



Palm Oil Processing
Special Interest Group

Research & Design Showcase 2022

The Potentials of Co-pyrolysis of Empty Fruit Bunch (EFB) and Disposable Face Mask wastes.

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Presentation Outline

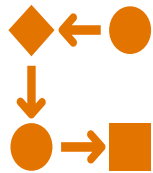
Introduction



Literature review



Methodology



Results

Research impact



Conclusion

Introduction

Keywords:

Oil Palm Biomass, COVID-19, Disposable Face Mask waste, Co-pyrolysis

Background

Oil Palm Plantation

To process
Fresh fruit fibres
(1 tonne)

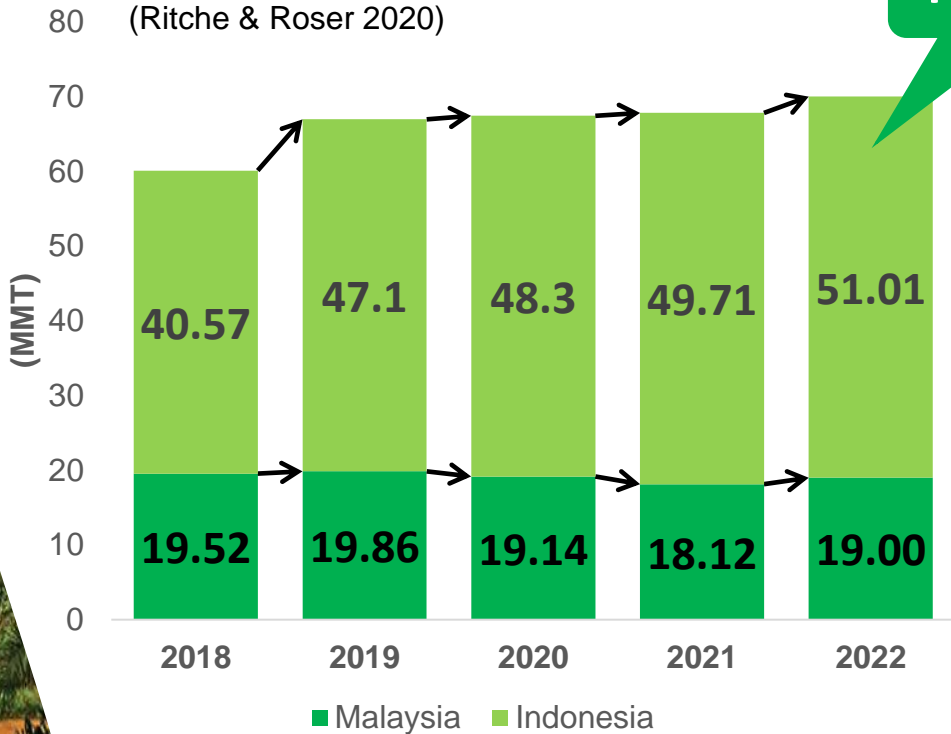
POME
(0.5-0.7 tonnes)

Solid waste
(0.37 tonnes)

(Teow & Takriff 2021; Yeo et al. 2020)

Palm oil production volume by year

(Ritche & Roser 2020)



Projection

Common biomass reduction methods:



Direct combustion

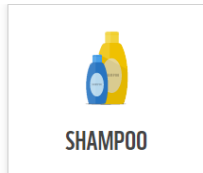


Fertilizers



Landfill

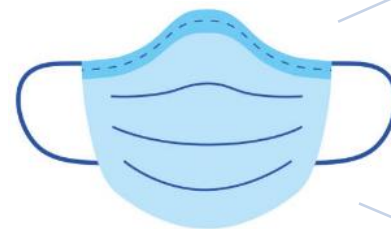
(Abdullah & Sulaiman 2013)



Background

450
years

'More masks than jellyfish': coronavirus waste ends up in ocean – the Guardian (Kassam 2020)



Disposable face mask (DFM)

Single-use plastic waste

73.33%
Polypropylene (PP)

13.77%
Polyethylene (PE)

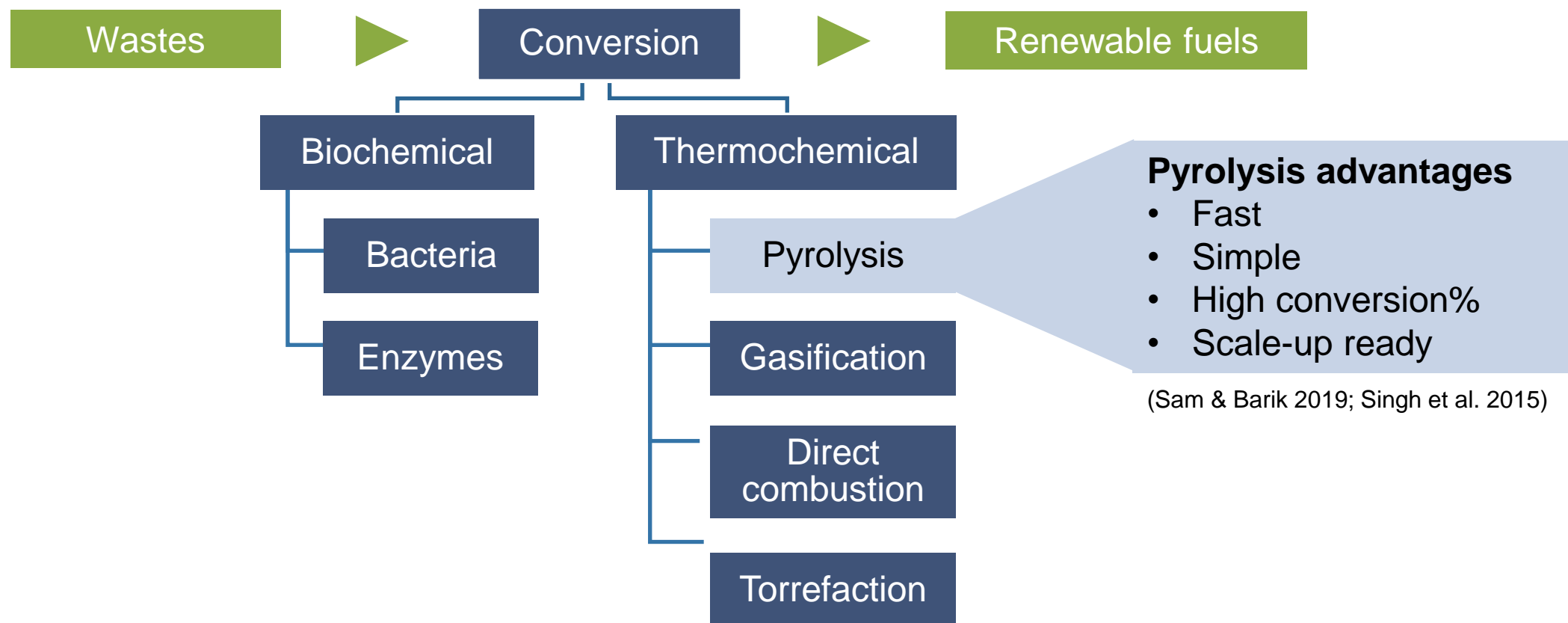
(Jung et al. 2021)

Consequences

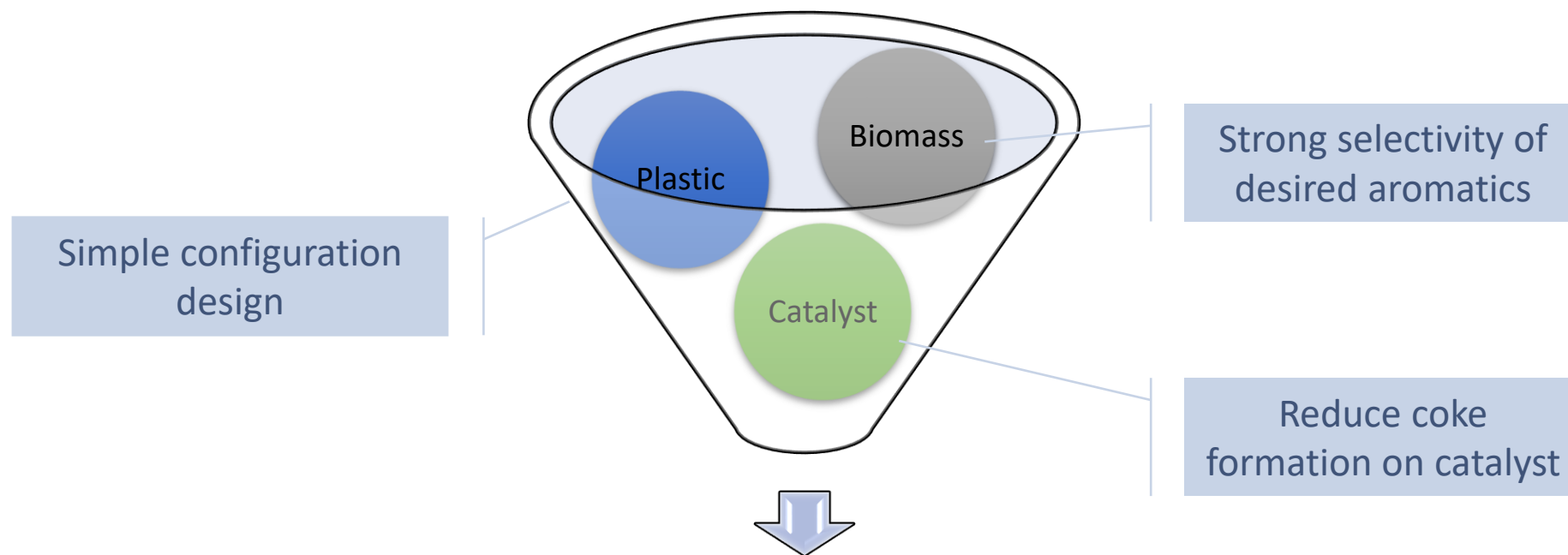
- Microplastic pollution
- Landfill

(Li et al. 2022; Hui Li et al. 2022; Wang et al. 2022)

Background



Background



Renewable fuels

(Johansson et al. 2018; Xu et al. 2021)

Problem Statement

**Can we reduce these
wastes via co-pyrolysis?**

Research gaps



Thermo-kinetic data



Product quality and quantity

Aims and Objectives

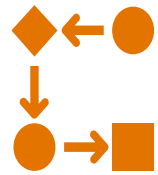
Aim

- **Thermo-kinetic** parameters
- **Bio-oil yield%** and **composition** of the bio-oil

Objectives

- To perform Thermogravimetric analysis (**TGA**) and Distributed Activation Energy Model (**DAEM**)
- To synthesize bio-oil via **furnace tube reactor**
- To analyze bio-oil via Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (**GC-MS**)

Methodology



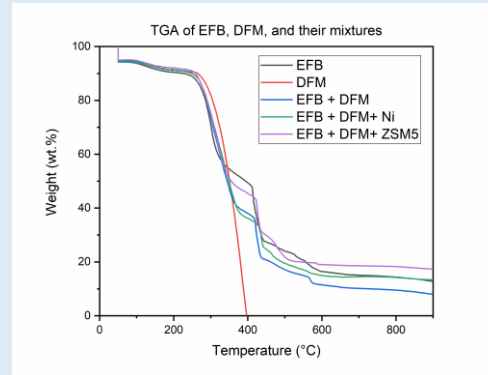
Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA)

Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (GCMS)

Methodology



TGA



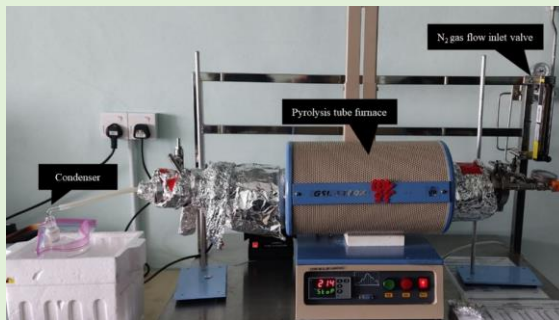
TGA data

$$\ln\left(\frac{\beta}{T^2}\right) = \ln\left(\frac{AR}{E}\right) + 0.6075 - \frac{E}{RT}$$

DAEM kinetic model

Thermo-kinetic Parameters

$A, E, \Delta H, \Delta S, \Delta G$



Furnace Tube Reactor
(Pyrolyser)



Bio-oil



GC-MS

Bio-oil yield% & quality

- Product distribution
- Carbon number
- Bio-oil composition

Results



Thermo-kinetic results

Product analysis

Results

Single feedstock and binary mixture pyrolysis

The content on this slide is not available to the POPSIG members and participants, until further notice, as it contains the author's unpublished data. The result will be presented during the seminar.

Results

Effect of heating rate on the catalytic co-pyrolysis process

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Results

■ Thermo-kinetic analysis results:

The content on this slide is not available to the POPSIG members and participants, until further notice, as it contains the author's unpublished data. The result will be presented during the seminar.

Results

■ Co-pyrolysis product yield distribution

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Results

■ Co-pyrolysis product yield distribution

The content on this slide is not available to the POPSIG members and participants, until further notice, as it contains the author's unpublished data. The result will be presented during the seminar.

Results

■ Bio-oil composition distribution

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Results

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Research impacts



Contributions to the palm oil industry

Compliance to SDGs

Research Impact



- Produce value-added products
- Bio-oil quality



- Cost effective alternative to pretreatment
- Circular economy
- Solving the abundance of palm oil waste



- Creating solutions to reduce ghg
- Reduce face mask waste going into the river/sea waters causing microplastic pollution

Future Study & Conclusion



What's next?

In a nutshell,...

Future Study

Parametric study

- Temperature
- Feedstock ratio

Kinetic modelling

- Model fitting
- Comparing with other models

Techno-economic analysis

- Simulation
- Feasibility study

Conclusion

Aims & Objectives

TGA and DAEM

- To determine the thermo-kinetic parameters, A , E , ΔH , ΔS , ΔG

Findings

- ✓ The thermo-kinetic parameters of the co-pyrolysis of EFB and DFM were determined
- ✓ The effects of heating rate is significant, increasing heating rate, increases the degradation rate.
- ✓ The performance of Ni and ZSM-5 catalyst were evaluated, **ZSM-5 > Ni** in terms of E **54.22 vs 59.49 kJ/mol**

Conclusion

Aims & Objectives

Bio-oil synthesis & analysis

- To determine the bio-oil yield & composition

Findings

- ✓ The product distribution of the co-pyrolysis of EFB and DFM were determined.
- ✓ The addition of Ni and ZSM-5 catalyst were evaluated, Ni catalyst increased the biogas yield, while ZSM-5 increased the bio-oil yield
- ✓ Co-pyrolysis enhances the formation of aromatic hydrocarbons, and reduces the C-number selectivity hence improved the quality of bio-oil as a bio-fuel.

Support

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- **Ir. Dr. Chew Jiuan Jing**, Discipline Leader, Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Science, Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak
- **Ir. Dr. Suzana Yusup**, Principal Researcher and Head of Section, Fuel and Combustion, Generation unit, Department of Generation and Environment Tenaga Nasional Berhad Research.

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