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| Journal Name: | [Asian Journal of Research and Review in Agriculture](https://jagriculture.com/index.php/AJRRA) |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_AJRRA\_1907** |
| Title of the Manuscript: | **OPTIMIZATION OF A ROTARY CAGE-TRAY FISH DRYER USING I-OPTIMAL SURFACE RESPONSE METHODOLOGY FOR PROCESS EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCT QUALITY** |
| Type of the Article |  |

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| **PART 1: Comments** | | |
|  | **Reviewer’s comment**  **Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated or assisted review comments are strictly prohibited during peer review.** | **Author’s Feedback** *(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)* |
| **Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.** | **This work is highly relevant to the scientific community focused on food preservation and agro-processing technology. It contributes to sustainable development goals by proposing an energy-efficient solution that reduces post-harvest losses. The novel combination of dual heat sources and mechanized rotation offers practical applications for smallholder and commercial processors. The use of I-Optimal RSM to fine-tune the drying parameters highlights a data-driven strategy that can be adapted across various food processing technologies.** |  |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?**  **(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | **Yes, the title is clear, specific, and captures the key elements of the research. No changes needed.** |  |
| **Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.** | **Yes, the abstract is informative and well-structured. However, consider shortening some complex sentences and explicitly stating key findings earlier. Also, the mention of “recommendations” might be better suited to the conclusion rather than the abstract.** |  |
| **Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.** | **Yes. The methodology is detailed and replicable. Statistical modeling is appropriately used, and results are clearly interpreted. The inclusion of model validation enhances scientific robustness.** |  |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.** | **Yes, the references are mostly from recent literature and appropriate journals. If space allows, consider adding a few more recent works on hybrid drying technologies or RSM applications in food engineering from the last 2–3 years for broader context.** |  |
| **Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?** | Yes. The manuscript is well-written with scholarly language. Minor proofreading would improve flow in a few areas, especially in the Introduction and Conclusion, where sentence length could be trimmed slightly. |  |
| **Optional/General** comments | **This manuscript presents the optimization of a rotary cage-tray fish dryer using I-Optimal Surface Response Methodology. The study is important for its focus on improving fish drying efficiency a crucial issue in food preservation, especially in regions with high fish consumption and limited infrastructure. The hybrid heating system and mechanized design represent a meaningful innovation that bridges traditional and modern approaches. The comprehensive experimental design, statistical rigor, and validation make it a strong contribution to the field of food process engineering and agricultural mechanization.**  Tables are informative, but the manuscript could benefit from a brief mention of Appendix 1 in the main text for completeness.  The sensory analysis discussion is relevant consider a short mention of inter-rater reliability or any standardization followed by the panel.  The figures/plates are helpful. If possible, adding one more schematic of the dryer design would be valuable for visual clarity. |  |

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| **PART 2:** | | |
|  | **Reviewer’s comment** | **Author’s comment** *(if agreed with the reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)* |
| **Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?** |  |  |

**Reviewer Details:**

**Khalida Shahni, Manipur University, India**