

KOKUM CONCENTRATE & POWDER

Kokum concentrate is a ready to use substitute in place of kokum fruit, which is used extensively in the Western Coast for culinary purposes. Kokum tree (*Garcinia indica*) grows in the tropical rain forests of the Western ghats, including konkan, Coastal Karnataka coorg and Wynaad, and is reported to thrive on the lower slopes of Nilgiri Hills. It is often planted in the Southern districts of Maharashtra. It flowers in November-February and its fruits ripen in April-May. Kokum is mainly used to garnish and give an acid flavour to curries as well as in preparing cooling syrups in the West coast, especially in the konkan region of Maharashtra. For this, the outer rind of kokum fruits is dried and then soaked repeatedly in the juice of the pulp after which it is sun-dried. It is also used as a starting material for the production of edible natural colour.

In the CFTRI process, the dried kokum fruits are cleaned to remove the seeds and extraneous matter and then cut into small bits in a shredder. It is then extracted with water in SS percolators. The extract is then concentrated in forced circulation evaporator to around 65° Brix. The concentrate is packed in suitable containers. This is a new product and the estimated future demand is about 1000 tonnes per annum.

Kokum powder

It is a granular or a free flowing powder, purple red in colour, made by mixing kokum concentrate with carrier like edible starch and subsequent drying.

Plant and Machinery

Preliminary equipments: Shredder, Percolator, Granulator, Cabinet tray drier, Vacuum shelf drier, Planetary mixer, SS tanks, Forced circulation evaporator

Auxiliary equipments: Boiler, Weighing balances, Vacuum pumps etc.

The pilot plant trials of 100 kg batches carried out at CFTRI showed that the yield of the finished product is 50% on raw material basis (60° Brix). The quality of the product is dark red, viscous liquid with characteristic taste and flavour of Kokum fruits. It is a hygienic standard ready-to-use product with good shelf life. Total soluble solids of the product should be maintained constant.

For Technology and Technical assistance please contact

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