

**ABSTRACT*****EXPERIMENTAL STUDY OF PALM FROND TOREFACTION  
WITH VARIATION IN SAMPLE SIZES TO OBTAIN HIGH  
CALORIFIC SOLID FUEL EQUIVALENT TO COAL***

*By*

**Fadhlan 'Azhim**

*The use of biomass as a solid fuel can reduce a country's carbon emissions and decrease dependence on fossil fuel-based primary energy sources that have adverse environmental impacts. However, the utilization of biomass needs to be accompanied by effective resource management and strategic planning in the sustainable development of renewable energy to maintain resource sustainability and reduce environmental impacts. Palm fronds are agricultural waste that has the potential to be processed as an alternative fuel due to its abundant availability. In its utilization, an optimal torrefaction process is required to improve the characteristics of palm fronds to approach coal characteristics. The torrefaction process itself can increase calorific value and reduce unwanted volatile substances, such as nitrogen oxides and sulfur oxides. This torrefaction process of palm fronds is carried out by varying the size of the palm frond biomass products, such as chunks, chips, and powder, at a temperature of 275°C with a residence time of 30 minutes. The equipment used is a continuous tubular reactor torrefaction type with an oil jacket heating system. This research is able to increase the calorific value of raw palm fronds. The highest calorific value is found in the chip size at 6191 kcal/kg, which represents an increase of 32% from the initial calorific value. This torrefaction process is able to reduce the percentage of moisture content and volatile matter, while increasing the percentage of fixed carbon.*

*Keywords: Biomass, Torrefaction, Palm Fronds, Calorific Value.*

**ABSTRAK****STUDI EKSPERIMENTAL TOREFAKSI PELEPAH SAWIT DENGAN  
VARIASI UKURAN SAMPEL UNTUK MENDAPATKAN BAHAN  
BAKAR PADAT BERNILAI KALOR TINGGI SETARA  
DENGAN BATUBARA****Oleh****Fadhlan 'Azhim**

Penggunaan biomassa sebagai bahan bakar padat dapat mengurangi emisi karbon suatu negara dan mengurangi ketergantungan terhadap sumber energi primer berbahan bakar fosil yang berdampak buruk bagi lingkungan. Meskipun demikian, pemanfaatan biomassa perlu disertai dengan tata kelola sumber daya yang efektif dan perencanaan strategis dalam pengembangan energi terbarukan secara berkelanjutan, agar dapat mempertahankan keberlanjutan sumber daya serta mengurangi dampak terhadap lingkungan. Pelepah sawit merupakan limbah pertanian yang berpotensi untuk diolah sebagai bahan bakar alternatif karena ketersediaannya yang sangat melimpah. Dalam pemanfaatannya proses torefaksi yang optimal diperlukan untuk meningkatkan karakteristik pelepah sawit agar mendekati karakteristik batubara. Proses torefaksi sendiri dapat meningkatkan nilai kalor, mengurangi zat volatil yang tidak dibutuhkan. Proses torefaksi pelepah sawit ini dilakukan dengan memvariasikan ukuran produk biomassa pelepah sawit berupa bongkahan, cacah, dan serbuk dengan temperatur 275°C dengan waktu tinggal selama 30 menit. Peralatan yang digunakan berupa reaktor torefaksi tipe kontinu tubular sistem pemanas *oil jacket*. Hasil penelitian ini mampu meningkatkan nilai kalor dari pelepah sawit mentah. Nilai kalor tertinggi terdapat pada ukuran cacah sebesar 6191 kkal/kg atau mengalami kenaikan sebesar 32% dari nilai kalor awal. Proses torefaksi ini mampu mengurangi persentase kadar air dan zat volatil serta meningkatkan persentase *fixed carbon*.

**Kata Kunci:** Biomassa, Torefaksi, Pelepah Sawit, Nilai Kalor.