

Utkarsh

Details household Paddy Dehusking

Introduction: As of today, in rural households throughout the country people use the pounding method or dehusking paddy to obtain dehusked rice. In this method, a wooden mortar having one or more shallow pockets is utilised for keeping the paddy and one or two rural women folk pound the paddy by means of long wooden log of 5ft to 6ft called pestle. In this traditional method, at times the mortar is made up of stone. However, for both the mortar and the pestle, people cut down the trees thereby depleting the natural wealth and upsetting the ecological balance. Another drawback is that pounding method takes a long time. The product is not uniform and rice grains are often broken. Power operated rice hullers are also available as an alternative. Though the output capacity of the power operated hullers are several times more than that of pounding method, this is not suited for rural conditions because of high cost of machine and power requirements. Additionally, where such power-operated hullers are installed at community centres, the individual rural household people will have to track the distance both ways wasting time.

Aim: The aim here is to bring out an overall improvement, replacing the traditional method of paddy dehusking, that is acceptable to the rural households so that it can be carried out at house hold level.