



Adsorption of Metals from FAME of Nigerian Spent Vegetable Oils Using Waste Printing Paper: Non-Food Option for Biodiesel to Safe Food Security and Environment (Part II)

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ABSTRACT: Fatty acid methyl ester (FAME) from spent vegetable oils requires pre and/or post-transesterification treatment to meet International norms for biodiesel. The present study assessed the potential of waste printing paper (WPP) as post-transesterification treatment for adsorption of metals from FAME obtained from Nigerian neat and spent vegetable oils (NSpVOs). The WPP adsorbent was prepared according to Moyib *et al.* (2017). The adsorption experiments for the removal of single metal ions were carried out using 10 mL FAME samples, 1.0 g WPP at a constant 25°C, pH 6 for 60 min. At the end of the contact time, alkali metals in FAMES were estimated according to EN 14108 and EN 14109 for Na and K, respectively and alkaline and heavy metals followed AOAC (2005). The results revealed WPP was able to reduce the metal content in the FAME to acceptable limit level and also, enhanced biofuel properties such as acid value (AV) and Conradson carbon (CC) but with loss of minute FAME. Cluster analysis distinguished FAMES after and before WPP adsorption treatment. Part I and II of this study show feasibility for diversifying Nigerian spent vegetable oils as non-food option for production of biodiesel and achieve low carbon footprint. Also, WPP as locally available and cheap adsorbent showed good potential as post-transesterification treatment of FAME to desirable quality.

DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/jasem.v22i5.36>

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Dates: Received: 09 January, 2018, Revised: 02 May 2018, Accepted: 05 May 2018

Key words: Adsorption, fatty acid methyl ester, metals, spent Nigerian vegetable oils, waste printing paper

Spent vegetable oils (SpVOs) are cooking oils that have undergone several cooking process, presented with altered physicochemical properties and are no longer useful for human consumption due to formation of oxidation products that are detrimental to human health (Felizardo *et al.*, 2006). Therefore, they are directed for other uses other than human consumption or discarded. Various rechanneling of SpVOs include as food for beef cattle and raw material for production of soap. Traditionally, SpVOs are indiscriminately discharged into sewage or used as fuel in burning and wood cooking, resulting into soil and water pollution and increased bioremediation costs. They have been successfully used for production of biodiesel in USA, Canada, Brazil, China, Austria and Germany (Leung and Chen, 2000; Felizardo *et al.*, 2006; Canakci, 2007; de Araujo *et al.*, 2013; Filho *et al.*, 2014). Proportion of biodiesel generating from SpVOs, though, may not be sufficient but could provide significant proportion of world biodiesel production and complement biodiesel as blending agent to lower reliance on food crops and overall cost (Cvengroš and Cvengrošová, 2004; Canakci, 2007). In addition, diversifying SpVOs into biofuel production has a potential in reducing

environmental impacts of GHG and CO₂ emission, translating into safe and healthy environment (Felizardo *et al.*, 2006; Bart *et al.*, 2010). Chemical analyses showed SpVOs constitute heterogeneous mixture and therefore, required pre-transesterification treatment steps such as filtering, vacuum distilling, solvent extraction, adsorption filtration and acid-esterification step. Also, some post-transesterification treatments such as adsorption using silica gel beads, activated carbon, bleaching earth have been reported (Encinar *et al.*, 2005; Kheang *et al.*, 2006; de Araujo *et al.*, 2013; Asri *et al.*, 2015). Two steps acid-base and alkali transesterification have been successfully used to transform WVOs and SpVOs into good quality FAME (Bart *et al.*, 2010; Bakir and Fadhil, 2011; de Araujo *et al.*, 2013; Personal data). Whatsoever, many of these studies didn't assess effect of treatments on metallic content of FAME and FAME with combined group I and II above 5 ppm content is not considered biodiesel by International standards. A previous study as Part I of the present study by the same researchers revealed that two-steps alkali transesterification is efficient in obtaining FAME with good biofuel properties from NSpVOs but not sufficient for total

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removal of metals from FAME and thus a post-transesterification treatment, perhaps, adsorption process might be necessary to accomplish this (In press). In addition, some post-transesterification treatments employed involve used of imported materials and toxic substances that may constitutes further environmental hazards. Adsorption of metals treatment using locally available biomaterials such as waste printing paper (WPP), perhaps, could be a bio economic and environmental friendly viable option for Nigeria to gain carbon neutral (Moyib *et al.*, 2017). Therefore, at present, this study sought the potential of WPP for adsorption of metals from FAME produced from fresh vegetable oils and NSpVOs as a post-treatment following two steps alkali esterification that is environmental friendly and economic viable.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

WPP adsorbent preparation and adsorption experiments for metals removals: WPP adsorbent was prepared according to Moyib *et al.* (2017). The adsorption experiments for the removal of single metal ions from the previously prepared FAME from fresh VOs ((Nigerian palm methyl ester, NPME; Nigerian peanut methyl ester, NPeME) and NSpVOs (Nigerian spent palm methyl ester, NSPME; and Nigerian spent peanut methyl ester, NSPeME) were carried out in triplicates with 10 mL FAME using 1.0 g WPP at a constant temperature of 25°C, pH 6 for 60 min with constant shaking using an electric shaker (Moyib *et al.*, 2017). At the end of the contact time, the mixtures were filtered using Whatman no. 1 filter paper and left for 30 min to allow last dropping of FAME and final volume was recorded. Alkali metals were estimated using the sulphated ash according to EN 14108 and EN 14109 for Na and K, respectively and alkaline metals and heavy metals followed AOAC (2005) using Atomic Absorption Spectrometer (AAS) single hollow cathode lamp (Buck Scientific, USA).

Data Management: Adsorption efficacy (AE, % mg/L); metal uptake (Q_t , mg/g), the concentration of metal adsorbed per unit mass of adsorbent at time, t ; and metal adsorbed (Q_e , mg/g), the amount of metal adsorbed per unit mass of adsorbent at equilibrium were also according to Moyib *et al.* (2017) and Freundlich adsorption isotherm model fitness was used for evaluation of adsorption process by WPP. All data analyses for descriptive, ANOVA, and correlation were carried out using SAS version 9.2 (SAS, 2002) and principal component analysis for visual clustering and classification of FAME before and after adsorption with WPP was by Dissimilarity representative for Windows (Darwin, Perrier and Jacquemoud-Collet, 2006).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Adsorption efficacy of WPP for metals removal in FAME: Tables 1 and 2 show the adsorption properties of WPP for alkali, alkaline and heavy metal ions, Na^+ , K^+ , Mg^{2+} , Ca^{2+} , Al^{3+} , Fe^{+2} , Pb^{2+} , and Cu^{+2} following two steps alkali transesterification process. The lowest and highest AE of WPP was observed for Na (66.6% in NPeME) and Fe (80.65%, in NSPeME), respectively. Adsorbed metal per unit mass of WPP at equilibrium (q_e) ranged from 0.0004 mg/g for Pb from NPeME to 0.119 mg/g for Na from NSPeME. The lowest and highest concentration of metal remained in final FAME (C_f) was 0.014 mg/L for Pb in NPeME and 4.21 mg/L for Na in NSPeME. Therefore, WPP was able to reduce the metal content of the generated FAME from neat VOs and NSpVOs. Table 3 shows the biofuel properties and metallic content of the finalized FAME after post transesterification treatment with WPP following two-steps transesterification process were within International norms across the globe. Comparing Table 3 in the present study to Figure 3 in Part I study shows loss of some FAME to the adsorbent (about 0.5%) and pronounced reduction in biofuel properties such as density, AV, CC and water and sediment. The present results is comparable to results of Kheang *et al.* (2006) using various adsorbent for obtaining good quality biodiesel from frying oil.

Freundlich Adsorption isotherms fitness: Figure 1 and 2 reveal Freundlich adsorption isotherms slope greater than unity ($1/n > 1$) for the presented metals except Fe^{2+} and therefore, n is less than unity ($n < 1$) and the intercept $\log K_f$ have negative integers, indicating unfavorable adsorption process and low adsorption capacity of WPP for Na^+ , K^+ , Mg^{2+} , Ca^{2+} , Al^{3+} , Pb^{2+} , and Cu^{2+} in FAME. The present adsorption isotherm values of WPP for removal of these metals from FAME are lower when compared to some prepared and derived adsorbents for similar roles in synthetic and natural waste waters (Roh *et al.*, 2014; Moyib *et al.*, 2017). Nevertheless, the adsorption intensity of ($n < 1$) obtained at present is an indicative of S-type isotherm that is cooperative in nature and usually observed at low concentration ranges for compounds containing polar functional groups that are in constant competition for adsorption sites (Kumar and Bandyopadhyay, 2006). The observed unfavorable adsorption process and low capacity of WPP for these metals at present indicate heterogeneous nature of FAME constituting polar compounds such as fatty acid esters, methyl esters, and oxidized organic products competing with these metals for adsorption sites on WPP.

Table 1: Descriptive statistics for adsorption of alkali and alkaline metals from NPME, NPeME, NSPME, NSPeME by WPP as post-transesterification treatment.

WPP Adsorption properties		Mean	SD	SE	CV	Range	Min	Max	N
NPME									
Na	Cf	2.233	0.153	0.088	6.84	0.3	2.1	2.4	3
	AE	67.167	0.491	0.283	0.73	0.98	66.667	67.647	3
	Qt	0.043	0.002	0.001	5.162	0.004	0.04	0.045†	3
K	Cf	0.437	0.051	0.03	11.752	0.1	0.38	0.48	3
	AE	70.288	0.104	0.06	0.148	0.203	70.173	70.375	3
	Qt	0.01	0.001	0.001	13.121	0.002	0.008	0.011†	3
Mg	Cf	0.424	0.032	0.018	7.488	0.063	0.39	0.453	3
	AE	75.062	0.059	0.034	0.079	0.114	75.014	75.128	3
	Qt	0.012	0.001	0	7.166	0.002	0.011	0.013†	3
Ca	Cf	0.255	0.044	0.025	17.18	0.085	0.218	0.303	3
	AE	73.003	0.004	0.002	0.006	0.007	73.001	73.008	3
	Qt	0.007	0.001	0.001	18.178	0.002	0.005	0.008†	3
NPeME									
Na	Cf	1.29	0.026	0.015	2.051	0.05	1.27	1.32	3
	AE	66.947	0.322	0.186	0.481	0.601	66.579	67.179	3
	Qt	0.024	0.001	0	3.37	0.001	0.024	0.025†	3
K	Cf	0.603	0.06	0.035	9.991	0.12	0.54	0.66	3
	AE	70.214	0.146	0.084	0.208	0.292	70.068	70.36	3
	Qt	0.013	0.001	0.001	8.683	0.002	0.012	0.015†	3
Mg	Cf	0.17	0.05	0.029	29.412	0.1	0.12	0.22	3
	AE	75.262	0.23	0.133	0.305	0.454	75.057	75.51	3
	Qt	0.005	0.001	0.001	29.974	0.003	0.003	0.006†	3
Ca	Cf	0.097	0.036	0.021	37.503	0.072	0.061	0.133	3
	AE	73.111	0.139	0.081	0.191	0.267	73.001	73.268	3
	Qt	0.002	0.001	0.001	36.003	0.002	0.002	0.003†	3
NSPME									
Na	Cf	4.063	0.074	0.043	1.456	0.14	4.08	4.12	3
	AE	72.845	1.179	0.681	1.713	2.358	70.683	73.041	3
	Qt	0.115	0.008	0.005	7.477	0.016	0.113	0.117†	3
K	Cf	0.73	0.15	0.087	20.548	0.3	0.58	0.88	3
	AE	70.227	0.171	0.099	0.244	0.34	70.068	70.408	3
	Qt	0.016	0.003	0.002	20.316	0.007	0.013	0.02†	3
Mg	Cf	0.773	0.189	0.109	24.41	0.37	0.61	0.98	3
	AE	75.091	0.086	0.049	0.114	0.17	75	75.17	3
	Qt	0.022	0.005	0.003	22.962	0.01	0.018	0.028†	3
Ca	Cf	0.291	0.056	0.032	19.107	0.109	0.23	0.339	3
	AE	73.021	0.018	0.01	0.024	0.033	73.001	73.033	3
	Qt	0.008	0.001	0.001	19.841	0.003	0.006	0.009†	3
NSPeME									
Na	Cf	4.083	0.114	0.066	2.237	0.22	4.09	4.21	3
	AE	72.033	1.97	1.137	2.854	3.863	71.879	72.742	3
	Qt	0.116	0.007	0.004	6.426	0.014	0.114	0.119†	3
K	Cf	0.73	0.15	0.087	20.548	0.3	0.58	0.88	3
	AE	70.227	0.171	0.099	0.244	0.34	70.068	70.408	3
	Qt	0.016	0.003	0.002	19.216	0.006	0.013	0.019†	3
Mg	Cf	0.773	0.254	0.147	32.824	0.49	0.49	0.98	3
	AE	75.073	0.126	0.073	0.168	0.219	75	75.219	3
	Qt	0.022	0.007	0.004	32.828	0.014	0.014	0.028†	3
Ca	Cf	0.268	0.148	0.086	55.298	0.285	0.102	0.387	3
	AE	73.073	0.071	0.041	0.097	0.139	73.011	73.15	3
	Qt	0.007	0.004	0.002	55.516	0.007	0.003	0.01†	3

†*Q_e*, amount of metal adsorbed per unit mass of WPP at equilibrium, *C_f*, final concentration of metal in FAME, *AE*, adsorption efficacy of WPP for metal, *Q_t* amount of adsorbate adsorbed by WPP from diesel at time *t*.

Table 2: Descriptive statistics for adsorption of aluminium and some heavy metals NPME, NPeME, NSPME, NSPeME by WPP as post-transesterification treatment.

Adsorption properties		Mean	SD	SE	CV	Range	Min	Max	N
NPME									
Al	Cf	0.561	0.083	0.048	14.821	0.166	0.48	0.646	3
	AE	80.023	0.01	0.006	0.013	0.021	80.013	80.033	3
	Qt	0.021	0.003	0.002	14.549	0.006	0.018	0.024	3
Fe	Cf	0.129	0.012	0.007	9.543	0.024	0.119	0.143	3
	AE	80.095	0.105	0.061	0.131	0.208	80	80.208	3
	Qt	0.005	0.001	0	11.714	0.001	0.004	0.006	3
Pb	Cf	0.112	0.042	0.024	37.478	0.084	0.07	0.155	3
	AE	75.006	0.007	0.004	0.01	0.014	75	75.014	3
	Qt	0.003	0.001	0.001	39.048	0.003	0.002	0.005	3
Cu	Cf	0.582	0.103	0.059	17.675	0.194	0.465	0.659	3
	AE	77.022	0.019	0.011	0.025	0.037	77	77.037	3
	Qt	0.019	0.003	0.002	18.006	0.006	0.015	0.021	3
NPeME									
Al	Cf	0.035	0.009	0.005	24.232	0.017	0.027	0.044	3
	AE	80.31	0.253	0.146	0.315	0.483	80.025	80.508	3
	Qt	0.001	0	0	24.917	0.001	0.001	0.002	3
Fe	Cf	0.124	0.021	0.012	16.685	0.041	0.102	0.143	3
	AE	80.043	0.04	0.023	0.049	0.078	80	80.078	3
	Qt	0.005	0.001	0	15.938	0.001	0.004	0.005	3
Pb	Cf	0.042	0.028	0.016	66.812	0.056	0.014	0.07	3
	AE	75.056	0.053	0.031	0.071	0.107	75.004	75.111	3
	Qt	0.001	0.001	0	67.236	0.002	0.0004	0.002	3
Cu	Cf	0.185	0.032	0.019	17.398	0.064	0.155	0.219	3
	AE	77.05	0.043	0.025	0.055	0.082	77.016	77.098	3
	Qt	0.006	0.001	0.001	17.721	0.002	0.005	0.007	3
NSPME									
Al	Cf	0.561	0.083	0.048	14.821	0.166	0.48	0.646	3
	AE	80.023	0.01	0.006	0.013	0.021	80.013	80.033	3
	Qt	0.021	0.003	0.002	14.549	0.006	0.018	0.024	3
Fe	Cf	0.129	0.012	0.007	9.543	0.024	0.119	0.143	3
	AE	80.057	0.054	0.031	0.067	0.107	80.007	80.114	3
	Qt	0.005	0.001	0	11.714	0.001	0.004	0.006	3
Pb	Cf	0.112	0.042	0.024	37.478	0.084	0.07	0.155	3
	AE	75.006	0.007	0.004	0.01	0.014	75	75.014	3
	Qt	0.003	0.001	0.001	39.048	0.003	0.002	0.005	3
Cu	Cf	0.582	0.103	0.059	17.675	0.194	0.465	0.659	3
	AE	77.022	0.019	0.011	0.025	0.037	77	77.037	3
	Qt	0.019	0.003	0.002	18.006	0.006	0.015	0.021	3
NSPeME									
Al	Cf	0.403	0.156	0.09	38.571	0.278	0.224	0.502	3
	AE	80.031	0.003	0.002	0.003	0.005	80.028	80.033	3
	Qt	0.015	0.006	0.003	38.706	0.011	0.008	0.019	3
Fe	Cf	0.293	0.085	0.049	28.994	0.16	0.23	0.39	3
	AE	80.344	0.31	0.179	0.386	0.62	80.035	80.655	3
	Qt	0.011	0.003	0.002	29.225	0.006	0.009	0.015	3
Pb	Cf	0.09	0.032	0.019	35.798	0.056	0.07	0.127	3
	AE	75.008	0.011	0.006	0.014	0.021	75	75.021	3
	Qt	0.003	0.001	0.001	35.932	0.002	0.002	0.004	3
Cu	Cf	0.433	0.386	0.223	89.013	0.769	0.033	0.802	3
	AE	77.021	0.017	0.01	0.022	0.033	77.004	77.037	3
	Qt	0.014	0.012	0.007	89.101	0.024	0.001	0.025	3

SA, South Africa, Nig., Nigeria

Therefore, the present adsorption of FAME is considered as heterogeneous adsorption of multiple polar species (Proctor and Toro Vanzquez, 2009). This is obviously supported with reduced values for AV and CC in FAMES at post transesterification treatment with WPP as presented in Table 3. In addition, metal

adsorption in synthetic waste water are studied at varying higher concentration of metals ranging between 50 and 500 ppm and some adsorbents are chemically modified to increase absorptivity of the adsorbates (metals) and efficiency of adsorbents (Moyib *et al.*, 2017; Roh *et al.*, 2014).

Table 3: Biofuel properties of finalized NPME, NPeME, NSPME and NSPeM at post-two steps transesterification treatment with WPP in comparison with International standards for FAME and Alkyl esters

FAME	NPME	NPeME	NSPME	NSPeME	EN 14214	ASTM D6751	Australian	Indian	SA
Diesel % vol	82.04	90.56	80.07	80.04	.	.	.	.	.
Glycerol % vol	9.43	8.67	9.71	9.75	.	.	.	.	.
FP °C	174.33	174.67	187.33	185.00	120.00	130.00	120.00	120.00	120.00
Density 15°C g/cm ³	0.863	0.861	0.869	0.871	0.86-0.90	.	0.86-0.9	0.86-0.9	0.86-0.1
SG	0.863	0.86	0.873	0.88	.	.	.	.	.
Viscosity 40°C mm ² /s	3.89	3.77	4.47	4.49	3.5-5	1.9-6.0	3.5-5.0	2.5-6.0	3.5-5.0
AV mg/KOH/g	0.21	0.087	0.37	0.40	0.50	0.05	0.80	0.50	0.50
CC 10% _{min} % mass	0.26	0.11	0.38	0.39	0.30	0.05	0.30	0.05	0.30
H ₂ O & sed % Vol	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	500ppm	0.05%	.	.	.
Ash % mass	0.02	0.017	0.037	0.038	0.020	0.020	0.200	0.020	0.020
Na + K ppm	2.67	1.89	4.83	4.85	5	5	5	to report	5
Mg + Ca ppm	0.678	0.266	1.064	1.041	5	5	5	to report	5
Al ppm	0.12	0.036	0.56	0.43	.	.	.	.	.
Fe	0.051	0.124	0.129	0.293	.	.	.	.	.
Zn	0.073	0.115	0.10	0.255	.	.	.	.	.
Pb	0.098	0.042	0.11	0.09	.	.	.	.	.
Cu	0.14	0.18	0.58	0.43	.	.	.	.	.
Ni	0.3	0.28	0.67	0.66	.	.	.	.	.

S.A, South Africa, Nig., Nigeria

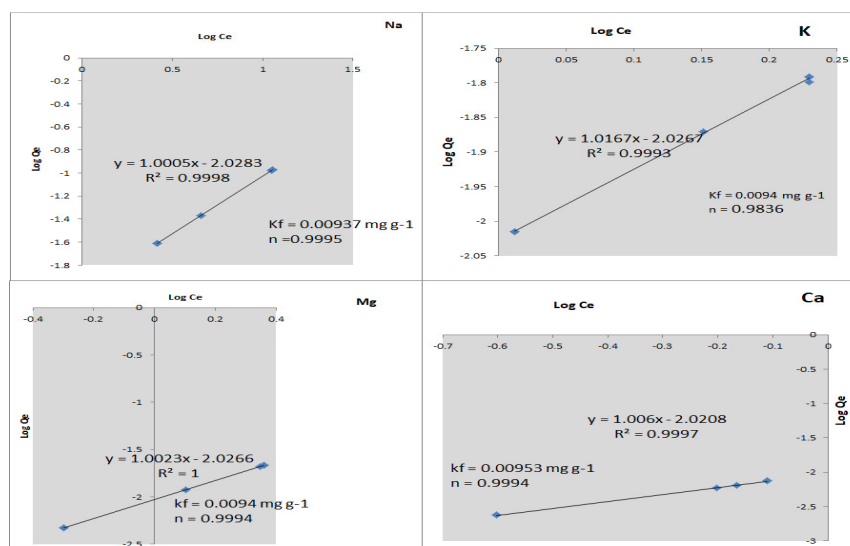


Fig 1: Freundlich isotherm model fit for removal of Na⁺, K²⁺, Mg²⁺, and Ca²⁺ by WPP from produced FAME at equilibrium. WPP has low adsorptive capacity for the metals in FAME and also the adsorption process is unfavourable as depicted by low kf and n > 1, respectively, and r² > 0.99.

Pre-treatment of WVOs to generate clean biodiesel has been previously carried out using adsorption process with various adsorbents, such as activated carbon, bleaching earth; and similar to the present study, clean FAME close to biodiesel were obtained from frying oil using silica gel adsorption as a post-transesterification treatment (Kheang *et al.*, 2006; Predojević and Škrbis, 2009; Asri *et al.*, 2015). More recently, same present research group achieved quality ethyl esters using silica gel adsorption as a post treatment following acid-base transesterification of used palm and vegetable oil in ethanolsis process (In Press) though, of lesser yield and quality when compared to the present obtained FAME. As previously stated, metallic content of

diesels were not considered. The present WPP adsorption is equally a promising post-transesterification treatment to adsorbed metals and achieves good biofuel properties.

Cluster analysis of NPO, NPeO, NSPO, NSPeO and NPME, NPeME, NSPME, NSPeME before and after WPP treatment: Principal component analysis using DARwin software analysis package (Perrier and Jacquemoud-Collet, 2006) generated five principal axes that accounted for 99.63% GD among the feedstocks and their FAME. PCA 1 and PCA 2 contributed a proportion of 63.09 and 27.42 %, respectively, of the total variation observed.

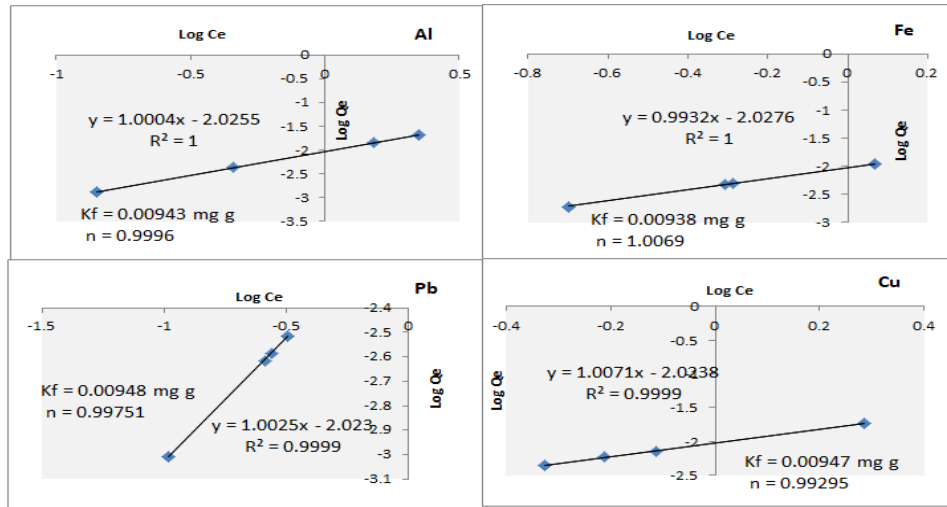


Fig 2: Freundlich isotherm model fit for removal of Al^{3+} , Fe^{2+} , Pb^{2+} , and Cu^{2+} by WPP from produced FAME at equilibrium. *The adsorption process is unfavourable as depicted by low k_f and $n > 1$, respectively, and $r^2 > 0.99$, except for Fe^{2+}*

The two dimensional scatter plot of PCA 1 vs PCA 2 (Figure 2) demarcates the feedstocks and FAME into four quadrants of three clusters. The vegetable oil feedstocks were found at the upper left quadrants as cluster 1, characterized with high viscosity, FP, AV, CC and metal content, indicating them as non-fit biofuel for modern diesel engine (Bart *et al.*, 2010; Giakoumis *et al.*, 2013) and two steps transesterified VO are at upper right quadrant as cluster 2 and were further differentiated with respect to feedstock source and transesterification step number. The overlapping of NSPME and NSPeME in each case, depict them as of equal quality while NPME and NPeME are with short distances, specifying higher Group I and II metal content of NPME over NPeME. The cluster 2 FAMES have good biofuel properties but their metallic content

is undesirable (Lobo *et al.*, 2011). Cluster 3 contains finalized FAMES obtained with WPP adsorption-post two steps alkali-transesterification treatment and they clearly distinguished themselves at the lower left quadrant as neat biodiesel with desirable biofuel properties and low susceptibility of combustion chambers to corrosion by group I and II metals. According to principal components analysis using SAS, the main biofuel properties that contributed substantially to the observed demarcations among the feedstocks and FAME are viscosity, CC, AV, ash, Na, Mg, Ca, Al, Cu and Ni. The present cluster groupings show visualized disparity in characteristics of assessed biofuels, though, scanty use, is useful for quality characterization of feedstocks, FAME and or biodiesel.

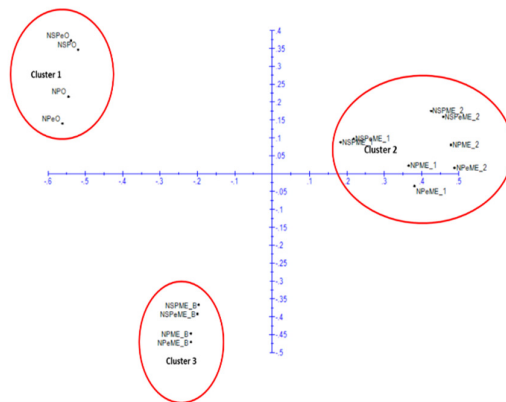


Fig 3: A scatter plot of feedstock and FAME before and after post-transesterification treatment with WPP following two steps transesterification processes as generated using PCA in DARwin software package. *_1, at*

single step transesterification; 2, two steps transesterification and 3, adsorption with WPP as post-transesterification treatment.

Conclusions: The present study shows that adsorption of FAME with WPP as post-transesterification treatment was able to reduce the metal content, AV and CC into acceptable limit across diverse International standards. Though, the adsorption process using WPP was cooperative with low adsorption capacity, but WPP showed good potential as locally available and cheap adsorbent for purifying FAME to desirable quality and is amenable to improvement. The obtained results in Part I and II of these studies point towards a sustainable process for revalue and reuse of low valued SpVOs into production of high valued biodiesel.

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