

COMPARISON OF SUITABILITY OF DIFFERENT BINDING MATERIALS IN BRIQUETTE FORMING

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ABSTRACT

The process of manual saw dust briquette making was tested with different binding agents in the laboratory with 1.5 ton hydraulic jack. Dry cow dung, wheat flour and paper pulp were selected as binding agents. This briquette was designed with size 35mm Diameter x 35mm length and cylindrical shape.

Saw dust was sieved through 2mm screen mesh and 6 different samples were prepared with sieved saw dust and each binding agents as 5%, 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, and 50% dry basis. Cow dung samples were shown difficulties of mould detaching. Wheat flour and paper pulp binder samples with 5%, 10%, and 20% (dry basis) binders also failed on mould detaching due to breaking of briquettes. The minimum requirement of binder percentage was found to be with 30% dry binder of wheat flour and paper pulp to form stable briquette and hence it was selected for comparison of properties. Densities of briquettes with 30% binder of wheat flour and paper pulp were 373.7 kg/m^3 and 289.8 kg/m^3 respectively.



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Compression behavior of briquettes with 30% (dry basis) binding agents was examined for cyclic loading applied using the hydraulic jack. Maximum load of 110kg (35.9 kg/cm^2 pressure) was maintained for all the experiments. Number of force cycles needed to reach the pre-determined load was recorded; paper and wheat flour binder briquettes were needed five cycles and cow dung briquettes were needed additional two cycles.

Natural drying time was evaluated at 86~89% relative humidity and 25~30°C ambient temperature, It was recorded that briquettes came to 25% moisture content (Wet basis) within 33 hours and 20% moisture content (Wet basis) within 35 hours.

Compressive strength of the briquettes was tested for binder percentages of 30%, 40% and 50% (dry basis) of wheat flour and paper pulp binders. Results have indicated that compressive strength increased with the increase of binder percentage. Paper binder briquettes have comparatively high compressive strength in the range

of 0.124N/mm^2 to 0.238N/mm^2 while wheat flour briquettes have 0.032N/mm^2 to 0.055N/mm^2 .


Calorific values of raw materials and briquettes were tested. Briquettes obtained from 30% paper binder and 30% wheat flour binder has calorific values of 18.14MJ/kg and 20.04MJ/kg respectively.



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Declaration, copyright statement and the statement of the supervisor	i
Abstract.....	iv
Acknowledgements	vi
Table of contents	vii
List of tables.....	x
List of figures	xi
1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Scope and Aim	2
1.3 Objective	2
2.0 Literature Review	4
2.1 Raw material availability in Sri Lanka	5
2.2 Factors affecting to the strength and durability of briquette.....	7
2.3 Manual densification of Biomass.....	7
2.4 Biomass densification with the use of electricity.....	10
2.5 Pretreatment and Post-treatment.....	11
2.6 Binding mechanism and Binding agents	13
2.6.1 Binding Mechanism	14
2.6.2 Binding Agents	16
2.7 Factors affecting on the combustion characteristics of the briquettes.....	21
2.8 Properties of biomass briquettes.....	22
2.8.1 Density	22
2.8.2 Friability index	23
2.8.3 Heat Value.....	24
2.8.4 Moisture content	25
2.9 Emissions and environmental impact of biomass fuels.....	25
3.0 Materials and experimental methods.....	27
3.1 Collection of raw materials	27
3.1.1 Base Material.....	27
3.1.2 External Binding Material	27
3.2 Preparation of Raw Materials.....	27

3.2.1	Preparation of saw dust	28
3.2.2	Preparation of cow dung	28
3.2.3	Preparation of wheat flour	28
3.2.4	Preparation of paper	28
3.3	Equipment	28
3.3.1	Choice of Briquetting Machine	28
3.3.2	Size and shape of the Briquette	29
3.3.3	Choice of Mould	29
3.4	Sample preparation	30
3.4.1	Blending of materials	30
3.4.2	Pressing	31
3.4.3	Drying	32
3.5	Laboratory tests	32
3.5.1	Moisture content of the biomass	32
3.5.2	Calorific value of the biomass	32
3.5.3	Compressive strength of the briquette	33
4.0	Results and Discussion	34
4.1	Data analysis	34
4.1.1	Moisture content	34
4.1.2	Calorific value (HHV)	34
4.2	Results of cyclic pressurization	36
4.2.1	Compression behavior	36
4.2.2	Cyclic loading	37
4.2.3	Size and density of the briquette samples	39
4.3	Drying Behavior	40
4.3.1	Natural drying process	40
4.4	Compressive strength & Friability Index of the briquettes	42
4.5	Combustion characteristics of briquettes	44
4.6	Comparison of binding agents in saw dust briquettes	46
4.7	Economic evaluation	47
4.7.1	Availability (annually)	48
4.7.2	Economic feasibility	49
4.7.3	Socio-Economic Context	51
5.0	conclusions and future recomendations	53



5.1 Conclusions	53
5.2 Future recommendations.....	55
Bibliography	57
Appendix A.....	63



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LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1. Composition of dried cow dung.....	19
Table 2.2. Average emissions of a rural household per month.....	26
Table 3.1. Addition of water as a mixing media.....	31
Table 4.1. Visual observations of mould detaching.....	36
Table 4.1. Force acting on the mould.....	38
Table 4.3. Size and density of the briquette (Diameter 35mm).....	39
Table 4.4. Calorific value of biomass	45
Table 4.5. Comparison of quality of briquettes.....	47
Table 4.6. Availability of raw materials.....	48
Table 4.7. Availability of raw materials.....	49
Table 4.8. Comparison of cost of energy.....	50



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LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1. Pellets.....	4
Figure 2.2. Briquettes	5
Figure 2.3. Biomass briquettes made with Mini Briant press, Peterson press, Lee Hite Press, Bottle press and Hand balls (Left to Right).....	8
Figure 2.4. Lee Hite Press.....	8
Figure 2.5. Mini Briant Press	9
Figure 2.6. Peterson Press.....	10
Figure 2.7. Changes of physical appearance of biomass after steam explosion.....	12
Figure 2.8. Changes of physical appearance of biomass after torrefaction.....	13
Figure 2.9. Light microscopoy image of cross section of biomass briquette.....	15
Figure 2.10. UV auto fluorosence image of ground biomass before briquetting.....	17
Figure 2.11. Ingredients of coddung	18
Figure 2.12. Bulk density of defferent biomass products.....	23
Figure 3.1. Mould and Hydraulic jack.....	30
Figure 4.1. Applied load variation on mould.....	37
Figure 4.2. Pictorial view of hand pressed briquettes.....	39
Figure 4.3. Natural drying curve of saw dust briquettes.....	41
Figure 4.4. Influence of binder % on compressive strength of saw dust briquettes..	42
Figure 4.5. Comparison of different biomass materials and briquettes burning behavior in Bomb Calorimeter.....	44
Figure 4.6. Smoke emitted from burning of coddung cake.....	52