

**Title** Drying of paddy and maize in Thailand.

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#### **Abstract**

Grains such as paddy and maize (com) are important agricultural products that must be dried for safe storage. This paper describes strategies appropriate for drying paddy and maize in hot and humid climates. In-store drying is a method that has already been shown to be feasible under such conditions. The advantages of in-store drying are that it yields a high quality product, has low operating costs, and enables safe storage of wet grain for longer periods. The technique had been tested in a private rice mill with a total capacity of 5500 t. The paper provides design charts for in-store drying of both paddy and maize. These permit selection of appropriate airflow rates and bed depths of grain for in-store drying. It is recommended that grain with a moisture content higher than 20% wet basis be rapidly pre-dried to 19% before in-store drying commences. For this rapid drying phase, continuous-flow column dryers are generally used. Fluidised-bed drying has potential as an alternative to column dryers. The paper describes tests of a 1 t/hour fluidised-bed dryer installed in a paddy merchant's mill and used to dry more than 300 t of paddy during the past season.