

UNIVERSITY OF NIŠ
Faculty of Technology, Leskovac

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

15th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
„NOVEL TECHNOLOGIES AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT“

Leskovac, October, 20-21, 2023.

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KINETIC MODELING OF THE BIODIESEL PRODUCTION FROM SUNFLOWER OIL OVER CORN COB ASH

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In recent years, researchers have focused on obtaining sustainable and low-cost catalysts from agricultural and industrial waste to be applied in biodiesel production. Such biomass waste is corn cobs that can be utilized for heat generation by combustion, and the remaining ash can be tested for catalytic activity in biodiesel production. Therefore, this study deals with the refined sunflower oil methanolysis over corn cob ash obtained by the combustion of corn cobs in a solid fuel stove. The aim is to analyze the reaction kinetics. The reactions were carried out in a batch reactor with a magnetic stirrer under atmospheric pressure and at the following reaction conditions: temperature of 60 °C, a methanol-to-oil molar ratio of 9:1, and a catalyst amount from 4 to 10% of the oil weight. The variations of fatty acid methyl esters (FAMES) content with the reaction time showed no mass transfer limitations in the initial reaction period. Therefore, the simple pseudo-first-order model was employed to describe the kinetics of the oil methanolysis. The determined reaction rate constants increased with the increase in catalyst amount from 4 to 10%, and the corresponding values were 0.095 min⁻¹, 0.291 min⁻¹, and 0.307 min⁻¹. A low mean relative percentage deviation of ±5,63% (based on 21 data) between the calculated and experimental values of the conversion degree of triacylglycerols confirmed that the kinetic model of the irreversible pseudo-first-order reaction fitted the experimental data satisfactorily.

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A KINETIC ANALYSIS OF THE RADISH OIL/CASTOR OIL BLEND METHANOLYSIS OVER CALCIUM OXIDE

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The investigation of reaction kinetics is crucial for practical implications in process equipment design and scaling up. In this study, a kinetic analysis of the methanolysis of a blend of radish and castor oil catalyzed by calcium oxide was carried out. The objectives were to propose a comprehensive model for describing the kinetics of this methanolysis reaction and determine its activation energy. The methanolysis was conducted in a batch reactor under atmospheric pressure with the following reaction conditions: a radish-to-castor oil blend mass ratio of 1:1, a methanol-to-oil molar ratio of 12:1, a catalyst amount of 5% of the oil blend weight, and reaction temperatures of 30 °C, 45 °C, and 60 °C. The model involving the changing reaction mechanism and the triacylglycerol (TAG) mass transfer limitation was first simplified to a pseudo-first-order model regarding TAGs and fatty acid methyl esters, which was then used to calculate the apparent reaction rate constant. A good agreement between the calculated and experimental values of the TAG conversion degree was proved by a low mean relative percentage deviation of $\pm 6.1\%$ (based on 66 data), thus validating the applied simple kinetic model. A positive effect of the reaction temperature on the apparent reaction rate constant was observed. Using the Arrhenius equation, the activation energy of methanolysis was determined to be 46.12 kJ/mol. The obtained value of activation energy is much lower than values of activation energy determined for the calcium oxide-catalyzed methanolysis of single oil feedstocks, such as soybean, canola, *Jatropha*, and waste frying oils. The lower activation energy suggests the potential for enhanced efficiency and feasibility of utilizing this blend as a feedstock for biodiesel production compared to the individual oily feedstocks previously studied.