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**FACULTY OF ENGINEERING**

**DEPARTMENT OF POLYMER, TEXTILE AND INDUSTRIAL  
ENGINEERING**

**FINAL YEAR PROJECT REPORT.**

**PROJECT TITLE: DEVELOPMENT OF CASSAVA PEEL STARCH-  
BASED BIOPLASTIC REINFORCED WITH LIGNIN FROM  
SUGARCANE BAGASSE FOR LIGHT WEIGHT FOOD PACKAGING  
APPLICATIONS.**

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*A final year research project submitted to the department of polymer, textile and industrial engineering as a partial fulfillment for the award of a bachelor of science in polymer, textile, and industrial engineering.*

**September 2023**

## **ABSTRACT**

With the ever-increasing demand of plastics in the world and their consequent disastrous effects on environment, a suitable environmental-friendly substitute like bioplastics/biodegradable plastics is the need time. This study centers on production of a variety of bioplastic samples from cassava peel starch reinforced with lignin using – Glycerol plasticizers. Samples were made using multiple amounts and combinations of the fillers and plasticizers, to test the differences in the physical and chemical characteristics (moisture content, absorption of water, and solubility in water, biodegradation in soil, tensile strength, Light microscope and FT-IR) of the produced samples due to their different compositions. The differences in the properties of the bioplastic samples produced make them suitable for usage in many different applications. The samples produced were synthesized using natural and environmentally safe raw material and showed biodegradation, thus proving to be a good alternative to the conventional plastics.

## DECLARATION

We **MALOBA EMMY BRIAN** Reg. No. **BU/UP/2019/1794** and **TIMANYIRE TEGRAS** Reg No. **BU/UP/2019/1785** hereby declare that this project work is our original work and that the information contained in this project work is out of our hard work and research except where explicit citation has been made and it has not been presented to any institution of higher learning for any academic award.

Signature: 

Date: 10<sup>th</sup>/09/2023.

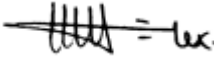
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## APPROVAL

This project entitled “development of cassava peel starch-based bioplastic reinforced with lignin from sugarcane bagasse for light weight food packaging applications has been written under the supervision of;


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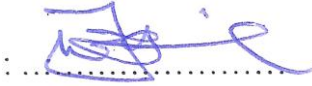
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## **DEDICATION**

We dedicate this report to our lecturers, friends and to our families.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We would love to extend our gratitude to a number of people whose efforts and financial support have managed us to progress and put a landmark in our education.

First and foremost, we would like to thank the Almighty God for giving us the strength to carry on with our final year project research.

Sincere thanks go out to Busitema University, department of Polymer, Textile and industrial Engineering and most importantly our supervisors Dr. Musinguzi Alex and Mr. Tumusiime Godias and Dr Kamalha Edwin for the great work done (guidance and consultations).

We also acknowledge the financial support from our families, friends, and well-wishers for all the financial, moral, spiritual, and physical support.

Lastly, to all our course mates with whom we studied with at Busitema University, thank you for the team cooperation.

## Table of Contents

<b>ABSTRACT</b> .....	i
<b>DECLARATION</b> .....	ii
<b>APPROVAL</b> .....	iii
<b>DEDICATION</b> .....	iv
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b> .....	v
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b> .....	ix
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b> .....	x
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b> .....	xi
<b>1.0 CHAPTER ONE</b> .....	1
<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	1
<b>1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY</b> .....	1
<b>1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT</b> .....	5
<b>1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY</b> .....	6
<b>1.3.1 Main objective</b> .....	6
<b>1.3.2 Specific objectives</b> .....	6
<b>1.4 JUSTIFICATION</b> .....	6
<b>1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY</b> .....	7
<b>1.6 THE SCOPE OF THE STUDY</b> .....	7
<b>1.6.1 Geographical scope</b> .....	7
<b>1.6.2 Conceptual Scope</b> .....	7
<b>1.6.7 Time scope</b> .....	7
<b>2.0 CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW</b> .....	8
<b>2.1 Description of ideas and selected product concept</b> .....	8
<b>2.2 Raw materials of bio plastics</b> .....	9
<b>2.2.1 Microorganisms</b> .....	9
<b>2.2.2 Plants</b> .....	9
<b>2.2.3 Starch: Sources, uses and properties</b> .....	10
<b>2.3 Starch extraction methods</b> .....	12
<b>2.3.1 Enzymatic process</b> .....	12
<b>2.3.2 Alkali extraction methods</b> .....	13
<b>2.3.3 Water extraction method</b> .....	13
<b>2.4 Lignin</b> .....	14



2.5 Biodegradable food packaging.....	16
2.6 Market Share.....	16
2.7 Biodegradable polymers.....	16
2.7.1 Plasticizers.....	17
2.7.2 Glycerol.....	18
2.7.3 Polyvinyl Alcohol (PVA).....	18
2.8 Idea Generation and Screening.....	18
2.8.1 Plastic from petroleum (synthetic polymers).....	18
2.8.2 Plastic from cassava peels starch.....	19
2.9 Solvent casting method of bioplastic preparation.....	20
2.10 Optimization, characterization and property evaluation.....	20
2.11 Purpose and Needs of Biodegradable Materials.....	21
<b>3.0 CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY.....</b>	<b>23</b>
3.0.1 Introduction.....	23
3.1.0 MATERIALS AND METHODS.....	23
3.1.1 Materials.....	23
3.1.2 Methods.....	24
3.1.3 Specific objective 1: To extract starch, lignin and optimize the production of bio plastic material.....	24
Hydrolysis.....	25
Step 4: To prepare the bio plastic material.....	26
3.1.3.1 Procedures for Preparation of the bio plastic.....	26
3.1.3.2 Experimental Design.....	27
3.1.4 Specific objective 2: To characterize the prepared bioplastic material.....	28
3.1.4.1 Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR).....	28
3.1.5 Specific Objective 3; To evaluate the mechanical and physiochemical properties of the bioplastics.....	29
<b>4.0 CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.....</b>	<b>32</b>
4.1.0 Specific objective one. To extract and optimize the preparation process of bioplastic.....	32
4.1.1 Physical appearance.....	32
4.1.2 Optimization of the biodegradable plastic's process parameters.....	32
4.2.0 Specific objective Two: To characterize the prepared bioplastic film.....	37
4.2.1 Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR).....	38
4.2.2 Microscopic Examination.....	40

<b>4.3.0 Specific Objective 3; To evaluate the mechanical and physiochemical properties of the bioplastics .....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>4.3.1 Tear strength and Tear strength.....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>4.3.2 GSM Determination.....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>4.3.3 Biodegradability of the Bioplastic Films Developed. ....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>4.3.4 Moisture content. ....</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>4.3.5 Absorption of water.....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>4.3.7 Density.....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>5.1 RECOMMENDATION .....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>5.2 CHALLENGES.....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>5. 3 CONCLUSIONS. ....</b>	<b>51</b>

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 shows the cassava plant and sugarcane plant .....	10
Figure 2 Structure of (a) polyethylene chain (b) Starch chain polymer.....	12
Figure 3 shows the process flow diagram of starch production.....	14
Figure 4 Shows a three-dimensional, highly cross-linked macromolecule composed of three types of substituted phenols. ....	15
Figure 5 shows the flow diagram of the lignin extraction process. ....	15
Figure 6 shows the four principles of sustainable packaging. ....	16
Figure 7 shows classification of biopolymers according to their origin. ....	17
Figure 8 shows Flow chart of the methodology.....	23
Figure 9 shows the Extraction of starch from the cassava peels.....	25
Figure 10 shows the extraction process of lignin from sugarcane bagasse ..	26
Figure 11 shows the preparation process of the bioplastic film.....	27
Figure 12 shows the physical appearance of the prepared bioplastic film. ....	32
Figure 13 Shows the Response surface contour (A) and three-dimensional plots (B) biodegradable plastic tensile strength .....	35
Figure 14 Shows the Response surface contour (A) and three-dimensional plots (B) biodegradable plastic elongation.....	37
Figure 15 Shows FT-IR spectra for the sample one .....	38
Figure 16 Shows the FT-IR spectra for the sample 2 .....	39
Figure 17 Shows the FT-IR spectra for the sample 3 .....	39
Figure 18 above shows Morphological examination process of a bio plastic surface.....	41
Figure 19 above Morphological structure of bio plastic surface. ....	41
Figure 20 shows the biodegradability chart .....	45
Figure 21 shows the moisture content of bioplastic samples.....	46
Figure 22 shows the water Absorption of bioplastic samples.....	47
Figure 23 shows the solubility chart for bioplastic samples. ....	48
Figure 24 shows the FTIR sample testing and light microscopic testing. ....	52
Figure 25 shows tensile strength and elongation testing. ....	52
Figure 26 shows sample drying in an oven.....	53
Figure 27 shows the determination of weight for samples .....	53
Figure 28 shows sample preparation and pouring into the mould. ....	54

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 shows Idea screening and its selection criteria. (Talegaonkar et al. 2017) .....	19
Table 2 Shows the Mechanical properties of biodegradable plastic in various conditions .....	28
Table 3 shows the mechanical properties of the bioplastic film. ....	33
Table 4 shows The ANOVA results of biodegradable plastic's tensile strength. ....	34
Table 5 shows The ANOVA results of biodegradable plastic's elongation.....	36
Table 6 Biodegradability of the Bioplastic Films Developed .....	44

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

NBP	Non Bioplastic
BP	Bioplastic
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
NDP	National Development Plan
URI	Uganda Industrial Research Institute
HCl	Hydrochloric acid
NaOH	Sodium hydroxide
$C_3H_8O_3$	Glycerol
FTIR	Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometry
SEM	Scanning Electron Microscopy
UTM	Universal Tensile machine

## **1.0 CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION.**

This chapter includes the background, problem statement, significance of the study, the scope of the study, and justification.

### **1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY.**

Throughout its history, mankind has explored the earth's natural resources without limits, extracting raw materials for industry. The capacity of the planet to absorb and to transform the wastes that resulted from modern life seemed to be inexhaustible. With the exponential increase in the planet population, the situation has become a matter of great concern(Oates et al., n.d.). The population and economic growth in the majority of the countries has resulted in an enormous increase in waste production. Statistical data show that in Uganda, about 240 to 300 thousand tons of urban solid residues are discharged daily into the environment, of which about 19% are plastics derived from oil. The annual plastic production is approximately 2.2 million tons, of which 40% is destined for the packing industry. To solve these problems, alternatives are being studied, such as the recycling of plastic products and the substitution of conventional plastics for biodegradable ones (Neopaney, Wangchuk, and Tenzin 2012)..

The success of synthetic plastic can be explained by the low cost, easy processing, high applicability and durability. However, it cannot be degraded in the environment by microorganisms in the long term(Sarker et al. 2011).. This problem was recognized back in and ways to recycle these materials by means of initiatives that match practicability and economy are being investigated. It must be considered too, that it is desirable that the decomposition processes of these materials result in inert or biodegradable by-products. (Dominici et al. 2020).

The interest in the use of renewable raw materials in industrial processes is a natural consequence of this panorama and is intensifying (Lodha, P., & Netravali 2005).

Plastics are being used for a plethora of purposes as they are cheap, easily available and perdurable(Narissara K. 2013). In totality around 8.3 billion metric tons of plastics has been created till now, while around 6.3 thousand metric tons of plastic waste has been produced. Only 9% of that waste plastic was recycled, 12% incinerated and the leftover 79% is cumulated in the sanitary landfill or in the environment. It is estimated that by 2050, 12 thousand metric tons of wasted plastics will get cumulated in the sanitary landfill or in open environment (Geyer R.,

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