

Maitri Thakur
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Graduate Research Assistant
Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering
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EDUCATION

- **Iowa State University, Ames, IA**
Doctor of Philosophy: Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering
Industrial Engineering (Minor)
Graduation: Dec 2009 GPA: 3.70/4.00
Dissertation: “Developing operational techniques for tracking bulk material through handling systems and supply chains”
- **Iowa State University, Ames, IA**
Master of Science Degree: Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering
Specialization: Food and Process Engineering
Graduation: May 2006 GPA: 3.79/4.00
Thesis: “Quality and nutritional value of United States soybeans and soybean meal compared to other origins”
- **Punjab Agricultural University, India**
Bachelor of Technology Degree: Agricultural Engineering GPA: 7.57/10.00

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Graduate Research Assistant, January 2007 – Present**
Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.
 - Design of an integrated enterprise model for the grain industry.
 - Simulation modeling of bulk material movements/location through handling systems and supply chains.
 - Simulation based cost analysis of implementing a traceability system in a grain elevator.
- **Assistant Quality Assurance Manager, June 2006 – December 2006**
Natural Fruit Corporation, Hialeah, Florida.
 - Improvement of existing Quality Assurance program in a frozen fruit bars and concentrated drinks production plant.
 - Providing technical support and training to production teams as it applies to quality systems and protocol.
 - Development, documentation and implementation of operating “best practices” for sanitation systems, food safety systems, product quality systems, and analytical systems.

- Performing microbiological tests for raw material and finished products.
 - Providing data analysis of in-process, finished product, and consumer complaint issues and implement corrective and preventive actions.
 - Compiling and maintaining documentation for mock recall, safety committee meetings, employee training, GMP inspections, and HACCP.
 - Working in R & D to develop new products and continuous improvement of existing ones (frozen fruit bars and drink mixes).
- **Graduate Research Assistant**, *February 2004 – May 2006*
Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.
 - Quality analysis of soybeans and soybean meal from different origins.
 - Statistical analysis of chemistry data of soybeans and soybean meal.
 - Use of Near Infrared instruments to analyze various quality factors of soybeans and meal.
- **Quality Assurance Intern**, *May 2004 – August 2004*
Tyson Foods, Sedalia, Missouri.
 - Trained in QA and HACCP programs in poultry processing.
 - Managed QA programs including SOP's, GMP's and HACCP.
 - Participated in facility safety audits.
- **Summer Production Trainee**, *June 2001 - July 2001*
Punjab Agro Industries Limited, Ludhiana, India.
 - Worked in a rice milling plant with processors to improve the quality of milled rice and improve the plant efficiency.

PUBLICATION

Thakur M, Hurburgh CR (2007) Quality of US Soybean Meal Compared to the Quality of Soybean Meal from Other Origins. *J Am Oil Chem Soc* 84:835-843 (*peer-reviewed*)

PRESENTATIONS

Thakur M. and Hurburgh C.R, 2008. Conceptual Design of Fully Traceable Supply Chain for Bulk Agricultural Commodities, NC-213: 2008 Annual Meeting, Omaha, Nebraska.

Thakur M. and Hurburgh C.R, 2006. Quality of US Soybean Meal Compared to the Quality of Soybean Meal from Other Origins, 97th American Oil Chemists Society Annual Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri.

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

- Inventory Control and Production Planning
- Strategic Logistic Management
- Stochastic Modeling, Analysis and Simulation

- Enterprise Modeling and Integration
- Database Management Systems
- Statistical Computing Applications
- Statistical Design and Analysis of Experiments
- Engineering Economic Analysis

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers - **Member**
- American Oil Chemists Society - **Member**
- Alpha Epsilon (Honor Society for Agricultural Engineers) - **Active member**
- Iowa State University Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Graduate Organization - **Member**
- Iowa State University MIS Club – **Member**

OTHER INFORMATION

- Languages: English (Fluent)
Hindi (Native)
Punjabi (Native)
- Computer skills: iSQL Plus, MS Office, MS Project, Visio, Matlab, Simulink, Arena, SAS, JMP, R, Logware