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Performance and $CO₂$ emission of a single cylinder compression ignition engine powered by *Khaya senegalensis* non-edible seeds fuel blends

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ABSTRACT

This work aimed at investigating blends of *Khaya senegalensis* biodiesel in a compression ignition engine, attempting to improve engine performance and reduce $CO₂$ emission compared with conventional diesel. Analysis of System (ANSYS) was used to predict in-cylinder behavior of the fuel. ANSYS SpaceClaim generated the geometric model on which 5◦ sector and mesh refinement was on ANSYS Internal Combustion Engine Modeler (ICEM). Computational domain of interest lies within the compression and expansion strokes. Experimental validation followed: 5% biodiesel, 95% diesel (B₅); 15% biodiesel, 85% diesel (B₁₅); 25% biodiesel, 75% diesel (B₂₅); pure diesel (D₁₀₀); pure biodiesel (B₁₀₀) in volume proportions. B₁₅ has the highest brake mean effective pressure (BMEP) of 4 bar as load increases. An experimental and numerical comparison reveals pressure declination against speed increment. Ignition temperature fluctuated between 799.76 and 806.256 K for D_{100} and 760.73–790.62 K for B_{100} within 1800–2800 rpm speed limit prediction. Power and brake thermal efficiency (BTE) had parallel load increment with all blends. CO₂ emission on increasing load conditions were 47.01%, 8.07%, 21.72% and 6.06% for B₅, B₁₅, B_{25} , and B_{100} respectively lower than D_{100} . Pressure and temperature contours gave proper combustion predicted behaviors. All blends possess replaceable performance potential for D_{100} however, B₅ offers better reliable potentials.

1. Introduction

Performance and emissions have necessitated ongoing surrogate fuel research for conventional diesel. Surrogate fuel such as hydrogen, ammonia, methanol and biofuel are common considerations for conventional fuel with ICE. However, biodiesel among others has been characterized with adequate lubricity, high miscibility with conventional fuels, low toxicity, low oxidative and corrosive properties as advantages [[1](#page-11-0)]. There have been four major determining stakeholders of biofuel that should be satisfied: engine manufacturers, users or consumer, environment and socio-economy [\[2\]](#page-11-0). In this regard, the usage of biodiesel in engine is influenced by three major factors [\[3\]](#page-11-0). They are: eco-safety impact factor which is combustion emission based; engine factor, a pointer to engine

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elements and combustion performance; fuel characteristic factor, satisfying mobility or flow [\[4\]](#page-11-0). Some identified barriers in literature rocking the application of biofuel across the globe are: feedstock availability, maturity duration and food vs fuel competition [\[2,5\]](#page-11-0); unstable policies, emission reduction mandate $[6-9]$ $[6-9]$; fossil fuel subsidies, biofuel production cost and price $[10,11]$ $[10,11]$; social impact uncertainties, consumer's/user's confidence $[12,13]$ $[12,13]$; vehicle technological variation through blend wall and engine compatibility $[14,$ $[14,$ [15\]](#page-11-0). The European Academies Science Advisory Council on biodiesel studies classified it into four generations on feedstock bases as first (edible feedstock), second (non-edible feedstock), third (waste feedstock) and fourth (solar assisted feedstock) generations. Zhang et al. [[16\]](#page-11-0) projected ternary biodiesel blend in addition to advance after-treatment as potential study trend. BNEF [[17\]](#page-11-0) made a prospect treat survey of electric vehicle on biofuel and said light-duty vehicle has the potentials of existing in the market till 2050s even at the taking-off of electric vehicle. In addition, estimate of 25% $CO₂$ reduction by 2050 from the utility of biodiesel has been projected [[18\]](#page-11-0), hence the need for better performance and lower emission research are needed. Beyond the in-land engine crushing, biofuel is gaining much applicative expression in marine engine presenting three main potential production routes for hydrogen, ammonia and methanol green fuels. These major routes are seawater electrolysis, applying green power; combination of hydrogen and Haber-Bosch process; and green power application in methanolysis for hydrogen, ammonia and methanol green fuels production respectively [\[19](#page-11-0)].

Optimization study on combustion and emission of ternary fuel blends with concentration on pre-injection timing and fuel ratio variables in marine engine reveal that early pre-injection fuel timing and higher pre-injection fuel mass ratio will translate into lesser hydrocarbon and carbon (II) oxide emissions [\[20](#page-11-0)]. A future prospect prediction of the Indian contribution on combustion emission seeks to redress issues stemming from the energy sources and economic perspectives in an optimal study using various optimization algorithms [[21\]](#page-11-0). On marine diesel engine, Tan et al. [\[22](#page-11-0)] conducted a response surface methodology performance optimization of hydrogen, biodiesel and water additive on fuel blends performance. They said blending hydrogen and water to combusted fuel made significant effect at 99% confidence level to improving BSFC, BTE and reducing hydrocarbon and carbon (II) oxide emissions in the multi-objective optimization study. The effect of additives like nanoplatelets has been investigated on engine performance and emission [23–[26\]](#page-11-0). In these studies, surfactant is to improve fuel stability including nanofuels. Nanoparticles have been noted with high soot accumulation, engine element wears and corrosion, low engine performance and fuel instability limitations [[27\]](#page-11-0), however, Zhang et al. [[28\]](#page-11-0) reported low hydrocarbon emission with biodiesel fuel courtesy of catalyst additive. In addition, sodium dodecyl sulphate additive on nanofuel achieved fuel blends stability [[29\]](#page-11-0).

Work has been done in the prediction of ICE performance using different numerical computational tools with biodiesel. Barot et al. [\[30](#page-11-0)] presented a flow rate study of fuel at induction stroke from injector system into chamber while Aghbashlo et al. [\[31](#page-11-0)] summarized machine learning application in engine combustion and performance parameters determination. A HCCI ICE simulation on KIVA3VR2-CHEMKIN software with butanol-heptane-air mixture gearing towards performance optimization to determine pollution formation and ignition delay reduction was studied [\[32](#page-11-0)]. Furthermore, Zhang et al. [[33](#page-11-0)] investigated on AVL-Fire and CHEMKIN numerical tools and accompanied their study with experimental validation on performance, combustion and emission of ternary fuel with extensive uncertainty analysis of experimented quantities. The ternary fuel which involved ethanol, n-butanol and diesel increased BSFC, cylinder pressure and temperature, brake power and BTE on blending proportions and engine loading variation as reported. On ANSYS fluent, researchers [\[34](#page-12-0),[35\]](#page-12-0) submitted their computational fluid dynamics findings of biodiesel and diesel combustion on velocity magnitude, temperature and pressure parameters claiming a good similarity between the experimental and numerical results.

Following further works on performance and emission from ICE experimentations, much has been done and few highlights are presented. Direct injection diesel engine combustion from rapeseed, soybean and sandbox biodiesel as independently studied at 5%, 10%, 20%, 30%, 50%, and 70% with conventional diesel has been reported in literature with keen attention on performance pa-rameters like BSFC, engine power, BTE and CO, CO₂, NO_x, unburnt hydrocarbon emissions [36–[38\]](#page-12-0). A progressive study went into equal oil proportion combination from mahua and simarouba seeds biodiesel to determine its performance, soot deposit, emissions and metal wears with reference to petrodiesel [\[39,40](#page-12-0)]. A hybrid combustion of CAI with SI studied by Yang and Zhao [\[41,42](#page-12-0)], visualized combustion process in the investigation of injection timing and park discharge effect on heat release rate and the combustion earlier stage. Semin et al. [\[43](#page-12-0)] made steady-state and transient CFD and experimental validation study on in-cylinder pressure in a compressed natural gas engine. In addition, pure palm biodiesel, in an experiment, was ran on a small farm powering diesel engine over 800 h duration. The ferrographic result shows that if the oil is stable, the biodiesel will make a good diesel surrogate with efficient reliability, better durability and low metal wear rate effect [\[44](#page-12-0)]. An electric dynamometer fitted to a small diesel engine test bed was developed by

Fig. 1. Modelled engine geometry.

Grobbelaar [\[45](#page-12-0)] exploiting its ability to instrument diesel engine performance at various conditions with a developed software.

The non-edible feedstock *Khaya senegalensis* seed otherwise called African mahogany from Nigeria has medical, agricultural, engineering and traditional value. In literature, biodiesel production from this seed is presented, however, no numerical and experimental data exist about its performance in an ICE. Hence, the originality of this work sufficiently contributed to the knowledge base of biodiesel with the following objectives: numerically study combustion performance and CO₂ emission of the produced *Khaya senegalensis* biodiesel blends in an ICE; experimentally validating the prediction accuracy at the same condition comparable. The performance characterization was between a torque limit of 1.5 Nm and 5.5 Nm of the engine capacity.

2. Materials and methods

Engine 3D geometry modelling was done with ANSYS SpaceClaim (SCDM 17.2) as shown in [Fig. 1](#page-1-0) with four straight valves and bowl-shaped piston which was decomposed at IVC into different zones, layers and an end-product 5◦ sectored geometry by ANSYS design modeler. This was fine meshed into elements and nodes under ICEM. Dynamic mesh control was applied at grid independence development of zones. Boundary layer conditions for the zones were basically wall and fluid created of temperature and pressure variables. Engine, fuel and air materials were ANSYS fluent based and in combination with Onojowho et al. [\[46](#page-12-0)] determined material. The compression and expansion strokes were the simulation scope using ANSYS Fluent v19. R3 on Hewlett-Packard Desktop workstation setup of Table 1 and the summary of simulation details is as presented in [Table 2](#page-3-0).

Experimented blends of fuel were poured into the TecQuipment Ltd engine test rig fitted with hydraulic dynamometer to make load variations shown in [Fig. 2](#page-3-0). Gas analyzer in [Table 3](#page-3-0) was used to capture the emissions of the combustion while engine performance with various blends were reported on desktop.

The uncertainties analysis of experimental data errors in this study was determined using the square root of the sum of the squares approach [[47\]](#page-12-0). The analysis is made up of mean values of repeated measurements which estimated the actual value for individual parameters of various measuring equipment. Error sources were mainly random and systemic in nature. Percentage uncertainties of measurand are illustrated in [Table 4](#page-3-0).

3. Theory/calculation

This internal combustion engine simulation phenomenon involved numerous complex models. Few fundamentals are mentioned. Energy model that employs the turbulent viscous flow, the RNG k- ε Eqs. (1) and (2) are chosen with near wall treatment of the viscous flow. Transport species model of Eq. (3) did handle the combustion chemistry interaction activities. Auto-ignition of the direct ignition combustion process was expressed by the Hardenburg model of Eq. (4). Discrete phase models of particle behaviors are Eqs. (5) and (6) for particle collision model and Kuhnke model of boundary layer behavior respectively. The decomposition of wall boundary layer domain into zones was accounted for with Eq. (6b) while flow regimes and droplet properties were expressed with Eq. (6a). Fundamental combustion Eq. [\(7\)](#page-4-0) is always applied for reaction equilibrium. All equations are ANSYS Fluent embedded.

On experimental base, Eqs. (8)–[\(10\)](#page-4-0) were inbuilt in TecQuipment Ltd software to determine engine power developed, BTE and BMEP. In this work, statistical assessment of uncertainty analysis combines all errors using Eq. [\(11\)](#page-4-0) for the estimate.

$$
\partial(\rho k) / \partial t + \partial(\rho k u_i) / \partial x_i = \partial \left[\left(\mu + \rho C_{\mu} k^2 / \epsilon / \sigma_k \right) \partial k / \partial x_j \right] / \partial x_j + G_k - \rho \epsilon + S_{near-wall}
$$
\n(1)

$$
\partial(\rho \varepsilon) / \partial t + \partial(\rho \varepsilon u_i) / \partial x_i = \partial \left[\left\{ \mu + \left(\rho C_{\mu} k^2 / \varepsilon \right) / \sigma_{\varepsilon} \right\} \partial k / \partial x_j \right] / \partial x_j + C_{1\varepsilon} \varepsilon / KG_k - C_{2\varepsilon} \rho \varepsilon^2 / K \tag{2}
$$

$$
\partial(\rho Y_i) / \partial t + \nabla \cdot (\rho \overrightarrow{v} Y_i) = - \nabla \cdot \overrightarrow{J}_I + R_i + S_i
$$
\n(3)

$$
\partial \rho Y_{ig} \left/ \partial t + \nabla \cdot (\rho \overrightarrow{v} Y_{ig}) = \nabla \cdot (\mu_t / Sc_t \nabla Y_{ig}) + \rho \int_{t=t_0}^t dt \right/ \tau_{ig} \tag{4}
$$

$$
We_{c} = \rho u_{rel}^2 \overline{D}/\sigma
$$
 (5)

Fig. 2. Single cylinder engine test rig setup.

Table 4

Experiment measurands accuracies and their uncertainties.

$$
K = (\rho u^2 d_p / \sigma)^{5/8} (\sigma \rho d_p / \mu^2)^{1/8}
$$
 (6a)

$$
T^* = T_w / T_{sat} \tag{6b}
$$

$$
C_nH_mO_c + (n+m/4)(O_2 + 3.74N_2) \rightarrow nCO_2 + m/2H_2O + (n+m/4)3.76N_2
$$
\n(7)

$$
P = 2\pi N(rpm)\tau(Nm)/60\tag{8}
$$

$$
BTE = P/H_f \times 100 \tag{9}
$$

$$
BMEP(bar) = 60Ps/2/0.1N(rpm)e_c(cc)
$$
\n(10)

$$
U_{r} = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{1} \left(U_{\overline{X}_{i}} \partial r / \partial x_{i_{x=\overline{x}}} \right)^{2}}
$$
\n(11)

$$
U_r = \sqrt{BMEP^2 + BTE^2 + P^2 + Temperature^2 + CO_2^2} = \pm 22.02
$$
\n
$$
(12)
$$

Where G_k is a turbulence kinetic mean velocity gradient, S_{near-wall} is a near-wall viscous source factor, C_{1ε}, C_{2ε}, C_μ, σ_k, and σ_ε are model constants, Y_i , S_i and R_i are local mass fraction, total rate of dispersed phase and source, net rate production for ith species. Ignition delay factor is τ_{ig} , mass fraction of atomized species Y_{ig} , fuel enter time t_0 , diffusion time t, Schmidt number S_{c} , Weber number We_c, mean diameter \overline{D} , ρ and σ are density and surface tension, mechanical developed power P, engine torque τ, fuel heat released H_f, stroke s, kinetic and dissipation energies k-ε, speed N and engine capacity e_c. In Eq. (11), a measured value is r, U_V is related to a measurand, at *i* = 1,2, …,l. The sensitivity index of the measuring device or equipment for a repeatability process is expressed with ∂r/ ∂x_{ix}=x while U_r is the overall result uncertainty.

4. Results and discussion

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4.1. Power developed

Brake power developed from experimentation in Fig. 3 makes a direct increase relationship with engine speed, hence engine torque increases. All blends yielded as expected, however, B_{15} tends to be more reliable in same trend with literature [\[48](#page-12-0),[49\]](#page-12-0).

4.2. BMEP

Numerically, [Fig. 4](#page-5-0) predicted significant pressure rise to begin from the fuel injection period of the compression stroke to ignition periods while peak pressure was at combustion period for all blend irrespective of engine speeds. In-cylinder combustion peak pressures will drop steadily from 6.3358 to 6.1438 exp6 Pa on speed increment within 340◦–359◦ CA combustion period from the prediction. The pressure contour plot at 1800 rpm and 357 \degree CA for D₁₀₀ and B₁₀₀ are given in [Figs. 5 and 6](#page-5-0) indicating more combustion requirement for D_{100} .

Fig. 3. Brake power performance of experimented blends.

Fig. 4. CFD combustion in-cylinder pressure plots.

Experimentally, BMEP decreases with a corresponding rise in engine speed to validate the numerical prediction. This holds true from the torque-speed inverse relationship in BMEP relation. Hence, [Fig. 7](#page-6-0) presents B15 as the highest BMEP as load increases.

4.2.1. Numerical-experimental contrast of B100 and D100 performance

In [Fig. 8](#page-6-0), B_{100} combustion in-cylinder pressure and temperature are confirmed to be greater than D_{100} due to the higher LHV of B_{100} as presented in [Table 5](#page-7-0) which is a highlight of physicochemical properties characterization of produced fuel blends [\[46](#page-12-0)] and it conforms with existing work [[50\]](#page-12-0). Similarly, an increase in engine speed translated into an in-cylinder combustion pressure decrease as numerically predicted and experimentally validated.

4.3. Combustion temperature

Numerical plot of [Fig. 9](#page-7-0) reveals that for D₁₀₀, ignition temperature will exist between 799.76 K and 806.26 K at 339°–339.55° CA and combustion period will be 340◦–360◦ CA at all speed. Peak combustion temperature of 973.66 K (at 359.25◦ CA), 973.96 K (at 359° CA) and 976.73 K (at 357° CA) will be obtained in the order of 1800 rpm, 2300 rpm and 2800 rpm respectively. With B₁₀₀, there will a longer combustion period between 338° and 376° CA for the speeds. This suggests a complete combustion of mixture and that B₁₀₀ contains more volatile matter. Rapid ignition occurred more in B₁₀₀ within 760.73 K–790.62 K at 336.3°–342° CA while combustion peak temperature of 931.41 K, 934.36 K and 935.49 K in a uniform 359.5◦ CA will exist in the same order of speed.

Temperature contours of [Figs. 10 and 11](#page-7-0) strengthen the D_{100} higher combustion temperature submission of the plot in [Fig. 9.](#page-7-0) They are contours of combustion at TDC reflecting flame progression around piston surface zone at 349◦ CA of 2300 rpm. Both contours predict flame base to exist at the piston surface while zones of peak temperature are wall boundary zones. Expansion stroke period for B100 is shorter by 19◦ CA difference at 2800 rpm. In-cylinder expansion temperature of [Figs. 12 and 13](#page-8-0) are observed to be cooler as piston moves closer to BDC for D₁₀₀ and B₁₀₀ respectively at 2800 rpm. These depict chambers non combustion zones.

4.4. Engine efficiency: BTE

BTE as a function of brake power and heat of combustion describes the ability of the engine to convert chemical energy into useful

Fig. 5. D₁₀₀ in-cylinder CFD combustion pressure contour.

Fig. 6. B₁₀₀ in-cylinder CFD combustion pressure contour.

Fig. 7. Experimental combustion in-cylinder pressure.

Fig. 8. Experimental and numerical combustion characteristics comparison.

mechanical energy. In this wise, all blends in [Fig. 14](#page-9-0) had a steady rise in BTE with torque, however, B₁₅ and D₁₀₀ negotiated an apparent fall from 4.35 Nm due to power or heat released negation response in each. In addition, B_{100} presented a better quasi-linear curve and B_{25} made the highest conversion response. Kader et al.; Onuh and Inambao [\[51](#page-12-0),[52\]](#page-12-0) experimented similar trend.

Table 5

Properties of Khaya senegalensis fuel blends.

^a AOAC (Association of Official Analytical Chemists) standard method of 1995.

Fig. 10. In-cylinder combustion temperature of D_{100} .

4.5. Emission: CO2

[Fig. 15](#page-9-0) profile is segmented into two phases for D_{100} emission. The first has a CO₂ highest peak value mass fraction of 4.73 exp-4 at 341.45◦ CA for 1800 rpm and this early combustion will exist for all three speed in 333.25◦–410◦ CA span. The second phase will possess the massive CO₂ emission during expansion phase in mass fractions of 4.65 exp-4 at 495° CA, 5.09 exp-4 distributing through 474[°]–480[°] CA and 5.08 exp-3 at 489° CA for 1800, 2300 and 2800 rpm respectively. Emissions profile of B₁₀₀ is predicted quantitatively more than D₁₀₀ spreading through 335°–399° CA with maximum mass fraction of 4.81 exp-4, 4.79 exp-4 and 4.8exp-4 for the respective speeds. This may have stemmed from excessive volatile matters that promoted complete combustion in time, unlike the D100 that has the likelihood of emitted unburned hydrocarbon running through the expansion stroke.

Fig. 11. In-cylinder combustion temperature of B_{100} .

Fig. 12. Expansion stroke in-cylinder temperature of D_{100} at 417 $^{\circ}$ CA.

Fig. 13. Expansion stroke in-cylinder temperature of B₁₀₀ at 417[°] CA.

Measurement of CO₂ experiment result in [Fig. 16](#page-9-0) presented B₅, B₁₅, B₂₅, and B₁₀₀ emissions on increasing load to be 47.01 % (470,100 ppm), 8.07 % (80,700 ppm), 21.72 % (217,200 ppm) and 6.06 % (60,600 ppm) lower than D_{100} . Hence B₅ made the best performance on CO₂ emission.

5. Conclusions

This article attempts to concurrently improve the performance of a diesel single cylinder ICE and also reduce its $CO₂$ emission through a 3D model engine simulation on ANSYS fluent before an experimented combustion.

✓ From the discussion above, numerical predictions of the combustion served well and were validated quite appropriately.

Fig. 14. Fuel blends BTE engine performance responses to loading.

Fig. 15. Numerical prediction of CO₂ emission.

Fig. 16. Percentage mass concentration of CO₂ emission.

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- ✓ Blends of B₁₅ and below will maintain good performance and lower CO₂ emission than D₁₀₀ This will offer a good depletion on the global warming effect.
- ✓ Other emission potentials of this biodiesel substrate could be determined for wider spread conclusion.

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Data availability statement

No data was used for the research described in this article.

CRediT authorship contribution statement

Elijah Eferoghene Onojowho: Writing – review & editing, Writing – original draft, Software, Methodology, Investigation. **Eriola Betiku:** Supervision, Resources. **Abraham Awolola Asere:** Supervision, Conceptualization.

Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests:

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Nomenclature

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