

Solar tunnel drier developed for drying of *Punica granatum* seeds

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A solar tunnel drier was used to dry *Punica granatum* seeds under the hot weather conditions of Pakistan. The drier consisted of a drying tunnel, flat plate collector and fans operated by a photo-voltaic unit covered by translucent plastic. The heated air in a solar flat plate collector flew to the drying compartment. The drier had a loading capacity of 10 kg of fresh *Punica granatum* seeds. Moisture content of *Punica granatum* seeds was 85.16% removed in 7 h. The moisture contents in the dried materials was determined using sensitive balance. The use of a solar tunnel drier and blanching of sample led to a considerable reduction in drying time and dried products of better quality in terms of colour and aroma in comparison to products dried under open air sun drying. Data regarding the initial weight, final weight, drying time, ambient temperature and inner space temperature of collector was recorded during the spring season. The solar tunnel drier and blanching of *Punica granatum* seeds are recommended for drying.