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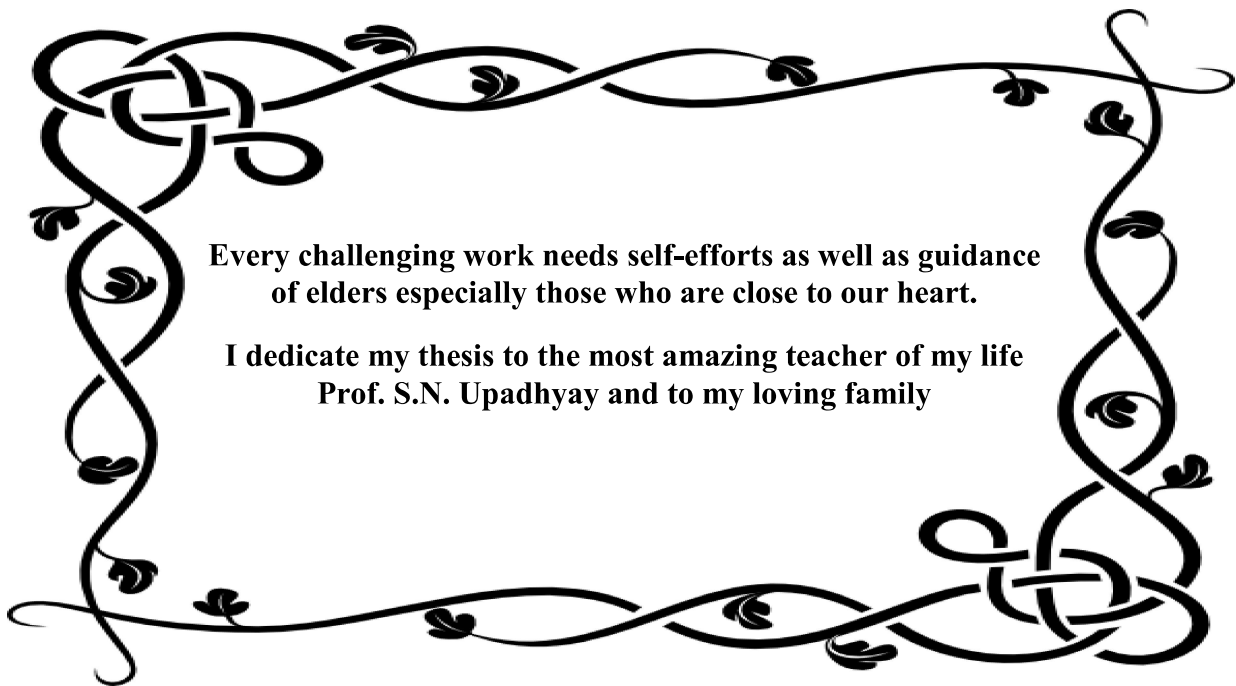
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*Date:*

*(Mohit Kumar)*



**Every challenging work needs self-efforts as well as guidance  
of elders especially those who are close to our heart.**

**I dedicate my thesis to the most amazing teacher of my life  
Prof. S.N. Upadhyay and to my loving family**

## Table of contents

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<b>Certificate</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>Acknowledgement</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>viii</b>
<b>List of Figures</b>	<b>xvi</b>
<b>List of Tables</b>	<b>xx</b>
<b>List of Abbreviations and Symbols</b>	<b>xxii</b>
<b>Preface</b>	<b>xxiv</b>
<b>Chapter 1</b>	<b>1-20</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1. Introduction	2
1.1 What is biomass?	8
1.2 Classification of biomass resources	9
1.3. Constituents of biomasses	12
1.3.1 Cellulose	13
1.3.2 Hemicellulose	15
1.3.3 Lignin	15
1.3.4 Organic extractives	16
1.3.5 Inorganic elements	17
1.4 Biomass as energy option for India	17
<b>Chapter 2</b>	<b>21-40</b>
<b>Thermal Conversion of Biomass</b>	<b>21</b>
2. Biomass conversion processes	22
2.1 Thermo-chemical conversion processes	25
2.1.1 Torrefaction	26
2.1.2 Combustion	27
2.1.3 Pyrolysis	28
2.1.3.1 Mechanism of Pyrolysis	29
2.1.3.1.1 Moisture removal	30

---

---

2.1.3.1.2 Primary decomposition	31
2.1.3.1.3 Biochar formation	31
2.1.3.1.4 Depolymerization	31
2.1.3.1.5 Fragmentation	31
2.1.3.1.6 Secondary reaction	32
2.1.3.2 Types of pyrolysis	34
2.1.3.2.1 Slow pyrolysis	34
2.1.3.2.2 Intermediate pyrolysis	34
2.1.3.2.3 Fast pyrolysis	34
2.1.4 Gasification	36
2.1.5 Hydrothermal liquefaction	67
<b>Chapter 3</b>	<b>41-98</b>
<b>Literature Survey and Research Objective</b>	<b>41</b>
3 Biomass and its pyrolysis	42
3.1 Biomass and their sources	43
3.2 Availability of biomass resources in India	44
3.3 Why agricultural waste?	45
3.4 Thermo-chemical characterization of biomass	49
3.5 Kinetic analysis of thermal degradation of biomass	67
3.6 Pyrolysis of biomass	81
3.7 Operating parameters of biomass pyrolysis for bio-oil yield	85
3.7.1 Pyrolysis temperature	85
3.7.2 Effect of heating rate	86
3.7.3 Effect of carrier gas flow rate	86
3.7.4 Effect of particle size	87
3.7.5 Effect of the reaction time	88
3.8 Process Optimization using RSM software	88
3.9 Products of biomass pyrolysis	90
3.9.1 Liquid product (Bio-oil)	90
3.9.2 Water	91
3.9.3 Oxygen	92

---

---

3.9.4 Acidity	92
3.9.5 Heating value	92
3.9.6 Ash	93
3.9.7 Gases	93
3.9.8 Solid product (Char)	94
3.10. Catalytic pyrolysis	94
3.11 Objectives of Present Work	98
<b>Chapter 4</b>	<b>99-131</b>
<b>Materials and Experimental Methods</b>	<b>99</b>
4.1 Biomass collection and sample preparation	100
4.2 Biochemical and thermo-chemical characterization of raw biomasses	102
4.3. Thermochemical characterization and thermal degradation studies	102
4.3.1 Proximate analysis	103
4.3.1.1 Moisture content	103
4.3.1.2 Ash content	103
4.3.1.3 Volatile matter content	104
4.3.1.4 Fixed carbon content	104
4.3.2 Ultimate analysis	105
4.3.3 Calorific value (Higher heating value)	105
4.3.4 van Krevelen plot	106
4.3.5 Biofuel reactivity	106
4.4 Compositional analysis	106
4.5 X-ray diffraction (XRD) pattern	107
4.6 Fourier-transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopic analysis	108
4.7 TG and DTG analysis	108
4.8 DSC analysis	109
4.9 Kinetic analysis of thermal degradation results	109
4.10 Kinetic models for activation energy calculation	111
4.10.1 Kissinger-Akahira-Sunose (KAS)	112
4.10.2 Flynn Wall Ozawa (FWO)	112
4.10.3 Starink method	113

---

---

4.10.4 Tang model equation	113
4.10.5 Friedman method	114
4.10.6 Vyazovkin method	114
4.10.7 Vyazovkin AIC (advanced isoconversional) method	115
4.10.8 Distributed activation energy model (DAEM)	115
4.11 Coats Redfern method	117
4.12 Multiple linear regression method	119
4.13 Determination of pre-exponential factor and reaction mechanism	125
4.13.1 Kissinger method for calculating pre-exponential factor	125
4.13.2 Prediction of reaction mechanism: The z-master plot	126
4.13.3 Prediction of reaction mechanism: Z-master plot	126
4.14 Thermodynamic parameters	129
4.15 The batch pyrolysis experiments	130
<b>Results and Discussion</b>	<b>132-297</b>
<b>Chapter 5</b>	<b>132-150</b>
<b>Thermochemical Characteristics of Lignocellulosic Biomasses</b>	<b>132</b>
5.1 Biomass selection and sample preparation	133
5.2 Thermo-chemical Characterization	134
5.2.1 Proximate analysis	134
5.2.2 Ultimate analysis	135
5.2.3 van Krevelen plot	136
5.2.4 Calorific value	137
5.3 Biofuel reactivity	138
5.4 Compositional analysis	139
5.5 FTIR spectroscopic analysis	143
5.6 TG and DTG analyses results	144
5.7 Burnout temperature	149
5.8 Conclusion	150
<b>Chapter 6</b>	<b>151-194</b>
<b>Pyrolysis of Sugarcane Leaves (<i>Saccharum officinarum</i> L): Kinetics of Thermal Degradation Process and Product Characterization</b>	<b>151</b>

---

---

6.1 Introduction	153
6.2 Sample collection and preparation	154
6.3 TG and DTG analysis	154
6.4 Physical and thermo-chemical characteristics of SCL biomass	155
6.5 Pyrolysis experiments	156
6.6 Pyrolysis product characterization	158
6.7. Results and discussion	159
6.7.1. Particle size distribution and bulk density	159
6.7.2. Thermochemical properties	160
6.7.3 TG and DTG analyses	161
6.7.4 Effect of heating rate on TG and DTG analyses	162
6.7.5 DSC analysis	164
6.7.6 Kinetic analysis of thermo-gravimetric results	165
6.7.6.1 Model-free methods	165
6.7.6.2 Multiple linear regression method	170
6.7.7 Prediction of reaction mechanism	171
6.7.8 Pyrolysis and product distribution of SCL	173
6.7.8.1 Effect of process temperature	174
6.7.8.2 Effect of heating rate	175
6.7.8.3 Effect of Particle size	176
6.7.8.4 Effect of bed height	177
6.7.9 Characterization of pyrolytic liquid product	178
6.7.9.1 Physicochemical properties of bio-oils	178
6.7.9.2 FTIR analysis of bio-oil	181
6.7.9.3 GCMS analysis of bio-oil	182
6.7.9.4 <sup>1</sup> HNMR analysis of bio-oil	185
6.7.10 Biochar Characterization	186
6.7.10.1 XRD analysis of biochar	187
6.7.10.2 SEM and EDX analysis of biochar	188
6.7.10.3 ICP-AES analysis of biochar	189
6.7.10.4 FTIR spectra of SCL biochar	190

---

---

6.7.10.5 Thermal Stability of biochar	190
6.7.11 GC analysis	191
6.8 Conclusion	193
<b>Chapter 7</b>	<b>195-225</b>
<b>Pyrolysis of Banana (<i>Musa balbisiana</i>) Trunk: Kinetics of Thermal Degradation Process Trunk</b>	<b>195</b>
7.1 Introduction	196
7.2 Biomass collection, sample preparation and thermo-chemical characterization	198
7.3. Results and discussion	199
7.3.1 Thermo-chemical characterization	199
7.3.2 FTIR analysis	203
7.3.3 The TGA and DTG results	206
7.3.4 Differential scanning calorimetric (DSC) results	212
7.3.5 Burnout temperature	213
7.3.6 Iso-conversional kinetic analysis	213
7.3.7 Thermodynamic parameters	218
7.3.8 Reaction mechanism	222
7.4 Conclusion	223
<b>Chapter 8</b>	<b>225-272</b>
<b>Pyrolysis of Peanut Shell: Optimization and Kinetics of Thermal Degradation Process</b>	<b>225</b>
8.1 Introduction	226
8.2 Biomass collection and preparation	228
8.3 Physicochemical characterization	228
8.4 TG analysis and DTG analysis	229
8.5 Pyrolysis experiments	229
8.6 Experimental design	230
8.7 ANOVA analysis	231
8.8 Pyrolysis product characterization	232
8.9 Kinetic and thermodynamic parameters	233
8.10. Results and discussion	235
8.10.1. Physicochemical characteristics	235

---

---

8.10.2 FTIR spectra of peanut shell	237
8.10.3 Thermal degradation analysis	239
8.10.4 Effect of heating rate on thermal degradation	241
8.10.5 Kinetic and thermodynamic parameters	244
8.10.6. Reaction mechanism	249
8.10.7. The Box-Behenken design	250
8.10.8 Pyrolysis experiments	253
8.10.9 ANOVA analysis	254
8.10.10 3-D and contour plots	260
8.10.10.1 Optimization of the temperature and heating rate	260
8.10.10.2 Optimization of the nitrogen flow rate and temperature	261
8.10.10.3 Optimization of the nitrogen flow and heating rates	262
8.10.10.4. Validation of the optimum results	262
8.10.11 Characterization of products	263
8.10.11.1 Physicochemical properties of aqueous bio-oil	263
8.10.11.2 FTIR analysis of aqueous bio-oil	264
8.10.11.3 GCMS analysis of bio-oil	265
8.10.11.4 <sup>1</sup> HNMR analysis of bio-oil	268
8.10.12 Bio-char characterization	269
8.10.12.1 Physicochemical characteristics	269
8.10.12.2 FTIR analysis of bio-char	270
8.10.12.3 SEM analysis	271
8.11 Conclusion	271
<b>Chapter 9</b>	<b>273-297</b>
<b>Pyrolysis of Paper Mill Waste: Effect of Montmorillonite Clay</b>	<b>273</b>
9.1 Introduction	274
9.2 Collection of paper mill waste	275
9.3 Thermochemical characteristics of PMW	276
9.4 Characterization of Montmorillonite clay catalyst	276
9.5 Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA)	277
9.6 Results and discussion	277

---

---

9.6.1 Thermochemical characteristics	278
9.6.2 Characterization of Montmorillonite Clay	281
9.6.3 Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA)	283
9.6.4 Effect of Montmorillonite Clay	284
9.6.5 Heat flow analysis	286
9.6.6 Effect of heating rate	286
9.6.7 Kinetic analysis	289
9.6.8 Thermodynamic parameters	294
9.6.9 The Reaction Mechanism of Pyrolysis	295
9.7 Conclusion	297
<b>Chapter 10</b>	<b>298-303</b>
<b>10. Conclusions and Recommendations for Future Study</b>	<b>299</b>
10.1 Conclusions	299
10.2. Recommendations for Future Study	302
<b>References</b>	<b>304</b>
<b>Research Outputs</b>	<b>335</b>

---

## List of Figures

Figures	Title of Figures	Page No
<b>Chapter 1</b>		
Fig. 1.1	Different type of biomasses	10
Fig. 1.2	Different components of biomasses	12
Fig. 1.3	Different layers of chemical composition of a plant cell	13
Fig. 1.4	General chemical structure of cellulose	14
Fig. 1.5	Hydrogen bonding in cellulose	14
Fig. 1.6	Different component of hemicellulose unit	15
Fig. 1.7	Chemical structure of lignin	16
Fig. 1.8	Variation in cereals production from 1961 to 2017	20
<b>Chapter 2</b>		
Fig. 2.1	Thermal conversion routes	23
Fig. 2.2	Biochemical conversion routes	24
Fig. 2.3	Thermo-chemical and biochemical conversion process products as substitutes to conventional fossil fuels	24
Fig. 2.4	Thermal conversion processes with their corresponding primary and end products	26
Fig. 2.5	General process of torrefaction	27
Fig. 2.6	Biomass pyrolysis and its products and their applications	29
Fig. 2.7	Mechanism of pyrolysis adopted from (Mettler et al., 2011)	30
Fig. 2.8	Basic mechanism of cellulose pyrolysis	32
Fig. 2.9	Mechanism of hemicellulose pyrolysis	33
Fig. 2.10	Mechanism of lignin pyrolysis	33
Fig. 2.11	The general process of traditional downdraft fix-bed gasification for syngas production	36
Fig. 2.12	Block diagram of updraft gasifier	37
Fig. 2.13	Block diagram of downdraft gasifier	38
Fig. 2.14	General process of hydrothermal liquefaction (HTL)	39
<b>Chapter 3</b>		
Fig. 3.1	Various biomass types useful for energy production	45
Fig. 3.2	Burning of crop residues in field after harvesting of crops	48
<b>Chapter 4</b>		

Fig. 4.1	Photographs of selected biomasses	101
Fig. 4.2	List of characterization techniques used for raw biomass samples characterization	102
Fig. 4.3	General procedure for kinetic analysis of TGA data	121
Fig. 4.4	Block diagram of experimental setup for the batch pyrolysis	131
<b>Chapter 5</b>		
Fig. 5.1	van Krevelen diagram: H: C versus O: C plot for biomasses used	137
Fig. 5.2	Variation of calorific values (HHV, MJ/kg) of various biomasses	138
Fig. 5.3	Biofuel reactivity of biomasses used	139
Fig 5.4	FTIR spectra of all selected nine biomasses	144
Fig. 5.5	The TGA curves of biomasses used	145
Fig 5.6	The DTG curves of various biomasses used	146
Fig. 5.7	Burnout temperature of biomasses used	149
<b>Chapter 6</b>		
Fig. 6.1	Schematic diagram of experimental set-up	157
Fig. 6.2	Particle size and bulk density distribution of sugar cane leaves powder	159
Fig. 6.3	TGA and DTG curves of sugar cane leave powder at different heating rates	162
Fig. 6.4	DSC curves of sugar cane leaves powder at different heating rates	165
Fig. 6.5	Kinetic plot for sugarcane leaves under nitrogen environment using various model	169
Fig. 6.6	Variation of activation energy with conversion using different kinetic models	170
Fig. 6.7	$z(\alpha)$ master plots for sugar cane leaves using Criado method	172
Fig.6.8	Effect of process parameters (a) temperature (b) heating rate (c) packed bed height and (d) particle size	178
Fig. 6.9	FTIR spectra of bio-oil and biochar sample	182
Fig. 6.10	X-ray diffractogram of SCL biochar and SCL	188
Fig. 6.11	(a) FESEM image of bio-char (b) EDX spectra of bio-char	189
Fig. 6.12	TGA and DTG curves of bio-char at a heating rate of 15°C/min	191

Fig. 6.13	Non-condensable gas fraction (a) composition (b) Higher heating value (HHV) at different pyrolysis temperature	193
<b>Chapter 7</b>		
Fig. 7.1	FTIR spectra of banana trunk biomass	204
Fig. 7.2	Effect of heating rate on pyrolysis of banana trunk biomass: (a) TGA curves; (b) DTG curves; (c) Conversion ( $\alpha$ ); (d) DSC curves	208
Fig. 7.3	Arrhenius plots for activation energy calculation using different iso-conversional models	216
Fig. 7.4	Activation energy versus conversion plots for different iso-conversional models	217
Fig. 7.5	Comparison of theoretical Z ( $\alpha$ ) versus conversion plots with experimental results	223
<b>Chapter 8</b>		
Fig. 8.1	Block diagram of experimental setup	230
Fig. 8.2	FTIR spectrum of raw, aq. bio-oil and bio-char	239
Fig. 8.3	Thermal degradation behavior of peanut shell at heating rates of 10, 15 and 20°C/min	241
Fig. 8.4	Variation of activation energy with conversion calculated using different models	245
Fig. 8.5	Variation of thermodynamic parameters with conversion calculated using different models	249
Fig. 8.6	Comparison of experimental and theoretical reaction mechanism curves	250
Fig. 8.7	Comparison of the predicted and experimental values of % aq. bio-oil and bio-char	251
Fig. 8.8	3 Dimensional and contour plots of aqueous bio-oil yields	256
Fig. 8.9	3-Dimensional and contour plots of bio-char yields	257
Fig. 8.10	SEM analysis image of (a) raw peanut shell and (b) biochar sample	271
<b>Chapter 9</b>		
Fig 9.1	FTIR spectra of paper mill waste (PMW)	279
Fig. 9.2	Characterization of MMT clay: (a) FTIR spectra, (b) XRD pattern (c) SEM image (d) EDS analysis (e) TGA analysis (f) DTG analysis	282
Fig. 9.3	(a): TG and DTG analysis curve of PMW and PMW+Clay at 30°C/min, (b): Heat flow analysis during pyrolysis of paper mill waste (PMW) and PMW+Clay at 20, 25 and 30°C/min	285
Fig. 9.4	Effect of heating rate on TGA and DTG analysis pattern and	284

---

Fig. 9.5	conversion of PMW and PMW+Clay Arrhenius plots of PMW and PMW+Clay using FWO and DAEM	293
Fig.9.6	Variation of activation energy with conversion of PMW and PMW+Clay using FWO, DAEM and Vyazovkin kinetic models	293
Fig 9.7	Variation of thermodynamic parameters using FWO, DAEM and Vyazovkin model	295
Fig. 9.8	Reaction mechanism of PMW and PMW+Clay	296

---

## List of Tables

Tables	Title of Tables	Page No
<b>Chapter 1</b>		
Table 1.1	Production of crude oil in India (in Thousand Metric Tonnes)	4
Table 1.2	Consumption of petroleum products in India (in Thousand Metric Tonnes)	5
Table 1.3	Classifications of biomasses with typical examples	10
Table 1.4	Production of major crops (in Million Tonnes) and estimated amount of agro-residues for bio-fuels	18
Table 1.5	Estimation of agro-residues from production of major crops in India (2010-11)	19
<b>Chapter 2</b>		
Table 2.1	Summary of fast, intermediate, and slow pyrolysis processes	35
Table 2.2	Brief summary of advantages and disadvantages of various thermal conversion processes	40
<b>Chapter 3</b>		
Table 3.1	Different types of crops and their residues produced in India: Production ratio and higher heating value	46
Table 3.2	Physicochemical characteristics of various biomasses reported in the literature	50
Table 3.3	Kinetic analysis data of different type of biomasses using various kinetic models	68
Table 3.4	Various operating parameters of biomass pyrolysis	83
<b>Chapter 4</b>		
Table 4.1	Available kinetic models for calculation of activation energy and pre-exponential factor	121
Table 4.2	Algebraic expressions for $g(\alpha)$ and $f(\alpha)$ for the most frequently used common mechanisms operating in solid state reactions	128
<b>Chapter 5</b>		

Table 5.1	Thermochemical properties of selected biomasses	141
Table 5.2	Thermo-gravimetric and differential thermogravimetric analyses parameters analyses	147
<b>Chapter 6</b>		
Table 6.1	Thermo-gravimetric and differential thermo-gravimetric analyses data of sugarcane leaves at different heating rates	163
Table 6.2	Calculated and average activation energy values obtained from various kinetic models at different values of $\alpha = 0.05 - 0.95$	167
Table 6.3	Product distribution of SCL pyrolysis	173
Table 6.4	Physicochemical properties of bio-oil sample	180
Table 6.5	GC-MS analysis of bio-oil	183
Table 6.6	<sup>1</sup> H NMR analysis of bio-oil	185
Table 6.7	Physicochemical properties of biochar sample	187
<b>Chapter 7</b>		
Table 7.1	Physicochemical properties of banana trunk/pseudo-stem, fruit-bunch stem, leaves, leaves-briquette, peel	201
Table 7.2	Major chemical groups present in banana pseudo-stem (or banana trunk) biomass	205
Table 7.3	TGA and DTG analysis of banana trunk biomass	211
Table 7.4	Kinetics and thermodynamic parameters of banana trunk pyrolysis	220
<b>Chapter 8</b>		
Table 8.1	Experimental range of independent process variables	231
Table 8.2	Physicochemical properties of peanut/groundnut shell: Results of present and available published work	236
Table 8.3	Thermal degradation: TG and DTG analysis	243
Table 8.4	Values of activation energy, pre-exponential factor, and thermodynamic parameters with conversion levels calculated using iso-conversional models	246
Table 8.5	Box-Behenken design matrix for aq. bio-oil and bio-char production	252
Table 8.6	ANOVA analysis of aqueous bio-oil production	258

---

Table 8.7	ANOVA analysis of bio-char production	259
Table 8.8	Summary of ANOVA analysis	263
Table 8.9	Physicochemical properties of bio-oil sample	264
Table 8.10	GCMS analysis of bio-oil	266
Table 8.11	Physicochemical properties of bio-char	270
<b>Chapter 9</b>		
Table 9.1	Physicochemical properties of paper mill waste with published work	280
Table 9.2	TGA and DTG analysis of paper mill waste	280
Table 9.3	Kinetic and Thermodynamics of PMW and PMW+Clay	291

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## List of Abbreviations and Symbols

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A	Arrhenius pre-exponential factor, s <sup>-1</sup>
C <sub>1</sub>	Constant
E	Activation energy, kJ/mole
E <sub>α</sub>	Activation energy (variation with conversion)
f(α)	Reaction model based function of conversion
g(α)	Integral conversion function
ΔG	Change in free energy, MJ/mole
ΔH	Change in enthalpy, MJ/mole
k(T)	Temperature dependent reaction rate constant
m <sub>o</sub>	Initial weight of sample
m <sub>t</sub>	Sample weight at time t
m <sub>f</sub>	Final sample weight
P(x)	Conversion function (= x-2e-x)
R	Universal gas constant (=8.314 J/mol.K)
t	Time, s or min
T	Temperature, K
α	Conversion
β	Heating rate
T <sub>m</sub>	Peak temperature
Π(x)	Temperature integral approximation
R <sup>2</sup>	Correlation coefficient
n	Order of reaction
TGA	Thermogravimetric analysis
DTG	Derivative of thermogravimetric analysis
FTIR	Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy
MC	Moisture
VM	Volatile matter
FC	Fixed carbon
NIST	National Institute of Standards and Technology
PID	Proportional–integral–derivative
GC	Gas chromatography
NMR	Nuclear magnetic resonance

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GC-MS	Gas chromatography–mass spectrometry
k	Rate constant
KAS	Kissinger-Akahira-Sunose
OFW	Ozawa-Flynn-Wall
DAEM	Distributed activation energy model
CR	Coats-Redfern model
MLR	Multiple linear regression model
SB	Sugarcane bagasse
RH	Rice husk
WS	Wheat straw
BT	Banana trunk
AS	Arhar stalk
RS	Rice straw
PMW	Paper mill waste
SCL	Sugar cane leave
PS	Peanut shell

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## PREFACE

Increasing environmental pollution and related global issues like climate change and global warming coupled with rising cost and finite availability of fossil fuels confined primarily in the politically unstable regions of the world have provided impetus to look for alternative, less polluting and sustainable energy resources. Various carbonaceous wastes such as agricultural residues, municipal solid waste and industrial wastes are being considered as almost carbon neutral and sustainable renewable energy resources. Out of these, lignocellulosic biomass from various sources is being considered as potential substitute for conventional fossil fuels (coal, gas and liquid petro-fuels). Their global availability and renewable nature makes them attractive over other renewable energy sources on several counts. In view of this global efforts are being made to use these as feedstock for producing cleaner fuels and other value added products through biochemical and/or thermo-chemical conversion routes. For a country like India their potential is enormous but still underutilized. In this work lignocellulosic biomasses such as wheat straw (WS), rice straw (RS), banana trunk (BT), rice husk (RH) arhar stalk (AS), sugar cane bagasse (SB), sugar cane leaves (SCL), peanut shell (PS) and paper mill waste (PMW) were used as the target biomasses. In each case representative samples of biomass were collected from agricultural farms. After preparing the powdered sample using clean dry biomass, the proximate, ultimate, and compositional analyses of were carried out. The bulk density and calorific value (higher heating value, MJ/kg) were also measured. The functional groups and crystalline nature of each biomass were determined using FTIR spectroscopic and XRD analyses. The thermal degradation study was carried out using a TGA/DTA unit.

The proximate and ultimate analysis results, higher heating values (HHV) and compositional analysis results for the nine biomasses used in this work were compared with the reported values for other and similar lignocellulosic biomasses. Values of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen percentages were used to prepare van Krevelen plot and compare with that for coal.

The FTIR spectra of all biomasses indicated the presence of alcoholic and phenolic groups, alkanes and alkenes and some aromatic molecules were present in all biomasses. During thermal degradation, maximum weight loss was recorded within the temperature range of 200–500°C in all cases.

The thermal degradation behaviour of sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum* L) leaves (SCL) was investigated using DTA/TGA unit and fixed bed pyrolyser. Analysis of the pyrolysis kinetics had been carried using iso-conversional model free methods as well as multiple linear regression method. Apparent activation energy values evaluated from iso-conversional methods ranged from 214.9 to 239.6kJ/mol where as in the case of multiple linear regression analysis it ranged from 25.06 to 57.23kJ/mol. The multi-step reaction mechanism had been investigated using the Criado method. Effect of pyrolysis process parameter such as temperature, heating rate (15-30°C/min), bed height (4-16cm) and particle size (0.710-0.180mm) were studied systematically. The maximum bio-oil and bio-char yields were found to be 44.78% (550°C) 36.82% (350°C), respectively. Physicochemical properties of bio-oil compared well with conventional diesel fuel. The chemical properties were estimated using FTIR, <sup>1</sup>HNMR and GC–MS. The bio-char was characterized through proximate and ultimate analyses, HHV evaluation as well as FTIR, SEM-EDX, ICP-AES, BET surface area and XRD analyses. The GC-MS analysis of bio-

oil confirmed the presence of aromatic derivatives, phenols, ketones, and oxygenated compounds of high molecular weight as possible useful chemical products. The pyrolytic gases were analysed using gas chromatography. With increase in the pyrolysis temperature, the composition of hydrogen and hydrocarbons increased significantly while the formation of carbon dioxide got reduced. In addition, quantity of hydrogen and methane and HHV (MJ/kg) value indicated a good fuel property.

India is the second largest producer in Asia. After harvesting the fruit, the trunk and leaves are just left in the field as a litter. This biomass may be a good source of energy and chemicals. In view of this was used as the second target biomass. The thermo-chemical characterization (proximate and ultimate analyses and higher heating value) of banana trunk biomass waste was carried out. The thermo-gravimetric and differential scanning calorimetric (DSC) investigations were made at the heating rates of 10, 15, 20 and 25°C/min. The TGA data had been used to carry out kinetic analysis and evaluate the kinetic and thermodynamic parameters using iso-conversional models. The values of activation energy increased with increasing conversion ( $\alpha$ ) irrespective of the model used. The average values of activation energies ( $E_a$ ) were found to be 386.21, 355.43, 385.77, 355.01, 379.67, and 292.78kJ/mol for Flynn-wall-Ozawa (FWO), Starink, Kissinger-Akahira-Sunose (KAS), Tang, Vyzovkin and Vyzovkin AIC models, respectively. The average values of change in enthalpy, Gibbs free energy, and entropy too had been calculated. The reaction mechanisms of pyrolysis had been predicted using Criado's method.

India is one of the largest growers of peanut. Waste biomass after harvesting peanut pods (straw) and the peanut shell after taking out the seeds is neither properly collected nor used

as a fuel in spite of its availability in large amount and expected good fuel property. In view of this the peanut shell biomass was taken as the third biomass. The pyrolysis of peanut shell (PS) had been investigated using a TGA/DTG unit and a fixed-bed pyrolyser at heating rates of 10, 15 and 20°C/min and in the temperature range of ambient to 800°C. The kinetic analysis of thermal degradation had been carried out using iso-conversional models. Effects of temperature, heating rate, and nitrogen gas flow rate on bio-oil and bio-char yields had been studied. The Box-Behnenken design (BBD) of response surface methodology (RSM) had been used to optimize the process parameters. Bio-oil and biochar were characterized in terms of conventional thermo-chemical characteristics. The GC-MS spectrometric, Fourier transform infra-red spectroscopic, and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopic analyses had been used to know the chemical constituents of bio-oil.

The fourth biomass used as the target biomass was the paper mill waste (PMW) available in large amount from paper mills. The thermal degradation behaviors of PMW had been investigated in presence and absence of catalyst Montmorillonite clay in the temperature range of ambient to 1000°C and at the heating rates of 20, 25 and 30°C/min. Proximate and ultimate analyses and evaluation of calorific value (HHV) of PMW were carried out using standard ASTM protocols. The thermo-gravimetric analysis (TGA) and differential thermogravimetric (DTG) data obtained under both situations had been used to evaluate the kinetic and thermodynamic parameters and elucidate the reaction mechanism. The clay had also been characterized using TGA/DTG analysis, Fourier Transform Infra-Red (FTIR) spectroscopic analysis and X-ray diffraction (XRD), Energy dispersive spectroscopy (EDS), and scanning electron microscopic (SEM) techniques. The activation energy, pre-exponential factor and thermodynamic parameters had been evaluated using the model-free

iso-conversional methods of Flynn-Wall-Ozawa (FWO) and Vyazovkin and the distributed activation energy model (DAEM). The Montmorillonite clay had influenced the degradation process appreciably through its catalytic action.

The work presented in the thesis is well documented and following publications have come out of it:

### **Manuscripts Published in Peer-reviewed Journals**

[1] **Mohit Kumar**, Shivesh Sabbarwal, P.K. Mishra, S.N. Upadhyay., **2019**. Thermal Degradation Kinetics of Sugarcane Leaves (*Saccharum officinarum* L) using Thermo-gravimetric and Differential Scanning Calorimetric Studies **Bioresource Technology** 279, 262–270.

[2] **Mohit Kumar**, S.N.Upadhyay, P.K. Mishra., **2019**. A Comparative Study of Thermochemical Characteristics of Lignocellulosic Biomasses **Bioresource Technology Reports** 2019:100186. doi:10.1016/j.biteb.2019.100186.

[3] **Mohit Kumar**, P.K. Mishra, S.N. Upadhyay, **2019**. Pyrolysis of *Saccharum munja*: Optimization of Process Parameters using Response Surface Methodology (RSM) and evaluation of kinetic parameters. **Bioresource Technology Reports** 2019; 8:100332. doi:10.1016/j.biteb.2019.100332.

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[5] **Mohit Kumar**, S.N.Upadhyay, P.K. Mishra., **2020**. Effect of Montmorillonite Clay on Pyrolysis of Paper Mill Waste **Bioresource Technology** 2020:12316. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biortech.2020.123161>

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[7] **Mohit Kumar**, Neha Srivastava, P.K. Mishra, S.N. Upadhyay. (2021) Thermal degradation of dry kitchen waste: Kinetics and product distribution, **Biomass Conversion**

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[9] **Mohit Kumar**, Durga Rai, Garvit Bhardwaj, P.K. Mishra, S.N. Upadhyay., (2021). Pyrolysis of Peanut Shell: Kinetic Analysis and Optimization of Thermal Degradation Process, **Industrial Crops & Products** [Under review]

[10] Dan Bahadur Pal, **Mohit Kumar**, P. K. Mishra, S. N. Upadhyay. (2021). Kinetics of Thermal Degradation of Mango, Jackfruit and Jamun Seeds kernel, **Biomass conversion and Biorefinery** [Under revision]

[11] **Mohit Kumar**, P.K. Mishra, S.N. Upadhyay., (2021). Pyrolysis of sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum* L.) leaves: Product formation and characterization, **Biomass & Bioenergy** [Under review]

[12] **Mohit Kumar**, Rahul Yadav, P.K. Mishra, S.N. Upadhyay (2021). Effect of Chemical Treatment on Thermal Degradation Behavior of Litchi Seed Biomass **Journal of Environmental Management** (Under review)

[13] Tanya Gupta, **Mohit Kumar**, S.N. Upadhyay, P. K. Mishra, Amit K. Jaiswal (2021) Effect of Hot Water Extraction on Pyrolysis of Green Coconut Husk: Kinetics and Thermodynamic Parameters Analysis **Journal of Environmental Chemical Engineering** [Under Review]

[14] Mohit Kumar, S.N. Upadhyay, P. K. Mishra, Amit K. Jaiswal (2021) Advances in Thermochemical Conversion of Lignocellulosic Biomass into biofuel, **Book Chapter** [Submitted]

[15] **Mohit Kumar**, P.K. Mishra, S.N. Upadhyay., (2021) Recent trends of In-depth kinetic analysis of thermal degradation of lignocellulosic biomass. **Sustainable Energy & Fuel** (Ready to submit).

#### **Manuscripts in advance stage of preparation**

1. **Mohit Kumar**, Garvit Bhardwaj, P.K. Mishra, S.N. Upadhyay., 2021 (manuscript under preparation)

2. **Mohit Kumar**, P.K. Mishra, S.N. Upadhyay., 2021 (manuscript under preparation)

3. **Mohit Kumar**, P.K. Mishra, S.N. Upadhyay., 2021 (Manuscript prepared)