

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Acknowledgement</i>	<i>I-II</i>
<i>Graphical Abstract</i>	<i>III</i>
<i>Abstract</i>	<i>IV-X</i>
<i>Table of Content</i>	<i>XI-XIII</i>
<i>List of Tables</i>	<i>XIV</i>
<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>XV</i>
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	<i>XVI-XVII</i>
Chapter 1. Introduction	
1.1 Need of decentralized electricity generation.....	3
1.2 Renewable energy based electricity generation	6
1.3 Biomass based electricity generation.....	7
1.3.1 Biomass gasification	9
1.3 Objectives of the research.....	13
1.4 Organisation of the thesis.....	13
References.....	15
Chapter 2. Review of literature	
2.1 Decision Support Systems for bioenergy application	21
2.2 Models of biomass gasification based energy generation	23
2.2.1 Thermodynamic equilibrium model.....	25
2.2.2 Kinetic model.....	35
2.2.3 CFD and ANN model	39
2.3 Models of economics of biomass gasification based energy generation.....	44
2.4 Summary	47
References.....	49
Chapter 3. Assessment of biomass supply chain for gasifier operation	
3.1 Biomass type	59
3.2 Biomass availability.....	60

3.2.1	Estimation of woody and semi woody biomass	61
3.2.2	Estimation of agro-residue biomass	62
3.3	Biomass characteristics	64
3.4	Biomass pre-processing	65
3.5	Biomass cost	66
3.6	Environmental implications of utilizing biomass.....	67
3.7	Summary	72
	References.....	73

Chapter 4. Assessment of biomass gasifier operating performance

4.1	Development of ANN models of biomass gasification.....	79
4.1.1	Topology of the ANNs.....	80
4.1.2	Data selection for the model	82
4.1.3	Training, validation and prediction ability of the models	83
4.1.4	Relative influence of input variables on model outputs.....	84
4.1.5	Model output.....	85
4.2	Development of Kinetic model of biomass gasification	89
4.2.1	Initial conditions	89
4.2.2	Reduction reactions.....	90
4.2.3	Kinetic rate model of char reduction zone	90
4.2.4	Temperature simulation through energy balance.....	92
4.2.5	Simulation and validation of the model	93
4.2.5	Prediction of critical char bed length	98
4.3	Summary	99
	References.....	100

Chapter 5. Decision Support System for biomass gasification based electricity generation

5.1	Development of DSS.....	105
5.1.1	Architecture of the DSS	106
5.1.2	Gasifier performance module.....	109

5.1.3	Economics' module	110
5.1.3.1	Capital cost.....	112
5.1.3.2	Annualized cost.....	114
5.1.3.3	Levelized cost of electricity	115
5.1.3.4	Model parameters and assumptions	116
5.2	Planning of biomass gasification based electricity generation in a typical rural area.....	118
5.2.1	Energy demand estimation of the study area	118
5.2.2	Biomass resource assessment of the study area	120
5.2.3	Comparative analysis of different options of biomass gasification	123
5.3	Summary	130
	References.....	131
Chapter 6. Summary and conclusions		
6.1	Assessment of biomass supply chain	134
6.2	Assessment of biomass gasification performance.....	135
6.3	Decision support system for biomass gasification based electricity generation	136
6.4	Conclusion and future works	138
	<i>Appendix I</i>	139
	<i>List of publications</i>	141