

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL AND PROCESS ENGINEERING

DEVELOPMENT OF A SMALL-SCALE MULTI-FRUIT JUICE PROCESSING LINE

FINAL YEAR PROJECT REPORT

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ABSTRACT

Fruits are among the most important horticultural products from Uganda. Fruits are used as food which has high content of vitamin C, treat diseases most fruit juices act as antioxidants. Fruit pulp is used industrially in making juices, concentrates, flavors, yogurt yet the fruit industry byproducts find application in seed-oil extraction, garden-fertilizer manufacture.

Most fruits are not consumed as a table-fruits but find market value in their processing. Processing of fruits is still a minor activity in Uganda due to lack of appropriate technology and funds despite its high economic potential in the country. Small and medium scale fruit processing industries mostly use unsafe and laborious processes that do not offer a long shelf life to the fruit juice yet time consuming, compromise product quality due to non-aseptic operations that expose products to contamination. The study is therefore intended to design a small-scale juice processing line which simultaneously separates the pulp from fruit fibers, mixes pulp with water, sugar and other required additives, pasteurizes this mixture and packages the product with minimum manual handling to address the above challenges. Implementation of the small-scale juice processing line involved putting together of different components of the line basing on the physical, mechanical and especially chemical properties of the fruits and fruit products. The components of the juice processing line include; the fruit pulper, 3 in-process tanks (i.e., the pulp receiver tank, mixing tank, and overhead tank), pasteurizer, filling machine, and bottle capping machine. From the designs, the fruit pulper operates at a speed of 0.5 tonnes per hour and the pasteurizer operates for 1 hour for 100litres in mango juice production, bottle filling machine able to fill upto 50 bottles per minute. Total maximum transmitted power requirement of 19.7HP. After fabrication and assembly, the performance and economic analysis of the juice processing line were performed in which the following results were obtained; Daily production in 8 hours = 200litres, annual power expenditure = UGX 3300000, Total cost per unit = UGX 824,000, Total cost per year = UGX 272,130,000, Total machine cost = UGX 24,680,000, Return on Investment = 24.5% and pay back-period of 4.1 years. Owing to the performance and economic analysis of the juice processing line, it achieves all its design purposes hence it is recommended for commercialization and adoption by the target groups.

DECLARATION

We the group members of a small-scale multi fruit production line declare to the best of our knowledge that all the material portrayed in this project report is original and has never been submitted for award of any Degree, diploma, or certificate in any university or institution of higher learning.

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APPROVAL This is to certify that the project report under the title "DEVELOPMENT OF A SMALL SCALE MULTI-FRUIT PROCESSING LINE" has been done under the guidance and supervision of the supervisors below and is now ready for examination. SUPERVISOR: Mr. SSERUMAGA PAUL Department of Chemical and Process Engineering Signature: . iii | Page

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The agricultural sector has been the backbone of the Uganda's economy for decades, employing over 80 percent of the rural population and about 64.3 percent of the working population (UBOS, 2020). Uganda is the second largest fresh fruit producer after Nigeria in Sub-Saharan Africa with about 900,000 ha and 5.8 million tons of exports in a year (Ambrose Gahene, 2021).

The country is appropriate and has rich potential to produce passion fruits, guavas, mangoes, citrus, pineapples, tomatoes and a host of other fruits and vegetables. The fertile soils and conducive climate guarantee fruit and vegetable production throughout the year. Despite this great production potential, the processing of fruits and vegetables is small and is mainly restricted to extraction of juice, drying, bottling and labelling (Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), n.d.). Due to the large amounts of fruits that are harvested during the fruit harvesting season, there was need to utilize the available unutilized energy to process and package them in order to increase their shelf life and reduce of the postharvest losses.

1.2 Problem statement

In Uganda up to 40% of the Fruit and vegetable goes to waste especially along the supply chain (Background, 2020). The production yield and supply of fresh fruits is usually high during the harvest season of the year and always very low during the rest of the year. Due to the perishable nature, the farmers record abundant wastage during the production season and extreme scarcity during the off season (Becker et al., 2015a). Consequently, farmers are forced to sell their fruits at very low prices therefore, the monetary value obtained is not proportional to their input. Processing the fruit into the form that can easily be stored, preserved, packaged, transported or consumed is crucial to having the product all the year round. This can be achieved by developing a small-scale field-based multi-fruit processing line of 50 liters per hour capacity that can effectively extract pulp from fruits, pasteurize and package the product. This will reduce post-harvest losses of fruits and thus ensure stable supply during off-seasons. This study will also improve the concept of cottage industry.

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