

**BIODIGESTION OF CASSAVA PEEL WASTE, COW DUNG AND OIL
PALM FUEL ASH FOR BIOGAS PRODUCTION**

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF
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(M.ENG) DEGREE IN CIVIL ENGINEERING IN THE DEPARTMENT OF
CIVIL ENGINEERING, COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, COVENANT
UNIVERSITY.**

OCTOBER, 2021

ACCEPTANCE

This is to attest that this dissertation was accepted in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the award of Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) degree in Civil Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering, College of Engineering, Covenant University, Ota.

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DECLARATION

I, **FAGBENLE, EMMANUEL OLABAYO (13CI015209)** declares that I carried out this research work under the supervision of Professor David O. Olukanni, of the Department of Civil Engineering, Covenant University. I also solemnly declare that to the best of my knowledge, no part of this report either wholly or partially has been submitted here in Covenant University or elsewhere in a previous application for the award of a degree. All sources of data and scholarly publications have been duly acknowledged.

FAGBENLE, EMMANUEL OLABAYO

Signature and Date

CERTIFICATION

We certify that this dissertation titled “**BIODIGESTION OF CASSAVA PEEL WASTE, COW DUNG AND OIL PALM FUEL ASH FOR BIOGAS PRODUCTION**” is an original research work carried out by **FAGBENLE, EMMANUEL OLABAYO (13CI015209)** in the Department of Civil Engineering, College of Engineering, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria under the supervision of Professor David O. Olukanni. We have examined and found this work acceptable as part of the requirements for the award of Master of Engineering in Civil Engineering.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this research work to God Almighty, for his wisdom and strength given to me to carry out this research. I also want to dedicate this research to my parents, for their love and support towards fulfilling my goals and ambitions.

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TABLE OF CONTENT

CONTENT	PAGE
COVER PAGE	i
ACCEPTANCE	iii
DECLARATION	iv
CERTIFICATION	v
DEDICATION	vi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	xiii
LIST OF TABLES	xv
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xvi
ABSTRACT	xvii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of Study	1
1.2 Statement of Problem	3
1.3 Aim	4
1.4 Objectives	4
1.5 Justification of the Study	5
1.6 Scope of Research	5
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	6
2.1 Overview of Energy	6
2.2 Introduction to Biogas	7
2.2.1 Composition of Biogas	8
2.3 Biogas Projects in Africa	8
2.3.1 Commercial Biogas Barriers in Africa.	11

2.4 Biogas in Nigeria	11
2.5 Potential feedstock for biogas in Nigeria	12
2.5.1 Agricultural Residues from Energy crops.	12
2.5.2 Human and Animal Waste	14
2.6 Potential Benefits and Negative Impacts of Biogas	15
2.7 Concept of Anaerobic Digestion	16
2.7.1 Biochemical process in Anaerobic Digestion	17
2.7.1.1 Hydrolysis/Liquefaction	17
2.7.1.2 Acidogenesis	18
2.7.1.3 Acetogenesis	19
2.7.1.4 Methanogenesis	20
2.7.2 Anaerobic co-digestion	22
2.7.3 Important operating parameters in anaerobic digestion process	23
2.7.3.1 Total solids	23
2.7.3.2 Temperature	23
2.7.3.3 pH of anaerobic digesters	24
2.7.3.4 Retention Time	24
2.7.3.5 Mixing Anaerobic Digester Content	24
2.7.3.6 Inhibition and Toxicity	24
2.7.4 Factors Affecting Microbial Activities in Anaerobic Digestion Process	25
2.7.4.1 Nature of Slurry	25
2.7.4.2 Seeding or bacterial population	25
2.7.4.3 Carbon-Nitrogen (C/N) Feed Materials Ratio	25
2.7.4.4 Anaerobic conditions in the Digesters	25
2.7.5 End Products of Anaerobic Digestion	25

2.8 Gap in Knowledge	26
2.9 Biomass used in this study	26
2.9.1 Cassava peel	26
2.9.2 Cow Dung	28
2.9.3 Oil Palm Fuel Ash	28
CHAPTER THREE: MATERIAL AND METHODS	30
3.1 Materials	30
3.2 Design of Pilot Scale Anaerobic Digesters	30
3.3 Anaerobic Digester Design Considerations	31
3.3.1 Operating Volume	31
3.3.2 Total Volume	31
3.3.3 Digester Dimensions	31
3.4 Material selection	32
3.5 Gas Holder System	34
3.6 Experimental Design	34
3.7 Feedstock Preparation	35
3.8 Measurement and Concentration of Gas Production	36
3.9 Measurement of Physical Chemical and Bacteriological Parameters of Feedstock	37
3.9.1 Total Solids	37
3.9.2 Moisture Content	38
3.9.3 Volatile Solids	38
3.9.4 Chemical Oxygen Demand	38
3.9.5 Volatile fatty acids	39
3.9.6 Total Carbon	39
3.9.7 Total Phosphorus	39

3.9.8 Total Carbohydrate	40
3.9.9 Protein	40
3.9.10 Total Ammonia Nitrogen	40
3.10 Daily Monitoring of Operation Parameters	41
3.11 Biogas Purification	41
CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	44
4.1 Introduction	44
4.2 Daily Biogas Production	44
4.3 pH Variation	46
4.3.1 Relationship between pH and volume of biogas production	47
4.4 Ambient and Slurry Temperature	47
4.4.1 Relationship between Temperature and Volume of Biogas Production	49
4.5 Biogas Content	51
4.5.1 Methane (CH ₄)	51
4.5.2 Carbon dioxide (CO ₂)	52
4.5.3 Hydrogen sulphide H ₂ S	53
4.6 Physiochemical Parameters	54
4.6.1 Protein and Carbohydrate	54
4.6.2 Total Carbon and Nitrogen	55
4.6.3 Total Ammonia Nitrogen	57
4.6.4 NPK (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium)	58
4.6.5 Volatile fatty acid	59
4.6.6 Chemical Oxygen Demand	60
4.6.7 Moisture content and Total solids	61
4.6.8 Total Volatile solids	62

4.7 Flame Test	63
4.8 Biogas purification	64
4.8.1 CO ₂ Removal	65
4.8.2 H ₂ S Removal	66
4.9 Household digester capacity	67
4.10 Cost benefit of biogas system	69
CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	70
5.1 Conclusion	70
5.2 Recommendations	71
5.3 Contribution To Knowledge	71
REFERENCES	73
APPENDIX	82
APPENDIX A: CO₂ and H₂S Concentration with Time	82
APPENDIX B: Daily and Cumulative Biogas production	83
APPENDIX C: pH value	84

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE	TITLE OF FIGURES	PAGE
Figure 1.1	Cassava peel waste dump site at Atan, Ota, Ogun State	3
Figure 2.1	Schematic diagram of a biodigester	7
Figure 2.2	Hydrolysis process	18
Figure 2.3	Acidogenesis process	19
Figure 2.4	Acetogenesis process	20
Figure 2.5	Methanogenesis process	21
Figure 2.6	Overview of the anaerobic digestion process	21
Figure 2.7	Cassava tubers and cassava peel at a garri processing site in Atan, Ogun State	28
Figure 2.8	Palm oil waste	29
Figure 3.1	235L Biodigester design	32
Figure 3.2	Materials for biodigester construction	33
Figure 3.3	Biogas Storage Tubes	34
Figure 3.4	235L Biodigesters	35
Figure 3.5	Gas analyser	36
Figure 3.6	pH and Thermometer	41
Figure 3.7	Experimental set-up for the biogas purification	42
Figure 3.8	Flow diagram of biogas purification process	43
Figure 4.1	Daily Biogas Generation	45
Figure 4.2	pH variation in digester A and B	46
Figure 4.3	Ambient and slurry temperature	48
Figure 4.4	Relationship between temperature and volume of biogas production	50
Figure 4.5	Weekly methane yield	52
Figure 4.6	Weekly Carbon dioxide (CO ₂) yield	52
Figure 4.7	Weekly Hydrogen Sulphide (H ₂ S) yield	53
Figure 4.8	Protein and carbohydrate contents	55
Figure 4.9	Total carbon and nitrogen contents	56
Figure 4.10	Ammonia-Nitrogen	57
Figure 4.11	Potassium, nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations	58

Figure 4.12	Volatile fatty acid concentration	58
Figure 4.13	COD concentration level	60
Figure 4.14	Moisture content and total solids	61
Figure 4.15	Total volatile solids	62
Figure 4.16	Flame test	64
Figure 4.17	CO ₂ Removal	66
Figure 4.18	H ₂ S Removal	67

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE	TITLE OF TABLES	PAGE
Table 2.1	Energy potential from agricultural residues in Nigeria	13
Table 2.2	Energy potential from animal wastes in Nigeria	15
Table 2.3	Chemical analyses of cassava peels	27
Table 2.4	Chemical properties of cow dung	28
Table 3.1	Cost of constructing a 235L digester	32
Table 4.1	Content of digesters A and B	44
Table 4.2	Ambient and slurry temperatures	49
Table 4.3	Weekly content of biogas from Digester A	51
Table 4.4	Weekly content of biogas from Digester B	51
Table 4.5	Physiochemical composition of undigested slurry and digested sludge	54
Table 4.6	Weekly flame test for digesters A and B	63
Table 4.7	Cost estimate of a 3500L digester	69
Table 4.8	Cost benefit	70

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

C:N	Carbon to Nitrogen ratio
COD	Chemical Oxygen Demand
NPK	Nitrogen Phosphorus and Potassium
PHAs	Polyhydroxyalkanoates
PPM	Particle per million
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TS	Total solid
TVS	Total volatile solids
VFA	Volatile fatty acid
TC	Total carbon

ABSTRACT

Biogas, especially those obtained from cassava peels and cow dung have been discovered to contain a low concentration of methane when the cassava peel is not pretreated with chemical compounds or does not contain any buffer in its slurry. To this end, efforts towards achieving a higher concentration of methane have led to the co-digestion of cassava peel, cow dung and oil palm fuel ash under anaerobic conditions. In this project, two 235L digesters were used for this experiment with the first digester (digester A) containing 30 kg of cassava peel, 30 kg of cow dung and 120kg of water in the ratio 1:1:4, respectively. The second digester (digester B) contained 30kg of cassava peel, 30 kg of cow dung, 120 kg of water and 2.4kg of oil palm fuel ash in the ratio 1:1:4:0.08, respectively. The slurries obtained were digested anaerobically under mesophilic conditions. A retention period of 30 days was set for gas production. A comparative study of the biogas yields was conducted to determine if oil palm fuel ash influenced methane production. The overall result shows that digester B containing oil palm fuel ash produced more biogas and had higher methane concentration than digester A. Digester A produced 1070.3L of biogas with a maximum methane concentration of 33.6%. In contrast, digester B produced 1178.1L of biogas with a maximum methane concentration of 60.1%. Outcome from the study indicates that oil palm fuel ash is a suitable buffer for cassava peel and cow dung biogas production. The by-product of the anaerobic process is also useful as manure to grow agricultural produce. The significance of this study is to reduce the environmental and health hazards associated with inadequate waste management of cassava peel in Nigeria by turning waste to wealth through biogas production.

Keywords: anaerobic digestion; cassava peel; cow dung; oil palm fuel ash; environmental pollution; sustainable technology; biogas production; environmental sustainability.