

Production of Biogas from Multiple Feedstocks and its Application as a Fuel for Spark Ignition Engines - A Review

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT				
Received: 10 Oct. 2019	The passenger cars run by petrol are mostly used for transportation in India. The increases in fuel demand as the				
Revised: 6 Jan. 2020	vehicles increases, high fuel cost due to price fixation daily and pollute the environment with their combustion				
Accepted: 6 Jan. 2020	products, engineers concern have to look an alternate fuel for petrol in Spark Ignition (SI) engine. Alternative fuels such as LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas), CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) are used in SI engines are current development. The use of biogas is also a better exchange for LPG and CNG fuel. Because biogas is easily producible, has a high octane number, lower emission level, wider flammability range, lower cost per energy unit of biogas, high self-ignition temperature and it also resists knocking, which is desirable in SI engines. Limited authors have attempted to use biogas as a substitute fuel for petrol in SI engine and dual fuel in Compression Ignition (CI) engine on their experimental studies. This paper reviews those studies and gives an observation for researcher's to make use of biogas as an alternative fuel for spark-ignition engines efficiently.				
	Keywords: alternate fuel, biogas, compression-ignition engine, dual fuel, spark-ignition engine				

INTRODUCTION

The enormous growth in industries and an increase in population is the main reason for the heavy depletion of fossil fuel. Owing to the current energy scenario, the entire world is looking alternate to fossil fuels that should be renewable ones. Gaseous fuels are widely used nowadays because of their wide ignition limits and also have the capability to form a uniform mixture which reduces pollution. Various alternative gaseous fuels are compressed natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, hydrogen, biogas, producer gas. Among the all renewable energy sources, biogas is particularly significant because of possibility of use in internal combustion engines (Mustafi et al., 2008), which are the main power source for transport sectors and also biogas is become more popular in rural areas for cooking and is produced from cow dung, other animal wastes and also from plant wastes by anaerobic decomposition. It is also known as gobar gas. Biogas is used as an alternative fuel in petrol engine and dual fuel in the diesel engine. Biogas is primarily composed of methane (CH₄), carbon dioxide (CO₂), hydrogen (H₂), nitrogen (N₂) and minute impurities like hydrogen sulphide (H₂S). Biogas can be subjected to clean by removal of impurities by scrubbing process. It is made up of twothird methane and remaining by carbon dioxide by volume. Biogas is safer in many aspects compared to other fuels. Ignition temperature for biogas is higher compared to gasoline and diesel fuel, which reduces ignition delay and makes it less hazardous. Biogas can be upgraded to synthetic gas by Removal of CO_2 is necessary to increase the density and calorific value of the gas to meet quality (Oian et al., 2017). An attempt was made by a researcher to a covert diesel engine to SI engine fueled by biogas and an observed 35% and 40% less power compared to diesel and gasoline fuel respectively (Dobslaw et al., 2019). Inconsequent with another study was done by Neyeloff and Cunkel (1981) in a Cooperative Fuel Research (CFR) engine fuelled with simulated biogas in different compression ratios They have noted storing and transportation were main challenges for biogas. Thring (1985) concluded that biogas would be glowing appearance just where it is close to the production site. This review paper is covered the potential biogas production and its application as a fuel in IC engines. The objective of this review is to make a simple for the researcher to do future development.

BIOGAS PRODUCTION

Biogas is the product of fermentation of man and animals' biological activity waste products when bacteria degrade biological material in the absence of oxygen, in a process known as anaerobic digestion. Raw materials mostly used for biogas production



Figure 1. Schematic diagram of floating drum type plant for biogas production

Table	1. Biog	as com	position
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Composition	Molecular Formula	Percentage
Methane	CH ₄	50-75
Carbon dioxide	CO ₂	25-50
Nitrogen	N ₂	0-10
Hydrogen	H ₂	0-1
Hydrogen sulphide	H ₂ S	0-3

are cow dung, sewage, crop residues, vegetable wastes, poultry droppings and pig manure. Biogas is produced by hydrolysis, acidogenesis, acetogenesis, methanogenesis. Various types of biogas plants based on design are

- Fixed dome plant
- Floating drum plant
- Low cost polyethylene tube digester
- Baloon plants
- Horizontal plants
- Earth pit plants
- Ferrocement plants

Experimental purpose the floating drum type is most commonly used to produce biogas in India. The Floating drum type plant is shown in **Figure 1**.

It consists of airtight container made of steel or brick masonry is called a digester with inlet and outlet for raw material feeding and getting manure respectively. Another drum is called floating drum which floats over fixed digester employing rope and weight through the pulley. It has an opening at the top as a gas outlet. The ideal temperature for the production of biogas is 30° to 40°C and the required pH will be 6 to 8. Inhibitors can also be used to produce methane like ammonium sulfate. In case of cow dung as a feedstock for biogas production, cow dung is mixed with water in 3:1 ratio and fed to the digester through an inlet and set up is placed in an open atmosphere and exposed to sunlight. After two or three weeks, cow dung is digested to yield biogas. The biogas main constituent and their percentage are listed in **Table 1**. Some important thermodynamic properties of biogas are listed in **Table 2**.

Table 2. Biogas Fuel Properties

Molecular Weight	24-29
Density (kg/L, 15 ° C)	0.96-1.17 kg/m ³
Specific Gravity (15 °C)	0.94-0.98
Boiling point	300° C
Specific Heat	1.6 kJ/kg-k
Individual Gas constant R	0.518 kJ/kg K
Latent Heat of Vaporization	481kJ/kg
Lower Heating Value	21570 kJ/m ³
Higher heating value	23000 kJ/m ³
Autoignition Temperature,	600-650 °C
Octane Number	130
Boiling point	-161.5°C

Table 3. Biogas as a fuel in dual fuel CI engine

INVESTIGATORS	ENGINE SPECIFICATION	BIOGAS PRODUCTION	PERFORMANCE RESULTS	EMISSION RESULTS
Jagadish and Gumtapure (2019)	Single cylinder, four-stroke constant speed, direct injection, water-cooled diesel engine	Simulated biogas (different mixtures of methane-enriched biogas)	The brake thermal efficiency is lower by 2.43% and the cylinder peak pressure is higher by 6.55% for dual fuel mode when compared with diesel mode.	NOx emission reduced by 2.6 % and CO emission increased by 3.3% compared to diesel at full load
Ambarita et al. (2017)	Tiger Diesel Engine R175 AN	Simulated biogas (mixing of natural gas and CO ₂)	Output power and efficiency increases with increasing engine speed and SFC decrease.	High CO and HC as the flow rate of biogas increases.
Prajapati et al. (2015)	Single cylinder diesel engine	Biodegradable material	BSFC is high with an increase in load but TE decreases	Emissions of CO ₂ , CO and HC increase with increasing load.
Bora et al. (2014)	3.5kW VCR diesel engine	Organic matter	At a100% load, BTE was 20.04% at compression ratio is 18	Reduction in CO and HC by 26.22% and 41.97% when CR increased from 16 to 18 but there is an increase in NO _x by 66.65%
Barik and Murugan (2014)	Single-cylinder direct injection diesel engine	Anaerobic digestion of Pongamia pinnata seed cakes	The biogas flow rate of 1.2 kg/h shows a higher brake specific energy consumption (BSEC) of 51.8 MJ/kWh at higher energy share of 60%, at 25% load	At full load, NO and smoke emissions were found to be lower by about 34% and 14% with long lignition delay
Gomez-Montoya et al. (2013)	Two-cylinder diesel engine coupled to an electric generator	Organic waste	Thermal energy increases up to 16% at full load	CO emission decreases up to 13%at full load
Gomez-Montoya et al. (2010)	3.7kW Kirloskar diesel engine	Organic waste	SFC decreases with an increase in power and efficiency also increases	
Bari (1996)	Two-cylinder diesel engine 16.8kW at 1500 rpm	Anaerobic fermentation of Biomass materials	Percentage of CO ₂ increases, power increases and brake specific fuel consumption (BSFC) decreases.	

BIOGAS AS A FUEL FOR CI ENGINE

Biogas cannot be used as a substitute fuel in diesel an account of high self-ignition temperature and high Octane number. But it can be used as a primary fuel in dual fuel mode in the modified existing engine and either diesel or biodiesel as pilot secondary fuel. Modification of diesel engine into a dual-fuel engine has the following advantages: Operation on diesel fuel alone is possible when biogas is not available. Any contribution of biogas from 0% to 85% can substitute a corresponding part of diesel fuel while performance remains as in 100% diesel fuel operation (Van Ga et al., 2015). Various research on biogas as a fuel in the dual-fuel engine are listed in **Table 3**.

BIOGAS AS A FUEL FOR SI ENGINE

The use of biogas as an SI engine fuel offers several advantages. Biogas is a clean fuel causes clean combustion which results in low particulates and nitrogen oxides and reduced contamination of engine oil. The basic modification is required in SI engine is the provision of an air/gas mixer instead of the carburettor as the engine is designed to operate on an air/fuel mixture. From the previous studies conducted by Jeong et al. (2009); Arroyo et al. (2014); Kukoyi et al. (2016); Krishnaiah et al. (2017), it was noted that researchers have used both simulated biogas and direct biogas in their experimental studies. This review study has taken both cases and listed their result in **Table 4** and **5**.

Tal	ole 4	Biogas	blenc	ls as a	fue	l in SI	engine
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INVESTIGATORS	ENGINE SPECIFICATION	BIOGAS PRODUCTION	PERFORMANCE RESULT	EMISSION RESULT
Park and Choi	Water-cooled turbocharged SI	biogas with added hydrogen	Maximum rise of BTE is 3.2% with	NOx emission got reduced with
(2017)	engine		boost pressure for Air fuel ratio 1.5	boost pressure
Ayade and Latey	4 cylinder SI engine	Cowdung and leaves with	B40 obtained maximum results in	CO and HC emission increases as
(2016)		petrol of 60%, 80% and 90%	bsfc by 12% and BTE by17%	gas substitution increases
Singh (2016)	4 stroke SI engine	Biogas from Organic matter	BTE increases by 20% and bsfc	CO and HC level decreases by 80%
		with hydrogen	decrease by 14% with increasing	and 30% and NO_x increased by 13%
			hydrogen	with hydrogen addition
Pandya et al.	7.5 HP single cylinder Kirloscar	Methane enriched by biogas	Bsfc, ME is higher than petrol but BTE	
(2016)	engine		was found to be low	
Juntarakod	3.5KW SI engine	Biogas and petrol		Hydrogen substitution causes an
(2016)				increase in H_2 results in higher NO_2
				emission in lean combustion
Gohil	4 stroke SI engine	Biogas with methanol blend	Brake torque, BP, BTE and volumetric	
Bhavdipsinh et		from 0/20/50%	efficiency increases with increasing	
al. (2016)			methanol but bsfc decreases	
Awogbemi et al.	5 HP single cylinder SI engine	Cowdung seeded with rice	The high torque of 8.7Nm for biogas	
(2015)		husk and banana peel with	petrol blend at speed of 3500 rpm and	1
		petrol	BP of 311.58 kW. Mechanical	
			efficiency increases sharply between	
			1000-1500 rpm and gently after that	
Chen et al. (2012)	Single-cylinder HONDA GX340	Biomass with hydrogen and	BMEP and BTE increases with the	NOx and CO emission reduces with
	engine	CO blended and diluted by	hydrogen addition	the increase of hydrogen
		CO ₂		concentration
Park et al. (2011)	Constant speed 6 cylinder SI	biogas with added hydrogen	Maximum TE reaches at 31.1% at 80%	Increased N ₂ dilution decreases
	engine		N ₂ dilution	NOx level
Porpatham et al.	Single-cylinder constant speed	Cowdung with hydrogen	Improvement in TE and power output	HC emissions drop to 660 ppm with
(2007)	SI engine	addition from 5% to 15%	with very lean mixtures and hydrogen	10% hydrogen addition and no
			concentration of 15%	change in NO level.

Table 5. Biogas as fuel for SI engine

INVESTIGATORS	ENGINE SPECIFICATIONS	BIOGAS PRODUCTION	PERFORMANCE RESULTS	EMISSION RESULTS
Hotta et al. (2019)) Single cylinder, variable speed (1450-1700 rpm) spark ignition engine.	Raw biogas	18% of reduction in brake power, 66% of increase in brake specific fuel consumption and 12% of reduction in break thermal efficiency when the engine is fueled with raw biogas.	f The emission components such as CO and NOx are significantly reduced by 40% and 81.5%, respectively, while, the unburnt hydrocarbon (UHC) and CO ₂ emission were increased by 6.8% and 40%, respectively.
Nunes de Faria et al. (2017)	Single-cylinder constant speed SI engine	Biogas from organic compounds	Decrease of Sfc with increasing values o equivalence ratio	f Increase in equivalence ratio results in a decrease of CO and an increase in NOx
Kim et al. (2017)	Single zone SI engine	Biogas with CO ₂ variations	SFC decreases with an increase in spark ignition timing	NO _x , HC and CO emissions tend to increase with load
Samanta et al. (2016)	Single zone SI engine	organic matter	BTE is 24% and BSFC is 0.29m³/kWh at 27° BTDC spark timing	
Zhang et al. (2016)	4 stroke single cylinder SI engine with a power generator	Hydrogen-rich T-PAD (Two-Phase Anaerobic Digestion biogas) with CH ₄ /H ₂ /CO ₂ mixture	Increasing CO ₂ ratio decreases power output. Increasing H ₂ /CH ₄ ratio increases overall TE	Increasing H ₂ /CH ₄ ratio, decreases CO, HC and NOx emissions
Prakash et al. (2016)	5kW single-cylinder SI engine	Biogas from organic matter	BP for raw and upgraded biogas is 38% and 12% lower than gasoline. BSFC was lower by an average of 19.5%	CO, NO _x , HC and CO ₂ emissions are lower for upgraded biogas than raw biogas
Joshi et al. (2015)	4 stroke single cylinder SI engine	Biogas from organic material	The maximum power produced is 3.3kW at 80% load. At highest load, BTE will be 42.32%	HC emission reduced about 60.52%. CO emission decreases 63.07% for Bosch type at 80% load
Kimura et al. (2015)	SI gas engine	Low-temperature biomass gasification process from wood chips	s Maximum BTE was more than 30 %, even at the BMEP less than 0.4 MPa	
Przybyla et al. (2013)	Petrol engine with low engine displacement	simulated biogas and natural gas		Greater the values of ignition advance angle, higher the NO _x and CO emissions
Porpatham et al. (2013)	Constant speed diesel modified SI engine	Biogas from organic matter	Increase in BTE and power output with an increase in a swirl at full throttle than part throttle	A decrease in HC level and increase in NOx emission with enhanced swirl at full throttle.
Porpatham et al. (2012)	Diesel modified SI engine running at 1500 rpm	Cowdung	Power output with a compression ratio of 15:1 is 4.8 kW. When the compression ratio increases from 9.3:1 to 15:1, BTE increases to 26.8%	With an increase in compression ratio, NO level increases to 2650 ppm and HC to 2000 ppm
Huang and Crookes (1998)	Ricardo E6 variable compression ratio single- cylinder Spark Ignition engine	Biogas from the different mixture of domestic natural gas and CO ₂	BTE reduced by 3% when CO ₂ increases to 40%. High power and TE obtained at compression ratio between 13:1 and 15:1 and RAFR 1.05 and 0.95	At higher compression ratio (above 13:1), higher the CO, HC and NOx emissions

CONCLUSIONS

From the comprehensive review study in various authors findings on biogas as a fuel in the IC engine, the review study concludes the following

- The production of biogas from various feedstock is feasible and its composition and properties are pertinent for substitute fuel in IC engines.
- The performance of diesel engines in dual fuel mode of either diesel or biodiesel and biogas is almost equal to diesel fuel operation.
- The emission characteristics of biogas fuelled SI engine are found relatively lower in particulates, carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides emissions
- Biogas is a very efficient, sustainable and environmental friendly fuel which helps to reduce dependence on conventional fossil fuels and the management of waste,

Finally, biogas may be recommended as an alternative fuel in CI engine.

Suggestion for Future Development

- For the long-run operation of CI engine running on biogas fuel require the following attentions
- Developing the low cost biogas purification and upgrading technologies
- During the biogas simulation, it can be enhanced by methane enrichment or the addition of hydrogen to improve its flame quality.

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