

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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EFFECT OF DRYING TEMPERATURE ON ANTIOXIDANT ACTIVITY OF WHITE AND RED MAIZE (ZEA MAYS L.) SEEDS

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Abstract

Maize is the most commonly consumed cereal in the world. Its various compounds are associated with nutraceutical properties and health-promoting benefits. Therefore, maize seeds are considered to be functional food with high antioxidant activities. The drying conditions have a huge impact on maintaining the seed quality. This study aimed to evaluate the effect of temperature on the antioxidant activities of white and red maize (*Zea mays* L.) cultivars. A drying time of 1 h at a temperature of 45 °C was tested. The antioxidant activity expressed in percentages was evaluated as radical scavenging activity using the DPPH (2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl) reagent. The results revealed that the antioxidant activity of the dried white seeds (74.08 %) was not significantly different (p>0.005) with respect to the un-dried seeds used as control (72.6 %). Contrary, drying at 45 °C caused a significant (p<0.005) rise of antioxidant activity in the red-coloured seeds' being 85.95 % and 92.25 % before and after the treatment, respectively. The obtained results show that the antioxidant activity may be a reliable indicator for the estimation of the cereal seeds' quality, which is useful in the food industry and agriculture.

Keywords: maize seeds, 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl radical scavenging activity, oven-drying, quality.