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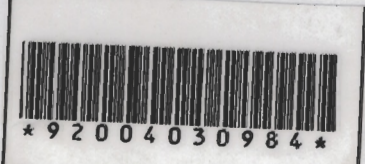
EVALUATION OF CASSAVA STARCH AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR CORN STARCH

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ABSTRACT

Starch is a very important raw material for many industries. It can be obtained from sources like cassava and maize/corn. In this research, starch was extracted from maize (corn) and cassava by the following stages: steeping, grinding, sieving, centrifugation and then drying. The resultant extracts for each sample were then analyzed for the following: % protein, % oil, % fibre, % moisture, pH, colour and smell. The starch content of the samples was determined using centrifugation. Results indicated that starch content of cassava was higher than that of corn. ^{↑ Values!} The protein and oil levels of hand processed cassava starch were lower than in hand processed corn starch, an indication of higher purity. A sample of commercially processed corn starch obtained from Food and Industrial Processors Pvt Ltd (F&I) had less protein, oil and fibre content than the two hand processed sample of cassava and corn. From the results, it was concluded that cassava was a better source of starch than corn hence a good substitute. The **recommendations** made were to use both cassava and maize/corn as raw **materials for starch processing in** Zimbabwe in order to meet market demand **and also when any of the two was in short** supply.