



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

***DEVELOPMENT AND CHARACTERIZATION OF SUGAR PALM  
[Arenga pinnata (Wurmb.) Merr]/GLASS FIBER REINFORCED POLY  
(LACTIC ACID) HYBRID COMPOSITES FOR MOTORCYCLE  
COMPONENTS***

**SHERWANI SHAH FAISAL KHAN**

**FK 2022 51**



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**By**

**SHERWANI SHAH FAISAL KHAN**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in  
Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

**December 2021**

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## DEDICATION

To Al-Quran, the greatest source of knowledge

*“Such as remember Allah, standing, sitting, and reclining, and consider the creation of the heavens and the earth, (and say): Our Lord! You created not this in vain. Glory be to You! Preserve us from the doom of Fire” (Surah Al-Imran 3: 191)*

&

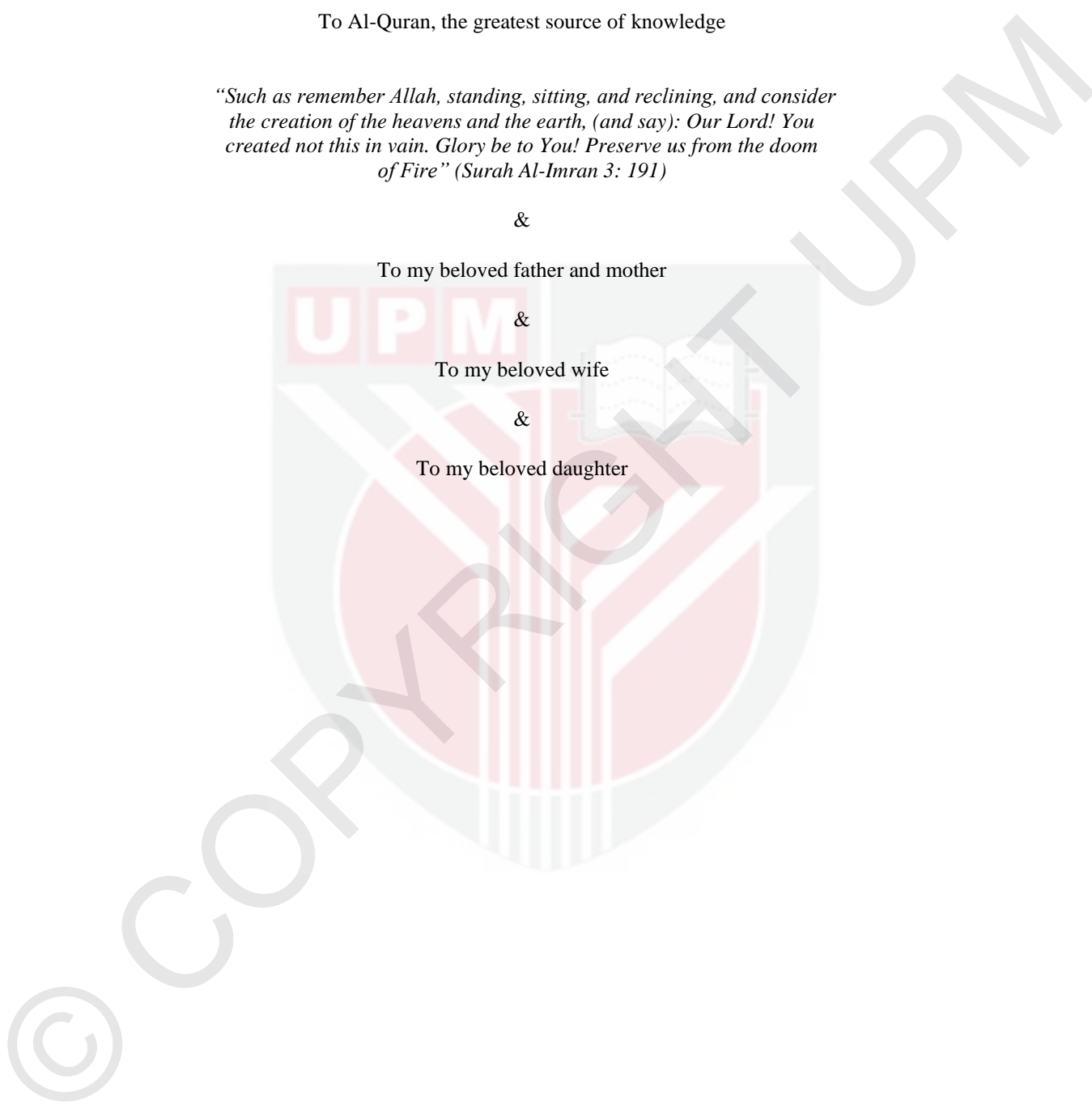
To my beloved father and mother

&

To my beloved wife

&

To my beloved daughter



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**DEVELOPMENT AND CHARACTERIZATION OF SUGAR PALM [*Arenga pinnata* (Wurmb.) Merr]/GLASS FIBER REINFORCED POLY(LACTIC ACID) HYBRID COMPOSITES FOR MOTORCYCLE COMPONENTS**

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**December 2021**

**Chairman : Mohd Sapuan bin Salit, PhD, PEng**  
**Faculty : Engineering**

The automotive industry is always focusing on advanced composites to improve the strength-to-weight ratio. To meet this need, many unique composite materials have been developed or fabricated in the automotive industry. Both synthetic and natural polymers are being used in the production of composite materials for automotive applications. The use of synthetic polymers derived from petroleum sources is hazardous to the environment. The majority of the motorcycle's body frame parts are composed of an ABS (*Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene*) engineering thermoplastic. ABS is a petroleum-based plastic that is non-biodegradable, is not a renewable resource, and is not environmental friendly. Because of the environmentally hazardous properties of ABS plastic, researchers are leaning toward biodegradable plastic in order to save the environment. This might have been achieved with biodegradable materials such as poly(lactic acid) (PLA) and natural fiber composites. PLA is an excellent choice for replacing ABS since it is a bio-degradable type of plastic that is made from plant-based materials such as corn starch or sugarcane. PLA is a biobased, biodegradable, biocompatible, compostable, and non-toxic polymer with low material and manufacturing costs as well as desired mechanical properties. Sugar palm [*Arenga pinnata* (Wurmb.) Merr] fiber has been chosen to mixed with PLA and glass fiber, because of its availability, particularly in Southeast Asia, and its proven performance. Therefore, this research describes the development and characterization of hybrid and non-hybrid composites of sugar palm and glass fiber reinforced poly(lactic acid) for Modenas Kriss 110 motorcycle battery housing part. To evaluate the impact of different wt.% of fiber loading, treatment and hybridization, hybrid and non-hybrid sugar palm/glass fiber (SPF/GF) reinforced PLA composites were developed using a Brabender Plastograph, followed by a compression molding method. Initially the effect of various fiber loading i.e. 10 wt.%, 20 wt.%, 30 wt.% and 40 wt.% on poly(lactic acid) were determined. The best physical, tensile, and flexural properties for SPF/PLA composites were exhibited by 30 wt.% SPF loading, whereas the maximum impact strength value was shown by 40 wt.% SPF loading. The major difficulty associated with natural fiber is its hydrophilic nature and lack of adhesion with the hydrophobic matrix. The inherent difficulties can be solved by

chemical treatments and hybridization. In this work, the sugar palm fiber was treated with alkaline (NaOH) and benzoyl chloride ( $C_6H_5COCl$ ) solutions. Various methods were used to evaluate the physical and mechanical properties of treated and untreated sugar palm fiber/PLA composites. The treated SPF improved in physical (density, thickness, swelling, and water absorption), mechanical (tensile, flexural, and impact) as well as morphological properties of SPF/PLA composite and became more hydrophobic, when compared to the untreated fiber SPF/PLA composite. Among the two treatments, alkaline treatment improved tensile, flexural, and impact strength, (17.08 MPa, 32.34 MPa, and 4.39 kJ/m<sup>2</sup>) whereas a benzoyl chloride (BC) treatment improved tensile and flexural modulus (602 MPa and 1916 MPa) while also increasing hydrophobicity, and for untreated SPF/PLA composite the tensile, flexural, impact strength, tensile, and flexural modulus were 6.85 MPa, 6 MPa, 1.56 kJ/m<sup>2</sup>, 500 MPa, and 850 MPa. Morphological, FTIR, and flammability investigations confirmed that the 6% alkaline SPF treatment improved the physical, tensile, flexural, and impact properties of SPF/PLA composites. In general, the alkaline treatment (6% NaOH conc.) performed better than the BC treatment. The analysis of a hybrid and a non-hybrid composite of SPF/GF reinforced PLA composite revealed a promising improvement in the composite's physical, mechanical, and morphological properties. The alkaline treatment improved the tensile strength, modulus, flexural, and impact strength by 19%, 3%, 17%, and 15% for SPF/GF/PLA hybrid composite, while the BC treatment improve the tensile modulus and impact strength by 19% and 3%. In the last section of this study, the mechanical properties of SPF/GF/PLA hybrid composites such as creep, compression, and hardness were determined in comparison to commercially available ABS plastic motorcycle battery housing parts. Furthermore, the results revealed that hybridization of treated SPF with GF improved the overall performance of the composite as compared to both untreated or SPF/PLA single system composite. In conclusion, when compared to ABS plastic, employing treated SPF/GF/PLA hybrid composite results in a high-strength biodegradable plastic suitable for Modenas Kriss 110 motorcycle battery housing parts.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk Ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**PEMBANGUNAN DAN PENCIRIAN KOMPOSIT HIBRID ASID  
POLILAKTIK DIPERKUAT GENTIAN ENAU [*Arenga pinnata* (Wurmb.)  
Merr]/GLASS KACA UNTUK KOMPONEN MOTOSIKAL**

Oleh

**SHERWANI SHAH FAISAL KHAN**

**Disember 2021**

**Pengerusi : Mohd Sapuan bin Salit, PhD, PEng**  
**Fakulti : Kejuruteraan**

Industri automotif sentiasa memberi tumpuan kepada komposit termaju untuk meningkatkan nisbah kekuatan-kepada-berat. Untuk memenuhi keperluan ini, banyak bahan komposit yang unik telah dicipta atau dikembangkan dalam industri automotif. Kedua-dua polimer sintetik dan semula jadi digunakan dalam pengeluaran bahan komposit bagi aplikasi automotif. Penggunaan polimer sintetik yang berasal dari sumber petroleum adalah berbahaya kepada alam sekitar. Sebahagian besar bahagian bingkai badan motosikal terdiri daripada ABS (Stirena Butadin Akrilonitril) termoplastik kejuruteraan. ABS adalah plastik berasaskan petroleum yang tidak terbiodegradasi, bukan sumber yang boleh diperbaharui, dan telah membahayakan alam sekitar. Oleh kerana sifat plastik ABS yang berbahaya bagi alam sekitar, para penyelidik cenderung ke arah plastik biodegradasi untuk menyelamatkan alam sekitar. Ini mungkin dicapai dengan bahan biodegradasi seperti asid polilaktik (PLA) dan komposit gentian semula jadi. PLA adalah pilihan yang sangat baik untuk menggantikan ABS disebabkan ia adalah plastik jenis biodegradasi yang dibuat daripada bahan berasaskan tumbuhan seperti kanji jagung atau tebu. PLA adalah polimer berasaskan bio, terbiodegradasi, bioserasi, terkompos, dan tidak beracun dengan bahan dan kos pembuatan yang rendah serta mempunyai sifat mekanikal yang diinginkan. Gentian enau [*Arenga Pinnata* (Wurmb.) Merr] juga dipilih untuk dicampur dengan PLA, kerana ketersediaannya, terutama di Asia Tenggara, dan prestasinya yang terbukti. Oleh itu, penyelidikan ini menerangkan tentang perkembangan dan ciri-ciri komposit hibrid serta bukan hibrid daripada gentian enau dan diperkukuh dengan gentian kaca asid polilaktik untuk pemegang bateri motosikal Modenas Kriss 110. Untuk menilai kesan pelbagai kadar kandungan gentian %, rawatan dan hibridisasi, hibrid dan bukan hibrid komposit gentian enau/kaca (SPF/GF) diperkukuh PLA komposit dikembangkan menggunakan Brabender Plastograph, diikuti dengan kaedah pengacuan mampatan. Pada mulanya perlu untuk menentukan kesan pelbagai kadar kandungan gentian iaitu 10%, 20%, 30% dan 40% pada asid polilaktik. Sifat fizikal, tegangan, dan lenturan terbaik untuk komposit SPF/PLA ditunjukkan oleh kadar kandungan gentian SPF 30%, sedangkan nilai kekuatan hentaman maksimum ditunjukkan oleh kandungan gentian SPF 40%. Kesukaran utama

berkaitan dengan gentian semula jadi adalah sifat hidrofilik dan kekurangan lekatan dengan matriks hidrofobik. Kesukaran yang wujud dapat diselesaikan dengan rawatan kimia dan hibridisasi. Dalam kajian ini, gentian ijuk dirawat dengan larutan alkali (NaOH) dan larutan benzoil klorida ( $C_6H_5COCl$ ). Pelbagai kaedah digunakan untuk menilai sifat fizikal dan mekanikal komposit gentian enau/PLA yang dirawat dan tidak dirawat. Gentian enau yang dirawat bertambah baik dari segi fizikal (ketumpatan, ketebalan, pembengkakan, dan penyerapan air), mekanikal (tegangan, lenturan, dan hentaman) serta sifat morfologi komposit SPF/PLA dan menjadi lebih hidrofobik, jika dibandingkan dengan komposit gentian SPF/PLA yang tidak dirawat. Di antara kedua-dua rawatan, kandungan 6% rawatan alkali meningkatkan kekuatan tegangan, lenturan, dan hentaman (17.08 MPa, 32.34 MPa, dan 4.39 kJ/m<sup>2</sup>) sedangkan rawatan benzoil klorida (BC) meningkatkan modulus tegangan dan lenturan (602 MPa dan 1916 MPa) serta meningkatkan hidrofobik, dan untuk SPF/PLA komposit yang tidak dirawat, modulus tegangan, lenturan, kekuatan hentakan, tegangan, dan lenturan adalah 6.85 MPa, 6 MPa, 1.56 kJ / m<sup>2</sup>, 500MPa, dan 850MPa. Analisis morfologi, FTIR, dan kemampuan terbakar bahan mengesahkan bahawa rawatan SPF alkali sebanyak 6% meningkatkan sifat fizikal, tegangan, lenturan, dan kesan komposit SPF/PLA. Secara amnya, rawatan alkali (6% NaOH ringkas) lebih baik daripada rawatan BC. Analisis komposit hibrid dan bukan hibrid komposit PLA diperkukuh SPF/GF menunjukkan peningkatan dalam sifat fizikal, mekanikal, dan morfologi komposit. Rawatan alkali meningkatkan kekuatan tegangan, modulus, lenturan, dan kekuatan hentakan sebanyak 19%, 3%, 17%, dan 15% untuk komposit hibrid SPF/GF/PLA, sementara rawatan BC membantu meningkatkan modulus tegangan dan kekuatan hentaman sebanyak 19% dan 3%. Pada bahagian terakhir kajian ini, sifat mekanik komposit hibrid SPF / GF / PLA seperti rayapan, mampatan, dan kekerasan ditentukan berbanding dengan bahagian pemegang bateri motosikal plastik ABS yang tersedia secara komersial. Selanjutnya, hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa hibridisasi SPF yang dirawat dengan GF meningkatkan prestasi keseluruhan komposit berbanding dengan komposit sistem tunggal SPF/PLA yang tidak dirawat. Kesimpulannya, jika dibandingkan dengan plastik ABS, menggunakan komposit hibrid SPF/GF/PLA yang dirawat akan menghasilkan plastik biodegradasi berkekuatan tinggi yang sesuai untuk pemegang bateri motosikal Modenas Kriss 110.



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This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

**Mohd Sapuan bin Salit@ Sinon, PhD, P.Eng**

Professor, Ir.  
Faculty of Engineering  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Chairman)

**Edi Syams bin Zainudin, PhD**

Associate Professor  
Faculty of Engineering  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Member)

**Zulkiflle bin Leman, PhD**

Associate Professor  
Faculty of Engineering  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Member)

**Khalina binti Abdan, PhD**

Professor, Ts  
Faculty of Engineering  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Member)

---

**ZALILAH MOHD SHARIFF, PhD**

Professor and Dean  
School of Graduate Studies  
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date: 9 March 2022

## Declaration by Members of Supervisory Committee

This is to confirm that:

- The research conducted and the writing of this thesis was under our supervision;
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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Chairman  
of Supervisory  
Committee: Professor Ir. Dr. Mohd Sapuan bin Salit

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Member  
of Supervisory  
Committee: Associate Professor Dr. Edi Syams bin Zainudin

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Member  
of Supervisory  
Committee: Associate Professor Dr. Zulkiflle bin Leman

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Member  
of Supervisory  
Committee: Professor Ts. Dr. Khalina Abdan

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene
AM	Additive Manufacturing
ANOVA	Analysis of Variance
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
ATR	Attenuated total reflectance
CFRP	Carbon fiber reinforced plastic
CHP	Cocos nucifera husk particle
DFCM	Dynamic fluid compression molding
DMA	Dynamic Mechanical Analyzer
EPS	Expanded Polystyrene
FGM	Functional graded materials
FTIR	Fourier Transform Infrared
GF	Glass Fiber
HDPE	High-density Polyethene
HIPS	High-impact polystyrene
KF	Kenaf Fiber
LDPE	Low-density Polyethene
NFC	Natural Fiber Composite
NFRPC	Natural Fiber Reinforced Polymer Composites
PALF	Pineapple Leaf Fiber
PLA	Poly(lactic acid)
PP	Polypropylene
PU	Polyurethane
RIM	Resin injection molding

RPP	Recycled Poly-propylene
SEM	Scanning Electron Microscopy
SLS	Selective laser sintering
SMC	Sheet molding compound
SPF	Sugar Palm Fiber
SPS	Sugar Palm Starch
TGA	Thermogravimetric analysis
TPU	Thermoplastic Polyurethane
UTM	Universal testing machine



## LIST OF SYMBOLS

$^{\circ}$	Degree
$^{\circ}\text{C}$	Degree Celsius
$\rho$	Density
gm	Gram
hr.	Hour
MPa	Mega Pascal
%	Percentage
$M_f$	Final Weight
$M_i$	Initial Weight
Wt.%	Weight percentage
GPa	Gega Pascal
$\mu\text{m}$	Micrometer
$T_i$	Initial thickness before water immersion
$T_f$	Final thickness after water immersion
$Q_t$	Mole % uptake
$M$	Molecular weight of the solvent
$W_t$	Weight of water uptake at time 't'
$Q_{\infty}$	Mol % uptake at equilibrium
$\Theta$	Slope sorption curves from the initial linear portion
$D$	Diffusion coefficient
$S$	Solubility
$P$	Permeability coefficient

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the research

In developing countries, it has been observed that the usage of motorcycles is more than the cars. During the past decade, a number of studies were performed on the new design of engines, but very few on the material of the motorcycle frame. The majority of motorcycle parts are manufactured of Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS) plastic, which has several advantages, including a high melting point, low weight, high strength, strong mechanical characteristics, and a great surface finish (Saxena and Maiti 2021). However, ABS plastic is not biodegradable, is not a renewable resource, and is harmful to the environment (Kurniawan et al., 2021). Because of ABS plastic's environmentally harmful characteristics, researchers are moving toward biodegradable plastic to save the environment. Poly(lactic acid) (PLA) is a suitable replacement for ABS since it is a biodegradable plastic manufactured from plant-based ingredients such as corn starch or sugarcane, also known as "the green plastic." (Mukaffa et al. 2021). In this research, the PLA was reinforced with glass fiber and the most abundant Malaysian natural fiber, i.e., sugar palm fiber (SPF). Sugar palm fiber inclusion has a number of advantages, including lightweight, biodegradability, ease of machinability, non-toxicity, cheap cost, non-abrasive, availability, reduced pollution emissions, and low environmental impacts (Mukhtar et al., 2019). However, SPF has a major drawback of inadequate adhesion between the hydrophilic SPF and the hydrophobic PLA matrix (Atiqah et al., 2018a). This problem can be solved by chemically treating SPF, which results in good adhesion between treated SPF and other matrices. Weight and cost reductions are significant with glass/sugar palm fiber hybrid composites. As a result, this research was performed to determine the physical, mechanical, and morphological characteristics of various ratio SPF/GF/PLA hybrid composites. The research will concentrate on alkaline and benzoyl-treated sugar palm fiber to enhance the adhesion between SPF, GF, and PLA. In addition, when compared to commercially available motorcycle ABS components, the PLA/SPF/GF composite exhibits superior physical and mechanical characteristics. At the end of this research, based on the result obtained, the best hybrid composite was proposed, which is suitable for Modenas Kriss 110 motorcycle battery housing components.

### 1.2 Problem statements

Motorcycle manufacturers' extensive use of petroleum-based polymer or ABS plastic has resulted in severe environmental issues, particularly at the disposal stage. When these wastes are disposed of in the environment, i.e., land or water, they are not easily biodegradable, causing severe issues for civilization, animals, and the ecosystem. Furthermore, air pollution is a hazard as a result of the incineration of these wastes. To address this issue, several countries like Australia (Queensland), Greece, France, North America (Mexico), Malaysia, and many more have recently outlawed the use of plastic

items (Schnurr et al., 2018). As a result, this research aims to solve the problem by creating a renewable and biodegradable polymer composite from natural sources.

PLA is the most promising biodegradable material among biodegradable polymers since it is easily attacked by bacteria (Siakeng et al., 2019). The degradation happens by hydrolysis caused by lactic acid, converted by microbial species to water and carbon monoxide. By composting PLA with other biomass waste, the biodegradation process was completed in two weeks, and the materials were totally degraded and disappeared in three to four weeks (Ibrahim et al., 2010). PLA is frequently used to replace synthetic polymers that can harm our environment owing to solid waste pollution. However, because poly(lactic) polymers are stiff and brittle, it is important to incorporate a portion of natural fiber into them to increase their mechanical properties and yield strength (Azlin et al. 2020; Serizawa, Inoue, and Iji 2006). Other researchers have conducted several investigations on the mechanical properties of natural fibers reinforced with PLA, including kenaf (Ochi 2008; Tawakkal et al., 2012; Yusoff, Takagi, and Nakagaito 2016), cotton gin waste, flax (Bajracharya, Bajwa, and Bajwa 2017), jute (Manral et al., 2019; Reddy et al., 2021), and hemp (Durante et al., 2017; Xu et al., 2019), as reinforcement in order to replace synthetic fiber in polymer composites.

SPF has the following advantages: low cost, biodegradable, non-toxic, low density, and excellent mechanical strength. However, SPF has several drawbacks, including non-adhesion with polymer matrices, excessive wetness, and poor modulus. Chemically modifying the surfaces of fibers will help solve some of these problems (Atiqah et al., 2019; Ilyas et al., 2020; Rozilah et al., 2020). One of the most common treatments is alkaline treatment, which has several advantages, including cheap cost, efficient surface modification, improved mechanical characteristics, and the production of a rough fiber surface (Radzi et al., 2019a). The rough surfaces acquired after alkaline treatment improve fiber interlocking for matrix penetration, establishing a large region of contact between the matrix and the fiber (Nurazzi et al., 2019). The mechanical properties were improved by 6% using alkaline treatment of SPF for roselle fiber RF/SPF hybrid composite due to the excellent adhesion between fiber and matrix (Radzi et al., 2019a). The treatment improved the wettability of the *Impomea pescaprae* fibers/epoxy composites, resulting in better bonding and hence, enhancing the overall strength of the composites (Vinod et al., 2019). Due to their biodegradability, it becomes advantageous to transform poly(lactic acid) (PLA) and sugar palm fibers into eco-friendly composites.

There is no investigation on the hybrid composite of sugar palm and glass fiber reinforced poly(lactic acid) with prior treatment of SPF with NaOH and benzoyl chloride, as evidenced by the literature. The chemical treatment of sugar palm fiber is intended to enhance fiber dispersion, fiber-matrix adhesion, and reduce moisture absorption. The treated and untreated fibers were characterized in order to investigate the influence of fiber treatments on physical, mechanical, and morphological properties for the effective use of fiber in motorcycle framing work. Hot compression molding was used to create the sugar palm fiber and glass fiber hybrid reinforced poly(lactic acid) composite. The basic features linked to its use, especially mechanical properties, were evaluated. After the characterizations, the best performing composite system was utilized to produce the composite plate and compare its different properties with the existing battery housing component of Modenas Kriss 110 motorcycle made from ABS plastic.

### 1.3 Research objectives

The general objective of this research is to develop and characterise sugar palm and glass fiber reinforced poly(lactic acid) hybrid composites. The specific objectives are:

1. Development and determination of physical, mechanical and morphological properties of sugar palm fiber (SPF) reinforced poly(lactic acid) (PLA) composites.
2. Development and determination of physical, mechanical, morphological properties and flammability of treated sugar palm fiber (SPF) reinforced poly(lactic acid) (PLA) composites
3. Development and determination of physical, mechanical and morphological properties of sugar palm/ glass fiber (SPF/GF) reinforced poly(lactic acid) (PLA) hybrid composites.
4. Validation of physical, mechanical properties and flammability of sugar palm /glass fiber (SPF/GF)-reinforced poly(lactic acid) PLA hybrid composites with *Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene* (ABS) for potential use in Modenas Kriss 110 motorcycle battery housing components.

### 1.4 Significance of the research

Combining sugar palm fiber with glass fiber with prior chemical treatment of the fibers that were converted into the high-performance composite material can result in a beneficial hybrid effect. When compared to ABS plastics, the proposed new material, termed "partial eco-friendly hybrid composite", possesses better physical and mechanical properties while being less harmful to the environment. This study's findings also give basic information regarding sugar palm and glass fiber reinforced poly(lactic acid) hybrid composite as a material proposed for battery housing of motorcycle components. The utilization of sugar palm fiber would encourage rural people to develop sugar palm tree cultivation. Because of the increased revenue, the economy and people's well-being will benefit even more. The sugar palm and glass fiber reinforced poly(lactic acid) hybrid composites outperformed existing ABS plastic in terms of flame retardance. This new composite is safer for the environment as well as for accidental contact. This new material benefits the local motorcycle manufacturers for the production of battery housing components.

### 1.5 Research scopes

The research focuses on the characterizations of both treated and untreated fiber, which included density, void content, thickness swelling, moisture content, tensile, flexural, and impact strength, as well as morphological analysis. Using Brabender mixing and the

hot compression method, sugar palm and glass fiber reinforced poly(lactic acid) hybrid and non-hybrid composites were developed. The hybrid and non-hybrid composites were characterized in accordance with the standards. The physical, mechanical, and morphological properties of the composite were investigated. These tests were carried out to determine its suitability as a material for the battery housing component of the Modenas Kriss 110. Furthermore, the properties of the SPF/GF/PLA hybrid composites, such as rainwater absorption, oil absorption, creep, hardness, compression, and flammability, were determined and compared with existing ABS plastic components, demonstrating that our proposed material is more suitable than the commercially available ABS component.

## **1.6 Structure of thesis**

The following are the specifics of the thesis structure:

### **Chapter 1**

This chapter presents the research background, problem statements, and objectives. This chapter also describes the significance of the research work and the scope of the research, as well as the structure of the thesis.

### **Chapter 2**

This chapter gives a detailed overview of the literature on the title of this research. Furthermore, the research gaps identified throughout the study were addressed inside the chapter.

### **Chapter 3**

This chapter is concerned with the methods used in this study for material selection, preparation, fabrication, testing procedures, and data collection.

### **Chapter 4**

This chapter is about results and discussion of the research work and they are divided into four parts. The first part is about physical, mechanical and morphological properties of sugar palm fiber reinforced poly(lactic acid) composites. In this part, the effect of different sugar palm fiber loading (from 0 to 40%SPF loading) on physical (density, thickness swelling, and water absorption), mechanical (tensile, flexural, and impact), and morphological properties of sugar palm fiber reinforced poly(lactic acid) composites were investigated.

This second part presents the effect of alkaline and benzoyl chloride treatments on physical, mechanical and morphological properties of sugar palm fiber-reinforced poly(lactic acid) composites. In this part, the effect of alkaline (4,5 & 6% conc. of NaOH)

and benzoyl chloride (10, 15 & 20 min.) treatments on physical (density, thickness swelling, and water absorption), mechanical (tensile, flexural, and impact) and morphological properties of sugar palm fiber-reinforced poly(lactic acid) composites were investigated.

The third part of chapter four is about the physical, mechanical, and morphological properties of treated sugar palm/ glass fiber reinforced poly (lactic acid) hybrid composites. In this part, the effect of 30%SP/GF & 70% PLA loading on physical (density, thickness swelling, and water absorption), mechanical (tensile, flexural, and impact), and morphological properties of sugar palm / glass fiber reinforced poly(lactic acid) hybrid composites were investigated.

The last part of chapter four is related to mechanical properties of sugar palm [*Arenga pinnata* (Wurmb.) Merr]/glass fiber-reinforced poly(lactic acid) hybrid composites for potential use in motorcycle components. In this part, mechanical (tensile, flexural, hardness, compressive, impact, and creep) and flammability properties of SPF/GF/PLA hybrid composites were investigated and compared to commercially available motorcycle Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS) plastic components.

## **Chapter 5**

This chapter is the final chapter where the overall conclusions from the whole research as well as future recommendations for further improvement of this research.



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