

**BIOBASED COMPOSITE HETEROGENEOUS CATALYST FOR  
BIODIESEL PRODUCTION**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS.....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES .....</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES .....</b>	<b>vi</b>
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS .....</b>	<b>viii</b>
<b>ABSTRACT.....</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>ABSTRAK .....</b>	<b>xii</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1 .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1    Background of study	1
1.2    Problem statement	4
1.3    Significance of the study	5
1.4    Objectives of study	6
<b>CHAPTER 2 .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>LITERATURE REVIEW.....</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1    An alternative to traditional fuels: Biodiesel	7
2.2    Biomass waste as biobased composite catalyst	9
2.3    Transesterification reaction	11
2.4    Catalyst for transesterification reaction	12
2.4.1    Homogeneous catalyst	13
2.4.2    Heterogeneous catalyst	14
2.5    Potential biobased composite catalyst for transesterification of palm oil	16
<b>CHAPTER 3 .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>METHODOLOGY.....</b>	<b>20</b>
3.1    Materials	20
3.2    Experimental designs/ Flow chart	20
3.3    Characterization of feedstock (palm oil)	21
3.4    Determination of acidity of palm oil	21
3.5    Catalyst preparation	23
3.6    Characterization of catalyst	24

3.6.1	Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometer (FTIR)	24
3.6.2	Brunauer-Emmer-Teller (BET)	24
3.6.3	Scanning Electron Microscopy-Electron Dispersive X-ray (SEM-EDX)	25
3.6.4	Hammett Indicator	25
3.7	Transesterification Reaction	26
3.8	Quantitative Analysis of Methyl Ester	27
3.8.1	Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry	27
<b>CHAPTER 4 .....</b>		<b>28</b>
<b>RESULT AND DISCUSSION.....</b>		<b>28</b>
4.1	Characterization of palm oil	28
4.2	Characterization of catalyst	28
4.2.1	Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometer (FTIR) analysis	29
4.2.2	Scanning Electron Microscopy-Electron Dispersive X-ray (SEM-EDX)	33
4.2.3	Brunauer-Emmer-Teller (BET) analysis	42
4.2.4	Hammett Indicators test	44
4.3	Qualitative analysis of methyl ester produced	45
4.3.1	Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS)	45
4.3.2	Optimization of transesterification reaction parameter	46
<b>CHAPTER 5 .....</b>		<b>50</b>
<b>CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION .....</b>		<b>50</b>
<b>CITED REFERENCES .....</b>		<b>53</b>
<b>APPENDICES .....</b>		<b>59</b>
<b><i>CURRICULUM VITAE</i>.....</b>		<b>63</b>

## ABSTRACT

### BIOBASED COMPOSITE HETEROGENEOUS CATALYST FOR BIODIESEL PRODUCTION

This research focuses on addressing the higher production costs associated with biodiesel as an alternative fuel to crude oil. To overcome this challenge, biobased catalysts are proposed, derived from three different biomasses: eggshell, sawdust, and sugarcane bagasse. By utilizing these three biomasses, the limitations of a single metal catalyst can be mitigated. The objective of this study is to develop heterogeneous base catalysts for palm oil transesterification as an alternative to homogeneous counterparts. The process involves drying waste eggshell, crushing it into powder, and subjecting it to calcination at 900°C for 3 hours. Sugarcane bagasse is dried, ground into fine powder, and undergoes calcination at 550°C for 6 hours. Similarly, sawdust is dried and subjected to calcination at 550°C for 6 hours. The palm oil used in the study exhibited an acid value of 0.5 mg KOH/g, a density of 908 kg/cm<sup>3</sup> at 26°C, and a viscosity of 65.5 mm<sup>2</sup>/s. Various catalysts, derived from calcined eggshell, sugarcane bagasse, and sawdust, were characterized using Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) analysis and Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM). The calcined eggshell displayed a deformed spherical shape due to aggregation during calcination at 900°C, while calcined sugarcane bagasse exhibited irregular sheet-like pellets, and calcined sawdust showed stable agglomerates and irregularly accumulated particles. The elemental composition, analysed through EDX, confirmed the presence of specific components in each catalyst. The CaO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-AC catalyst, with a BET surface area of 6.5431, pore volume of 0.015918, and pore size of 9.7309, induced a colour change in phenolphthalein and 4-nitroaniline solutions, indicating strong basic sites. Optimized parameters, including a 9:1 methanol to oil molar ratio, 6 wt% catalyst loading for Batch 1, 3 wt% for Batch 2, and reaction times of 3 hours for Batch 1 and 2 hours for Batch 2, resulted in high biodiesel conversions of 82.94% and 77.10%, respectively.