

# Research in Agricultural Engineering

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

The journal publishes results of basic and applied research from all fields of agricultural engineering. Original scientific papers, short communications, up-to-date review articles, and selective book reviews from the disciplines concerned are published in the journal. The authors alone are responsible for the manuscript content and writing. Its subject must be both original and formally correct. Papers are published in English (British spelling). Manuscripts must be grammatically and linguistically correct to avoid acceptance problems.

**Conflict of interest.** Any conflict of interests must be declared.

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## PEER-REVIEW PROCESS

**The journal uses double-blind peer review**, which means that both authors and reviewers are anonymous to each other throughout the review process. **Publishing in journal Research in Agricultural Engineering is free of charge.**

### Peer-review process steps

1. **Manuscript submission** – the corresponding author submits the manuscript to the journal, online via online editorial system.
2. **Editorial office assessment** – the journal checks the manuscript's composition and arrangement against the Instructions to Authors.
3. **Evaluation by the Editor-in-Chief (EIC)** – EIC checks that the manuscript is appropriate for the journal and is sufficiently original and interesting. If not, the manuscript may be rejected without being reviewed.
4. **EIC may assign an Associate Editor (AE)** – who will handle the peer review.
5. **Invitation to Reviewers** – at least two reviewers are assigned by the Editor in Chief or the Associate Editor to a manuscript. As responses are received, further invitations are issued, if necessary, until at least 2 acceptances are obtained.
6. **Response to invitations** – potential reviewers consider the invitation against their own expertise, conflicts of interest and availability. They then accept or decline. If possible, when declining, they might also suggest alternative reviewers.
7. **Review is conducted** – the reviewer sets time aside to read the manuscript several times. The first read is used to form an initial impression of the work. If major problems are found at this stage, the reviewer may feel comfortable rejecting the manuscript without further work. Otherwise, they will read the manuscript several more times, taking notes so as to build a detailed point-by-point review. The review is then submitted to the journal, with a recommendation to accept (without change, minor revisions, major revisions and second review) or reject it.
8. **The handling editor (Editor or assigned Associate Editor)** considers the returned reviews before making an overall decision. If the reviews differ widely, the Editor invites an additional reviewer so as to get an extra opinion before making a decision. The editor decides on the publication of papers, taking into account peer reviews, scientific importance, and recommendations of the Editorial Board members.
9. **The decision is communicated.** The Executive Editor sends a decision email to the correspondence author including any relevant comments.

10. **Next steps.** If *accepted*, the manuscript is sent to production. If the article is *rejected* or sent back for either major or minor *revision*, the handling editor should include constructive comments from the reviewers to help the author improve the paper. If the paper was sent back to authors for *revision*, the reviewers should expect to receive a new version, unless they have opted out of further participation. However, where only minor changes were requested, this follow-up review might be done by the handling editor.

## MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION

Submit the manuscript electronically to the editorial system on the journal [website](#). The manuscript should be submitted in the following separate files:

- (i) **Title Page** including a type of the document (original paper, review, short communication), manuscript title, names of all authors in the order they will be published in the article (first name, middle name, surname), authors' affiliations, corresponding author e-mail address, number of characters, dedication and, acknowledgement) ([templates](#)).
- (ii) **Manuscript file** including title, abstract, keywords, content/text of the article, tables and figures (see Manuscript file layout), **blinded** (follow the instructions below) ([templates](#)).
- (iii) **Figures – graphs** preferably in MS Excel (editable .xls or .xlsx); and images (photographs, schemas, diagrams, maps)
- (iv) **Cover letter** – explaining the significance and novelty of the work, the problem that is being addressed, and why the manuscript belongs in this journal.
- (v) **Supplementary material**, if necessary (for online publication only)
- (vi) **Authors' Declaration** form (link For Authors/Author' Declaration, signed, scanned, .pdf)

### The manuscript files should be blinded:

The authors are fully responsible for the manuscript (also its revised versions and accompanying letter to reviewers) anonymization.

- Names of authors, e-mail addresses and affiliations must be removed.
- Don't mention any dedications or acknowledgements.
- Don't add any page headers or footers that would identify you.
- Avoid, or try to minimize, any self-citation. If you have cited your own work, make sure you've referred to your own references in the third person, e.g. write "Novak and White (2007) have demonstrated", not "We have previously demonstrated (Novak, White 2007)"
- Remove all personal identifiers from your files such as Microsoft™ Word® documents and other attachments (figures, tables). Instructions how to remove the file personal identifiers can be found for example on [TheWindowsClub](#) website. Please, use the [Document Metadata Cleaner](#) to remove the hidden personal information in the revised (corrected) documents.

## MANUSCRIPT FILE LAYOUT

**Manuscript extent.** **Original paper** shall not be longer than 15 standard pages, including tables and figures. Short communications should not be longer than 6 standard pages. There are no subheadings and a description of materials and methods must be integrated in the text. **Review articles'** extent is not limited.

**MS Word editor** should be used for creating the text (Times New Roman, 12, lines 1.5; 2.5 cm margins on each edge of the page. The document must not be formatted in columns, heading styles etc. Pages and lines of the manuscript must be numbered in the left-hand margin. If any abbreviations or acronyms are used in the main text, they must be explained appropriately when used for the first time.

**Language.** The manuscript must be grammatically and linguistically correct (British English). The authors who are not native English speakers are strongly advised to get their manuscript checked by a native English-speaking colleague or by an English Editing Service prior to the submission to avoid acceptance problems.

**Tables** must be formatted in MS Word (will not be accepted as an image file). Each item must be placed into a separate cell. Tables are to be numbered with Arabic numerals in the order in which they are included in the text, and have a brief, but a self-explanatory title. Explanatory footnotes to tables should be indicated by superscript letters (or asterisks for significance values). Abbreviations or symbols used in the tables must be explained either in the table title or as a footnote. For an explanation of abbreviations or symbols used in tables, it is not possible to refer to the main text.

**Figures** should be restricted to material essential for documentation and understanding of the text and accompanied by a concise, descriptive legend. **Graphs** should be provided in MS Excel and supplied with original data. Centred captions, parallel to axes, are used to indicate the measured attributes and their dimensions (in brackets). All **illustrative material** must be of publication quality. High-contrast photographs and autotypes must be submitted in .jpg/.tiff format at high resolution (min. 300 dpi). All photos, graphs, illustrations and diagrams must be referred to as a figure and numbered (Figure 1), continually according to the order in which they are included in the text, using Arabic numerals. Abbreviations or symbols used in the figures must be explained either in the figure title or as a footnote.

Duplicated documentation of data in both Tables and Figures is not acceptable.

**Equations** – Equations should be numbered using Arabic numerals (1). Each equation should be followed by a legend (where:  $y$  – refers to;  $x$  – indicates ...), explaining all variables and acronyms used, which were not explained previously. The equations should be further editable (use MathType, MS Word equations editor).

**Nomenclature, abbreviations and units.** The Latin binomial or trinomial (in italics) and authority must be shown for all plants, insects, animals, and pathogens when first used in either the abstract, the main text, or in a table. **SI units should be used**, e.g.: mg, g, km, m, cm, mm, ppm, cpm, Ci (Curie), L (litre), mL, s (seconds), min (minute), h (hour), mol, etc. Use  $\text{mg}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$  instead of  $\text{mg/L}$ . The definitive SI website is that of the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures at <http://www.bipm.org/>. Units must be indicated on each occurrence of numerical information and at the axes of all graphs. To express a unit of measurement, use a space between the number and the unit (5 g; 20 ha, 3 °C) except for percentages (37%). In a series of measurements, indicate the unit at the end (3, 6, and 8 mm) except for percentages and degrees (2 °C to 10 °C). Abbreviate units only after a numeric value (24 h; several

hours later, 2 days). In **chemical formulae** the valence of ions must be given as, for example,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  and  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$  rather than as  $\text{Ca}^{++}$  and  $\text{CO}_3^{- -}$ . Isotope numbers should precede the symbols (e.g.,  $^{18}\text{O}$ ). The **decimal marker** is a point (e.g. 0.1 m), while the thousand's separator is a space on either side of the decimal period (e.g. 25 562.987 05). The decimal point in all numbers between 1 and  $-1$ , except 0, must be preceded by 0 (e.g. 0.26). In general, use words for numbers one through nine, and use digits for 10 and over. For a series of numbers, any of which are over 10, use all digits. Don't use the MathType or MS Word Equations editor for symbols or variables written in the running article text (use the Symbol letters).

**Statistics.** Describe statistical methods with enough detail to enable a knowledgeable reader to verify the reported results. Give details of randomization and blocking, as well as the number of replications, blocks, or observations. Clearly distinguish between true replications and subsamples within a replication/treatment combination. Always specify the experimental design and indicate whether the design was balanced. When means (or medians) are followed by  $\pm x$ , indicate whether  $x$  refers to the standard deviation, standard error, or half the confidence interval; error bars should similarly be defined. Except for simple procedures (e.g.,  $t$ -tests, one-way analysis of variance, simple linear regression), cite an appropriate and accessible statistical text and indicate the version of the SW used (Name, Version). In general, statistical techniques should be described in the Materials and Methods. The level of significance should be normally indicated by using the following conventional standard abbreviations for significance ( $P < 0.05$ ,  $P < 0.01$ , and  $P < 0.001$ ). In tables, levels of significance should be indicated by \*, \*\*, and \*\*\*, respectively. Statistical significance  $P = 0.03$  can be also used in the text or tables.

#### MANUSCRIPT PARTS (Original paper)

- i. **Title** should be short and informative (not exceeding 100 characters, no subtitles and commonly unknown abbreviations or acronyms). No subtitles or numbering of serial articles should be used.
- ii. **Abstract** is a short summary of the scientific paper including an outline of the objective, method, results and conclusions of the paper (not exceeding 200 words). It should describe all the essential facts of the paper and basic numerical data including any statistical evaluation should be incorporated. Being published in world databases, the abstract is a significant part of the paper, and it is therefore recommended that it is precise. The abbreviations can be used only when explained.
- iii. **Keywords** are words most aptly describing the studied problem. Five or six keywords without overlapping with the manuscript title and abstract are recommended. Write them in lower case letters and separate them using semicolons.
- iv. **Introduction** should provide information on the present state of research in the field concerned, supported by selected references to literary sources. It briefly justifies the research, specifies the hypotheses to be tested, and gives the objective(s).
- v. **Material and Methods** describe in detail all preliminary material, experiments conducted, their extent, conditions and course. Specify the mentioned products used for the experiments by giving their exact name/type, name of the producer, and country of the producer's headquarters in parentheses. All original procedures that were used for the processing of experimental material and all analytical methods used for evaluation should also be detailed.

The whole methodology is only to be described if it is an original one, in other cases, it is sufficient to cite the author of the method and to mention any particular differences. Data verifying the quality of acquired data should be indicated for the used methods. Methods of statistical processing including the software used should also be listed in this section. The methods and models of statistical analysis must be indicated and sufficient statistical details given to allow replication of the experiment.

- vi. **Results and Discussion.** Results obtained from the experiments, including their statistical evaluation and commentary, should be presented graphically or in table-form, and the author should comment on the results and confront them with data published elsewhere.
- vii. **Conclusion** summarises the paper's main points and outlines its contribution to the present state of research in the field concerned.
- viii. **References.** The authors are recommended to include references to papers from peer-reviewed periodicals only and avoid citations from non-available sources (reports, national journals, proceedings, thesis, etc.). Only papers cited in the text should be included in the reference list (and the sources of the data). The authors are responsible for the accuracy of their references. The list should not exceed 25 references (max. 2 auto-citations) (with the exception of Review articles). The authors are arranged alphabetically by the first authors' surnames. If more than one paper by the same author(s) published in the same year is cited, the papers should be differentiated by YEAR a, b, c both in the text and the reference list.

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Diacritical signs of national Latin-based alphabets should be preserved. Names in non-Latin alphabets should be transcribed according to international standards. The manuscript must be carefully checked to ensure that the spellings of authors' names and publication years are exactly the same in the text as in the reference list. The citations should be limited to items really needed for placing the paper into a proper context.

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**Journal article:** Author(s) (surname and abbreviation of the first name without comma) (Year): Article title. Full journal title, Volume number: page–page.

Blahovec J., Patočka K., Bareš J. (1997): Low-level bruising of stored apples due to quasi-static loading up to constant compression strain. *Journal of Texture Studies*, 28: 87–89.

**In press article:** Author(s) (surname and abbreviation of the first name without comma) (Year): Article title. Full journal title, Volume number (in press).

**Electronic journal article:** Author(s) (Year): Title of article. Name of the electronic journal, Volume number: page–page. Available at .... (accessed ...).

Stupavský V., Holý T. (2010): Wood chips – green, brown, white. Available at <http://biom.cz/czodborne-clanky/drevnistepka-zelena-hneda-bila>

**Book:** Author(s) (Year): Title. Edition volume (if relevant). Publisher name, Place of publisher: page–page.

Berthelot J.M. (1999): Composite Materials – Mechanical Behaviour and Structural Analysis. Mechanical Engineering Series. New York, Springer: 431.

**Chapter in book:** Author(s) of the chapter (Year): Title of the chapter. In: editor(s): Title of the book. Edition or volume, if relevant. Publisher name, Place of the publisher: page–page.

**Conference proceedings:** Author(S) (Year): Title of publication. In: editor(s) (if any): Proceedings Name of Conference, place, date (a month from-to), year: pages.

Kronbergs A., Širaks E., Adamovičs A., Kronberg, E. (2011): Mechanical properties of hemp (*Cannabis sativa*) biomass. In: Proceedings of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Scientific and Practical Conference, Environment, Technology. Resources, Rezekne, Latvia, Jun 20–22: 184–190.

**Patent:** Inventor(s) (Year): Name of patent. Labelled patent No., Issue date.

Johnson W.A., Robbins J.M.(1919): Fruit-Gatherer. US Patent. Patent N° 173.772. February 4, 1919.

**Dissertation:** Author(s) (Year): Title. [PhD. Thesis.] Town, Name of the university.

Trigwell S. (2002): Correlation between surface structure and tribocharging of powders. [Ph.D. Thesis.] Fayetteville, University of Arkansas.

- ix. **Supplementary Material.** Authors can include original, so far unpublished supplementary material (SM) which may comprise additional tables, data sets, figures, and other non-essential files. SM will appear only in the AE electronic version. SM will be published as submitted and will not be corrected or checked for scientific content, typographical errors or functionality. SM must be relevant to the parent manuscript, but the manuscript must stand alone without SM for those readers who will be reading the hard copy only. It should be submitted along with the main manuscript in a separate file and identified as “Supplementary file – for online publication only”. SM should be identified and mentioned in the main text as Supplementary Table S1, Supplementary Table S2, etc. for tables or Supplementary Figure S1, Supplementary Figure S2, etc. for figures or Supplementary Material S1, Supplementary Material S2, etc. for other material. SM should be submitted with the captions and source. Individual file sizes should be restricted to 10 Mb maximum (zipped or unzipped).

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Revised: December 13, 2021

## TABLES AND FIGURES EXAMPLES

### TABLES:

Table 2. Result of Statistical analysis of terminal velocity for two lentil varieties

<i>F</i> -value	Mean square error	<i>df</i>	Sources of variation
Variety	1	1.767	47.544**
Dimension	2	26.280	707.123**
Moisture content	4	0.268	51.086**
Variety × dimension	2	1.899	7.205**
Variety × moisture content	4	0.009	2.253**
Dimension × moisture content	8	0.046	1.288 <sup>ns</sup>
Variety × dimension × moisture content	8	0.094	2.531*
Total error	120	0.037	47.544

*df* – degree of freedom, \*\*significant at  $P < 0.01$ , ns – not significant, \* significant at probability level of 5%



## Figures:

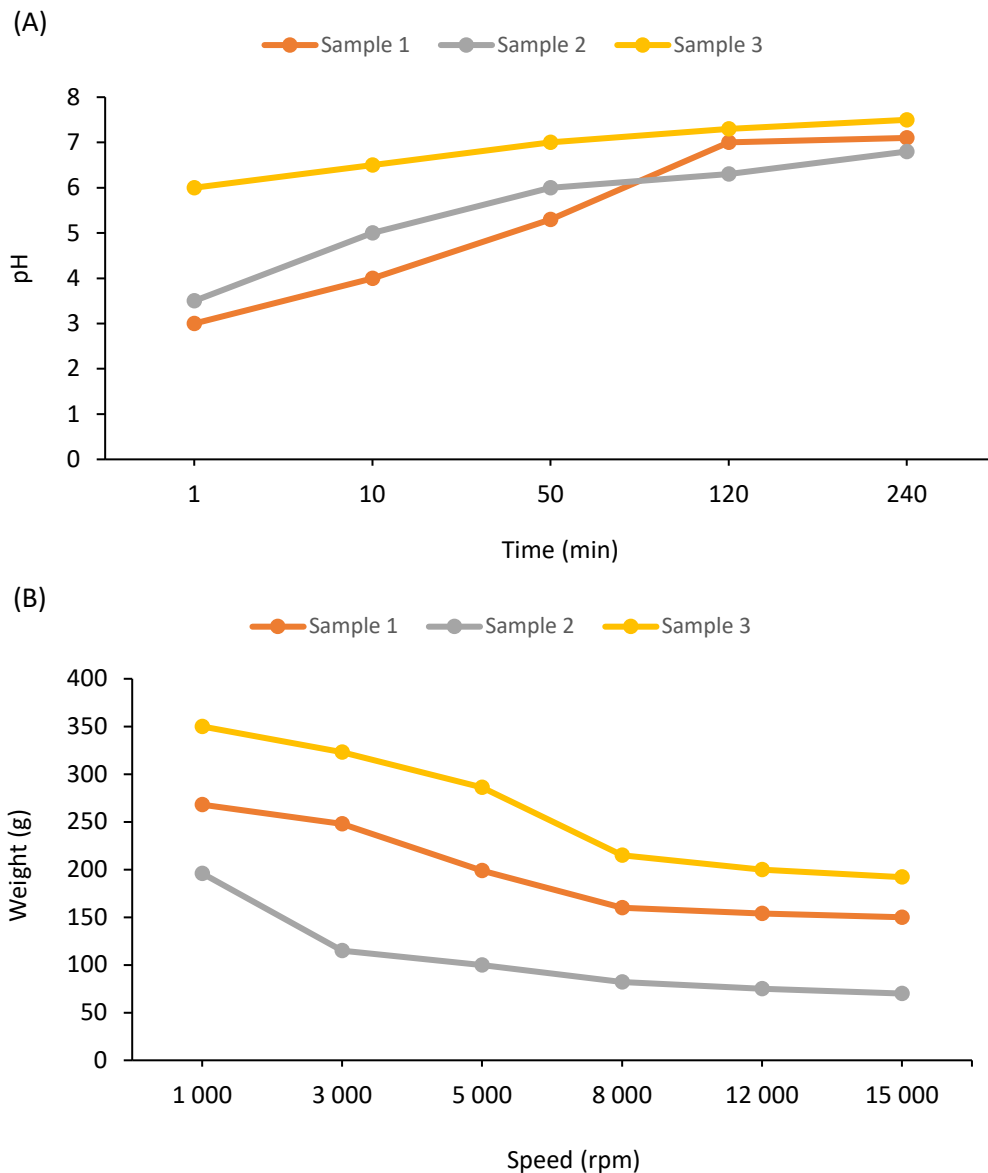


Figure 1. Change (A) in sample pH over time (min) and change (B) in sample weight during centrifugation using different speeds (rpm)

### SELF ASSESSMENT

Self-assessment questions to be answered by the authors before submission of the manuscript:

1. Is the information to be published new, and thus worthy of publication?
2. Is novelty expressed in title and discussed properly in discussion?
3. Is the hypothesis sound and original?
4. Were the experiments well-designed and appropriate methods used?
5. Is the paper written with the essential clarity?

6. Has the English been validated by a native-speaker knowledgeable about the field?
7. Is the list of references comprehensive, and are all the references relevant?
8. Where appropriate, are the results statistically significant?
9. Are the titles and legends for tables and figures complete and self-explanatory?
10. Were the Instructions to Authors thoroughly followed?

**Please do not submit the manuscript if any of the above questions have been answered in the negative. While something can be learned from most review processes, the reviewers cannot be expected to provide extensive help with corrections, or to educate the authors.**