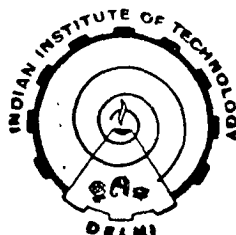


**MATHEMATICAL MODELLING AND EXPERIMENTAL
STUDY OF A SOLAR DRYING SYSTEM**

BY
SANJAY SHARMA

*THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, DELHI
FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY*



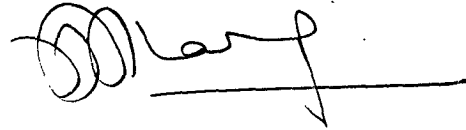
**Centre For Energy Studies
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, DELHI
APRIL, 1989**

CERTIFICATE

It is certified that the thesis entitled "Mathematical Modelling and Experimental Study of a Solar Drying System" being submitted by Shri Sanjay Sharma is a record of the bonafide research work carried out by him under our supervision. It is original in nature and we have permitted the author to submit it for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I feel privileged to express my deepest sense of gratitude to Prof. H.P. Garg for his expert and encouraging guidance, untiring efforts, valuable suggestions, informal and cordial attitude and whole hearted support to carry out this research work and without whose help this work would have never been accomplished.

I am equally obliged to Dr. S.K. Gupta for his sincere, cordial, logical, valuable and expert guidance, constant interest and constant stirring of my brain with new ideas in completing this research work.

My word power fails to record my gratitude to Dr.D.S. Harikashan for his encouragement, helpful suggestion; discussions and timely help in completing this research work

I wish to thank Dr.V.K.Sharma who inspired me to start this work. I also wish to thank Dr. S.N. Garg for his valuable suggestions and timely help at every stage of this work.

I would like to thank Dr. R.A. Ray for his company and corporation. It gives me great pleasure to appreciate the cordial and encouraging suggestions extended by Mr.R.K. Agarwal.

Thanks are due to Mrs.Ranjana Jha, Miss Ratana Verma and other Faculty members and Research Scholars of centre for Energy Studies,I.I.T., Delhi.

I invoke to place on record my benediction,affluent sense of gratitude towards Dr. Jai Prakash and Dr.A.K.Bhargava for their cordial and encouraging suggestions.

It gives me great pleasure to appreciate the cordial and encouraging suggestions extended by Mr.Y.P.Singh. I also wish to thank Mr. Kunj Behari and Mr.Ram Nivas.

I would like to appreciate the company of Rakesh Panwar, Sanjay Singh, S.K. Misra and Y.K. Tripathi which helped me a lot in completing this thesis. I failed to find appropriate words to express my hearty feeling for my friend Sushil Khanna and Rajeev Tondon whose cooperation have always been splendid.

I fail in my attempt to confide the infinite immaculate entitles of deeds of my parents, into a mere frame of ephemeral code of language. Silence grows into the horizon of wisdom and with that unexplainable silence, I owe my beloved Mummy and papa, who had been incessantive source of love and affection and whose endless tolerance and consistent moral boost made this work possible.

I wish to enunciate my warm appreciation and deep feeling for my parent's inlaw for their love and affection, moral support, consistent confidence in this work and timely help to complete this work. I also wish to thank Goodlu for his affectionate behaviour.

Last but not least my words power fails to express my deepest sense of feeling for my wife Samiksha (Bapi) whose love, companionship, sacrifice, endless tolerance and constant encouragements boosted my moral and without her whole hearted cooperation this work would never have been possible.

New Delhi

April, 1989


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SUMMARY

In this thesis an attempt is made to investigate a solar drying system theoretically as well as experimentally. The main objective of this work was to investigate various components of solar drying system viz. a solar air heater, a drying unit and a thermal storage device for low temperature drying. The various thermophysical parameters affecting the performance of air heater, the storage unit and the drying chamber have been considered. The effect of combining these units have also been considered.

The enhancement of heat transfer area of the solar air heater using rock pebbles as the porous absorber is theoretically investigated by formulating a two dimensional transient model. The effect of air flow rate, depth and length of porous absorber have been studied theoretically.

The effect of air leakage on the performance of an solar air heater is theoretically studied. Both Air leak in and Air leakout systems have been examined in order to study the system performance in terms of efficiency. A new design is proposed on the basis of a theoretical analysis in which effect of air leakage does not affect the performance of the system significantly.

A solar collector cum dryer has been fabricated and tested. A mathematical model of this system has been formulated. The model is numerically simulated to evaluate its performance and results are compared with the experimental observation. The vegetables like Cauliflower, Green peas and Turnip were dried and temperatures of the absorber plate, inflow and out flow fluid were recorded. The rate of reduction in the moisture content and corresponding drying rates have also been estimated.

An integrated system consisting of a solar air heater, a thermal storage unit and a drying chamber has been fabricated and tested experimentally. The rock pebbles are used as a medium to store the thermal energy. The inflow and out flow air temperature are recorded and the effects of single and double glazings, night insulation covers and the variations in the air mass flow rate have been studied. It is seen that this integrated system is quite efficient and may be used during off sunshine hours also.

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