

PARTICLEBOARD FROM OIL PALM EMPTY
FRUIT BUNCH FIBERS



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTENTS	PAGE
List of Project Members	ii
Acknowledgements	iii
List of Tables	iv
ABSTRACT	v
INTRODUCTION	1
LITERATURE REVIEW	3
Oil palm tree	3
Research on oil palm by-products	4
Particleboard	5
Board density	6
Effect of resin content	7
Effect of wax addition	8
MATERIALS AND METHODS	10
Materials Preparation	10
Board manufacture	10
Board evaluation	11
RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS	12
Particle analysis	12
Physical and mechanical properties	13
Effect of Fibre strand source	15
Effect of board density	16
Effect of resin content	16
Effect of wax content	18
CONCLUSION	19
REFERENCES	20
PAPERS/ARTICLES WRITTEN	

ABSTRACT

Particleboards at varying resin contents (6,8 and 10%), board densities (561, 641 and 721 kg m⁻³) and 1% wax content were produced from short and long fibre strands obtained from oil palm empty fruit bunches (EFB). Control boards without the addition of wax were also produced. All the variables (except for wax) were found to have highly significant effects on board properties. Wax was found to affect only the thickness swelling. All boards made from short fibre strands failed to meet all the requirements of the British Standard BS 5669-1989. Boards from long fibre strands were able to meet the minimum requirements of the standards for mechanical properties. However, all boards failed to meet the 8% thickness swelling value as stipulated in the standards.