

**COMPREHENSIVE SEMESTRAL REPORT AT PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR  
POSTHARVEST DEVELOPMENT AND MECHANIZATION  
(PHILMECH) FUNDED PROJECT IN CENTRAL  
LUZON STATE UNIVERSITY**

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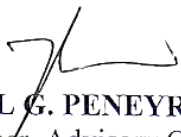
An Undergraduate Field Practice Report Submitted to the Faculty of the Department  
of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, College of Engineering, Central  
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for the Degree of

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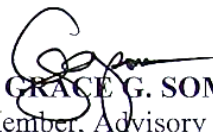
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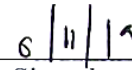
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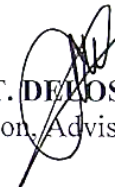
This undergraduate field practice report entitled, “**COMPREHENSIVE SEMESTRAL REPORTON FIELD PRACTICE AT PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR POSTHARVEST DEVELOPMENT AND MECHANIZATION (PHILMECH) FUNDED PROJECT IN CENTRAL LUZON STATE UNIVERSITY**” prepared and submitted by **YVAN JOSHUA G. MARIANO** as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING (AGRICULTURAL PROCESS ENGINEERING)** is hereby approved:

  
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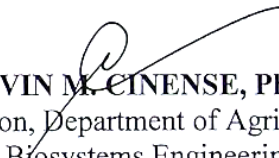
  
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## ABSTRACT

**MARIANO, YVAN JOSHUA G.**, Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, College of Engineering, Central Luzon State University, Science City of Muñoz Nueva Ecija, **June 2019. COMPREHENSIVE SEMESTRAL REPORT AT PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR POSTHARVEST DEVELOPMENT AND MECHANIZATION (PHILMECH) FUNDED PROJECT IN CENTRAL LUZON STATE UNIVERSITY.**

Adviser: MARLON T. DELOS SANTOS, M.Sc.

The field practice was conducted at Central Luzon State University. The field practice was composed of two activities; (1) production of biochar as alternative fuel using pyrolysis carbonization method and (2) production of hydrochar using hydrothermal conversion process. Pyrolysis as a biomass conversion technology is particularly low suited to moisture organic wastes. Thus, if biochar proves a valuable by-product, it could induce more use of pyrolysis conversion that would be applicable to over half the unutilized wastes identified in the state biomass inventory. The objectives for the production of biochar as alternative fuel using pyrolysis carbonization method were to (1) produce fuel pellet from biochar of cacao pod husk, (2) determine the physical characteristics of pelletized cacao pod husk in terms of shatter resistance and durability. The objectives for the production of hydrochar using hydrothermal conversion method were assist in the preparation and hydrothermal conversion (HTC) process of cacao pod husk.

The treatments in activity 1 were made in evaluation of the physical characteristics of CPH pellet were different binder proportion and different compaction pressure were used as parameters. The binder is used to strengthening and binding of pellet, 1:15 and 1:20% binder proportion were used in the study. Compaction pressure of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and

6 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> were used to test the strength of the pellet. The treatments were analyzed using Completely Randomized Design (CRD) and comparison of means was done using Least Significant Difference (LSD). Hydrothermal carbonization method was done using a 20 liter capacity hydrothermal reactor and the cacao pod husk were carbonized for 12 hours with a temperature of 180°C to produce hydrochar.

Results show the significant differences and their effects on the response variables. The higher resistance values as indicator of durability with 97.4 % after drop test were observed on higher percentage of molasses binder (20%) and higher compaction pressure 6 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>. Pellet samples subjected to 2 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> compaction pressure resulted to the highest flame temperature of 185°C. Pellet subjected to 20% molasses and compacted at 1 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> resulted to the highest coal temperature of 416°C. Ash weight of pellets subjected to 5 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> compaction pressure resulted higher mean weights of 3.5 grams. Lab test results of the carbonized cacao pod husk have a higher heating value of 24.55MJ/kg, a moisture content of 1.55%, a fixed carbon content of 48%, and ash content of 23.54%

The moisture content of the hydrochar was found to be 12.35% with volatile combustible matter of 58.59%, fixed carbon of 8.43 %, and an ash content of 32.98%.

Keywords; biochar; hydrochar; pyrolysis; hydrothermal carbonization; cacao pod husk

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