

**DESIGN, FABRICATION AND PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
OF BATTERY- POWERED RICE PADDY
GRAIN COLLECTOR**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
LIST OF TABLES	ix
LIST OF FIGURES	x
LIST OF EQUATIONS	xi
LST OF APPENDICES	xii
LIST OF APPENDIX TABLES	xiii
LIST OF APPENDIX FIGURES	xiv
ABSTRACT	xvi
INTRODUCTION	1
Background of the Study	1
Statement of the Problem	2
Significance of the Study	3
Objectives of the Study	4
Scope and Limitation of the Study	4
Time and Place of the Study	5
REVIEW OF LITERATURE	6
Solar Energy and Solar Heating	6
Grain Drying	6
Grain Drying Systems	7
Traditional Drying System	7
Sun Drying	7
Field Drying and Stacking	8
Mechanical Drying	9
Heated Air Drying	9
Batch Drying	10
Recirculating Dryer	11
Continuous Flow Dryer	11

Low Temperature Drying or In-Store Drying	12
Solar Drying	13
Solar Bubble Dryer	13
Existing Grain Collector Machine	14
Radial-Bladed Type Centrifugal Fan	15
Cyclone Separator	16
Electric motor	18
Battery	18
Lithium-ion Vs. Lead-Acid Battery	19
METHODOLOGY	21
Conceptual Framework of the Study	21
Design Conceptualization	22
Design Consideration	23
Parts of the Machine	25
Suction Mouth	25
Grain Collecting Hose	25
Battery	26
Wheels	26
Principle of Operation	26
Collecting Mechanism	26
Field Operational Pattern	27
Fabrication of the Machine	28
Performance Evaluation	29
Preliminary Testing	29
Final Testing	30
Test Parameter	30
Power Requirement	30
Volumetric Flow Rate	31
Dynamic Pressure	31
Electric Consumption	31
Collecting Capacity	32
Collecting Efficiency	32
Data to Gather	33

Testing Materials	34
Statistical Analysis	34
Economic Analysis	35
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	36
Description of the Machine	36
Design and Fabrication of Battery-Powered Grain Collector	37
Grain Collector machine frame	38
Cyclone Separator	39
Grain Collecting Hose and Suction Mouth	41
Performance Evaluation	42
Power Requirement	42
Electric consumption	43
Total Operating Time	43
Collecting Capacity	44
Machine Efficiency	45
Economical Analysis	46
SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	48
Summary	48
Conclusion	49
Recommendations	49
LITERATURE CITED	51
APPENDICES	54

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE		PAGE
1	Electric Motor Efficiency	18
2	Tabulated Specification of the Machine	36
3	Unite Cost of the Grain Collector	40
4	Specifications and Properties of the Grain Collector	41
5	Total operating time of the grain collector	43
6	Descriptive statistics of response variable collecting capacity (kg/hr)	44
7	Summary of results of comparison among treatment means for collecting capacity	45
8	Descriptive statistics of response variable collecting efficiency (%)	45
9	Summary of results of comparison among treatment means for collecting efficiency	46

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE		PAGE
1	Drying Systems from IRRI	7
2	Heated Air-Drying Process	10
3	In-Store Drying Process	12
4	The structures of two mostly used cyclone separators	17
5	Conceptual Framework of the Study	21
6	Isometric view of the design	22
7	Flowchart of the Study	24
8	One Way Headland Operational Pattern	28
9	Isometric view of the design	37
10	Actual design of the machine	38
11	Right: Side view of the frame and Left: Front view of the frame	39
12	Cyclone separator	40
13	Design of the Suction mouth	41

LIST OF EQUATIONS

EQUATION		PAGE
1	Power Requirement	30
2	Volumetric flow rate	31
3	Dynamic Pressure	31
4	Electric Consumption	31
5	Collecting Capacity	32
6	Collecting Efficiency	33
7	Economic Analysis	35

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX		PAGE
1	Tables	55
2	Computations	58
3	Figures	61
4	Operational Manual	72

LIST OF APPENDIX TABLES

TABLE		PAGE
1	Statistical Analysis Data Sheet	53
2	ANOVA for the collecting efficiency of the battery powered grain collector.	53
3	ANOVA for the collecting capacity of the battery powered grain collector.	53
4	General assumptions used in the cost analysis of the grain collector	54
5	Parameters and Formula in Cost Analysis	55
6	Collecting Capacity Computation	56
7	Machine Efficiency Computation	57

LIST OF APPENDIX FIGURES

APPENDIX FIGURE		PAGE
1	Flexible hose	61
2	PVC pipe	61
3	Caster wheel	62
4	Rubber wheel	62
5	Battery	63
6	Suction mouth	63
7	Folding of GI Sheet	64
8	Machine Frame	64
9	Pre-testing Design	65
10	Pre-testing air velocity	65
11	Testing set up	66
12	Actual design of the Machine	66
13	Suction air velocity	67
14	Noise level	67
15	Operational pattern guide	68
16	Width of effective collection	68
17	Collection Loss at Treatment 1	69
18	Collection Loss at Treatment 2	69
19	Collection Loss at Treatment 3	70
20	Rice paddy thickness measurement	70

21	Charging set up	71
22	Amperage during charging	71

ABSTRACT

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Post-harvest operation is an essential part of rice production. It is a sequence of rice cultivation cycle procedures involving threshing, cleaning, drying, milling, grading, weighing, and storing (“Handbook on Rice Post-Harvest Techniques,” 2015). Among other operations, drying is one of the most critical post-harvest processes, which can be done manually and mechanically. Converting the manual method for post-harvest production, such as collecting rice paddy during the drying process, is one of the best ways to make the work faster and save workforce and labor costs. A battery-powered grain collector made of locally available materials using local manufacturing technology was designed, fabricated using different fabrication techniques, and tested for collecting and bagging paddy dried on concrete pavement. The battery-powered grain collector had the following major components: vacuum motor, power transmission system, bagging area, and frame. The machine was evaluated using a treatment of varying thicknesses of 0.5-1.0 cm, 1.0-1.5 cm, and 1.5-2.0 cm, respectively. Results showed a minimum collecting time of 12 mins and 33 seconds, a maximum collecting capacity of 122.84 kg/hr, and the highest machine collecting efficiency of 81.0% at 0.5-1.0 cm thickness of rice paddy. Other parameters, such as air velocity, dynamic pressure, and noise level, were not significantly affected by the varying thickness of the rice paddy. The machine entailed an investment cost of Php

12,501.76. The break-even point of the paddy was 510,606.75kg/yr at a collecting cost of 0.11 P/kg of paddy. The projected time needed to recover the cost of the machine based on 89.67 kg/hr collecting capacity was 1.65 years with a 31.36% return on investment.

Keywords: paddy grain collector, battery-operated, vacuum

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