

Design and Development of a Coconut Dehusker

R.A. Dennis^Ψ and C.V. Narayan

Department of Mechanical Engineering, The University of the West Indies, St Augustine Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies

^Ψ Corresponding Author

Abstract: *The coconut industry forms an important sector of the economy of the countries under the Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA). Owing to a critical labour shortage in the Caribbean coconut industry, certain operations in the copra production process need to be mechanised to improve productivity. One such operation is the removal of the husks, (dehusking), for which at present no fully mechanised machinery exists. Various mechanisms for performing this operation have been investigated and the most promising tested in a laboratory prototype. These tests have proved the design concept and supplied the data for development of a commercial prototype.*

Keywords: *Coconut, dehusking, design, development, Caribbean*