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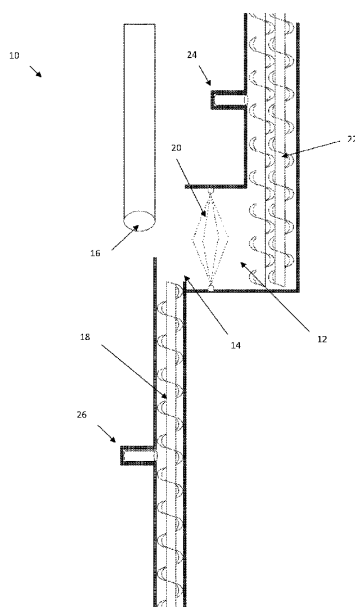


Figure 1

(57) Abstract: Disclosed herein is an apparatus for preparing a comminuted food material for dehydration. The apparatus comprises a mixing chamber comprising first and second inlets and an outlet that communicates with an inlet of a dehydrator, the first inlet being configured to receive a comminuted food material having a determined moisture content, and the second inlet being configured to receive a second food material having a moisture content that is different to the moisture content of the comminuted food material. The apparatus also comprises a mister configured to apply a mist of water into the mixing chamber, and a mixer configured to mix a quantity of the second food material with the comminuted food material in the mixing chamber, whereby the resultant mixture at the outlet has a predetermined moisture content and a predetermined starch content.

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