

Emission characteristics of pongamia (*Pongamia pinnata* L.) biodiesel and its blends with petro diesel

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ABSTRACT : The acid rain, global warming and health hazards are ill effects of increased polluted gases like SO_x, CO and particulate matter in the atmosphere due to use of fossil fuels. Among the various alternative sources to petroleum products, oil from tree seed/crops has a potential for meeting the increasing requirements of diesel. A study was conducted with different bio diesel (pongamia) blends (B20 to B100) to study the emission profile of a 3.73 Kw diesel engine. The study indicated that the exhaust gas temperature was less using pongmia biodiesel blends and was at par with petro diesel, with less amount of CO and CO₂ emission and more NO_x emission. The exhaust gas profile of the engine during pumping of water using a centrifugal pump was similar to the laboratory load test of the engine indicating usage of pongamia biodiesel as an alternative to petro diesel being eco friendly and non health hazards.

KEY WORDS : Biodiesel, Emission characteristics, Nox emission

Article Chronicle : Received : 01.09.2012; **Accepted :** 01.10.2012

How to cite this Article : Desai, Satish R. and Venkatachalam, P. (2012). Emission characteristics of pongamia (*Pongamia pinnata* L.) biodiesel and its blends with petro diesel. *Engg. & Tech. in India*, 3(2) : 102-106.

INTRODUCTION

India is the world's sixth largest consumer of energy and fifth largest in diesel consumption (Joshi, 2005). In India, the high-speed diesel is used up to 56.75 and 18.86 per cent for transport and agricultural sector, respectively. In India consumption of diesel is about five times more than gasoline. The energy demand for both industry and agricultural sectors is enormously increasing every year. The increase in energy demand for agricultural sector is mainly due to introduction of the machineries like tractors, power tillers, combine harvesters, power sprayers, irrigation pumps and other power operated machineries. The share of mechanical and electrical power has increased from 40 per cent in 1971 to 84 per cent in 2004 (Economic survey, 2005). The agriculture sector of the country

is completely dependent on diesel for its motive power and to some extent for stationary power applications. Thus the increased farm mechanization in agriculture has further increased the requirement of this depleting fuel sources.

The alternative fuel technology usage will become more common in the coming decades for both automobile and stationery motive power applications in agriculture. The promising alternative is the usage of vegetable oils instead of fossile fuels. The esters produced from esterification process of vegetable oil present a very promising alternative to diesel fuel since they are renewable, non volatile and safer due to increased flash point, biodegradability, contain little or no sulphur. The main advantage of using of biodiesel is that its properties are similar to diesel fuel. Biodiesel being a superior fuel than diesel fuel from environment point of view. The use of diesel makes net addition of carbon to the atmosphere when burnt. The use of biodiesel also reduces dependence on crude of imports. As the flash point of the biodiesel is higher than diesel it has no storage problems. Biodiesel does not contain volatile organic compounds that give rise to poisonous and noxious fumes. It has no lead or sulphur to react and release of any harmful gases. Hence, an attempt has been made to study the emission characteristics of a 3.73 Kw engine using pongamia biodiesel and it's blends with petro diesel.

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