

Thesis Title Drying of Rose Flower by Heat Pump and Vacuum Systems

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Degree Master of Science (Postharvest Technology)

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to investigate the drying processes of white, orange and pink roses by using heat pump and vacuum systems compared with silica gel for 7 days as a reference. Roses were dried by heat pump technique at temperatures 40-45, 45-50 and 50-55°C and the air that was not exposed to the evaporator as the bypass air ratio (BPA) at 25%, 50% and 75%, respectively. Roses were dried by vacuum systems at temperatures 40, 45, 50 and 55°C. The results showed that drying by heat pump system, the final moisture content of white and orange roses were 10-12%(wb) while the pink rose was 42-43%wb and similar to drying by silica gel. The best condition of drying process by heat pump system was at the temperature range 45-50°C with the highest tensile resistance force of dried petals. Drying by vacuum systems gave poor quality of dried roses. The dried white and orange roses gave better quality than the dried pink rose because the latter has high moisture content. It was also found that BPA had no effect on the color values of all dried roses. The production costs of drying process by heat pump system was 6.62 Baht per rose with the payback period of 7.2 months and the internal rate of return (IRR) was 180% while by silica gel was 6.99 Baht per rose with the payback period of 1.2 year and IRR of 140%.