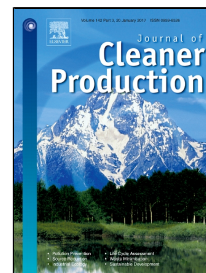


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NEGATIVE IMPACT FROM THE APPLICATION OF NATURAL FIBERS

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NEGATIVE IMPACT FROM THE APPLICATION OF NATURAL FIBERS

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Abstract

Natural fibre reinforced composites have been widely explored in many engineering applications in recent times due to its comparative advantages in terms of recyclability and sustainability. Of most interest in many engineering applications is its ability to offer lighter weight component as against synthetic and metallic materials. In recent times, metallic and synthetic materials are currently being replaced in many automobiles industries while natural fibre reinforced composites continue to enjoy reasonable patronage in this industry. In this study, the overall application of natural fibre was discussed with focal point on global consumption of natural fibre in automobile industries and its attendant implication on the environment and biodiversity. Part of the conclusions drawn from this study emphasised the need to preserve the nature from impending extinction.

Keywords: natural fibre; climate change; composite; energy saving; environment.

1 Introduction

Natural fibres are a group of hair-like materials which primarily consists of plant and animal and its primary advantage revolves round the fact that it is environmentally friendly and more economically viable as against synthetic fibres. Natural fibres industry remains a huge market globally most importantly in automobile industries where natural fibre constitute about 40% of its raw materials (Reddy and Yang, 2005). This trend continues to put pressure on farmers to

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