

VACUUM KILN FOR WOOD SEASONING DEVELOPED AT FRI

- Vacuum drying of timber is a new field of wood science in India. The technology has been commercialized in few developed nations.
- The vacuum kiln is costly affair as on date for Indian entrepreneurs due to absence of such indigenous equipment in the country.
- The technology is useful in the sense that it takes shorter time period to dry timbers to desired moisture content with lesser drying degrades compared to traditional technology of steam kiln.
- The Forest Products Division of the FRI has designed and developed a convection heating based vacuum kiln for wood seasoning. The kiln is capable of achieving a vacuum of 200 mm of mercury with in 22 minutes. A lot of popular wood having 98 % moisture content could be dried in this kiln in 18 hrs 25 minutes only to a final moisture content of 11.2 % without degrades.
- The design of the developed kiln is simple and can be adopted by the wood industry easily.
- Kiln cost is almost 1/4th of the cost of imported vacuum kiln.

