

OSMO FLUID BED DRYING OF WHITE BUTTON MUSHROOM

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ABSTRACT : The 5 mm thick slices of white button mushroom (*Agaricus bisporus*) were osmotically dehydrated in 10% sodium chloride-water solution for 30 min. EDTA and KMS were added as preservatives. The sample were then dried in fluid bed dryer at three temperatures (35, 40 and 50°C). Drying characteristics were studied and effect of drying air temperature on water diffusivity, colour, ascorbic acid content, water activity and rehydration ratio were analyzed. The osmo fluid bed dried product was found acceptable in terms of above quality attributes.

Key Words : Dehydration, drying button mushroom, drying characteristics, mushroom quality.