

**DRYING OF PEPPER SEEDS USING A COMBINED
MICROWAVE/FLUIDIZED BED DRYER**

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The drying rates curves in terms of moisture content versus elapsed drying time for white pepper seeds were obtained experimentally using a fluidized bed and a combined microwave/fluidized bed. The combined microwave/fluidized bed employs a microwave field to assist convective drying. For both procedures, the drying rates were found to be dependent on the inlet air temperature and velocity. Significantly improved drying rates were achieved utilizing a combined microwave/fluidized bed drying compared with a conventional fluidized bed.