



ONE-DAY WORKSHOP

on



Solar Drying of Fruits & Vegetables

June 4, 2024



Organized by
FOOD AND NUTRITION DIVISION
Nuclear Institute for Food & Agriculture (NIFA)

Under the auspices of
PAKISTAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

Organizing Committee

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Background

Solar drying is a low cost and environmentally friendly method for preserving fruits and vegetables. By utilizing the energy from the sun, this technique removes moisture from fruits & vegetables, extending their shelf life while maintaining its nutritional quality. In regions like Pakistan and specially Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where there is an abundance of fruits and vegetables, and plenty of sun shine, solar drying presents a viable and sustainable alternative to conventional drying methods.

Despite its potential benefits, adoption of solar drying has been limited due to a lack of awareness and technical expertise. The region's farmers and entrepreneurs have yet to fully exploit this method, which can significantly reduce post-harvest losses, achieve food security, increase the value of agricultural commodities, and create new economic opportunities. There is a substantial market for these products both locally and internationally, particularly in the middle east.

Introducing and popularizing solar drying technology can play a crucial role in boosting the local economy, enhancing food security, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices. This workshop aims to bridge the knowledge gap and equip participants with the necessary skills to implement solar drying effectively.

Workshop Objectives

This workshop will provide participants with an opportunity to understand principles of drying technology, and its practical demonstration. The participants will learn about the equipment and procedures involved in solar drying. The workshop seeks to raise awareness about the economic and environmental advantages of this sustainable method, encouraging its adoption among local farmers, entrepreneurs, and stakeholders.

Intended Participants

This workshop is intended for entrepreneurs, fruits and vegetables growers, extension agents, and students.

Registration

Complete registration form should reach this Institute by 02-06-2024.

Certificate

A certificate of participation will be awarded upon completion of the workshop.

Host Organization

Nuclear Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is one of the four agricultural research centers of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC). It is located 15 km east from Peshawar city on GT Road near Tarnab.

NIFA is involved in basic and applied research in food and agriculture sectors. It comprises of Plant Protection, Food and Nutrition, Plant Breeding and Genetics, and Soil and Environmental Sciences Divisions. It is the only institute in Pakistan working on food irradiation research.

The Food and Nutrition Division of NIFA conducts research in three broad areas i.e. Food Safety, Food Engineering, and Food Nutrition. In Food Engineering section, we develop/adopt new processes and equipment for development, preservation and value addition of food products from various agricultural commodities. A drying facility has been recently established in 2024 in this section for R&D and demonstration purposes.