

The Finex Ultima™ increases production of rice flour by 66% at a major food processing company

Agri Choice installs high-performance screening solution for accurate grading of rice flour

Agri Choice Food Products Pvt. Ltd. is a leading food processing company specialized in producing high quality, nutritional and hygienic foods. With an Indian patent for producing Low GI (Glycemic Index) rice through their unique milling technology, Agri Choice has a wealth of reputable experience in the production of rice and rice-based products.

Agri Choice has a highly efficient 9000 sq ft manufacturing plant in Mysuru, India, which is equipped with the latest food processing technology. The automated production lines are designed to have minimum human intervention providing a production capacity of more than 900 metric tons per month. The company offers a wide range of value-added products using a combination of different cereals, millets and pulses known as Multigrain and categorized as low GI.

Harish Rao, Manager - QCD at Agri Choice states, "Our customer list includes major ready to eat food products manufacturers in India. We are committed to achieving the highest standards of quality and service, so it is imperative for us to produce the best products for our customers".

Seeking high-quality vibro screening solutions

One of the main products of Agri Choice is their 'Ready mix rice idli'. To make sure the idli is soft and fluffy, the rice flour used as one of the main ingredients is ground into powder, particle size distribution of rice flour must be kept between 230 – 500 microns. Rice flour is produced by grinding polished rice into a powder, while removing all contamination. Grading rice flour is an important stage of the production process, as it ensures the correct sizing of particles before packaging, whilst removing dust and oversized particles. Previously Agri Choice were using common pan sifters and facing major issues with the accuracy of particle size distribution and flowrates resulting in unacceptable levels of rejects of their final products.

When Agri Choice looked to expand their production plant, they sought a high-capacity hygienic separator to optimize the grading of rice flour. As a trusted, leading supplier of sieving and separation equipment, Russell Finex had



Figure 1. The Finex Ultima™ installed at the Agri Choice Food Products Pvt Ltd plant

- Increases production rates up to 60% more compared to traditional pan sifters
- Increases screening capacity and accuracy to improve product quality and productivity
- Mesh blinding eliminated with the Russell Vibrasonic® Deblinding System

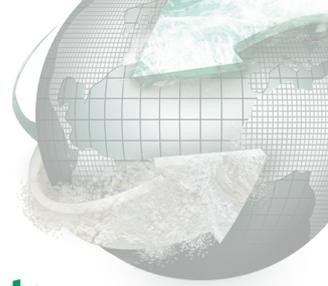
been recommended to Agri Choice and was subsequently consulted with to provide a solution to grade the rice flour.

Russell Finex assessed Agri Choice's requirements and recommended the Finex Ultima™, a high-performance vibratory round separator. Following consultation and a successful product trial at Russell Finex's specialized test facility, Agri Choice purchased two 48" double-deck Finex Ultima™ with one Vibrasonic® Deblinding System



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installed on each unit. The combination not only fulfilled the company's need to increase throughput, but also ensured purity of the processed rice flours was upheld.

An ideal screening machine for the food processing industry, the Finex Ultima™ is a high-performance vibro screen designed to provide increased productivity, accurate grading and lower noise levels. Along with these benefits, this vibro screen is fitted with unique rubber suspension mounts which help to give maximum vibration to the mesh screen for consistent sieving as well as quieter operation compared to traditional spring mounted units. An open frame design also allows for easy access for cleaning and maintenance. All product contact parts are made from high-quality stainless-steel for longevity and reliable performance.

For the grading of fine rice flour, the Vibrasonic® Deblinding System was also installed to prevent mesh blinding and increase productivity during the grading process. The Vibrasonic® Deblinding System is very popular in the food processing industry as it can easily be installed on any existing screens or separator. It is a versatile sieving upgrade, enhancing the sieving of fine powders and liquid slurries down to 20 microns.

When fitted to a vibro screen, it provides benefits such as increased production capacity, consistent product quality and reduces loss of good product and downtime as the need to clean or change mesh screens is dramatically reduced.

With the installation of two 48" Finex Ultima™ machines, the company was able to increase production capacity from 450kg/hr to 750kg/hr whilst providing 100% consistent product quality without any product losses. The installation of the Finex Ultima™ therefore resulted in a 66% increased capacity of the rice flour, boosting the overall production capacity of the ready mix rice idli.

Harish Rao concluded, "The 48" Finex Ultima machines have exceeded our expectations. We are now achieving the desired throughput with a high-quality product compared to our old screening solutions. The unit is operator friendly and is quick and easy to disassemble and clean."

About Russell Finex

Established in 1934, Russell Finex is a global leader with over 85 years' experience providing industrial sieving and separation solutions for the processing industry. With a range of check-screener vibro sifters and self-cleaning filters, the company can provide solutions for raw material handling, primary and secondary manufacturing processes and final product screening that can be applied to food, pharmaceutical, chemical, metallurgy and coatings applications and a range of other industries.

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