

Original Research Article

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Effect of Moisture Content on Physical Properties of Soybean

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A B S T R A C T

Soybean (*Glycine max (L)*) is one of the oldest principal food crops and has paramount importance in Indian agricultural and oil industry. Soybean is recognized for its value in enhancing and protecting health. Soybean has a tremendous potential to be transformed into a number of traditional local foods. Different products can be prepared from soybean such as soymilk and soy-paneer (dairy analogs), soy flour, soy bakery products, soynuts etc. The physical properties of soybean are important to design the equipments and machines for sorting, separation, transportation, processing and storage. Designing of such equipments and machines without taking these into considerations may yield poor results. For this reason the determination and considerations of these properties become an important role. The major moisture-dependent physical properties of biological materials are shape, size, mass, bulk -density, true-density, porosity and static coefficient of friction against various surfaces. The study was conducted to investigate some physical properties of soybean at various moisture levels. The dependence of physical properties of soybean on moisture content was determined. In the moisture range from 9.98- 27.10% (wb). The soaked soybean size increased linearly in length (6.34 - 8.95 mm), width (5.42 -6.50 mm), and thickness (4.23 - 5.35 mm) according to final moisture content. In this study, length, width and thickness models based on moisture content are defined as linear models and the regression coefficients (R^2) related to these models are found between 0.84, 0.72 and 0.70 respectively. Arithmetic Mean Diameter (5.330 - 6.933 mm), Geometric Mean Diameter (5.258 - 6.777 mm), Square Mean Diameter (9.171- 11.876 mm), Equivalent Diameter (6.586 - 8.526 mm) are computed from the average values of three principal dimensions. In the current study, it was determined that unit volume (78.352-173.084 mm³), surface area (89.411-153.243 mm²), 1000 grain weight (120.2-132.432g) and angle of repose (25.25°-30.08°) increases as the moisture content of soaked soybean increases. As the moisture content of the soaked soybean increases, the value of sphericity, aspect ratio, bulk density, true density and porosity decreased.

Keywords

Moisture content,
Physical properties,
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Introduction

Soybean is one of the oldest food sources known to the human beings. Though soybean

is a legume crop, yet it is widely used as oilseed. It is now the second largest oilseed in India after groundnut. On an average, it

contains about 40% protein, 23% carbohydrates, 20% oil, 5% mineral, 4% fibre and 8% moisture. Soybean is recognized for its value in enhancing and protecting health. Soy protein has all the eight essential amino acids. The recent discovery of the value of soy-isoflavones and their role in disease prevention has created the special interest of human beings in soybean. Lipid and protein are two major components of soybean. Human easily digest soy protein products. It has boundless food potential. However, soybean also contains some anti-nutritional factors like trypsin inhibitor, urease, flatulence factors, etc. hence soybean requires careful processing before utilization (Kulkarni *et al.*, 2009). Soybean plays a major role in the world food trade. As per survey conducted by SOPA, in the whole world estimated production for soybean 2017-18 was 348.467million MT (MMT) as compared to 351.315 MMT of soybean 2016-17, which means a decrease in 2.848 percent over previous year. India ranks 5th in area and production of soybean after US, Brazil, Argentina and China. The contribution of India in world soybean area and production is about 10.4 % and 4.4% respectively. SOPA along with other associate agencies conducted extensive crop survey in three major soybean producing States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. In Madhya Pradesh the Area under soybean cultivation during 2016-17 was 54.01lac ha as compared to 34.12 lac ha during 2015-16 showing an increase of 19.89 %. In Maharashtra the area under soybean cultivation during 2016-17 is 35.80 lac ha as compared to 22.00 lac hectare during 2015-16 showing an increase of 13.80 %. The yield was 1059 Kg per ha, resulting into a production of 57.17 Lac MT during 2016-17 in states of Madhya Pradesh, while in Maharashtra the yield was 1102 Kg per ha, resulting into a production of 39.455 Lac MT during 2016-17. The state like Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan together

contributes about 97% total area and 96% production of soybean in the country (The Soybean Processors Association of India SOPA: 2017-18, Oilseeds - World Markets and Trade, a USDA Publication) (Anonymous, 2018a).

The physical properties of soybean are important to design the equipments and machines for sorting, separation, transportation, processing and storage. Designing of such equipments and machines without taking these into considerations may yield poor results. For this reason the determination and considerations of these properties become an important role. The major moisture-dependent physical properties of biological materials are shape, size, mass, bulk density, true density, porosity and static coefficient of friction against various surfaces (Mohsenin, 1980). In recent years, many researchers have investigated these properties for various agricultural crops such as lentil grains (Carman, 1996), locust bean seed (Olajide and Ade-Omowage, 1999; Ogunjimi *et al.*, 2002), pumpkin seeds (Joshi *et al.*, 1993), sunflower seeds (Gupta and Das, 1997), legume seeds (Altuntas and Demirtola, 2007) and Faba bean (Altuntas and Yildiz, 2007).

In addition, engineering and aerodynamic properties of soybean have been determined by Polat *et al.*, (2006) and Isik (2007). But there is limited information on properties of soybean which is inadequate to design equipment and machines in scientific literatures for soybean to be cultivated in India. In considering this, the study was undertaken to investigate some physical properties of soybean at different moisture content level. The properties studied includes size distribution, AMD, GMD, SMD, EQD, sphericity, bulk density, true density, aspect ratio, thousand grain mass, angle of repose and porosity.

Materials and Methods

Soybean (JS-335) was procured from the Seed Processing Unit of Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani, Maharashtra State (India). The soybean grains were manually cleaned to remove foreign matter, dust, dirt, broken and immature grains.

Measurement of physical properties of soybean

The physical properties of soybean were important to design the equipment's and machines for sorting, separation, transportation, processing and storage. Physical properties such as length, width and thickness of soaked soybean grain was considered for designing puffing cum popping machine. Bulk density of soaked soybean was determined at various moisture content level was considered while designing the feed hopper.

Thousand grain weight

1 kg of soybean grains were roughly divided into 10 equal portions and then 1000 numbers of soybean grains were randomly picked from each portion and weighed using a digital electronic balance having an accuracy of 0.001g. Three replications were carried out to determine the mean value of weight of soybean grain (Khedekar, 2013).

Moisture content

Moisture content of the soaked soybean was determined at frequent interval of 15 minute. 10 gram of soybean was immersed in water in (1:3) ratio in a 250 ml of beaker. Such 25 beakers were prepared and 10 gram of soaked soybean was taken out of the each 250 ml beaker at 15 minute time intervals. Surface water was removed from the grain with the

help of tissue paper. Further moisture content of soaked soybean was determined in three replicates using the air oven method according to the ASAE Standard S352.2 (ASAE, 1997) for soybean.

Moisture content (%) =

$$\frac{\text{Initial weight (g)} - \text{Final weight (g)}}{\text{Initial weight (g)}} \times 100$$

Determination of length (L), width (W) and thickness (T) of soaked soybean

Length, width and thickness of soaked soybean was determined at 15 minute interval of time when soaked in water at 1:3 ratio. In order to determine dimensions, one hundred soaked soybean grains were randomly selected after every 15 minute time interval. For each soybean grain, the three principle dimensions, namely length, width and thickness were measured using a vernier caliper (Model: CD-15CPX, Mitutoyo Corp Made in Japan) having the least count of 0.001 mm. The length (L) was defined as the distance from the tip cap to kernel crown. Width (W) was defined as the widest point to point measurement taken parallel to the face of the kernel. Thickness (T) was defined as the measured distance between the two kernels faces as described by Pordesimo *et al.*, (1990).

The values of arithmetic mean diameter (AMD), geometric mean diameter (GMD), square mean diameter (SMD), equivalent diameter (EQD), degree of sphericity (Sp), aspect ratio (AR), shape factor (λ) and unit volume of soaked soybean grains were computed by using the following equations (Mohsenin, 1980; Deshmukh, 2016).

$$\text{AMD} = \frac{L+W+T}{3}$$

$$\text{GMD} = \sqrt[3]{LWT}$$

$$SMD = \sqrt{LW + WT + TL}$$

$$EQD = \frac{AMD + GMD + SMD}{3}$$

$$Sp_p = \frac{GMD}{L}$$

$$AR = \frac{W}{L}$$

Where, L: length (mm)

W : width (mm)

T : thickness (mm)

AMD : arithmetic mean diameter

GMD : geometric mean diameter

SMD : square mean diameter

EQD : equivalent diameter

Sp : degree of sphericity

AR : aspect ratio

Major dimension was used to calculate the surface area (S) of single grain (Jain, 1997) as details below.

$$S = \frac{\pi \times GMD \times L^2}{2L - GMD}$$

The unit volume of single grain (Jain, 1997) was calculated as

$$V_t = \frac{\pi \times GMD^2 \times L^2}{6(2L - GMD)}$$

Where, V_t : unit volume

L: length (mm)

GMD : geometric mean diameter

Shape factor (λ) based on unit volume and surface area of grain was determined (Mc. Cabe and Smith, 1984) as

$$\lambda = \frac{b}{a}$$

$$a = \frac{Vt}{W^4} \quad b = \frac{S}{6W^2}$$

Where,

V_t : unit volume W: width S: surface area (mm^2)

Bulk density, true density and porosity of soaked soybean

The bulk density of soaked soybean was determined at 15 minute interval of time when soaked in water at 1:3 ratio of the mass of soaked soybeans to its total volume. It was determined by filling a 1000 mL container with soaked soybean grains from a height of about 150 mm, striking the top level and then weighing the content (Deshpande *et al.*, 1993; Gupta and Das, 1997; Konak Carman and Aydin, 2002). True density of the soaked soybean was determined by the toluene displacement method. Soaked soybean grains (about 5 g) was submerged in toluene in a measuring cylinder having an accuracy of 0.1 mL, the increase in volume due to soaked soybean was noted as true volume of soaked soybean which was then used to determine the true density of the soaked soybean (Wandkar, 2013).

Porosity (ϵ) was the ratio of volume of internal pores in the particle to its bulk volume. It was calculated as the ratio of the difference in the true density and bulk density to the true density and expressed by Mohsenin (1986):

$$\epsilon = \frac{\rho_t - \rho_b}{\rho_t}$$

Where,

ρ_t was the true density and ρ_b was the bulk density.

Angle of repose

The angle of repose is the characteristics of the bulk material which indicates the cohesion among the individual grains. The higher the cohesion, the higher the angle of repose. The angle of repose of soaked soybean was determined by using an open-ended cylinder

of 15 cm diameter and 30 cm height. The cylinder was placed at the centre of circular plate having a diameter of 70 cm and was filled with soaked soybean grains. The cylinder was raised slowly until it formed a cone on the circular plate. The height of the cone was recorded. The angle of repose, θ was calculated by using the following formula (Wandkar, 2013).

$$\theta = \tan^{-1} (2h/d)$$

Where,

θ was the angle of repose, h was the height of pile and d was the diameter of cone.

Results and Discussion

From Figure 1 it is clear that average values of the three principle dimension of raw soybean, namely length, width, thickness determined in this study at different moisture contents are presented in Table 1. Each principle dimension appeared to be linearly dependent on the moisture content as shown in Figure 1. Very high correlation was observed between the three principal dimension and length, width and thickness within the moisture range 9.98- 27.10% (wb). The average length width and thickness of 100 grain varied from 6.34-8.95 mm, 5.42-6.50 and 4.23-5.35mm respectively, as the moisture content increased from 9.98-27.10% (wb). Difference between values is statistically significant at 5% level of significance. This result indicated that the soaked soybean expanded in length, width, thickness and geometrical properties within the moisture range. The axial dimensions increased with increase in moisture content due to absorption of moisture, which resulted in swelling of capillaries, stretching of longitudinal ridges on the soaked soybean and finally expansion in medium and minor axes. Similar trends were showed for proso millet (Singh, 2018); (Deshmukh, 2016) and

(Jadhav, 2018) for soaked soybean. Figure 2 shows the effect of moisture content on average values of the three principle dimension of soaked soybean in terms of AMD, GMD, SMD and EQD.

The relationship between moisture content on sphericity and aspect ratio of soaked soybean is shown in Figure 3. The sphericity and aspect ratio of the soaked soybean decreased linearly depending on the increase of moisture content. Linearly negative change of sphericity and aspect ratio depending on the increase of moisture content can also be observed in some grainy products such as groundnut, peanut (Brayeh, 2001; Brayeh, 2002; Kibar, 2008) for soybean.

Surface area and volumetric change depending on moisture content of soaked soybean is shown in Figure 4. The surface area and volume of soaked soybean increased linearly with the increase of moisture content. The surface area and volume of soaked soybean increased from 89.411-153.243mm² and 78.352-173.084mm³ respectively when moisture content changed from 9.98-27.10% (wb). From Table 2 it is clear that the positive relationship between surface area and volumetric change with respect to moisture content of soaked soybean was also found by (Khedekar, 2013; Deshmukh, 2016).

It can be seen from Figure 5 that the thousand-grain mass increased from 120.2 gm to 132.432 gm with increase in moisture content in the specified moisture range. Similar trends were showed for proso millet (Singh, 2018); (Deshpande, 1993) and (Deshmukh, 2016) for soybean.

A plot of experimentally obtained values of bulk and true densities against moisture content (Fig. 6) indicated a decrease in bulk and true densities with an increase in moisture content in the specified moisture range.

Table.1 Physical properties of soybean at various levels of moisture content

Sr.No	Soaking Time (min)	Moisture Content (Wb%)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	AMD (mm)	GMD (mm)	SMD (mm)	EQD (mm)	SP	Ar	S (mm ²)	Vt (mm ³)	λ	1000 grain wt. (g)	BD (Kg/m ³)	TD (Kg/m ³)	PO%	AOR
1	0	9.98	6.34	5.42	4.23	5.330	5.258	9.171	6.586	0.829	0.855	89.411	78.352	5.587	120.2	740.00	1192.00	37.919	25.25
2	15	11.73	6.40	6.01	4.39	5.600	5.527	9.641	6.923	0.864	0.939	97.745	90.043	6.535	121.668	660.40	1140.10	42.075	27.30
3	30	14.28	6.47	6.07	4.71	5.750	5.698	9.916	7.121	0.881	0.938	103.412	98.203	6.467	122.136	657.68	1131.62	41.881	27.42
4	45	18.64	6.55	6.09	4.90	5.846	5.803	10.089	7.246	0.886	0.930	107.107	103.582	6.392	122.604	654.96	1123.13	41.685	27.54
5	60	21.82	7.22	6.11	4.98	6.105	6.035	10.514	7.551	0.835	0.846	117.550	118.237	6.186	123.072	652.24	1114.65	41.485	27.66
6	75	22.49	7.58	6.13	5.02	6.242	6.155	10.735	7.711	0.812	0.809	123.281	126.458	6.105	123.54	649.52	1106.16	41.282	27.78
7	90	23.21	7.60	6.17	5.03	6.267	6.179	10.778	7.741	0.813	0.812	124.214	127.911	6.161	124.008	646.80	1097.68	41.076	27.91
8	105	23.50	8.13	6.21	5.07	6.470	6.349	11.099	7.973	0.781	0.764	132.966	140.708	6.074	124.476	644.08	1089.20	40.866	28.03
9	120	23.91	8.19	6.23	5.09	6.503	6.380	11.154	8.013	0.779	0.761	134.380	142.893	6.083	124.944	641.36	1080.71	40.654	28.15
10	135	24.42	8.22	6.25	5.10	6.523	6.399	11.188	8.037	0.778	0.760	135.207	144.197	6.105	125.412	638.64	1072.23	40.438	28.27
11	150	25.38	8.23	6.27	5.11	6.537	6.413	11.211	8.054	0.779	0.762	135.738	145.071	6.131	125.88	635.92	1063.74	40.219	28.39
12	165	25.48	8.29	6.28	5.13	6.567	6.440	11.261	8.089	0.777	0.758	137.048	147.095	6.124	126.348	633.20	1055.26	39.996	28.51
13	180	25.60	8.45	6.30	5.15	6.633	6.496	11.367	8.165	0.769	0.746	139.999	151.580	6.110	126.816	630.48	1046.78	39.769	28.63
14	195	25.79	8.54	6.32	5.16	6.673	6.530	11.430	8.211	0.765	0.740	141.759	154.292	6.116	127.284	627.76	1038.29	39.539	28.75
15	210	25.94	8.60	6.33	5.18	6.703	6.558	11.479	8.247	0.763	0.736	143.097	156.395	6.110	127.752	625.04	1029.81	39.305	28.87
16	225	26.25	8.61	6.35	5.19	6.717	6.571	11.503	8.264	0.763	0.738	143.643	157.319	6.136	128.22	622.32	1021.32	39.067	28.99
17	240	26.34	8.73	6.37	5.21	6.770	6.617	11.588	8.325	0.758	0.730	146.041	161.060	6.132	128.688	619.60	1012.84	38.825	29.12
18	255	26.50	8.75	6.39	5.23	6.790	6.637	11.623	8.350	0.759	0.730	146.899	162.507	6.152	129.156	616.88	1004.36	38.580	29.24
19	270	26.52	8.81	6.40	5.25	6.820	6.665	11.672	8.386	0.756	0.726	148.260	164.681	6.146	129.624	614.16	995.87	38.329	29.36
20	285	26.68	8.84	6.42	5.26	6.840	6.683	11.706	8.410	0.756	0.726	149.129	166.113	6.167	130.092	611.44	987.39	38.075	29.48
21	300	27.10	8.87	6.44	5.27	6.860	6.702	11.739	8.434	0.756	0.726	150.001	167.552	6.188	130.56	608.72	978.90	37.816	29.60
22	315	27.10	8.91	6.45	5.29	6.883	6.724	11.778	8.462	0.755	0.724	151.061	169.290	6.187	131.028	606.00	970.42	37.553	29.72
23	330	27.10	8.92	6.48	5.30	6.900	6.741	11.808	8.483	0.756	0.726	151.748	170.494	6.229	131.496	603.28	961.94	37.285	29.84
24	345	27.10	8.93	6.49	5.32	6.913	6.756	11.832	8.500	0.757	0.727	152.339	171.525	6.235	131.964	600.56	953.45	37.012	29.96
25	360	27.10	8.95	6.50	5.35	6.933	6.777	11.867	8.526	0.757	0.726	153.243	173.084	6.234	132.432	597.84	944.97	36.734	30.08
Avg	180.0	23.5991	8.1251	6.259	5.0768	6.487	6.363	11.12	7.992	0.787	0.777	134.21	143.54	6.163	126.77	633.555	1048.51	39.498	28.55
SD	110.3970	4.8573	0.8765	0.2240	0.2724	0.4452	0.4106	0.7380	0.5312	0.0412	0.0702	18.3040	27.1910	0.1664	3.5174	29.0909	65.8981	1.6379	1.084
SE	22.0794	0.9715	0.1753	0.0448	0.0545	0.0890	0.0821	0.1476	0.1062	0.0082	0.0140	3.6608	5.4382	0.0333	0.7035	5.8182	13.1796	0.3276	0.216
CD 5%	45.7927	2.0148	0.3636	0.0929	0.1130	0.1847	0.1703	0.3061	0.2203	0.0171	0.0291	7.5925	11.2788	0.0690	1.4590	12.0669	27.3345	0.6794	0.449
CV%	61.332	20.583	10.788	3.579	5.366	6.862	6.452	6.633	6.646	5.227	9.031	13.638	18.942	2.699	2.774	4.592	6.285	4.147	3.797

Table.2 Regression equations for physical properties of soaked soybean

Properties	Range	mx+c	R ²
Length (mm)	6.34 - 8.95	0.1089 x + 6.709	0.84
Width (mm)	5.42 - 6.50	0.0258 x + 5.923	0.72
Thickness (mm)	4.23 - 5.35	0.0309 x + 4.675	0.70
Arithmetic Mean Diameter (mm)	5.330 - 6.933	0.0552 x + 5.769	0.84
Geometric Mean Diameter (mm)	5.258 - 6.777	0.0505 x + 5.7066	0.83
Square Mean Diameter (mm)	9.171 - 11.867	0.0912 x + 9.9407	0.82
Equivalent Diameter (mm)	6.586 - 8.526	0.0656 x + 7.113	0.83
Degree of sphericity (S_p)	0.829 - 0.757	- 0.0047 x + 0.8487	0.72
Aspect ratio (AR)	0.855 - 0.726	- 0.0079 x + 0.8807	0.70
Surface area (S) mm²	89.411 - 153.243	2.301 x + 104.3	0.86
Unit volume of single grain (V_t) mm³	78.352 - 173.084	3.4546 x + 98.636	0.88
Shape factor (λ)	5.587 - 6.234	0.001 x + 6.1513	-
1000 grain weight (g)	120.2 - 132.432	0.4772 x + 120.57	0.99
Bulk density (Kg/m³)	740 - 597.84	-3.4297 x + 678.14	0.76
True density (Kg/m³)	1192 - 944.97	-8.8848 x + 1164	0.98
Porosity %	37.91 - 36.734	-0.1896 x + 41.964	0.72
Angle of repose (°)	25.25 - 30.08	0.1388 x + 26.749	0.88

x : moisture content, % wb.

Fig.1 Effect of moisture content on principal dimensions of soaked soybean

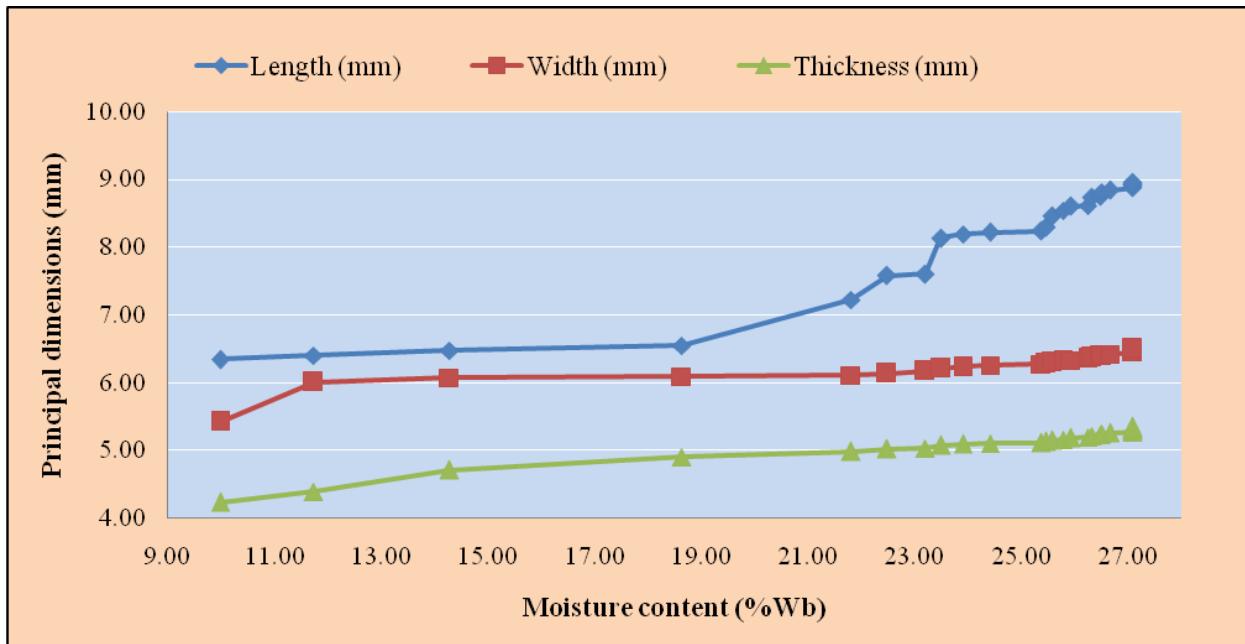


Fig.2 Effect of moisture content on average values of principal dimensions of soaked soybean

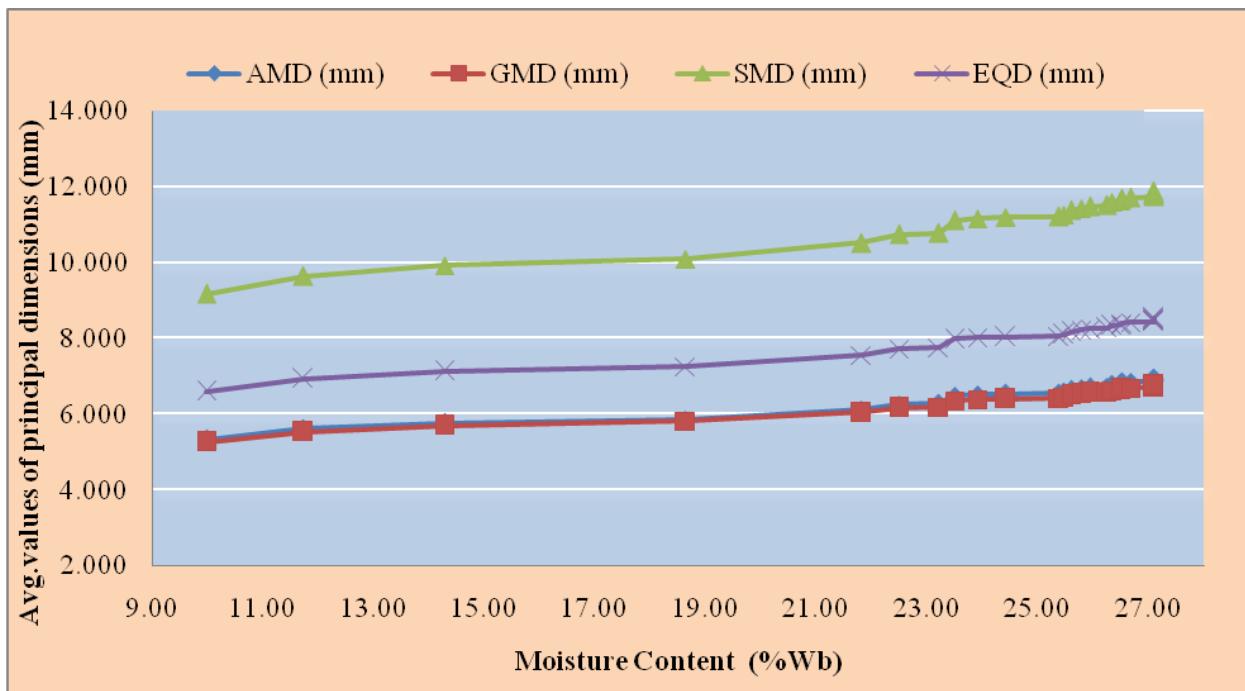


Fig.3 Effect of moisture content on degree of sphericity and aspect ratio of soaked soybean

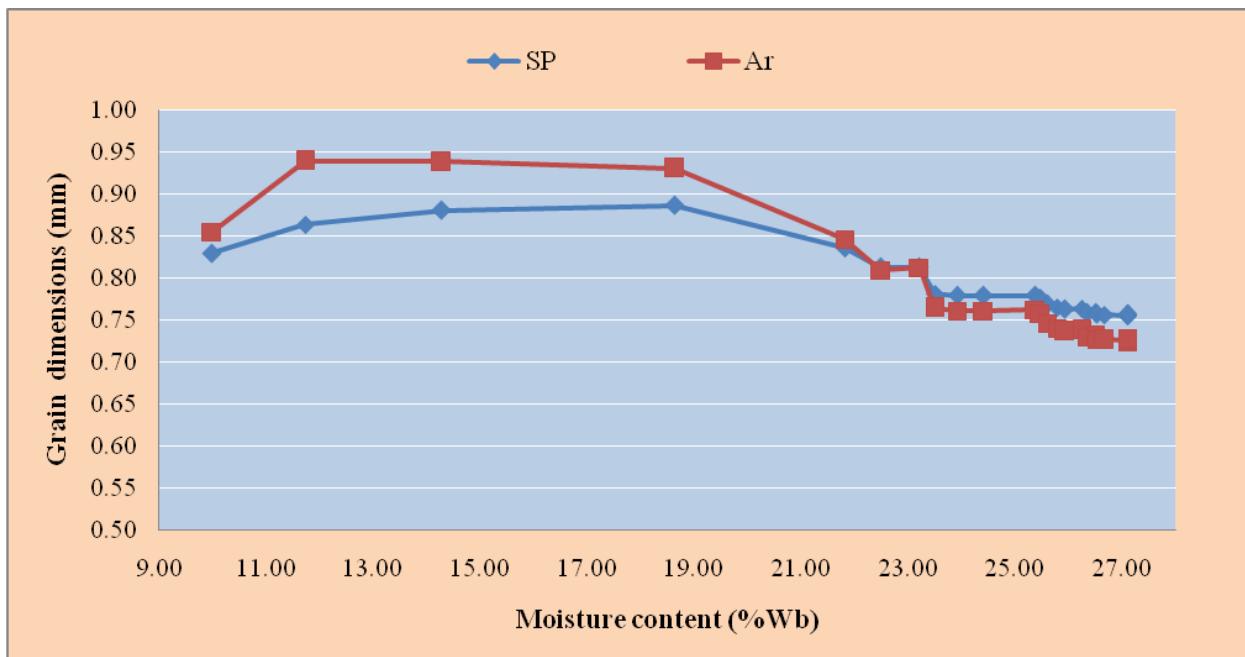


Fig.4 Effect of moisture content on surface area and unit volume of soaked soybean

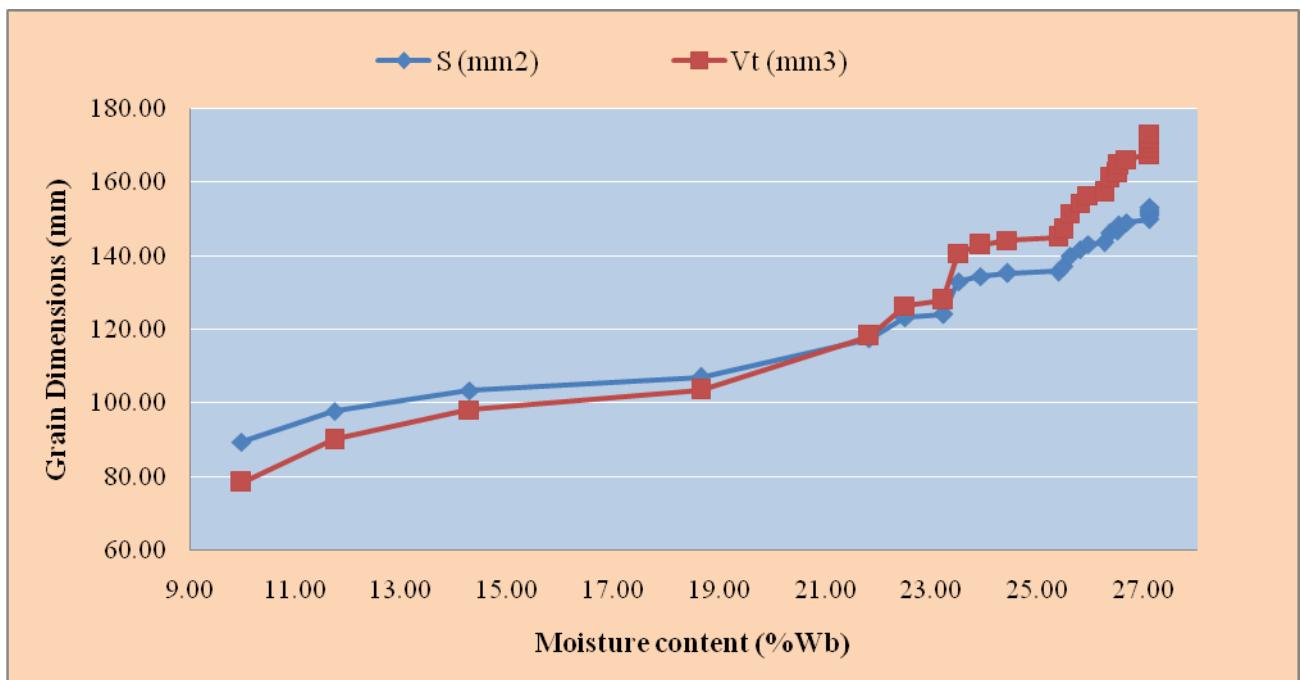


Fig.5 Effect of moisture content on 1000 grain wt. of soaked soybean

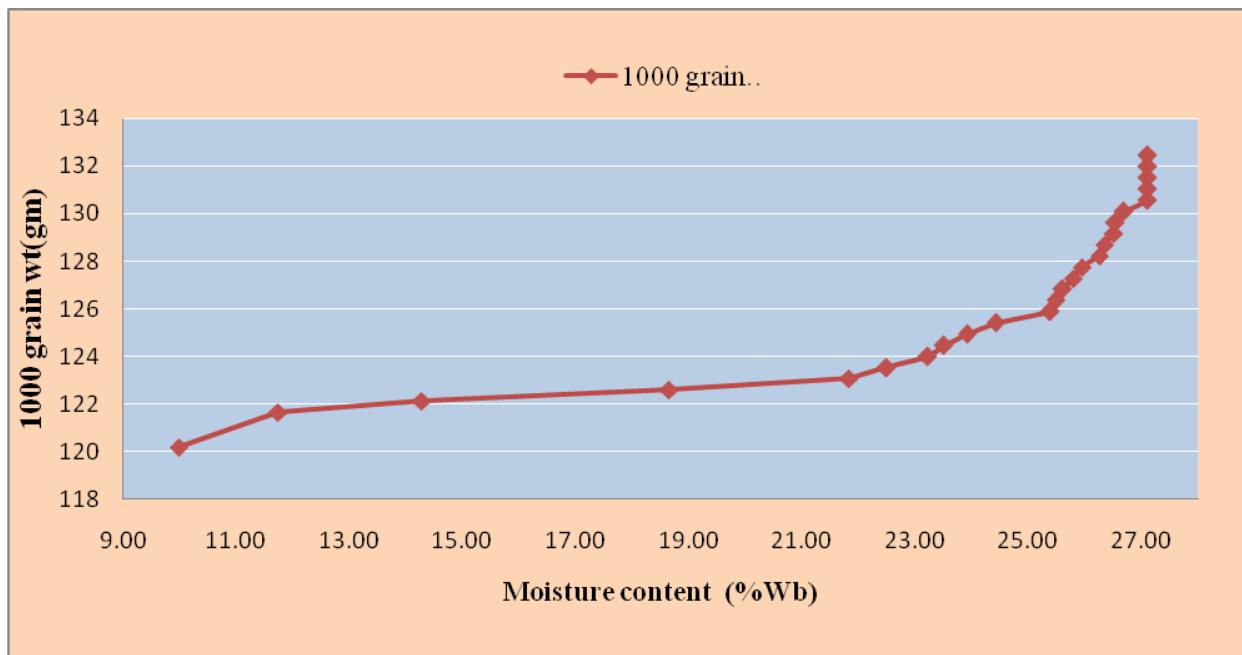


Fig.6 Effect of moisture content on bulk and true densities of soaked soybean

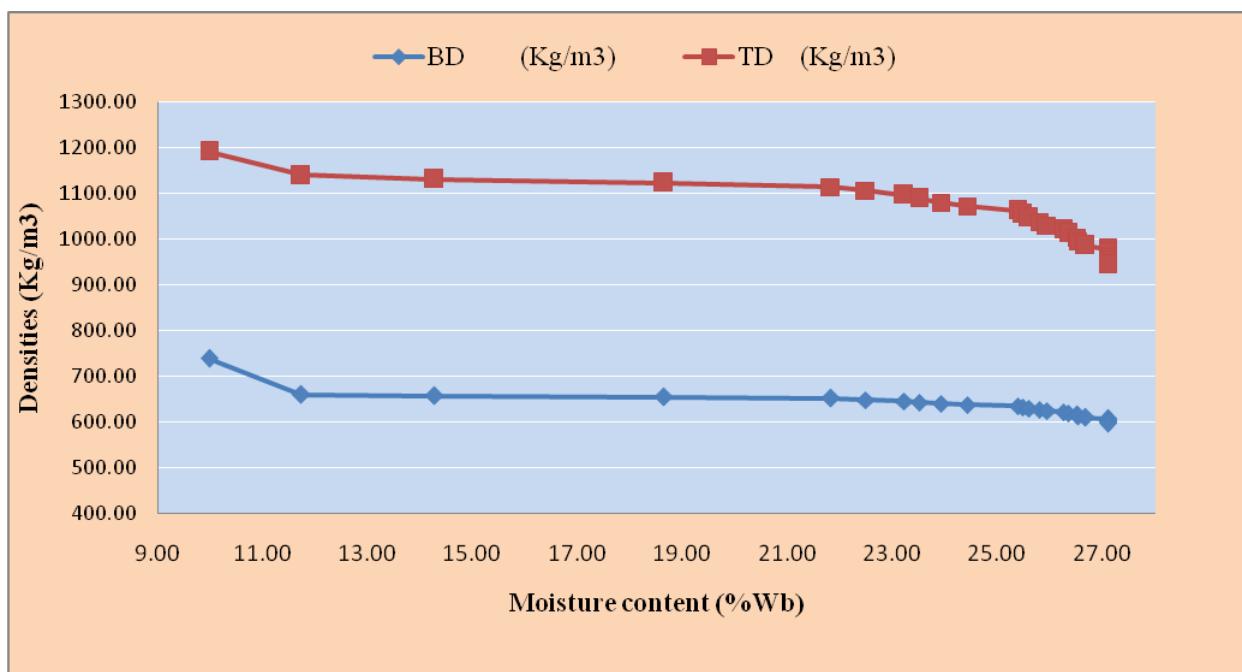


Fig.7 Effect of moisture content on porosity of soaked soybean

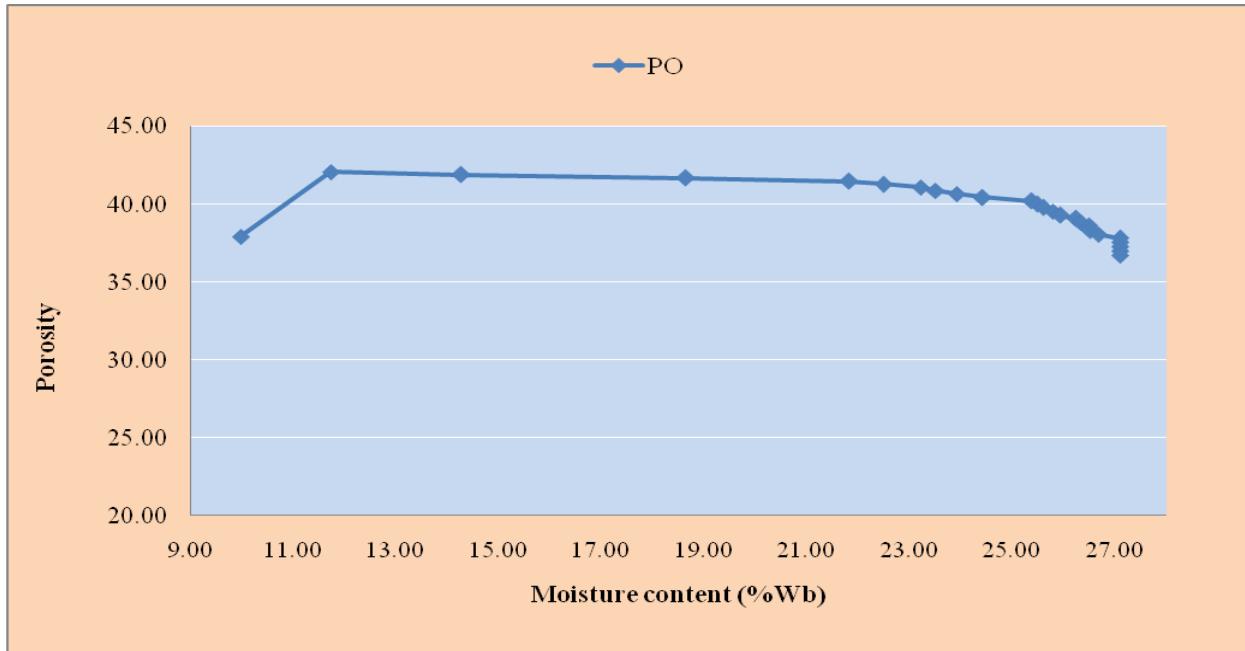
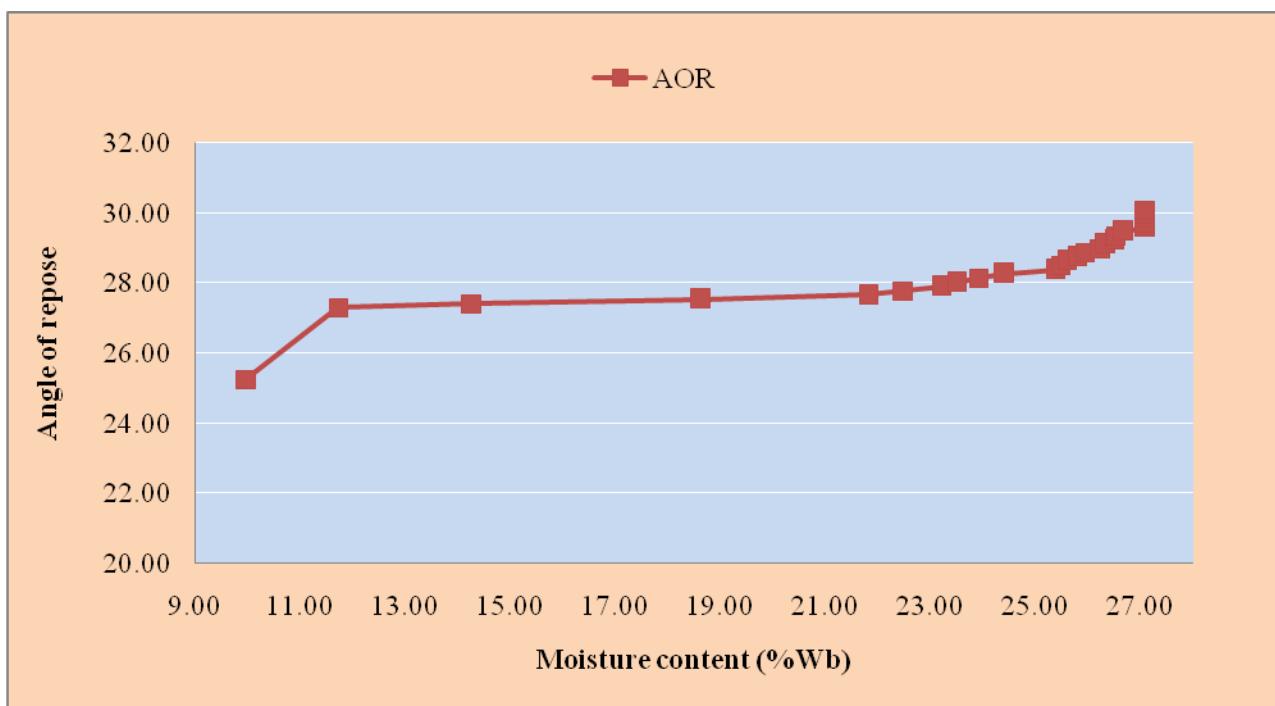


Fig.8 Effect of moisture content on angle of repose of soaked soybean



The similar decreasing trend in bulk and true densities against moisture content was reported by Deshpande (1993), Deshmukh (2016) and Jadhav (2018) for soybean. Since the porosity

depends on the bulk as well as true densities, the magnitude of variation in porosity of soybean depend on moisture content factor. The porosity of soybean was found to decrease

linearly with increase in moisture content from 9.98 to 27.10 % (wb) (Fig. 7).

The experimental data obtained for angle of repose of soaked soybean is given in Table 1. The angle of repose increases linearly with the increase in moisture content (Fig. 8). The value of angle of repose increases from 25.25 to 30.08 degrees as moisture content increases from 9.98 % to 27.10% (wb). Similar increasing trend was reported by Munde (1997) for green gram. The relationship between angle of repose (θ) and moisture content (x) can be expressed by regression equations as:

$$\theta = 0.1388 x + 26.749 \quad R^2 = 0.88$$

Where,

x: moisture content, % wb.

(θ): angle of repose

All the dimensions and physical properties of soaked soybean were significantly and positively correlated to moisture content. A relationship was observed between moisture content to axial dimensions and physical properties as shown in Table 2. The change in soybean dimension during soaking could be best expressed by a modified exponential relationship with the R^2 for equation fitting, respectively. The results were statistically analyzed for all physical properties of soaked soybean.

Based on the results, following major conclusions have been drawn in the present investigation:

The average length, width and thickness of soybean grains ranged from 6.34 to 8.95 mm, 5.42 to 6.50 mm and 4.23 to 5.35 mm as the moisture content increased from 9.98 % to 27.10% (wb), respectively.

The geometric mean diameter increased from 5.258 to 6.777 mm. The thousand grain mass increased from 120.2 to 132.432 g and the

sphericity increased from 0.829 to 0.757 with the increase in moisture content from 9.98 % to 27.10% (wb), respectively.

The bulk density decreased from 740 to 597.84 kg m⁻³, whereas the true density decreased from 1192 to 944.97 kg m⁻³. While porosity decreased from 37.91 - 36.734 with the increase in moisture content from 9.98 % to 27.10% (wb), respectively.

The angle of repose increased linearly from 25.25 to 30.08 degrees with the increase in moisture content.

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