PRODUCTION AND CHARACTERISATION OF BIODIESEL DERIVED FROM JATROPHA CURCAS OIL USING ONE-STEP SUPERCRITICAL-METHANOL EXTRACTION TECHNIQUE

INSTITUT PENGURUSAN PENYELIDIKAN
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA
40450 SHAH ALAM, SELANGOR
MALAYSIA

BY

ASSOC. PROF. DR. HJ. MOHD AZLAN MOHD ISHAK
PROF. DR. HJ. KHUDZIR HJ. ISMAIL
MR. MOHD FAUZI ABDULLAH

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Surat Kami 600-RMI/ST/FRGS 5/3/Fst (2/2009)
Tarikh 12Februari2Q09

Dr Mohd Azlan b Mohd Ishak
Ketua Projek
Fakulti Sains Gunaan
UiTM Cawangari Perlis
Kampus Arau
Peti Surat 41
02600 Arau
PERLIS

Prof Dr Hj Khudzir Ismail
Ahli Projek
Fakulti Sains Gunaan
UiTM Cawangan Perlis
Kampus Arau
Peti Surat 41
02600 Arau
PERLIS

En Mohd Fauzi b Abdullah
Ahli Projek
Fakulti Sains Gunaan
UiTM Cawangan Perlis
Kampus Arau
Peti Surat 41
02600 Arau
PERLIS

Tuan/Puan,

TAJUK PROJEK FRGS: PRODUCTION AND CHARACTERISATION OF BIODIESEL DERIVED FROM JATROPHA CURCAS OIL USING ONE-STEP SUPERCRITICAL-METHANOL EXTRACTION TECHNIQUE

Dengan segala hormatnya perkara di atas adalah dirujuk.

Sukacita dimaklumkan Jabatan Kementerian Pengajian Tinggi Malaysia telah meluluskan permohonan rayuan projek penyelidikan tuan/puan bagi FRGS Fasa 1/2008 seperti tajuk di atas dengan keputusan seperti berikut:-

"Disokong dengan peruntukan RM90, 000.00-recommendedfor 2 years projek"

Kelulusan ini juga tertakluk kepada syarat-syarat seperti berikut:- **^**

1. **Tempoh projek penyelidikan ini ialah 2 tahun iaitu bermula 1 Mac 2009 sehingga 30 Mac 2011.**

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ABSTRACT

In-situ supercritical methanol transesterification for production of biodiesel from *Jatropha curcas* L. (JCL) seeds was successfully carried out via 1000 ml high-temperature high-pressure batch-wise reactor system in an absence of catalyst. In order to maximize the percent of crude biodiesel and FAMEs yield, four process variables were studied in this experiment, i.e. temperatures (180 to 300 °C), pressure (6 to 18 MPa), reaction time (5 to 35 min) and seeds-to-methanol ratio(l:15 to 1:45) using methanol as a solvent as well as reactant. Response Surface Methodology (RSM) was used to reduce the number of experimental runs required to generate sufficient information for a statistically acceptable results. In order to determine the best conditions of the variables in this in-situ process, Central Composite Rotatable Design (CCRD) was used for regression analysis and analysis of variance (ANOVA). Using RSM, the best conditions were chosen at temperature of 280.0 °C, pressure of 12.7 MPa, 30.0 min of reaction time and 1:40 (w/v) of seeds-to-methanol ratio. Interestingly, the qualitative Gas Chromatography (GC) analysis on the crude biodiesel showed the presence of FAMEs, indicating that the transesterification reaction had occurred during the in-situ process. The average saturated FAMEs content of the seed samples is low: 18.1% for methyl palmitate (CI7:0) and 7.1% for methyl stearate (CI9:0). The average content of the unsaturated FAMEs, methyl oleate (C19:l) and methyl linoleate (C19:2) is considerably higher which is 39.5 and 33.2%, respectively which are comparable to the fatty acid composition in crude JCL oil feedstock. The properties of biodiesel produced from this in-situ supercritical methanol transesterification were comparable with fuel properties of commercial No. 2 Diesel. It was found that specific gravity of JCL biodiesel was 0.87 g/cm^3 and it falls between the ASTM D6751 ranges. The kinematic viscosity is 5.27 cSt. The flash point was determined to be 100 °C while the pour point of JCL biodiesel was measured to be 0 °C which is slightly higher than that of No. 2 Diesel fuel. The cloud point was reported to be -2.06 °C. The calorific value of JCL biodiesel is 39.3 MJ/kg, which is almost 88% of the calorific value of diesel (44.8 MJ/kg). Thus, the high-temperature high-pressure batch-wise reactor system could be a promising approach in production of JCL biodiesel from in-situ supercritical methanol transesterification.