SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION OF MALAYSIAN AGROWASTE

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CHAPTER 5

ACTIVATED CARBON PRODUCTION FROM RUBBER WOOD RESIDUES TOWARDS DECOLOURISATION OF CRUDE PALM OIL

Jamaluddin Mohd Daud

Introduction

Elemental carbon can be in the crystalline or amorphous forms. The crystalline carbons are graphite and diamond, whereas the amorphous carbon is normally known as charcoal. All species of wood and cellulosic biomass can be converted to charcoal that is suitable for general use such as fuel for homes and industry. Charcoal is also an important commodity that can be used for the reduction of steel, production of carbide and activated carbon. The charcoal industry was first introduced into Malaysia by charcoal burners who migrated from Thailand to Matang, Perak as a result of the exhaustion of larger sizes of mangrove wood in their own swamps (Robertson, 1940).

Charcoal could be produced by heating of any carbonaceous material such as coconut shells, bamboo, wood chips, sawdust, coal, lignite, paddy husk, etc.