages have been followed, with several tests and redesign phases, in order to achieve the actual prototype, named the Multi-Phase Decorticating Machine (MPDM). The first prototype MPDM has already been tested, and is now undergoing modifications; preliminary tests showed that some modifications were needed in order to improve the amount of fiber extracted (and thus, the efficiency of the extraction process), and also the quality of fiber produced.

Banana fiber, a ligno-cellulosic fiber, obtained from the pseudo-stem of banana plant (*Musa sapientum*), is a bast fiber with relatively good mechanical properties. Plant fibers are sclerenchymatous cells with heavily lignified cell walls having a narrow lumen in cross section.

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