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Development and Performance Comparison of Mixed-Mode Solar Crop Dryers with and without Thermal Storage

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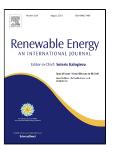
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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

1	Development and 1 error mance Comparison of Wixed-Widde Solar Crop Dryers with and
2	without Thermal Storage
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7 8	ABSTRACT
9 10	The major shortcoming of multiple trays cabinet dryer is uneven drying of the products being
11	dried on different trays. Mixed-mode solar crop dryers with and without thermal storage
12	materials were developed and tested under the same meteorological conditions of Zaria, Nigeria.
13	The dimensions of the dryers were: $0.65 \text{ m}$ , $0.30 \text{ m}^2$ , $0.9 \text{ m}$ , $0.7 \text{ m}$ , $1.64 \text{ m}$ and $0.43 \text{ m}$ for
14	collector length, collector area, the height of the drying chamber, chimney height, length of the
15	drying chamber and width of the drying chamber respectively. It was observed that the average
16	drying rates, collector efficiencies, and drying efficiencies of the solar crop dryers with and
17	without thermal storage for June and August 2016 test period are 2.71× $10^{-5}$ kg/s and 2.35 ×
18	$10^{-5}$ kg/s, 67.25% and 40.10 %, 28.75 % and 24.20% respectively. As per the experimental
19	results, the efficiency of the dryer with the storage materials is enhanced by about 13 % due to
20	the thermal storage used. The extent of the variation of the drying products on different trays was
21	investigated using statistical t-test analysis. The p-values obtained revealed that there was no
22	significant difference between the drying rates of the yam slices on different positions of the
23	trays.
24 25 26 27 28	<b>Keywords:</b> air flow distribution, mixed-mode solar dryer, performance evaluation.

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