



**BUSITEMA
UNIVERSITY**
Pursuing Excellence

**FACULTY OF ENGINEERING
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL AND PROCESS
ENGINEERING**

FINAL YEAR PROJECT REPORT

**DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF AN AVOCADO FLESH OIL
EXTRACTOR**

By

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of a Bachelor of Science in Agro-Processing Engineering of Busitema University*

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ABSTRACT

Avocado (*Persea Americana*) is one of the important fruits grown worldwide and majorly eaten in different forms and mainly as food additives. This fruit is prized for its high nutrient value and is added to various dishes due to its good flavor and rich texture. In addition of its importance it is grown for sale provides income to the growers and it is one of the fruits which are commercially valuable and are cultivated for sale and oil production since it containing oil in it and this makes it a special fruit. Avocado oil is used for various purposes like; cooking, lubrication and some cosmetic factories used it as a raw material for the cosmetic production and Pharmaceuticals as well use the oil for medicinal production.

However, the traditional methods used for avocado oil production involve the following shortcomings: high temperature which denatures the oil, use of chemicals in form of solvents are used which is not good for human health, hand squeezing of the oil yields less leaving most of the oil un extracted and the existing machines are for large-scale hence expensive and cannot be obtained by the small-scale industrial sector. This has left a big gap in the small-scale sector, most of the oil wasted and denatured and human health compromised due to the practices used. The aim of this study is to design and construct avocado flesh oil extractor to maximize the oil extraction, save time and add value to the avocado fruit, to meet the financial standards of the small-scale producers and to attain a suitable product for various applications.

The avocado oil extractor was designed and constructed using locally available materials and tested for oil production using the dried avocado flesh mixed with fiber. The machine consists of the machine frame, the feeder, screw shaft, barrel cage, and the drive system. Designing and constructing the avocado oil extractor involved determining the feeder angle of repose of the avocado, determining the forces and pressure produced by the shaft to squeeze out the oil. Engineering drawings of various components of the avocado oil extractor were developed before the machine was constructed and assembled. The performance of the avocado oil extractor after construction was evaluated taking in to consideration the capacity and the efficiency of the machine and the performance tests carried out on the developed machine showed an efficiency of 50.95% and an actual throughput of 66.24kg/hr. at the rotating speed of the shaft being 247.35rpm.

DECLARATION

I, OLUPOT CHARLES JOEL, hereby declare to the best of my knowledge that this report is an outcome of my own work and has not been presented for any academic award in any university, college or higher institution of learning. Throughout the work, I have acknowledged all other sources in its compilation.

Name: OLUPOT CHARLES JOEL. BU/UP/2014/209

Signature.....

Date...15/05/2019..



APPROVAL

This Final Year Project Report has been submitted to the department of Process and Chemical Engineering of Busitema University for examination with approval of my supervisor

Supervisor:

1) Mr. SSERUMAGA PAUL

Signature.....

Date.....

DEDICATION

This report is dedicated to my beloved parents Mr. OGWANG MOSES TUKEI and Mrs. TEDDY OGWANG in appreciation for their generous care and constant support provided to me all my time at school, and for the constant guidance and strength, courage and determination instilled into me, which have indeed made me what I am today, To my brothers and sisters and all my Class mates (Busitema University). I also dedicate it to my friends for the guidance and support that they have given me during my research, May the Almighty God reward you abundantly for such great work.

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CHAPTER ONE

1.1 Background

Avocado also known as (*Persea Americana*) is thought to have originated in South Central Mexico and its a member of the flowering plant family lauracea. The avocado fruit (or avocado pear or alligator pear), is botanically a large berry containing a single large seed (stone). Avocado is one of the fruits which are commercially valuable and are cultivated in tropical and Mediterranean climates throughout the world Uganda inclusive. (JF et al, 1998).

The major leading regions growing avocado worldwide include; Mexico (25%), California (13%) and Brazil (6%) and these regions are the main origins of various avocado types (Bergh, 2001) (JF et al, 1998).

In Uganda, avocado is grown majorly in the west, central and some Parts of the east majorly for sale and as additives to various types of meals. This fruit is prized for its high nutrient value and is added to various dishes due to its good flavor and rich texture. (Hackett et al, 2018), (Kris et al, 2018). The major avocado varieties grown in Uganda include the following; Hass, Reed, Bacon, and Fuertes having different quantities of oil basing on the oil composition in each fruit.

The flesh of an avocado fruit contains water, fiber and oil in given percentages; 30% oil (based on fresh weight), but it is very little in the seed ($\approx 2\%$) or the skin ($\approx 7\%$) (Marie et al, April 2010). This oil is extracted from the avocado for various purposes which include; for cosmetic because of its very high skin penetration and rapid absorption, for medicinal manufacture and for cooking in some parts (AllanWoolf., 2009).

The physical and chemical methods are used for oil extraction and these methods give a relatively low yield, like the traditional cooking method which involves high temperature and the solvent extraction method which involves use of chemicals. The ultimate market of the oil basing on its use and benefits generally dictates the large amount of avocado in its due season required available for the production of good-quality oil,

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