

Thesis Title	Development of Mathematical Model of Cassava Chip Drying
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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research was to determine the equation of the drying constant for cassava chip drying using hot air and to develop a model for the drying system. Thin – layer drying experiments were carried out at drying air temperatures of 40 - 80°C and constant air velocity of 2.3 m/s. Cassava chip of the Rayong 5 variety was divided into 3 sizes (small, medium, and large). Thin – layer drying equation including the semi - theory and empirical equations (Page and Henderson & Pabis models) represented the drying constant as a function of drying air temperature and product size. The results indicated that Page model in terms of the second order polynomial relation was able to predict the drying constant reasonably well with the highest value of the coefficient of determination (R^2) and the lowest value of the mean residual square (MRS).

A simulation model was developed for cassava chip dried in hot air drying system (bulk type) and the results were compared with experimental data at air temperatures of 60 -70°C and an air velocity of 1.0 m/s for small, medium, and large sizes of product. The model was found to predict the moisture reduction under various drying conditions relative well.

By analyzing the influence of drying air temperature and product size on performance, it was found that the drying rate decreased and specific energy consumption increased when the drying air temperature and cassava chip size increased.