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Process Optimization of Microwave Assisted Co-pyrolysis of Coal and Oil Palm Shell Blend with Carbon Surfaces

The energy insecurity and CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel utilization demands sustainable and cleaner fuel resources. Bio-fuels and chemicals from waste biomass have been recognized as the renewable energy resource. Coal has the potential to become an important source for liquid and gas fuels. Co-processing of coal with waste biomass to produced fuels is considered a step towards sustainable and clean coal utilization. In this study, Oil Palm Shell (OPS) waste biomass and coal were subjected to Microwave (MW) co-pyrolysis conditions. The effects of process parameters on the efficiency of co-pyrolysis blended fuel were tested to identify the optimal processing conditions. The results of this study suggests that co-pyrolysis blended fuel over 35-55-75wt% carbon loading with 3-Layer method at 600W and 4LPM of N₂ flow rate suggests that increasing the carbon loading increases the oil yield. This suggests that experimental design space for carbon loading can be narrowed down. Therefore, 55wt% carbon loading was selected as the minimum and 75wt% carbon loading as the maximum range. The levels of MW selected power were 600-720W, where the highest is based on the maximum rated capacity of multi-mode MW oven (i.e. 800W). The response surface methodology was used to establish model yields. The co-pyrolysis oil obtained under various MW operating conditions was analyzed using GC-MS for chemical composition. The process temperature of blended fuel solids with 3-Layer method were recorded by online thermocouples and discussed.

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