

Design and Development of Weaning Food Processing Equipment for use at Institutional level.

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- 1- Institute of Post Harvest Technology, Research and Development Centre, Jayanthi Mawatha, Anuradhapura*
- 2- Department of Processing and Food Engineering, College of Engineering and Technology, Maharana Prathap University of Agricultural Technology, Udaipur, Rajasthan, India.*

Preparing paste from cereal, pulses, fruits and vegetable is a most important operation in process of preparing homemade weaning foods. At present, there is no specially designed equipment for processing homemade weaning foods for use at institutional level. Hence, the conventional and alternative methods and equipments have to be used for processing weaning foods. These methods besides being time consuming, laborious and inefficient, the product is poor in quality without making required particle sizes for weaning baby and more over contamination of foods may also occur. Therefore a hand operated weaning food processing equipment was designed and developed for processing homemade weaning foods for use at institutional level.

The performance of the developed weaning food processing equipment was evaluated at different batch size. It was found that the average time taken for processing a batch (4kg) was estimated to be about 8.47min. The extraction efficiency of the developed equipment was found between 92.53 and 94.48 per cent respectively. The average power requirement of the developed weaning food processing equipment has been observed to be about 0.073W, when equipment was operated with batch of 4kg at a time. The average moisture content, density and viscosity for the weaning paste produce with the developed equipment were found to be 81.5 per cent, 1030 kg/m³ and 4.431 respectively.