Developing Affordable Technology for Medium, Small, and Micro Food (MSMEs) Processors in Uganda

Research Question: How might we better meet the needs of food processors working at medium, small and micro enterprises across Uganda?

Research Innovator: Julia Kigozi, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

Research Innovation Team: Emmanuel Baidhe Moses Kalyango Isaac Oluk

Dr. Julia Kigozi worked with engineers and engineering students to investigate the context and needs of the Food processing MSMEs, taking time in and outside of the processing facilities to observe the operations of the food processors. One processor in particular, Charles Isaac, showed Dr. Kigozi that while he could operate new equipment despite being blind, the equipment’s power source was not well-adapted to the fluctuating energy grid across rural Uganda and cost of day to day operation, creating inconsistency in the quality of the final product.

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What's Next? While the prototypes Dr. Kigozi and her team developed are quite affordable, the purchasing power of the processors is still low and she is calling for financial support from financial institutions or investment partners in terms of affordable financial packages that can be afforded by the processors.