

Thesis Title	Drying Kinetics of Sliced Pineapple
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ABSTRACT

The aim of this research was to study and develop the equation of drying kinetics of pineapple slices and to evaluate the influence of drying conditions on drying rate. The short hollow cylinder shape of pineapple (Pattavia) with the initial moisture contents of 453-728 % d.b. was applied to experiments with a size of 3, 8 and 1 cm for inner diameter, outer diameter and thickness, respectively. Drying of pineapple was carried out under the drying conditions involving the temperatures of 40-80 °C, relative humidities (RHs) of 10-70 % and a constant velocity of 2.5 m/s to investigate the thin-layer drying characteristics. The mathematical models evaluated in the kinetic research included one semi-theory equation (exponential model) and two empirical equations (Page and Henderson-Pabis models). These three models represented the drying parameter as a function of temperature and RH. By comparing the experimental moisture data with those estimated by the proposed models, the Page model provided the best fit of the data with the highest value of coefficient of determination (R^2) and the lowest value of mean residual square (MRS). For the influence of drying conditions on drying rate of pineapple slices, it was found that the drying rates increased as the temperature increased at a constant relative humidity, and decreased as the relative humidity increased at a constant temperature. At the end of studies, two cases of the thick layer drying were considered and compared with the simulation. The experiment at 50 °C and 20 % RH (first case) and the experiment at 70 °C and 10 % (second case) were used to compared with simulated results. The model presented satisfactory behavior of drying rate with more accuracy in an early and last period of drying for both cases.