

Investigating Bio-Diesel Production using Potash from Agricultural Wastes

BY

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**A Thesis Submitted in the Department of Chemical Engineering to the
School of the Graduate Studies.**

**As part of the requirement for the award of the
degree of Doctor of Philosophy, (Ph.D)
In Chemical Engineering of Covenant University, Ota,
Ogun State, Nigeria**

July, 2013.

DECLARATION

I Efeovbokhan Vincent Enontiemonria declare that this thesis was done entirely by me under the supervision of Prof. J. A. Omoleye (Major supervisor) of the Department of Chemical Engineering, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State and Prof. E. E. Kalu (Co-Supervisor) of the Department of Chemical Engineering, College of Engineering FAMU-FSU, Tallahassee, Florida. This thesis has not been presented either wholly or partly, for any degree elsewhere before. All sources of scholarly information used in this thesis were duly acknowledged.

Efeovbokhan, V. E.

CERTIFICATION

This thesis titled Investigating Bio-diesel Production using Potash from Agricultural Wastes carried out by EFEOVBOOKHAN Vincent Enontiemonria under our supervision meets the regulation governing the award of the degree of Doctor of philosophy (PhD) in Chemical Engineering of the Covenant University, Ota, Ogun state, Nigeria. We certify that it has not been submitted for the degree of PhD or any other degree in this or any other University, and is approved for its contribution to knowledge and literary presentation.

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to GOD – The Father, The Lord Jesus Christ and The Holy Spirit

To my lovely wife Mrs. Bridget Efeovbokhan and my children

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express with joy, my gratitude and thankfulness to the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit for guidance and inspiration toward the successful completion of this thesis. Holy Father, I thank you.

With deep sense of humility and appreciation, I thank God for the Chancellor of Covenant University, Dr David Oyedepo, for the vision behind the University's establishment. Today, I can attest that based on the rare privilege given to me on this platform, I have been imparted and empowered mentally and spiritually to positively affect my world. Thank you Sir.

With joy and gladness in my heart, I appreciate the former Vice Chancellor, Prof. Aize Obayan for her commitment and doggedness to ensuring the successful completion of my PhD programme. At a point when it seems that there would be no way around the challenge of having my research samples analyzed, she approved and released funds for the analyses of the samples in the United States of America. What obviously would have been done in one year only took about four months. Thank you Ma.

With respect, honour, and appreciation I acknowledge the unparalleled contributions of my amiable supervisor, Professor Omoleye James Abiodun. His in-loco-parentis and mentorship roles brought about the achievement and positive impact in the successful completion of my work. He was always on hand to answer my questions, make corrections and provide guidance on the appropriate path to go. The Almighty God shall richly bless you more and more in Jesus Name. Amen.

My profound gratitude goes to Professor Kalu, Egwu Eric, who was a Fulbright scholar in the Department for his mentorship role. He re-engineered the research work, provided materials, moral and in many cases financial support. The first set of raw materials was provided by this selfless professor. The first set of bio-diesel samples analyses carried out in the US was borne by him. He supervised the analyses of the final samples also in the U.S. Sacrifice is the word that best

describes your unmatched contributions. May the Living God richly reward you and I deeply appreciate you.

I would like to acknowledge the Head of Department, Professor Hymore, Fredrick Kofi who, to me, was a major motivation through his constant prodding, concern and encouragement which, gave me the much needed drive towards the successful completion of my PhD work. Thank you, Sir.

I wish also, with deep sense of humility, to register my profound gratitude to the senior faculty in the department Professor Adefila S.S, Professor Aku C.T, Prof. Omatete O and Dr. Anawe P.A.L of Petroleum Engineering Department, for their immense contributions and moral support. Their words of encouragement and lectures were all the needed impetus that took me through this research work. I cannot fail to mention of the help I got from the late Dr. Obande Matthew each time I needed to be guided during the thesis preparation. He was always on ground and ever willing to assist. My sincere thanks go to Engr. Ayoola Adedeji, Engr. Adeeyo Opeyemi, Engr. (Mrs.) Ojewumi Modupe Esther, Engr. Ayeni Omoniyi Augustine and Engr. Uduhitinah Jacobs Smith for their support and co-operation. Many thanks go to Dr. Conrad Omonhimi of Biological Sciences Department for helping to read and re-organize my thesis prior to presentation. Mentioned must be made of the Laboratory Technologists, especially Mr. Omodara Julius, and the laboratory Assistant in the person of Ahoda Jasper for their unquantifiable and invaluable assistance and co-operation all through the period.

Many thanks go to my lovely wife – Mrs. Bridget Efeovbokhan and children for their moral support, understanding and co-operation as always, all through the period of the programme. Special thanks to my elder brothers Messrs Efeovbokhan, Peter and Efeovbokhan Joseph for their support and encouragement. The financial support from Joseph was overwhelming. Numerous thanks to everyone whose names I cannot mention for space and time. Thank you and thank you. The good Lord bless you all in Jesus Name. Amen.

ABSTRACT

The application of potassium hydroxide (KOH) extracts from four different biomass materials: Water hyacinth, Coconut husk, ripe plantain peels and palm frond in the trans-esterification of two vegetable oils; refined rapeseed and crude jatropha oils has been carried out. Potassium hydroxide obtained from the ash of ripe plantain peels recorded the highest biodiesel conversion with both vegetable oils. The highest percentage conversion obtained with rapeseed oil was 71.01% using 1g of KOH extract from ripe plantain ash at reaction temperature and time of 75°C and 4 hours respectively. Under the same reaction conditions, 1g of commercial caustic potash recorded 70.06% conversion of the rapeseed oil at the same reaction conditions. From the optimized batch process, 97.15% conversion was achieved with crude jatropha oil using 1g caustic potash extract from ripe plantain peels ash; at reaction temperature and time of 83°C and 4 hours respectively. Under the same condition, the conversions of the oils to biodiesel using KOH from coconut husk, palm fronds and water hyacinth recorded low values of; 53.11%, 46.88% and 33.31% respectively. Generally, the percentage conversion increased with both time and temperature of trans-esterification of the vegetable oils using potassium hydroxide extracted from the ash of the agricultural waste materials. Using KOH from ripe plantain peels, the conversion increased from 75.20% at 83°C and 1 hour to 97.15% at 83°C and 4 hours while the conversion increased from 35.18% at 75°C and 1 hour to 95.73% at 75°C and 4 hours. The Potash content recorded per g of the biomass materials investigated was: palm fronds (13.9%), coconut husk (17.5%) water hyacinth (18.9%), and ripe plantain peels (40.1%). These respective amounts represent the total recoverable KOH from the optimized extraction process of the ashes of the four biomass materials, at well defined extraction temperatures of 30 - 50°C and varied times of 1-6 hours as against 100°C (boiling water) and 24 hours employed in the traditional extraction method. The cumulative weights of KOH obtained per g of ash at the different temperatures and times, increased progressively with water volume for the 1st and 2nd stages of extraction (100ml/200ml, 150ml/300ml and 200ml/400ml). The effectiveness in using 400ml water

in two equal portions in the two stages of KOH extraction was about 9.3% better on the average than using the least volume of 200ml under the same conditions. To attain optimized extraction; 5-10 times the weight of ash is required in water for a given biomass ash extraction on a two-stage basis.

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