



Performance Evaluation of a Small Tractor with Biodiesel

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ABSTRACT

Biodiesel, which is an alternative for diesel fuel, has gained considerable attention in the recent past and now gaining recognition among other available renewable fuels. In practice, biodiesel is produced through a process called transesterification in which organically derived oils are combined with alcohol (ethanol or methanol) in the presence of a catalyst to form ethyl or methyl ester. The produced biodiesel should meet the existing standards for better performance in unmodified diesel engine. Use of biodiesel in a compression ignition engine was found to develop a highly compatible engine-fuel system with low emission characteristics. Two similar engines were operated using optimum biodiesel blend and mineral diesel oil, respectively. The additional lubricating property present in the fuel resulted in lower wear and improved life of moving components in a biodiesel-fuelled engine. However, this needed experimental verification and quantification. A series of experiments were thus conducted to see the fuel consumption of the various concentrations of biodiesel blends. 100% biodiesel showed lesser consumption rate compared to diesel oil.

Keywords: Biodiesel, esterification, Jatropha, transesterification, Vegetable oil

The world's economy depends upon the burning of fossil fuel equivalent of some 180 million barrels of oil each day. The consumption rate is equivalent to an annual burning of what nature took about one million years to accumulate as fossil deposits. The world at present is confronted with the twin crises of fossil fuel depletion and environmental degradation. Indiscriminate extraction and lavish consumption of fossil fuels have led to reduction in underground-based carbon resources. The search for an alternative fuel, which promises a harmonious correlation with sustainable development, energy conservation, management, efficiency, and environmental preservation, has become highly pronounced in the present context (Agarwal *et al.* 2003).

More than 7 million diesel engines are being used in the Indian agricultural sector for various activities. It is impossible to do away with these existing systems and hence alternative fuels are being expeditiously

sought. As far as the application in rural agricultural sectors of a developing country like India is concerned, such internal combustion engines should preferably utilize alternative fuels of bio-origin, which are locally available. With agricultural conditions prevailing in India, the adaptation of the fuel to the existing engines has been more pronounced compared to developing a new engine for available alternative fuel. This allows the replacement of diesel fuel by vegetable oils, and for a short-term fuel as a blend (Agarwal *et al.* 2003).

Alternative fuels are generally referred as cleaner fuels in comparison with gasoline or diesel fuels. While using a new fuel, it is extremely important to strike a balance among many conflicting parameters involving not only the performance and emission characteristics of the engine, but also the overall life of the system. The combustion-related properties of vegetable oils are somewhat similar to diesel oil (Agarwal, 1999). Neat vegetable oils or their blends with diesel pose various long-term problems in compression ignition engines, e.g., poor atomization characteristics, ring-sticking, injector-choking, injector deposits, injector pump failure, and lube oil dilution by crank-case polymerization. Such problems do not arise with short-term engine operations. Sometimes, the engine fails catastrophically, when operated on neat vegetable oils continuously for a longer period. The properties of vegetable oils such as high viscosity, low volatility, and polyunsaturated character are responsible for these problems (Krawczyk, 1996; Teri, 1998).

Indian scenario

In India, the research and development of bio-diesel started from the mid 1980s. From 2003 on, *Jatropha curcas* developed fairly fast since many research institutes, universities, banks, farms, enterprises and NGOs began to engage in its breeding, propagation, plantation, cultivation and processing, etc. The Indian Government has attached much importance to bio-diesel. The Indian National Planning Commission has made clear development plan on bio-diesel. India will plant *Jatropha curcas* on a large scale, and bio-diesel derived from *Jatropha curcas* seeds will account for 20 percent of all diesel consumption in the country by 2020.

In this paper performance of a small tractor namely *Krishi Shakti* was evaluated with different ratio of biodiesel and diesel blend in different field condition to observe various parameters. The results found very much satisfactory.

Definition and Standard

Biodiesel's definition has been a work in progress. Since the early 1900s, biodiesel has been defined as an alternative form of diesel fuel derived from vegetable oils or animal fats and alcohol. The definition of biodiesel was neither legally definable nor defensible in the World for about a century. This changed when biodiesel was registered with the U S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a fuel and a fuel additive under section 211(b) of the Clean Air Act (Strong *et al.* 2004). With help from the American Society of Testing & Materials (ASTM), subsequent legislation such as the Energy Policy Act (EPAct) helped further define biodiesel. In December 2001, the ASTM issued defined physical/chemical constraints for biodiesel and subsequently for mixtures of biodiesel with diesel fuel (Standards and Warranties 2006). An important distinction needs to be made between biodiesel and biodiesel blends. Biodiesel is commonly mixed with diesel No. 2 to form a biodiesel blend. A mixture of biodiesel and diesel is not biodiesel, but is referred to as a biodiesel blend. Pure biodiesel, also known as neat biodiesel, is commonly noted as

B100, indicating that the fuel has 100 percent biodiesel (noted by the B100) and 0 percent diesel. The most common biodiesel blend is B20, which contains 20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent diesel.

Austrian Standardization Institute issued the first biodiesel fuel standard in 1991 as ON C 119063 for RME (Rapeseed Methyl Ester). This was as a successful attempt to define the quality of a fuel not by its feedstock source but by what was filled into the tank. Later in 1997, the DIN E 5160666 was published in Germany for FAME (Fatty Acid Methyl Ester), while other national standards were established in the CSSR, France, Italy, Sweden and USA. The most recent development is the completion of a CEN – European Committee for Standardization – draft standard for biodiesel with validity all over Europe. This work is still in progress and a final CEN–standard was published by mid 2003 under the new code of EN 14214 (Strong *et al.* 2004). Bureau of Indian Standards announced first specification for B 100 biodiesel (IS 15607 : 2005). Considerable assistance has been drawn from ASTM D 6751-02 and EN 14214 while preparing this standard. Table 1 lists the specification in the Indian standards. The maximum test methods for biodiesel fuel are just as it is for petrodiesel fuel like density, kinematic viscosity, flash point, sulfur content, carbon residue content, water content, copper corrosion, cetane number and acid value. And other remaining and most important methods are assisting towards the ASTM and EN standards.

Table 1: Indian Biodiesel standards (IS: 15607)

Sl. No.	Characteristic	Requirement	Method of Test, Ref to	
			ISO/ASTM/EN	[P :] of IS 1448
1	Density at 15°C, kg/m ³	860-900	ISO 3675, IS0 12185, D 4052	[P:16/P: 32]
2	Kinematic viscosity at 40°C, cSt	2.5-6.0	ISO 3104	[P: 25]
3	Flash point (PMCC) °C, Min	120	—	[P: 21]
4	Sulphur, mg/kg, Max	50.0	D 5453	[P: 83]
5	Carbon residue (Ramsbottom) ¹ , percent by mass, Max	0.05	D 4530, ISO 10370	—
6	Sulfated ash, percent by mass, Max	0.02	ISO 6245	[P:4]
7	Water content, mg/kg, Max	500	D 2709, ISO 3733, ISO 6296	[P: 40]
8	Total contamination, mg/kg, Max	24	EN 12662	—
9	Copper corrosion. 3 h at 50°C, Max	1	IS0 2160	[P: 15]
10	Cetane No., Min	51	IS05156	[P:9]
11	Acid value, mg KOH/g, Max	0.50	—	[P:1/Sec I]
12	Methanol ² , percent by mass, Max	0.20	EN 14110	—
13	Ethanol ³ , percent by mass, Max	0.20	—	—
14	Ester content, percent by mass, Min	96.5	EN 14103	—
15	Free Glycerol, percent by mass, Max	0.02	D 6584	—
16	Total Glycerol, percent by mass, Max	0.25	D 6584	—
17	Phosphorous, mg/kg, Max	10.0	D 4951	—
18	Oxidation stability at 110°C, h, Min	6	EN 14112	—

¹Carbon residue shall be run on 100 percent sample; ²Applicable for fatty acid methyl ester; ³Applicable for fatty acid ethyl ester; ⁴European method is under development.

Biodiesel produced by a process called transesterification, where the vegetable oil or animal fat is first filtered, then processed with alkali to remove free fatty acids. It is then mixed with alcohol (usually methanol) and a catalyst (usually sodium or potassium hydroxide). The vegetable oil's triglycerides react to form esters and glycerol, which are then separated from each other and purified. The reaction mechanism for alkali-catalyzed transesterification required three steps. The first step is an attack on the carbonyl carbon atom of the triglyceride molecule by the anion of the alcohol (methoxide ion) to form a tetrahedral intermediate. In the second step, the tetrahedral intermediate reacts with an alcohol (methanol) to regenerate the anion of the alcohol (methoxide ion). In the last step, rearrangement of the tetrahedral intermediate results in the formation of a fatty acid ester and a diglyceride (Fig. 1). The same mechanism is for diglyceride to monoglyceride and monoglyceride to glycerol. In each step, one molecule of ester is formed (Ma *et al.* 1999).

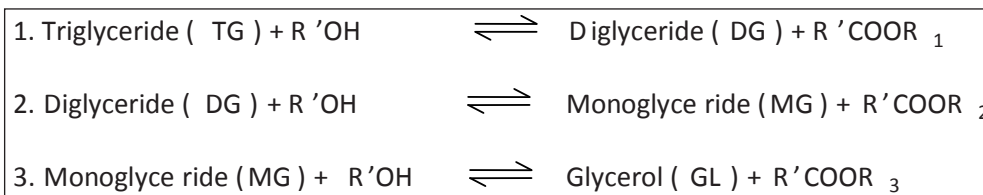


Fig. 1: Mechanism of transesterification reaction

Biodiesel is a renewable fuel that can be manufactured from algae, vegetable oils, animal fats or recycled restaurant greases; it can be produced locally in most countries. It is safe, biodegradable and reduces air pollutants, such as particulates, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons. Blends of 20 percent biodiesel with 80 percent petroleum diesel (B20) can generally be used in unmodified diesel engines. Biodiesel can also be used in its pure form (B100), but may require certain engine modifications to avoid maintenance and performance problems. Biodiesel has about 5–8% less energy density, but better lubricity and more complete combustion can make the energy output of a diesel engine only 2% less per volume when compared to petro-diesel. The fuel blend ratio of 25:75 (treated jatropha oil: diesel) was found optimum based on the engine performance characteristics such as power, torque, smoke density and exhaust emission.

Bio-diesels play an important role in the ongoing balance between two major societal needs, viz., fuel economy and environment friendly Emissions. Bio-diesels can be produced in a way that does not cut into food supplies as *Jatropha* is non edible oil. Bio-diesel production reduces the dependency on imported oil and supports the agricultural sector (Huang *et al.* 2012). The properties of biodiesel are not the same as diesel fuels especially their high viscosity and low volatility. These properties strongly affect injection pressure injection timing and spray characteristics (Yamanae *et al.* 2001).

An increase in viscosity of biodiesel will result in poor atomization characteristics due to decreased cone angle during fuel injection (Ryan *et al.* 1984). The pre-heating of vegetable oil gives better performance than raw vegetable oil. It has been observed that viscosity reduces exponentially with temperature. It has also been observed that when pre-heated vegetable oil is injected into the cylinder, spray pattern and atomization character has improved. The injection pressure has an effect on the spray formation of biodiesel blends in CI engines (Nagaraj *et al.* 2003).

QUALITY OF BIODIESEL: EXPLANATION AND THEIR CONSEQUENCE

The quality of biodiesel can be divided into two groups (Martin, 1996). The first group includes parameters, which are directly correlated with the petro diesel fuel specifications, while the second group describes the chemical composition and purity of fatty acids methyl ester (Table 2). With the view of storage and stability of biodiesel over a longer time span, some modifications have been done by including some important specification required like water content, iodine value and oxidative stability of biodiesel under defined conditions.

Table 2: Parameters for defining the quality of biodiesel

Parameters	Units	Available standards
General parameter for the quality of biodiesel		
Density and specific gravity	at 15°C, kg/m ³	IS : 15607, ON C1191, Journal Official, DIN E 51606, UNI 10635, SS 15 54 36, EN 14214
Kinematic viscosity	at 40°C, cSt or mm ² /s	IS : 15607, ON C1191, Journal Official, DIN E 51606, UNI 10635, SS 15 54 36, ASTM D 6751, MBTI, EN 14214
A. Flash point	°C	IS : 15607, ON C1191, Journal Official, DIN E 51606, UNI 10635, SS 15 54 36, ASTM D 6751, MBTI, EN 14214
Cetane number	—	IS : 15607, ON C1191, Journal Official, DIN E 51606, SS 15 54 36, ASTM D 6751, MBTI, EN 14214
Carbon Residue, 10%	percent by mass	IS : 15607, Journal Official, UNI 10635, ASTM D 6751, MBTI, EN 14214
Total acidity	mg KOH/kg	IS : 15607, ON C1191, Journal Official, DIN E 51606, UNI 10635, SS 15 54 36, ASTM D 6751, MBTI, EN 14214
Sulphur content	mg/kg	IS : 15607, ASTM D 6751, EN 14214
Ash content (Sulphated)	percent by mass	IS : 15607, ON C1191, DIN E 51606, ASTM D 6751, EN 14214
Water content	mg/kg	IS : 15607, Journal Official, DIN E 51606, UNI 10635, SS 15 54 36, ASTM D 6751, MBTI, EN 14214
Iodine number	—	IS : 15607, ON C1191, Journal Official, DIN E 51606, SS 15 54 36, MBTI, EN 14214
Vegetable oil specific parameter for the quality of biodiesel		
Methanol	percent by mass	IS : 15607, ON C1191, Journal Official, DIN E 51606, UNI 10635, SS 15 54 36, EN 14214
Ethanol	percent by mass	IS : 15607, ON C1191, Journal Official, DIN E 51606, UNI 10635, SS 15 54 36, EN 14214
Mono-glycerids	percent by mass	IS : 15607, Official, DIN E 51606, UNI 10635, SS 15 54 36, EN 14214
Di-glycerids	percent by mass	IS : 15607, Official, DIN E 51606, UNI 10635, SS 15 54 36, EN 14214
Tri-glycerids	percent by mass	IS : 15607, Official, DIN E 51606, UNI 10635, SS 15 54 36, EN 14214
Free glycerol	percent by mass	IS : 15607, ON C1191, Journal Official, DIN E 51606, UNI 10635, SS 15 54 36, ASTM D 6751, MBTI, EN 14214
Total glycerol	percent by mass	IS : 15607, ON C1191, Journal Official, DIN E 51606, ASTM D 6751, MBTI, EN 14214
Total contamination	mg/kg	
Phosphorous	mg/kg	IS : 15607, ON C1191, Journal Official, DIN E 51606, UNI 10635, SS 15 54 36, ASTM D 6751, MBTI, EN 14214
Sodium and Potassium	mg/kg	IS : 15607, Journal Official, DIN E 51606, SS 15 54 36, EN 14214

Calcium and Magnesium	mg/kg	IS : 15607
Oxidative stability	at 110°C, h	IS : 15607, EN 14214

IS : 15607: Indian standard; ON C1191: Austria; Journal Official: France; DIN E 51606: Germany; UNI 10635: Italy; SS 15 54 36: Sweden; ASTM D 6751: USA; MBTI: Milligan Biotech Inc (Canada); EN 14214: European.

BIODIESEL PRODUCTION

Biodiesel is produced from vegetable oils, recycled cooking greases and animal fat. A basic overview for manufacturing Biodiesel is provided in Fig. 2 (Chaturvedi *et al.* 2004).

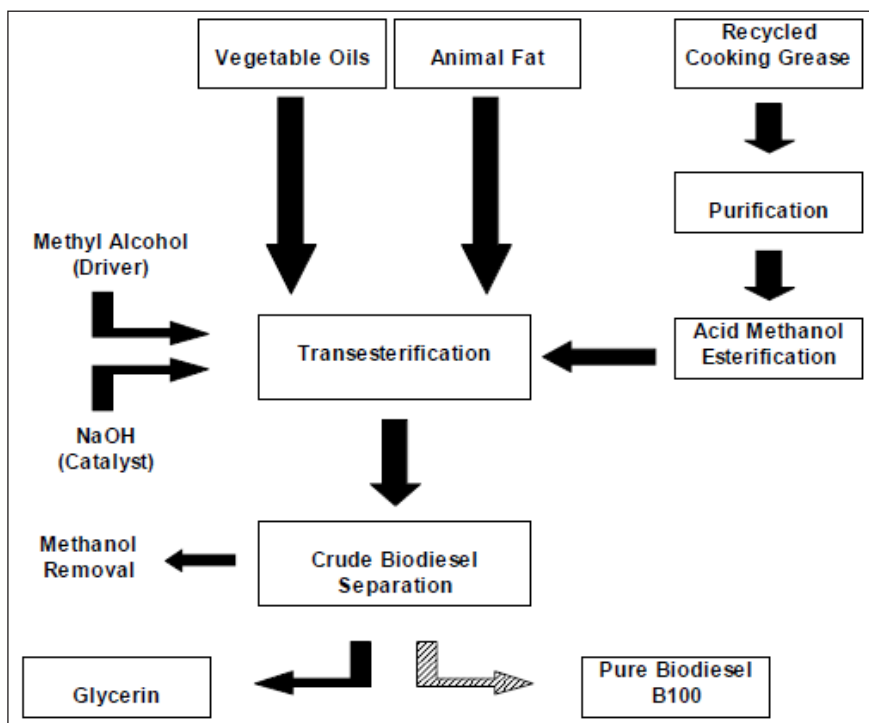


Fig. 2: Basic overview of manufacturing biodiesel

Alternative fuels for Diesel engines have become increasingly important due to increased environmental concerns, and several socioeconomic aspects. In this sense, vegetable oils and animal fats represent a promising alternative to conventional Diesel fuel. However, several chemical properties of oils and fats, among them are the high viscosity and high molecular weight, cause poor fuel atomization and low volatility, leading to incomplete combustion and severe engine deposits, injector coking and piston ring sticking (Bagby, 1987). Research has shown that one way to improve the fuel properties of oils and fats is their transesterification (Petersen *et al.* 1992; Isigigür *et al.* 1994; Muniyappa *et al.* 1996; Zhen *et al.* 1996; Dorado *et al.* 2002). Transesterification is a chemical reaction which refers to the conversion of an organic acid ester into another ester of the same acid, so-called biodiesel, using an alcohol, in the presence of a catalyst. This process provides a fuel that can be utilized in unmodified Diesel engines.

Moreover, several approaches have found that this new fuel seems to emit far less of the most regulated pollutants than standard Diesel fuel, among them is CO₂. That means biodiesel contributes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions compared to conventional Diesel (Ali *et al.* 1994; Chang *et al.* 1996; Peterson *et al.* 1996; Scharmer, 1998; McDonnell *et al.* 1999). Also, the use of biodiesel results in substantially lower emissions of carcinogenic compounds, as compared to conventional Diesel fuel.

Although several approaches have described the use of biodiesel from vegetable oils or animal fats (Peterson *et al.* 1992; Isigigür *et al.* 1994; Muniyappa *et al.* 1996; . Zhen *et al.* 1996; Ali *et al.* 1994; Chang *et al.* 1996; Peterson *et al.* 1996), research concerning biodiesel from used frying oil, and from waste olive oil in particular, is insufficient, and nonexistent, respectively, and more research is needed. In this sense, the aim of this work is to carry out a preliminary emission test of a Diesel direct injection engine fueled with biodiesel from vegetable seed.

TRACTOR AND THE BIODIESEL

Tractors and farming have been at the centre for the use of Biodiesel. From an historical perspective, farm vehicles have been more tolerant to fuel types. Bioener G only recommends the use of the highest quality Biodiesel meeting the European quality standards EN14214. John Deere first showed a biodiesel-fuelled 7600 tractor working on the demo plots at the 1994 Tillage events and revealed that there was no loss of power through the use of Rape Methyl Ester (RME). All tractors produced since 1989 and before the 2002 introduction of common-rail injection systems are capable of running on pure biodiesel, with some minor modifications. However, later models fitted with common-rail engines are only approved to burn a 5% blend. New Holland approves the use of biodiesel blends of up to 20% (B20). All New Holland equipment currently in production and powered by CNH engines, including common-rail, can run on B20 without modifications, alterations to service schedules, restrictions on operating temperatures or additional warranty. Blends greater than 20% will soon be approved subject to the purchase of an extended warranty. Case and New Holland tractors use identical power plants, Case only approves the use of a 5% biodiesel blend for common-rail engines. Field testing of 100% biodiesel is under way. Massey Ferguson, Sisu Diesel engines that were fitted to most MF tractors can run on 100% biodiesel provided the service interval is reduced by 50%. Tier III Sisu Diesel engines which use common rail injection systems can run on a 20% blend of biodiesel. These engines are fitted to new MF 6400 (6485 upwards), MF 7400 (MF 7485 upwards) and MF 8400- series. All Perkins engines used in Massey Ferguson machines can run on a blend of 5% biodiesel. Fendt tractors produced since 1995 can run on 100% biodiesel. These can also handle 100% biodiesel because they use twin oil-lubricated fuel injection pumps, thus overcoming the problems of fuel lubrication and rubber seal degradation. Because of biodiesel's strong solvent properties it can cause engine oil dilution. This means oil change intervals must be halved. After the first couple of hours with biodiesel, Fendt recommends changing the fuel filters.

Valtra tractors equipped with common-rail engines runs on up to 20% bio-diesel. All other engines can be run on up to 100% biodiesel. Engine performance with bio-diesel is the same as with mineral diesel. It is possible that greater concentrations of biodiesel could be used in the future. Valtra's engines do not need to be modified before using biodiesel. However if a blend of more than 5% is used, the engine oil, oil filter and fuel filter must be changed twice as often as normal. Sisu Diesel recommends that a separate pre-filter be fitted if biodiesel is used regularly. The water filter should be checked frequently, as biodiesel is more liable to absorb condensed water than normal diesel fuel. All tractors marketed under

the Deutz-Fahr, Same, Lamborghini and Hurlimann brands equipped with Deutz engines are now able to run on fuel blends containing up to 100% biodiesel. The key to this is the engines' fuel injection systems, which use injectors fed from individual pumps.

All McCormick and Landini engine suppliers - Perkins, EEA and Cummins - allow the use of a biodiesel blend of no more than 5% and 95% EN 950 mineral diesel fuel. Regular oil sampling is recommended. Failures that can be attributed to operating with biodiesel will not be covered by the manufacturer's warranty. Perkins engines can run on a 5% biodiesel mix without loss of performance or warranty invalidation. Service intervals will remain at 500 hours or as otherwise previously specified. Trials of fuel with a higher proportion of biodiesel are ongoing and Perkins expects to make a statement in the coming year. Cummins power-plants (as used in McCormick and JCB tractors) are capable of handling up to 5% biodiesel. JCB only allow a 5% blend of Biodiesel in their vehicles.

In India, Mahindra & Mahindra launched the first Biodiesel compatible tractor for the Indian market, the Arjun International 75757. The trucks will run on B5 and the company is seeking to introduce B10 complaint vehicles in the future. The new tractors will be able to use five per cent Biodiesel. Company's research and development team has developed a fuel injection system that will allow mixing of five per cent Biodiesel, which will soon become a norm in the country. The tractors will also be able to run without biofuel.

METHODOLOGY

In the present research the aim was to carry out a preliminary emission test of a diesel (direct injection) engine fueled with biodiesel from jatropha and soya bean in several steady-state operating conditions. The fuel tests were performed with a 610 cc, single cylinder, four-stroke, water-cooled, 18.0:1 compression ratio, direct injection diesel engine. The maximum torque was 32.8 Nm at 3000 rpm, and the maximum engine power was 11.2 hp at 2250 rpm (DIN 6270-A). The engine was a new to original specifications. Fuel consumptions were measured in different ratios with variations of percentage of diesel and biodiesel. The result has shown in the Table 3.

Experiments were conducted in the following way:

1. First test was with 100% diesel for about 20 hrs.
2. Second test was with 20% Biodiesel: 80% Diesel for about 20 hrs.
3. Third test was with 50% Biodiesel: 50% Diesel for about 20 hrs.
4. Fourth test was with 80% Biodiesel: 20% Diesel for about 20 hrs
5. Fifth test was with 100% Biodiesel for about 20 hrs.
6. Necessary instrumentation was provided for measuring fuel consumption in each test.

Table 3: Data of fuel consumption

Sl No.	Fuel Used		Duration of test (hr)	Fuel consumed (l)	Fuel consumption (l/hr)
	Diesel %	Bio Diesel %			
1	100	0	2	2.3	1.15
2	100	0	1.5	2.25	1.125
3	100	0	1.5	1.681	1.121

4	100	0	2.5	2.9	1.16
5	100	0	2	2.4	1.2
6	100	0	1.75	2.065	1.18
7	100	0	2.15	2.43	1.13
8	100	0	2.25	2.59	1.15
9	100	0	2	2.32	1.16
10	100	0	2.3	2.7	1.17
11	80	20	2	2.2	1.1
12	80	20	1.5	1.425	0.95
13	80	20	1.5	1.395	0.93
14	80	20	2.5	2.3	0.92
15	80	20	2	1.89	0.945
16	80	20	1.75	1.66425	0.951
17	80	20	2.15	2.03175	0.945
18	80	20	2.25	2.14875	0.955
19	80	20	2	1.894	0.947
20	80	20	2.3	2.1574	0.938
21	50	50	2	1.64	0.82
22	50	50	1.5	1.2	0.8
23	50	50	1.5	1.215	0.81
24	50	50	2.5	2.0625	0.825
25	50	50	2	1.66	0.83
26	50	50	1.75	1.47	0.84
27	50	50	2.15	1.8361	0.854
28	50	50	2.25	1.845	0.82
29	50	50	2	1.63	0.815
30	50	50	2.3	1.955	0.85
31	20	80	2	1.456	0.728
32	20	80	1.5	1.095	0.73
33	20	80	1.5	1.11	0.74
34	20	80	2.5	1.8025	0.721
35	20	80	2	1.44	0.72
36	20	80	1.75	1.2775	0.73
37	20	80	2.15	1.58025	0.735
38	20	80	2.25	1.65825	0.737
39	20	80	2	1.43	0.715

40	20	80	2.3	1.6629	0.723
41	0	100	2	1.24	0.62
42	0	100	1.5	0.915	0.61
43	0	100	1.5	0.9375	0.625
44	0	100	2.5	1.545	0.618
45	0	100	2	1.248	0.624
46	0	100	1.75	1.106	0.632
47	0	100	2.15	1.36525	0.635
48	0	100	2.25	1.3815	0.614
49	0	100	2	1.25	0.625
50	0	100	2.3	1.4168	0.616

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results obtained from the experiments were analyzed and results were presented in this section. The average values of fuel consumptions achieved are 1.1546, 0.9581, 0.8264, 0.7279 and 0.6219 respectively with ratio of diesel and biodiesel as follows: 100:0, 80:20, 50:50, 20:80 and 0:100 as given in Table 4. These values are presented in Table 4. Fig. 3 represents the fuel consumption with different ratio of diesel and biodiesel. It appears from the figure that consumption is decreased with increase in biodiesel ratio and value reaches minimum when biodiesel is 100%.

Table 4: Average fuel consumption

Mixing ratio	Average Fuel consumption(l/hr)
100:0 %	1.1546
80:20 %	0.9598
50:50 %	0.8264
20:80 %	0.7279
0:100 %	0.6219

Table 5: Comparison of results for average fuel consumption

Mixing ratio	Average Fuel consumption (l/hr)			
	Small tractor <i>Krishi Shakti</i>	Aybek <i>et al.</i> 2011	Ramesh <i>et al.</i> 2014	Tomic <i>et al.</i> 2013
100:0 %	1.1546	6.01	3.06	12.2
80:20 %	0.9598	6.15	3.15	12.35
50:50 %	0.8264	—	3.23	12.76
20:80 %	0.7279	—	—	13.07
0:100 %	0.6219	—	—	12.98

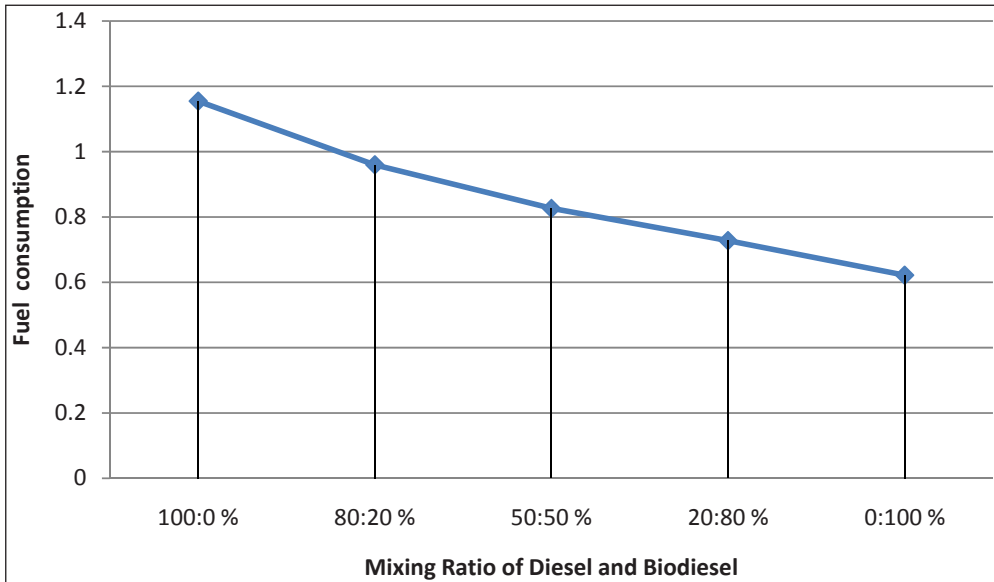


Fig. 3: Effect of diesel and biodiesel combination on fuel consumption

CONCLUSION

Biodiesel is an environment friendly, safe and low polluting fuel for most diesel engines. It can be mixed with petroleum diesel fuel and stored anywhere. It is made from fresh or waste vegetable oils (triglycerides) which is also a renewable energy source. Biodiesel is the most precious form of renewable energy which can be used directly in an existing or unmodified diesel engine. Biodiesel can be readily adopted as a partial substitute for diesel in today's developing economies of the world. Biodiesel is not only a good choice for environmental reasons but it also keeps the engine in a better health, improving the life of its vital moving components. Thus biodiesel fuel has proved to be a competent, engine friendly and environment friendly substitute for the mineral diesel oil. It may be concluded from the current research that fuel consumption is much less when engine runs with 100% biodiesel. Thus, saving of fuel leads to saving in farming cost of a farmer.

SUGGESTION

Bio-fuels will create new markets for agricultural products and encourage rural development because bio-fuels are generated from agricultural crops; they hold enormous potential for farmers. In the near future, it is expected that two-thirds of the people in the developing countries will derive their incomes from agriculture. At the national level, producing more bio-fuels will generate new industries, new technologies, new jobs and new markets. Studies show that bio-diesel reduces carbon-di-oxide emissions to a considerable extent and in some cases all most nearly to zero. Biodiesel helps preserve natural resources, for every unit of energy needed to produce biodiesel, 3.24 units of energy are gained - nearly four times more than diesel.

Governments should promote bio-fuels within the context of a broader transformation of the transportation sector, since bio-fuels alone will not solve the world's transportation-related energy problems. Biodiesel produced from agricultural crops using current technology cannot sustainably replace fossil-based fuels in terms of its cost and environment impact. However, biodiesel from algae seems to have the potential as the alternative renewable bio-fuel, replacing fossil-based fuels. Algae grow naturally all over the world, either in freshwater or marine water, avoiding the use of agricultural land. Under optimal conditions, it can be grown in massive amounts, almost limitless. Producing renewable bio-fuels from algae will have no conflict with food supply and also contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

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