

**ENERGY AUDIT OF TIMBER LOG PROCESSING IN SOUTHWESTERN
NIGERIA**

BY

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A thesis in the Centre for Petroleum, Energy Economics and Law
in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

of the

University of Ibadan

May, 2017

Certification

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Dedication

This work is dedicated to Chief Abraham Olabosoye Oke, my late father.

Acknowledgements

Anything that man does is made possible by God; hence I appreciate the almighty God for making things possible for me to this level. I wish to express my profound appreciation to Dr Chuks Diji, my main supervisor and Dr O.A. Adeniyi, my co-supervisor for their immense academic guidance, supervision and supports during the course of the work. I also appreciate Department of Mechanical Engineering, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria for not giving me problem during the programme.

I would also like to thank my family for their endurance and perseverance during the programme.

I also wish to appreciate my colleagues and friends: Dr D.A Adetan, Dr S.O. Obayopo, O. T. Popoola, O. A. Abiola, Kennedy Adesola Bello, Joel Olalekan Ogunbiyi, Nosakhare Micheal Osayande, James Adu among others for their immense contributions, advice and words of encouragement.

Glory is to God.

Table of Contents

| | Page |
|--|-------------|
| Title Page | i |
| Certification | ii |
| Dedication | iii |
| Acknowledgement | iv |
| Table of contents | v |
| List of Tables | ix |
| List of Figures | xi |
| List of Plates | xii |
| Abstract | xiii |
| Key words | xiii |
| Chapter 1 | 1 |
| Introduction | 1 |
| Background of the study | 1 |
| Energy Audits | 5 |
| Implications of Poor or Non Energy Auditing in Nigeria | 8 |
| Problem statement | 9 |
| Research Questions | 11 |
| Aim and Objectives of the study | 12 |
| Justification of the study | 12 |
| Scope of the study | 14 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Chapter 2 | 16 |
| Literature review | 16 |
| Introduction | 16 |
| Technology involved in log processing | 17 |
| Brief history of energy audit | 19 |
| Concept of Lean Energy | 19 |
| Impact of energy efficiency policies: 1975 – Present | 23 |
| Empirical Literature Review | 24 |
| Wood Processing | 33 |
| Composition and Feature of Wood | 36 |
| Chemical composition of woods | 38 |
| Hardwoods and softwoods | 38 |
| Commercial lumber and quality varieties | 39 |
| Wood processing and storage techniques | 40 |
| Woods available in Nigeria and their local names | 41 |
| Potentials of forest resources in Nigeria | 42 |
| Forest resources availability and exploration in Nigeria | 42 |
| Wood products in Nigeria | 43 |
| Wood processing industry in Nigeria: The sawmill sub-sector | 44 |
| Unit Operation of a Typical Timber Sawmill | 46 |
| Conversion of log | 46 |
| Newton's formula | 47 |
| Impact of forest over- exploitation on wood Industry | 48 |
| Energy use in sawmills | 48 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Energy consumption in a typical sawmill | 49 |
| Energy saving potentials in a typical Sawmill | 50 |
| Establishment of energy baseline | 51 |
| Efficiency of an electric motor | 54 |
| Definition of motor efficiency | 54 |
| Motor selection | 55 |
| Full-Load efficiency standards mandatory for motors | 55 |
| Enclosure type of electric motor | 57 |
| Field evaluation of motors | 57 |
| Input power measurement | 58 |
| Chapter 3 | 61 |
| Conceptual Framework and Methodology | 61 |
| Conceptual Framework | 61 |
| Project activities | 62 |
| Phase I- Pre Audit phase | 62 |
| Initial site visit and preparation required for Auditing | 62 |
| Main aims of this visit | 63 |
| Phase II-Audit phase | 63 |
| Apparatus | 64 |
| Methods | 66 |
| Manual energy | 66 |
| Data collection | 68 |
| Evaluation of electrical energy | 69 |
| Estimation of energy costs | 70 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| Sampling Technique | 71 |
| Questionnaire/forms to be used for collection of data | 71 |
| Chapter 4 | 75 |
| Results and Discussion | 75 |
| Pattern of energy used in the Southwestern Nigeria | 76 |
| Existing energy sources in the timber log industry | 76 |
| Energy and Sawmill | 77 |
| System Boundary | 77 |
| Quantity of energy used per log processing | 79 |
| Classification of wood processed in visited sawmills | 81 |
| Analysis of energy used in selected Sawmill facility | 82 |
| The feasibility and economy of the alternative to existing facility to achieve energy saving | 84 |
| Impact of energy saving on the environment and economy of the industry | 103 |
| Chapter 5 | 105 |
| Conclusions and Recommendations | 105 |
| Conclusions | 105 |
| Recommendations | 106 |
| Contribution to Knowledge | 107 |
| Recommendation for further studies | 108 |
| References | 109 |
| Appendix A | 115 |
| Appendix B | 119 |
| Appendix C | 120 |

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| List of Table | Page |
|---|-------------|
| Table 2.1: Installed capacity and utilization (round log equivalent) in the Sawmill Industry | 46 |
| Table 2.2: Typical motor nameplate data to be obtained | 60 |
| Table 3.1: Energy audit guidelines | 74 |
| Table 4.1: Table showing parameters from visited sawmills in Osun and Ondo States | 80 |
| Table 4.2: Table showing parameters from visited sawmills in Oyo and Ogun States | 81 |
| Table 4.3: Power, energy, log volume and energy/volume for 7 species of wood | 83 |
| Table 4.4: Cost of energy per unit volume of log for 7 species of wood using electricity form national grid | 84 |
| Table 4.5: Data measured at Sawmill 21 | 85 |
| Table 4.6: Data measured at Sawmill 22 | 85 |
| Table 4.7: Data measured at Sawmill 23 | 86 |
| Table 4.8: Data measured at Sawmill 24 | 86 |
| Table 4.9: Spreadsheet data with calculated load, power and efficiency for sawmill 21 | 87 |
| Table 4.10: Spreadsheet data with calculated load, power and efficiency for sawmill 22 | 89 |
| Table 4.11: Spreadsheet data with calculated load, power and efficiency | 91 |
| Table 4.12: Sawmill 24 spreadsheet data with calculated load, power and | |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Efficiency | 93 |
| Table 4.13: 25hp TEFC motor alternatives for sawmill 21 and sawmill 24 | 98 |
| Table 4.14: 10hp TEFC motor alternatives for sawmill 21 and sawmill 24 | 99 |
| Table 4.15: 25hp ODP motor alternatives for sawmill 23 and sawmill 22 | 100 |
| Table 4.16: 10hp ODP motor alternatives for sawmill 23 and sawmill 22 | 101 |
| Table 4.17: Power Plant Emission (g/kWh) | 103 |
| Table 4.18: Environmental safety implication based on the energy saved | 103 |

| List of Figure | Page |
|---|-------------|
| Figure 1.1 Map showing South-Western states in Nigeria | 15 |
| Figure 2.1 Energy benchmarking in sawmills | 22 |
| Figure 2.2: Cross-section of white oak tree trunk | 37 |
| Figure 2.3: Energy use distribution for the forest products industry | 49 |
| Figure 2.4: Breakdown of sawmill operating costs | 50 |
| Figure 2.5: Motor nameplate data | 59 |
| Figure 3.1: Processing steps for log in sawmills in South Western Nigeria | 69 |
| Figure 4.1: Gate-to-gate system boundaries for lumber production | 78 |

List of plates**Page**

Plate 3.1: Model UT 231 Multimeter

65

Plate 3.2: (Optical) Laser Tachometer

66

Plate 3.3: One of sawmills in operation

68

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Abstract

Timber log processing is an energy intensive process which involves converting log into lumber of different sizes and shapes using different and varied methods. The energy supply problems facing Nigeria have adversely affected many log processing industry in the country leading to self-generation of energy. There have been various energy audits in some industries but with little or no attention on the log processing industry in Nigeria. Thus, this study investigated the pattern of energy use, type of existing energy sources, estimation of specific energy and energy efficiency of log processing in selected sawmills in Southwest Nigeria.

Twenty four sawmills were selected across five States; Oyo (four), Osun (five), Ogun (eight), Ondo (five) and Lagos (two). Measuring instruments namely: wattmeter; stop watch; measuring tape and digital tachometer were used to measure the current, voltage and power factor; time of operation; sizes of timber log and the speed of electric motor during operation respectively in each of the sawmill. Standard energy equations were used to determine the quantity of energy consumption and specific energy of log processing. Energy equations presented by the US Department of Energy (2014) were used to determine energy saving consideration in the operation of sawmills.

Two main sources of energy were used in log processing: diesel or petrol electric power generator and the national grid; in an average percentage usage of 70:30 respectively. The average working hours is eight hours per day and six days per week. The specific energy (kWhm^{-3}) and average processing costs per unit volume (Nm^{-3}) for the seven wood species processed in the selected states were *Afara (Terminalia Superba)* - 1.56 and 32.37; *Iroko (Milicia excelsa)* - 4.48 and 92.96; *Mahogany (Khaya Ivorensis)* - 1.47 and 30.51; *Opepe (Naulea Diderrichii)* - 1.77 and 36.73; *Omo (Cordia Millenii)* - 0.75 and 15.57; *Obeche (Triplochyton Scleroxylon)* - 0.58 and 12.04; *Igba (Parkia biglobosa)* - 1.10 and 20.96. During normal operation, the average motor efficiency is 83.3%, the percentage of full load is 30.9% (the theoretical percentage of full load is 75%), the voltage is 201.9Volts and power consumption is 6.53kW. The electric motors in use in the sawmill facilities were oversized resulting in under-loading and huge loss of energy. The appropriate horsepower (hp) rating that should have been installed in sawmills to ensure energy management was estimated to be 10 hp. The use of appropriate electric motor would result in energy saving of about 22.44kWh and a monetary savings of about ₦484.92 per hour per electric motor.

Energy could be managed from the demand side of log processing while efficiency of energy use in log processing could be achieved with proper selection of electric motor. Energy saving of about 56MW and monetary savings of about ₦1, 210, 360.32 could be made annually on each electric motor.

Keywords: Energy Audit, Sawmill Facilities, Timber log processing.

Word count: 461