



## Nutmeg Desheller

Sachidanandan V R  
Ernakulam, Kerala

Consolation

Traditionally nutmeg is decorticated manually using a hammer or mechanically using a cracking hand tool. The dried seeds are cracked by tapping the end of the nuts with a small wooden mallet. Another method for shelling the nuts is to tip them onto a sloping cement floor from a height of three to four metres. This is a time and labour consuming process. Although decorticated nutmegs get almost double the price of whole nutmeg, it becomes uneconomical to decorticate the nutmeg when the cost, time and effort invested are considered.

Sachidanandan (72) has come up with an efficient desheller, which addresses these issues and reduces drudgery as well. This machine has the capacity of decortivating 75 kg nuts/h with about 90 % efficiency in two passes. Thus, providing farmers an opportunity for enhancing their income from nutmeg cultivation by about 40 - 50%.

He has been interested and involved in agricultural activities since his childhood. Wall painting, clay modelling, wood art etc. are some his other interests. In his life spanning over seven decades, Sachidanandan to his credit has over 50 different types of machines customised as per the requirements of the farmers and these include onion cutter, pulverizer, oil expeller, hydraulic screw press, ratchet press, *papad* making mixer machine, chip cutting machine, *etc.* and the list just goes on. Sachidanandan is a very down to earth person who wanted to help the ordinary people and farmers with his knowledge, experience and creativity.

