

## EFFECT OF PINE OIL –PONGAMIA METHYL ESTER BLENDS IN A DI DIESEL ENGINE

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### ABSTRACT

A double biofuel strategy to completely eliminate the use of diesel in a diesel engine without any engine modification. The conventional petroleum fuels for internal combustion engines will be available for few years only, due to tremendous increase in the vehicular population. Moreover, these fuels cause serious environmental problems by emitting harmful gases into the atmosphere at higher rates. Generally, pollutants released by engines are CO, Unburnt hydrocarbons, NOx, smoke and limited amount of particulate matter.

Pine oil, synthesized from pine oleoresin, is recently being viewed as a potential renewable source of fuel for diesel engine application. Significantly, the estimated physical and thermal properties of pine oil are suited for its use in diesel engine, with the notable advantages of lower viscosity, boiling point and comparable calorific value with diesel. In this study, we decidedly conceived a strategy to blend it with a biodiesel, instead of diesel, so as to look out for double biofuel, a measure aimed at complete replacement of fossil fuels. As such, in the current investigation, POME (Pongamia methyl ester), a biodiesel derived from Pongamia oil, was blended with pine oil in various proportions such as B25P75, B50P50 and B75P25. Further, the major emissions such as HC (hydrocarbon), CO (carbon monoxide) and smoke for B50P50 were observed to be 8.1%, 18.9% and 12.5% lower than diesel at full load condition, while NOX (oxides of nitrogen) emission was in par with diesel.

**Keywords:** Concept of double biofuel, less viscous pine oil and high viscous POME, Characteristics for B50P50 were in par with diesel.

### INTRODUCTION

The Energy comes in a variety of renewable forms like wood energy, wind energy, solar energy, ocean water power, geothermal energy. Bio energy generated by bio fuels is viewed as a strong source of energy in the coming years. The Energy is also available in the nonrenewable form of fossil fuels that is oil, natural gas and coal, which provide almost 80% of the world's supply of primary energy. Use of these fossil fuels is a major source to cause pollution of land, sea and the entire atmosphere. India is the world's largest importer edible oil followed by European Union and China. India is the world's third largest consumer after China and the EU. A growing population, increasing rate of consumption and increasing per capita income are accelerating the demand for edible oil in India.

The demand for energy, excessive reliance on crude oil important and growing environmental devastation has fostered the research and development on alternate renewable source of fuels, known as biofuels. Most often, these biofuels are derived from biological raw materials and could be classified into two categories based on their viscosity, viz less and high viscous fuels. While vegetable oil and its derivatives, biodiesel, could be regarded as high viscous fuels, alcohols and ethers can be termed as less viscous fuels. Alcohol based fuels such as ethanol and methanol, are more amenable for its use in spark ignition engine, while the use of biodiesel and other ether based fuels are becoming more prominent in compression ignition engine. However, in the past decade, researchers have contemplated on using alcohol based fuels in diesel engine too, due to demand for petroleum diesel and the fact that alcohols are also compatible for its use in diesel engine. Though the use of pure alcohols in diesel engine is unfeasible, considering the insurmountable challenges with their poor ignition properties and lower calorific value, they can find their use in diesel engine by modifying the engine design, particularly the fuel injection system.

However, they can be used as blend fuels such as alcohol–diesel blend and alcohol–diesel emulsion in a diesel engine without any modifications, which is regarded as the simplest and attractive method, though complete replacement of diesel in any case is impossible. Research studies on the use of other less viscous fuel, in the likes of alcohols, such as eucalyptus oil and pine oil have also garnered much attention in the recent times; as the fuel properties of them are conducive for their operation in diesel engine. Similar to alcohols, these fuels have lower viscosity; however, unlike alcohols, they have comparable caloric value with diesel. Notably, eucalyptus oil, which falls under the category of essential oil derived from plants, has been proven to be a potential substitute for diesel in the recent past. Typically, both these fuels were used in blends with diesel and are reported to have shown better performance, combustion and emission characteristics. Over the past few years, investigation on the use of less viscous fuels such as ethanol, methanol and eucalyptus oil with biodiesel, instead of diesel, have also been reckoned. In this regard, Anand et al., as a measure to completely eliminate the use of diesel, studied the combustion, performance and emission characteristics of a diesel engine fueled by a blend of 90% karanja methyl

ester and 10% methanol. The study reported an increase in maximum thermal efficiency by 4.2% at 80% load, with the simultaneous reduction in NOX (oxides of nitrogen) and smoke emission. Soon after the realization of improved performance with alcohol-biodiesel blends, Yilmaz and Sanchez compared the performance and emission characteristics of a diesel engine fueled by biodiesel-ethanol and biodiesel-methanol blends, and the outcome of their work implied that biodiesel-ethanol blends are more effective than biodiesel-methanol blends in respect of engine performance and emission.

To help enhance the combustion characteristics and exclude the use of conventional diesel as fuel, Kasiraman et al. demonstrated the use of less viscous camphor oil with CSNO (cashew nut shell oil), a high viscous vegetable oil, in various proportions (10–30%) and showed better engine characteristics. In a recent study, Devan and Mahalakshmi blended methyl ester of paradise oil with eucalyptus oil and used them as alternate renewable fuel for diesel engine, eluding the use of diesel completely, and reported better performance and emission than diesel. Deeper scrutiny of all available literatures shows some endeavors, in the recent past, to use less viscous fuels in blends with either diesel or biodiesel. Further, it has been reliably construed that lower alcohols such as methanol and ethanol could be blended with either diesel or biodiesel only in lower proportions due to its lower heating value and higher latent heat of vaporization. Nonetheless, the other contemporary less viscous bio derived fuel, eucalyptus oil, could be added in higher percentages with diesel/biodiesel, as it is reported to have comparable calorific value with diesel. Distinctly, the blending of eucalyptus oil kind of fuels with biodiesel would give a priority of complete replacement of diesel, without compromising on the engine performance and emission.

Despite the immense benefits of blending fuels having lower viscosity and better calorific value with biodiesel, little consideration has been shed to develop blends of such kind, known as double biofuels, and investigate them in a diesel engine. To fulfill this limitation, in the current study, pine oil biofuel, endowed with lower viscosity and comparable calorific value with diesel, has been chosen to be blended with high viscous biodiesel, POME (pongamia methyl ester). The benefits of double biofuel, which is to completely replace diesel, has been reaped thoroughly and distinctly, blending of pine oil with biodiesel has not been investigated so far. As such, pine oil was blended with POME in various proportions such as B25P75 (pine oil – 75% and POME – 25%), B50P50 (pine oil – 50% and POME – 50%) and B75P25 (pine oil – 25% and POME – 75%), by stirring them in an ultrasonic agitator so as to keep the integrity of the blend intact. Finally, pine oil-POME blends were tested in a single cylinder diesel engine without any modification and the performance, combustion and emission characteristics of the engine were analyzed and compared.

**Pine Oil and Pongamia Oil – Overview:** Currently, this study has used two feedstock viz pine oil and pongamia oil, both come under the category of biofuel, but the origin of the former is from the resins of pine tree while the latter is from the seeds of pongai tree. Both the feedstocks, by virtue of their nature, are indigenous in their own way and do have all the probability to qualify as an alternate fuel for diesel engine. Pine oleoresin, the raw material for pine oil synthesis, is tapped from pine tree and is subjected to steam distillation, before being treated with acids to synthesize the required pine oil. Typically, pine oil, by its appearance and nature, can be regarded as one of the less viscous fuels in the likes of eucalyptus oil, ethanol and methanol. Chemically speaking, pine oil, an alicyclic hydrocarbon, consists of mainly cyclic terpene alcohols, known as terpineol ( $C_{10}H_{18}O$ ) along with alpha-pinene ( $C_{10}H_{16}$ ). Further, from its molecular structure, it is evident that it possesses inherent oxygen, with lower molecular weight and shorter carbon chain length than diesel or biodiesel. Notably, pine oil, despite being a higher alcohol, does not produce any cooling effect like methanol and ethanol as the latent heat of vaporization of it is not higher like lower alcohols. On the other hand, pongamia oil, the other feedstock chosen in this study, is extracted from karanja seeds by steam treatment process followed by mechanical crushing and the extracted oil is subjected to trans-esterification process to synthesize the required biodiesel, POME.

Production of biodiesel using Esterification as follows. The methyl ester is produced by chemically reacting karanja oil with an alcohol (methyl), in the presence of catalyst. A two stage process is used for the trans esterification of karanja oil. The first stage (acid catalyzed) of the process is to reduce the free fatty acids (FFA) content in karanja oil by Esterification with methanol (99% pure) and acid catalyst sulfuric acid (98% pure) in one hour time at 57°C in a closed reactor vessel. The karanja crude oil is first heated to 50°C and 0.5% (by wt) sulfuric acid is to be added to oil then methyl alcohol about 13% (by wt) added. Methyl alcohol is added in excess amount to speed up the reaction. This reaction is proceeding with stirring at 700 rpm and temperature was controlled at 55-57°C for 90 min with regular analysis of FFA every after 25-30 min. When the FFA is reduced up to 1%, the reaction is topped. The major obstacle to acid catalyzed Esterification for FFA is the water formation.

The production of biodiesel using trans-esterification as follows. The catalyst used is typically sodium hydroxide (NaOH) with 1% of total quantity of oil mass. It is dissolved in the 13% of distilled methanol ( $CH_3OH$ ) using a standard agitator at 700 rpm speed for 20 minutes. The alcohol - catalyst solution was prepared freshly

in order to maintain the catalytic activity and prevent the moisture absorbance. After completion it is slowly charged into preheated esterified oil. When the methoxide was added to oil, the system was closed to prevent the loss of alcohol as well as to prevent the moisture. The temperature of reaction mix was maintained at 60 to 65°C (that is near to the boiling point of methyl alcohol) to speed up the reaction.

The recommended reaction time is 70 min. The stirring speed is maintained at 560 - 700rpm. Excess alcohol is normally used to ensure total conversion of the fat or oil to its esters. The reaction mixture was taken each after 20 min. for analysis of FFA. After the confirmation of completion of methyl ester formation, the heating was stopped and the products were cooled and transferred to separating funnel. Once the reaction is complete, it is allowed for settling for 8-10 hours in separating funnel. At this stage two major products obtained that are glycerin and biodiesel. Each has a substantial amount of the excess methanol that was used in the reaction. The glycerin phase is much denser than biodiesel phase and is settled down while biodiesel floated up. The two can be gravity separated with glycerin simply drawn off the bottom of the settling vessel. Once the glycerin and biodiesel phases were been separated, the excess alcohol in each phase was removed by distillation. Once separated from the glycerin and alcohol removal, the crude biodiesel was purified by washing gently with warm water to remove residual catalyst or soaps.

**Test engine and instrumentation:** The experimental engine used in the current study is the one that has been typically used in agricultural applications or in industries or generating electricity, formally known as generator or stationary diesel engine.

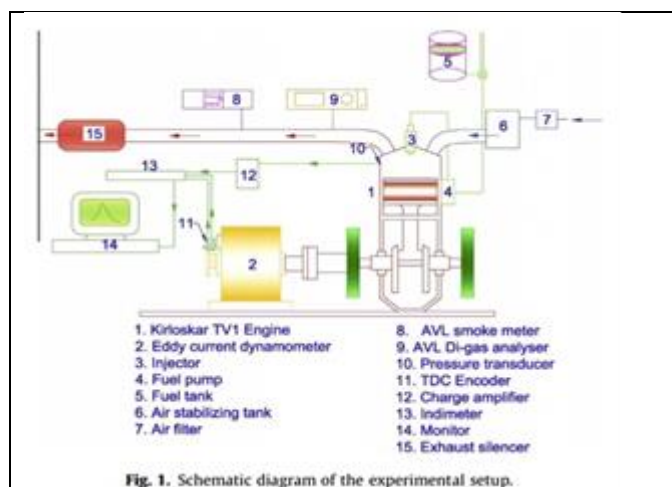
DETAILS	SPECIFICATION
Make	Kirloskar-TV1
BHP & speed	5.2HP & 1500 rpm
Type of engine	single cylinder, 4 stroke, Diesel engine (Computerized)
Compression ratio	17.5:1
Bore & stroke	87.5mm & 110mm
Method of loading	Eddy current dynamometer
Load indicator	Digital, Range 0-50 Kg, Supply 230VAC
Load sensor	Load cell, type strain gauge, range 0-50 Kg
Method of cooling	Water
Orifice diameter	20mm
Type of ignition	Compression ignition
Inlet valve opening	4.5° before TDC
Inlet valve closing	35.55° after TDC
Exhaust valve opening	35.55° before BDC
Exhaust valve closing	4.5° after TDC
Injection timing	23° before TDC

This single cylinder diesel engine which is a Kirloskar make, is manufactured and targeted for research studies, and the specifications of it are shown in Table. From the specifications, it could be construed that the engine has been preset to run at a constant speed of 1500 rpm and for the current experimental study with pine oil-POME blends, the engine operating conditions were maintained constant at an injection pressure of 220 bar and injection timing of 23CA (crank angle) BTDC (before top dead center). Notably, mechanical type pump-nozzle fuel injection system was used, with the injector nozzle having 3 holes. In the design aspects, a piston with hemispherical combustion chamber has been used and the compression ratio of the test engine was held at 17.5.

The engine is loaded by eddy current dynamometer and the force exerted on it is measured through strain gauge type load cell. The fuel flow rate was measured on volume basis using a burette and stop watch. Accordingly, the time taken for the consumption of 10 cc of fuel was noted and with this, the total fuel consumption was calculated. Further, the air flow rate was measured by monitoring the pressure in the U-tube manometer, attached to the orifice meter in the intake air supply system. The in-cylinder pressure and cyclic variations of it were recorded using AVL combustion analyzer, AVL 619 Indi meter hardware and Indiwin software version 2.2. The analyzer intrinsically has an analog to digital converter with 16 channels, a charge amplifier and PC interface. To measure the in-cylinder pressure, AVL piezo-electric transducer with an accuracy of 16:11 pC/bar was installed over the top of the cylinder head. The charge output of the piezo electric transducer, quantified as desired in-cylinder pressure, was amplified using the charge amplifier and was then converted into digital signal using an analog to digital converter. The pressure and crank angle signals, captured and averaged after 100 cycles of operation, were processed

in a PC interface to obtain the relevant combustion parameters. In the current study, emissions such as HC (hydrocarbon), CO (carbon monoxide), CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) and NO<sub>x</sub> were measured using AVL 444 di-gas analyzer on dry basis, as shown in Fig. The exhaust sample to be evaluated was passed through a cold trap (moisture separator) and filter element to prevent water vapor and particulates from entering into the analyzer. HC and NO<sub>x</sub> emission were measured in ppm (parts per million) hexane equivalents, and CO, CO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> emission were measured in terms of percentage volume. These emissions are measured using the emission analyzer based on NDIR (non-dispersive infrared) principle by selective absorption. Further, the smoke level was measured in HSU (hartridge smoke unit) using a standard AVL 437C smoke meter, before which, the exhaust gases were sent into a chamber with non-reflective surfaces and were stabilized. The smoke emission is measured based on light extinction principle wherein, the amount of light blocked by the sample of exhaust gas from the diesel engine is measured in terms of opacity. To measure the temperature of the exhaust gases, a K-type thermocouple was configured in the exhaust pipe and a digital temperature indicator reads the EGT (exhaust gas temperature).

#### Experimental procedure:



**Fig.1. Schematic diagram of the experimental setup**

Prior to starting the experiment with various pine oil–POME blends, the engine was made to run with diesel for 30 min so as to attain normal working temperature environment. After the test run, the base fuel was completely drained out from the fuel tank, fuel pump and lines, and was replaced by test fuels. Further, before commencing the experiment, the lubrication oil and cooling water temperature were noted to ensure whether the engine has reached warm up condition. The engine was loaded from 20% to 100%, progressively in steps of 20% by controlling the current supplied to the eddy current dynamometer. When changing the engine load, the rack position of fuel pump is adjusted to regulate the supplied fuel so that a constant speed of 1500 rpm is maintained. Further, suitable blends of pine oil with POME such as B25P75, B50P50, B75P25 and B100 (POME – 100%) were prepared by constant stirring and were tested in diesel engine. All the readings, pertaining to the engine experimentation and investigation, were noted down at ambient conditions, when the engine was stabilized and has attained steady state condition. The experiments are repeated for three times and average value of the readings were taken, and used for calculations to enhance the accuracy of the obtained results.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Emission characteristics

The variation of HC emission with respect to load, as shown in Fig. 4, admits the fact that HC emission increases with the increasing load for all blend fuels due to increased fuel to air equivalence ratio. Noticeably, the HC emission for all the pine oil–POME blends are higher than diesel at lower loads, while at higher loads, only B25P75 and B50P50 showed decreased HC emission. However, regardless of the loading condition, B100 or blend fuel with higher concentration of POME showed increased HC emission. This is because, POME has an obvious higher viscosity compared to diesel and pine oil, and therefore, the fuel atomization, evaporation and subsequent combustion process will be deteriorated. However, for B25P75 and B50P50, the lower viscosity of pine oil partially compensates the negative impact of higher viscosity of POME and therefore, HC emission is 14.9% and 8.1% lower for B25P75 and B50P50, respectively, than diesel at full load condition. Further, the other potential reasons for this reduction in HC emission for B25P75 and B50P50 at full load condition are (1) the fuel to air equivalence ratio approaches 1, so the excess oxygen present in pine oil and POME is favorable for achieving a more complete combustion; (2) superior evaporation rate of pine oil and subsequent mixing of fuel with air promote a better combustion. In the other hand, the higher HC emission for pine oil–POME blends, at lower load, could be attributed

to lower fuel to air equivalence ratio, while the presence of excess oxygen atoms in both pine oil and POME will further bring down this value.

Fig.5 describes CO emission pattern for pine oil-POME blends and diesel under various engine loading conditions. From the figure, the CO emission for B25P75 and B50P50 was found to be 43.2% and 18.9% lower than diesel, at full load condition. This reduction in CO emission at higher loads is due to more complete combustion and better oxidation of CO to CO<sub>2</sub>, governed by abundance of oxygen in the blend fuel. Further, the surface temperature of the combustion chamber, as the load increases, happens to get increased and this facilitates CO oxidation. Apparently, at lower loads, the CO emission for all pine oil-POME blends is noted to be higher than diesel due to the reasons described above. The reported higher CO emission at lower load and subsequent reduction of it, with the increase in load, is in accordance with the results of Devan and Mahalakshmi, while testing eucalyptus oil-paradise oil methyl ester blend in a diesel engine. One important parameter that represents the emission behavior of a diesel engine is smoke emission. Ethanol and other less viscous fuels such as methanol or eucalyptus oil, when being used in diesel engine, has greater potential to reduce the smoke emission due to their better fuel properties. In the same token, the reduced viscosity of B25P75 and B50P50 assists in better atomization and mixing of the fuel and by which, the smoke emission, as noticed from Fig. 6, was found to be 33.4% and 12.5% lower than diesel, respectively, at full load condition. Meanwhile, owing to the longer ignition delay for B25P75 and B50P50, the premixed combustion is more pronounced, allowing the soot particles to combust in the oxygen rich environment, which is in concordance with the findings of Anand et al., wherein, methanol and biodiesel were employed as double biofuels. Further, according to the reports of Puan et al., the smoke intensity can be reduced when the fuel is partially oxygenated, as the occurrence of fuel rich zones are reduced. In connection with this, the oxygen proportions of pine oil-POME blends are expected to be more, which in turn has reduced the smoke emission for B25P75 and B50P50. However, for B75P25 and B100, despite the presence of enough oxygen, the higher viscosity of POME has deterred the oxidation of soot and thereby, increasing the smoke emission. The high flame temperature, advanced injection timing and ignition delay are considered as the main contributors for NO<sub>x</sub> formation. From Fig. 7, it could be perceived that the NO<sub>x</sub> emission for B25P75 at lower loads is decreased than diesel due to lean burning. Generally, at lower loads, the amount of fuel being injected is lower and this together with the induction of oxygen from both pine oil and POME reduces the fuel to air equivalence ratio, affecting the combustion process to reduce the in-cylinder temperature and NO<sub>x</sub> reduced.

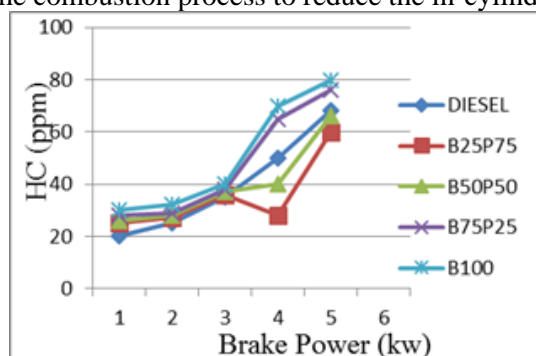


Fig.4. HC emissions for various blend fuels

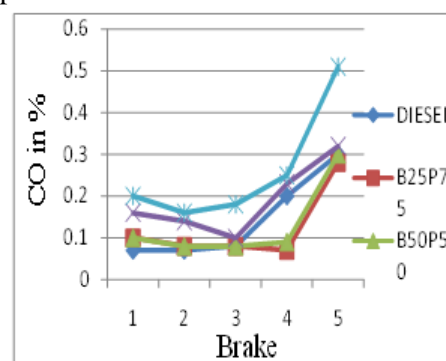


Fig.5. CO emissions for various blend fuels

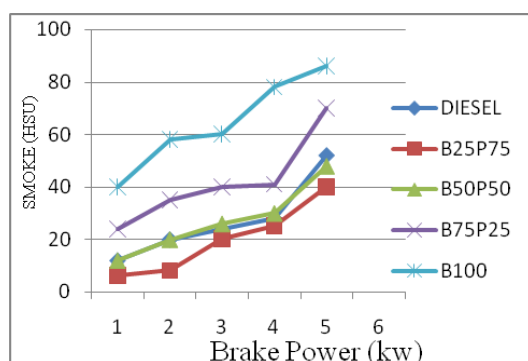


Fig.6. Smoke emissions for various blend fuels

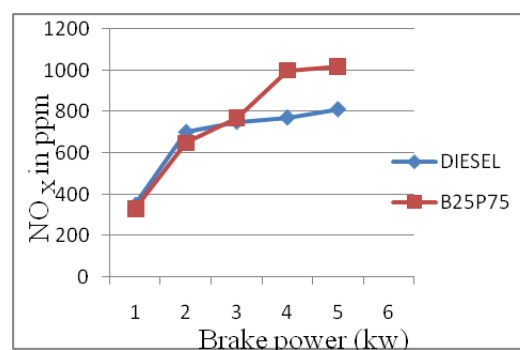


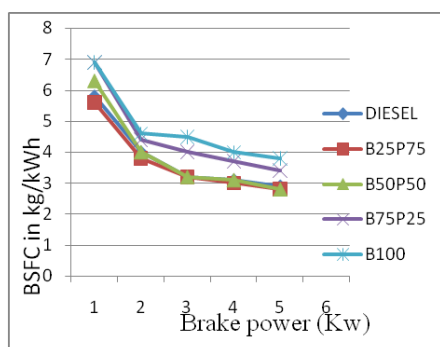
Fig.7. NO<sub>x</sub> emissions for various blend fuels

However, at higher loads, the ignition delay for blends with high percentage of pine oil, as seen from heat release curve (Fig. 2), is perceived to be longer and this has prompted higher heat release rate, increasing the in-

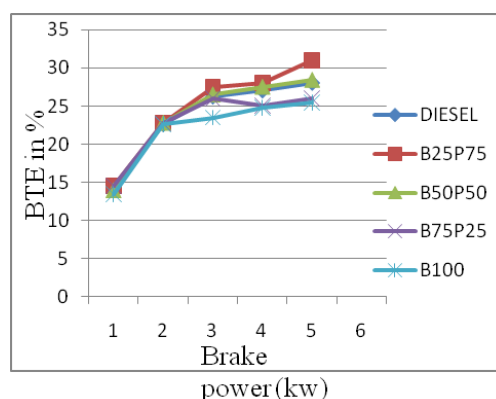


cylinder temperature. On account of this, the NOX emission for B25P75 was observed to be higher than diesel by 10%, however, B50P50 showed a comparable NOX emission with diesel owing to the comparable heat release rate of it with diesel. Earlier, the increase in in-cylinder temperature by virtue of more fuel being burnt in premixed combustion is noted by Qi et al. when using less viscous ethanol fuel, confirming the results confronted for B25P75. However, for blends with higher proportion of POME (B75P25 and B100), the combustion is affected due to the higher viscosity and lower calorific value of POME, resulting in reduced NOX formation. Lower the EGT better is the combustion process and higher is the performance of the engine. As seen from Fig. 8, B25P75 and B50P50 shows a decreased EGT compared to B75P25 and B100 due to better combustion, despite the longer ignition delay, manifesting no after burning in the tail pipe. The lower EGT for B25P75 and B50P50, which is an indication of reduction in energy losses to the exhaust, signifies the conversion of available energy into useful work. With the increase in proportion of POME in the blend, the combustion is deteriorated and in the event of incomplete combustion and subsequent late burning in the tail pipe, the EGT was found to be higher for B100 and B75P25.

### Performance Characteristics:



**Fig.8. BSFC for various blend fuels**



**Fig.9. BTE for various blend fuels.**

Performance of the engine, it is imperative to investigate the key performance parameters such as BTE and BSFC. BSFC of the engine relies on engine design and operating parameters, and the properties of the fuel being used. Since the properties of pine oil are unique in that the viscosity is lower and calorific value is comparable to diesel, combustion is believed to be profound for B25P75 blend, resulting in reduced BSFC. From Fig. 9, it could be inferred that BSFC for B25P75 is found to be lower than diesel, whereas, the BSFC for B50P50 is comparable to diesel. Moreover, the combined properties of pine oil and POME is conducive for B25P75 and B50P50, as the higher viscosity and lower calorific value of POME is believed to be compensated by the respective enhanced properties of pine oil. In previous studies on ethanol-biodiesel blends, with the increase of ethanol, the fuel consumption has been reported to be higher than diesel, as the energy density of both ethanol and biodiesel is lower. As opposed to this, this study has shown no compromise in BSFC for B25P75 and B50P50 due to the better calorific value of pine oil. On the other hand, when B75P25 and B100 were tested in diesel engine, the BSFC is observed to be poor, at an inverse trend of B25P75.

This is due to the lower calorific value of POME, which necessitates larger amount of fuel injection in order to produce the same power output. Similarly, BTE of the engine for different pine oil-POME blends, as envisaged from Fig. 10, shows an improvement in BTE for B25P75 and B50P50 than diesel due to better atomization and fuel/air mixing process. Analogically, Senthil Kumar et al. pointed out increased atomization, vaporization and combustion of Jatropa methyl ester-methanol blends, owing to the reduction in viscosity of the blend with the addition of methanol. Further, the inherent presence of oxygen within pine oil and POME, along with the superior evaporation and air/fuel mixing, has helped to attain a more active combustion, increasing the BTE of the engine. However, the BTE of the engine is lower for B100 and B75P25 than diesel, as the higher viscosity of these blends affects the fuel atomization and predominates the combustion process.

### CONCLUSION

The current work has attempted to use double biofuel, pine oil-POME blends, in a diesel engine and thereby, exclude the use of fossil diesel completely. By this measure, though the properties of both the biofuels are unique, the properties of the resultant blends are found to be mutually agreeable and conducive for operation in a diesel engine. From the experimental investigation, it was understood that BTE of the engine was increased by 8% for B25P75 than diesel at full load condition. Despite the lower HC, CO and smoke emission for B25P75 than diesel by 14.9%, 43.2% and 33.4%, respectively, it suffers the set back of higher NOX emission, owing to higher peak heat release rate. Moreover, at higher loads, the engine is prone to knocking and hence the adaptability of B50P50 for its operation in diesel engine is more amenable than B25P75. Notably, the BSFC and BTE for B50P50 was

observed to be in agreement with diesel, whereas the emissions such as smoke, HC and CO were found to be 12.5%, 8.1% and 18.9% lower than diesel, with a comparable NOX emission with diesel. Thus, from the study, B50P50 could be regarded as an optimum blend among all the blends considered in respect of all factors such as optimum properties attained, comparable performance with diesel and reduced engine emissions. Foreseeing the utilization of B50P50 for long term in a diesel engine, there might arise some durability issues like injector clogging or soot deposition due to the longer hydrocarbon chain length and molecular weight of biodiesel. To avert this, in future, few additives could be added with the reported blend and can be operated in a diesel engine for longer duration and finally, the injector and other parts, can be examined for any tangible soot depositions. On the other hand, the tribological characteristics such as wear and corrosiveness can be ascertained for the operation of B50P50, which can be accomplished by visualizing the lubricating oil for any visible worn out components or rust, after running the engine for prolonged duration.

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