

**BIODIESEL PRODUCTION VIA TRANSESTERIFICATION OF  
WASTE COOKING OIL USING CLAMSHELL AND SEA SAND  
AS POTENTIAL HETEROGENEOUS CATALYSTS**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Pages</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	iii
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	iv
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	vi
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	vii
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	viii
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	ix
<b>ABSTRAK</b>	x
<b>CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.1 Background of study	1
1.2 Problem statement	6
1.3 Significance of study	7
1.4 Objectives of study	7
<b>CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	
2.1 Raw materials	8
2.2 Catalysts	11
<b>CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY</b>	
3.1 Materials	15
3.2 Research methodology	15
3.2.1 Waste cooking oil collection and pre-treatment	15
3.2.2 Preparation of catalyst	16
3.2.3 Transesterification reaction	17
3.3 Characterization of waste cooking oil, catalysts and transesterification reaction	20
3.3.1 Determination of free fatty acid percentages (%FFA)	20
3.3.2 Determination of acid value (AV)	21
3.3.3 Determination of saponification value	21
3.3.4 Determination of biodiesel yield percentages	23
3.3.5 Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) analysis	23
3.3.6 Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS)	24
3.3.7 X-ray Diffraction (XRD) analysis	24

<b>CHAPTER 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION</b>	
4.1 Waste cooking oil (WCO)	25
4.1.1 Chemical analysis of waste cooking oil	25
4.1.1.1 Percentage of free fatty acid (%FFA) of waste cooking oil	25
4.1.1.2 Acid value (AV) of waste cooking oil	26
4.1.1.3 Saponification value of waste cooking oil	26
4.1.1.4 Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) analysis	27
4.2 Characterization of clamshell	30
4.2.1 Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) analysis	30
4.2.2 X-ray Diffraction (XRD) analysis	33
4.3 Characterization of sea sand	35
4.3.1 Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) analysis	35
4.3.2 X-ray Diffraction (XRD) analysis	37
4.4 Transesterification reaction	39
4.4.1 Effect of ratio of clamshell-to-sea sand on the FAME yield (%)	39
4.4.1.1 Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) analysis	41
4.4.1.2 Gas Chromatography – Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS)	44
4.4.2 Effect of loading amount of clamshell and sea sand (wt%) on the FAME yield (%)	49
4.4.2.1 Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) analysis	51
4.4.2.2 Gas Chromatography – Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS)	53
<b>CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
5.1 Conclusion	56
5.2 Recommendations	57
<b>CITED REFERENCES</b>	58
<b>APPENDICES</b>	63
<b>CURRICULUM VITAE</b>	74

## ABSTRACT

### **BIODIESEL PRODUCTION VIA TRANSESTERIFICATION OF WASTE COOKING OIL USING CLAMSHELL AND SEA SAND AS POTENTIAL HETEROGENEOUS CATALYSTS**

The study was carried out to produce biodiesel via transesterification of waste cooking oil (WCO) using clamshell and sea sand as potential heterogeneous catalysts. The feedstock, WCO was first pre-treated in order to purify the oil and to discard water soluble impurities. The treated WCO showed low number of free fatty acid percentages (%FFA), acid value (AV) and saponification value, 1.30%, 2.587 mg KOH/g, and 193.7 mg KOH/g, respectively. The FTIR spectrum of treated WCO showed no present of OH group, proved that water soluble impurities in WCO were fully removed during pre-treatment. The catalysts were prepared and characterized by using FTIR and XRD. FTIR and XRD results showed the  $\text{CaCO}_3$  in uncalcined clamshell converted to  $\text{CaO}$  and  $\text{Ca(OH)}_2$  eventually after reaction with moisture in atmosphere. FTIR and XRD results of sea sand showed presence of  $\text{SiO}_2$  in both before and after calcination. Both sample showed the increase in crystallinity after calcination, as observed by increase in intensity of XRD peaks. Next, the treated WCO was used to obtain FAME using combination of clamshell and sea sand as a catalysts and methanol as an alcohol in transesterification reaction. Five ratios of clamshell-to-sea sand were studied; 1:0, 0:1, 1:1, 1:2, and 2:1. 2:1 ratio was found as the best ratio with 71.1% FAME yield. This ratio was used to study further the effect of loading amount of the catalysts in weight percentage (wt%) on the yield of biodiesel (%). Three wt% used were 5%, 7%, and 10%. From 5% to 7%, it showed the increasing of FAME yield. However, from 7% to 10%, it showed the FAME yield was reduced. The reason was high alkaline catalyst loading could gain more soap formation. The best loading amount of the catalysts (wt%) was 7% which obtain highest percentage FAME yield, 75.3%. Analysis of FAME using GC-MS showed the presence of myristic acid, palmitic acid and oleic acid. From this study, it can be concluded that clamshell and sea sand are good potential catalysts which can be used to produce FAME by transesterification reaction process.