

## Thermal energy storage dodoma

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The drying experiments were conducted under two operating modes: a solar dryer with load but without TES and a solar dryer with load and TES materials. Data were collected on three consecutive days in each mode, and the average values were determined. Data collection was performed from January to March 2023.

In most cases, measuring instruments are subjected to errors, regardless of their precision and accuracy. The two major causes of these uncertainties are measuring devices, sometimes known as systematic errors, and measurement skills or random errors. Uncertainty assessment is crucial for designing and implementing the experiment.<sup>26</sup> The total errors were calculated by using eq 1 according to Gulcimen, Karakaya, and Durmus.<sup>27</sup> Table 2 shows the instruments used for the measurements and their uncertainty assessments

The overall uncertainties in the measuring devices and reading errors were calculated according to eq 3 and found to be  $\pm 0.0701\%$ . This value is small compared to the acceptable range of  $\pm 10\%$ , according to Choi, Kikumoto, Choudhary, and Ooka.<sup>29</sup>

The performance of the solar dryer integrated with soapstone as a TES material was analyzed by determining the sensible heat energy storage of TES materials ( $E$ ), storage efficiency of TES materials ( $\eta_s$ ), weight of water evaporated from the product ( $M_w$ ), drying rate ( $Dr$ ), thermal efficiency ( $\eta_t$ ), collector efficiency ( $\eta_c$ ), and saving of drying time (%). In addition, a comparative evaluation of drying time, temperature, and relative humidity by using TES materials, without TES materials, and OSD were conducted.

The amount of energy storage by materials is an essential parameter in selecting TES materials because it describes the amount of heat energy that can be stored in the materials at a particular time. The amount of energy storage was estimated by eq 4 according to Cetina-Quiñones, López, Ricalde-Cab, El Mekaoui, San-Pedro, and Bassam<sup>18</sup>

where  $E$  = energy storage (J),  $M_a$  = weight of storage materials (kg),  $C_p$  = specific heat capacity of soapstone (J/kg  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ),  $T_i$  = temperature of the storage materials at time  $t$  ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), and  $T_f$  = temperature of the storage material in the proceeding time ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).

The storage efficiency of TES materials ( $\eta_s$ ) is the ratio of the discharged energy to the charging energy from the TES materials; it was calculated by using eq 5 according to Cetina-Quiñones, López, Ricalde-Cab, El Mekaoui, San-Pedro, and Bassam<sup>18</sup>

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