

Income of paddy farmers is continuing to decline due to high inputs for cultivation and also, their harvest cannot be sold at a reasonable price. A parboiled paddy mill was developed for the farming community to convert their paddy into rice by themselves in order to increase their income. No. 3 steel huller with an efficient husk aspirator system was coupled to a two-wheel tractor, which is commonly used for paddy farming. Steaming tank made from an empty oil-half drum with a wire mesh tray was introduced to produce high quality parboiled paddy.

Parboiled paddy of BG 11-11 and BG 94-1 produced using the steaming tank and drying in the sun was used to evaluate the mill for milling quality of rice, capacity of the mill and fuel consumption for the two-wheel tractor. Comparison was made with the improved husk aspirator and conventional fan system used for removal of husk.

The improved paddy mill produced higher rice yield than the similar conventional mill and gave a processing capacity of 103 to 115 kg/ h consuming 600 mL of diesel. The developed husk aspirator system can be introduced to present huller mills in order to reduce milling losses eliminating dust formation in the surrounding area.