

## Potential of biomass for bioenergy in Pakistan based on present case and future perspectives



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### ABSTRACT

Future energy security and environmental issues are major driving forces for increased biomass utilization globally and especially in developing countries like Pakistan. For efficient utilization of indigenous biomass resources in the future energy mix, it is important to gain knowledge of current energy system in various sectors. Some of the technologies and initiatives are under development to achieve transition from non-renewable resources to renewable resources, and reducing fossil fuel dependency and greenhouse gas emissions. Recently, number of proposals has been presented for the development of sustainable biofuels production methods for promise for accelerating a shift away from an unsustainable approach to possible sustainable production practices or a sustainable social, economic and environment. This article presents an extensive literature review of the biomass-based renewable energy potential in Pakistan based on current energy scenario and future perspectives. It also highlights the availability of the indigenous and local biomass resources and potential biomass conversion technologies to convert such resources to bioenergy. The drivers for utilization of indigenous biomass resources in future energy mix and challenges regarding awareness among stakeholders and R & D to fill knowledge gaps are economically restraints. The article concludes with suggestions on future directions and policies for effective implementation of biomass based renewable energy production.

### 1. Introduction

The world's energy primarily depends upon fossil fuels and consumption is expected to increase rapidly [1]. It will cause depletion of non-renewable fossil fuel resources, global warming and future energy security. Numerous technologies and initiatives are under way to partially replace non-renewable resources with renewable resources and reducing fossil fuel dependency and greenhouse gas emission [2]. Bioenergy cannot play a vital role to replace petroleum-based products with renewable alternatives, but it can also provide additional energy. The energy shortages in the form of electricity and gas have a direct

impact on basic utilities as well as on the industrial economy [3]. In Pakistan, the cost of fossil fuel is one of the primary reasons for the energy crisis, since the domestic consumers and the local power industry utilized natural gas and furnace oil to generate heat and electricity [4]. To address such issues in the developing countries like Pakistan, biomass is considered as a potential resource. It is abundantly available in considerable quantities within the country. The renewable energy sources are interesting due to their low environmental impacts and providing the eco-efficient solution for developing and developed countries. European Union (EU) is generating approximately 71% of electricity from the renewable energy sources [5,6].

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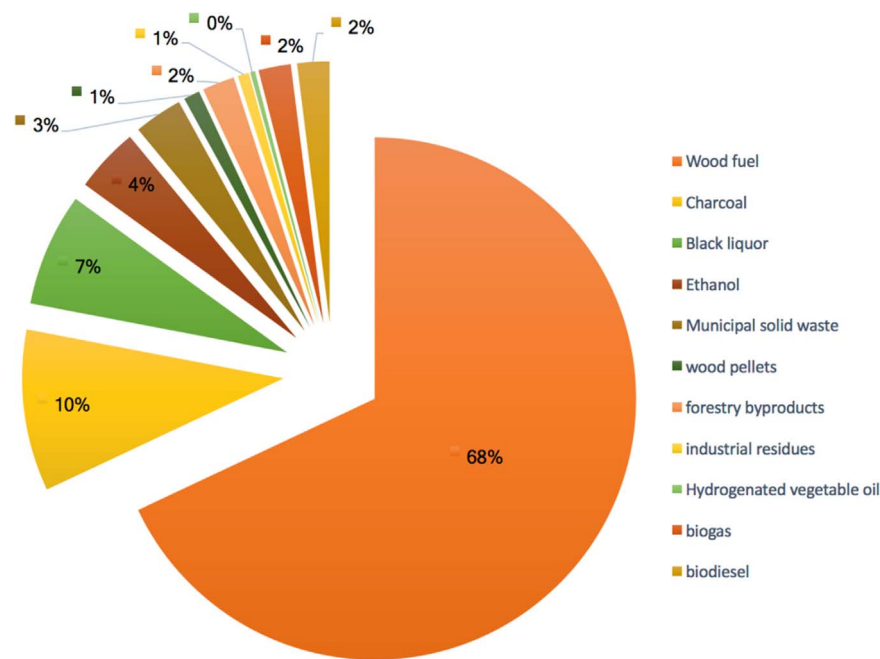


Fig. 1. Global biomass distribution as primary resource [7].

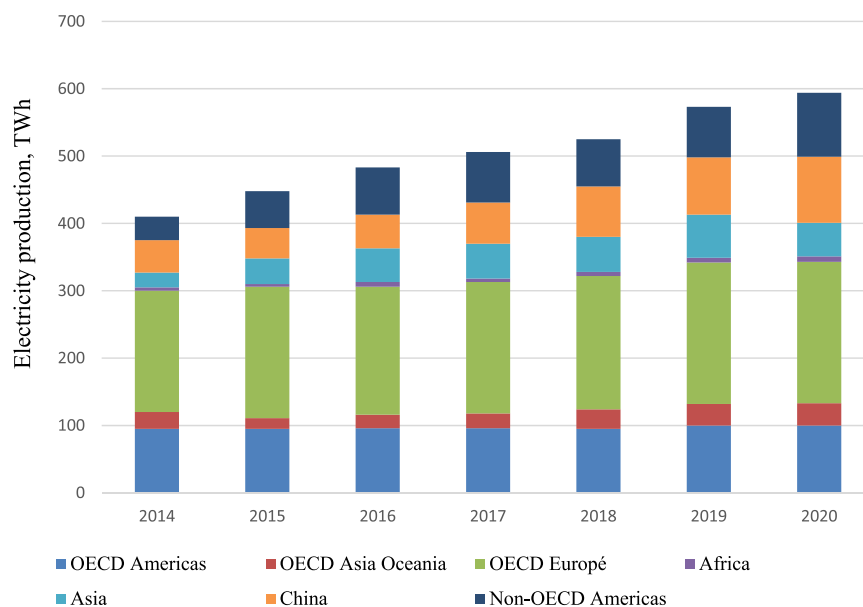


Fig. 2. Regional biomass-based electricity production from 2014 and forecast till 2020 [9].

Biomass as a flexible resource of renewable energy can play a vital role to meet the global demand profiles in energy sectors like electricity, buildings and transport. Among renewable energy, biomass is one the largest energy source that represents 14% out of 18% renewable energy in global energy mix [7]. Currently, biomass represents about 10% (50 EJ) of global total primary supply of energy and contributed 370 TWh of electricity production in 2012 [8]. It is interesting to note that the final product from biomass conversion varies significantly based on different regions, i.e. wood fuel and charcoal for domestic heating and fuel in small scale industries in Asia and Africa, various liquid biofuels in Americas, and polygeneration of biofuels, heat and power production in Europe. The regions with large biomass resource availability also have substantial share of bioenergy reflecting in their total energy mix. Based on World's biomass energy data, Fig. 1 shows the distribution of different biomass resources as global primary energy supply. According to IEA, biofuels

have potential to meet about 27% of global transportation fuel requirement by 2050 that shows biofuels have considerably large potential to be expanded for future sustainability. The electricity generation accounts for 1.5% of global electricity production. Fig. 2 shows biomass-based electric power generation in different regions from 2014 to 2016 and also forecast production till 2020 [9].

The developed countries are utilizing waste streams in the energy system as feedstock for a renewable energy production. However, the developing countries like Pakistan are still lagging behind the right methodology and execution of biomass as an alternative renewable energy resource. Currently, about 18% of the global total energy consumption comes from the renewable energy resources including biomass, hydro power, wind and solar energy [10]. Pakistan is one of the countries that is experiencing a severe energy crisis leading to adverse social and long term economic problems [11–13]. However, the country is focusing to utilize available indigenous sources, like

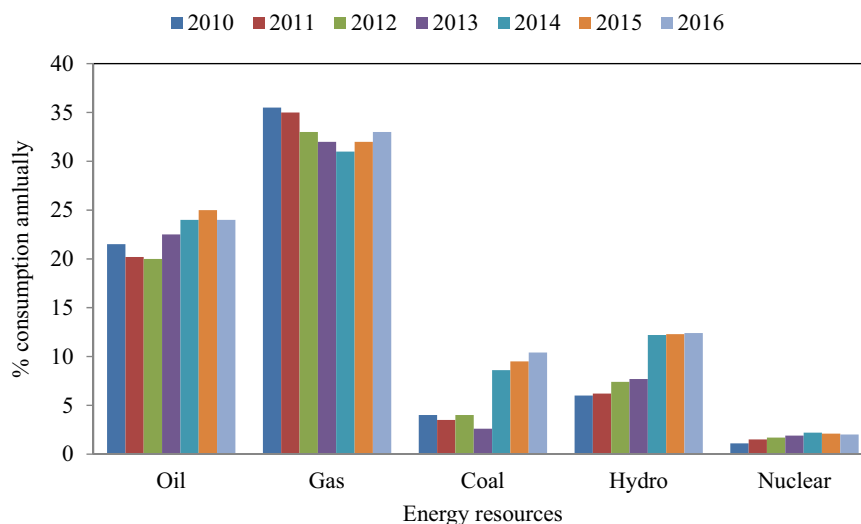


Fig. 3. Energy consumption from various resources in Pakistan from 2010 to 2016 [14].

biomass, solar, wind energy and hydro-power potential in order to meet the growing energy demands. According to Economic Year Book of Pakistan 2010–2016, the percentage consumption of energy (annually) from various resources e.g. oil, gas, coal, hydro and nuclear is depicted in Fig. 3 [14].

Energy consumption is increasing steadily with increasing population in Pakistan. Previously Pakistan was utilizing local energy sources and later to overcome the energy shortage oil was imported for commercial industries [15] but still, energy needs are not fulfilled. Pakistan will have to endeavour for the alternative energy survival due to increased dependence on imported oil, electricity and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) which has been shown in Fig. 3 as annual consumption growth rate with variable ratios for oil, gas, LPG, coal, wind electricity, nuclear and hydal electricity respectively. In Pakistan, more than 60% of the population economy is related with agriculture and about 62% population living in rural areas depends on traditional biomass as a primarily source for cooking and space heating at the household level [13,16–22]. In rural areas of Pakistan wood and animal waste are major biomass sources for energy needs [23]. Modern biomass or liquid biofuels (such as ethanol and biodiesel) used mostly for transportation and for generation of electricity are emerging energy alternatives in developing industries. Rural population in Pakistan has limited access to fossil fuel based energy resources and people rely on traditional methods of using wood, animal dung and crop waste for domestic fuel [24]. Renewable energy is expected to play a crucial role in Pakistan's future energy-demands [25]. Modern bio-energy technologies are crucial for Pakistan to utilize the available agricultural residue as renewable resource which may serve a supplementary role in completing the energy demands of the country.

## 2. Indigenous biomass resources

The organic matter in the form of crops residue, wood and animal wastes had stored solar energy in it by photosynthesis process [26–31]. Human beings are using biomass as a source of energy in the form of wood for heating homes and to cook food. In Pakistan like other countries, biomass plays an important role in rural economy as replacement to fossil fuels as the primary energy source. However, for commercial activities, there should be a significant potential source of energy [32]. Biomass is the 4th largest source of energy and provides almost 10% of the global primary energy supplies, and could be in solid, liquid or gaseous form. Fig. 4 shows a comparison of electricity generation from biomass in Pakistan during 2015 to the biomass based electricity generation worldwide [37]. Biomass used for energy production, primarily composed of cellulose, hemicellulose and lignin [33].

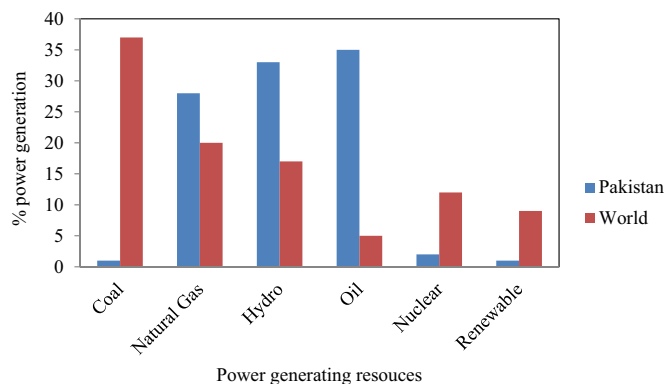


Fig. 4. Global and Pakistan fuel mix for power generation of year 2015 [37].

Due to unawareness and lack of government policies for biomass utilization, huge amount of crops residues are burnt as waste instead to utilize it for production of energy. Biomass in Pakistan is generated from several sources including agriculture crops, forest residues, industrial waste and municipal solid wastes [34–36]. Different types of biomass resources (Fig. 5) include [38–41];

- Agricultural residues such as cane trash, bagasse, straws and green agricultural wastes
- Food processing wastes
- Wood from natural forests and woodlands
- Forestry residues
- Industrial wastes, such as black liquor from paper manufacturing
- Sewage
- Agro-industrial wastes, such as sugarcane bagasse and rice husk
- Animal Livestock
- Municipal solid wastes (MSW)

This review will discuss only those sources which are abundantly available in Pakistan for bioenergy production. Potential sources of biomass, its current utilization and technologies for effective utilization for production of energy are listed in Table 1.

Biomass forms solid liquid and gaseous fuels by going through chemical biological as well as physical processes. The aim is to convert the bulky, carbonaceous low energy content waste to a fuel. Among the energy resources biomass ranks fourth providing 35% of the energy mostly in developing countries. Biomass is a sustainable, environment friendly source of fuel. It absorbs carbon dioxide during growing stages



Fig. 5. Available resources of biomass in Pakistan.

Table 1

Various biomass resources with their utilization, conversion and potential use as bioenergy product.

Biomass resource	Current utilization	Potential conversion technology	Potential end use as an energy product	Reference
Wheat straw	Domestic heating, paper products etc.	Gasification	SNG, off-grid electricity generation, etc.	[49,50]
Rice husk	Fuel, Making of activated carbon, Pet food fiber etc.	Combustion and Gasification.	Off grid energy generation, substitute household energy.	[51,50]
Bagasse	Bioethanol production, Fuel production etc.	Hydrolysis, Fermentation.	Renewable Motor Fuel.	[49]
Poultry/cow manure	Fertilizer, Biogas production etc.	Fermentation, Composting.	Bio-Gas, Methane and house-hold fuel.	[49,50]
Forestry residues & wood	Biomass production, Fertilizer, Fuel etc	Saw-milling, Grinding etc	Fuel wood.	[52,53]
Municipal solid waste	Bottom ash production, strengthening concrete etc	Combustion, Sieving, Pyrolysis.	Production of methanol ethanol methane and syn gas	[54,50]

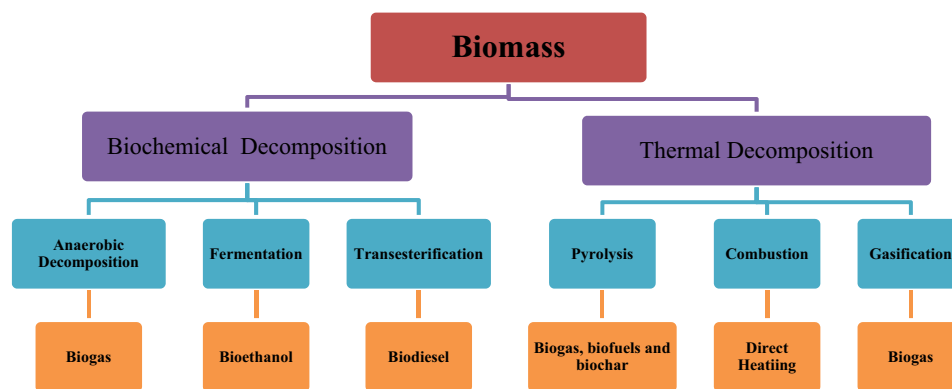


Fig. 6. Steps involved in conversion of bioenergy from biomass [34–36].

and during combustion emits it. Thus, carbon dioxide is recycled and do not add to greenhouse effect. In addition, biomass can be cultivated as energetic crops to be consumed directly without indulging a middle man to supply raw materials

### 2.1. Agriculture crops waste

Pakistan being an agrarian economy produces tons of farms residue which are potential biomass feedstock for energy conversion. An agricultural residue produces as a by-product from harvesting and processing of a number of crops mainly wheat straw, rice straw, rice husk, cane trash, bagasse and cotton sticks [42]. In Pakistan 26,280,000 ha' land is under cultivation according to World Bank statistics [43], supporting economy of 62% of peoples who live in rural area [44]. Most of the crops residue is directly utilized by the people in the countryside for their basic need of energy for cooking.

Pakistan is the 4th major producer of sugar from sugarcane [45], where it is grown on large scale and generates a huge quantity of cane trash during harvesting season along with bagasse production during sugar manufacturing. In year of 2010–11, approximately 63,920,000 metric tons of sugarcane was harvested and trash generation of around 5,752,800 metric tons is recorded which has potential to generate around 9475 GW h per year as bioenergy [46]. Under the Government of Pakistan regulations, sugar mills are allowed to produce electric power up to 2000 MW from bagasse as fuel for running of sugar mills [47].

Besides cane trash and bagasse cotton sticks form cotton crop is another potential source for production of bio-energy in Pakistan. In order to meet the demand of local and international textile industry, approximately 11% of total land cultivation area is reserved for cotton production. Approximately 1,474,693 metric tons of cotton sticks residue was reported in year 2011 [48].

### 2.2. Forest wood residues

For the time being people rely on wood for cooking and heating their homes. People collect woody sticks and save them to be utilized for burning in cooking stoves [55]. People in northern areas of Pakistan till now rely on wood from forest for cooking and heating purposes. Forest residue comprises the small branches, trees, tops and unused wood left behind after cutting and cleaning of forests. Out of total available land, 5.2% is covered with forest, which is about 4.224 million hectares' area [56].

Forest residue, a biomass source is environmentally beneficial and can provide significant amount of total bioenergy which is almost 80% of the total energy consumption in Pakistan from biomass resources [57].

### 2.3. Animal waste

Besides agriculture crops residue animal waste is also used as energy source for burning or cooking purpose. The animal waste is generally termed as manure and contains organic matter which on further processing can be directly converted into biogas. According to the literature survey in Pakistan, approximately 368,434,650 metric tons of manure is generated annually [58]. In many rural areas of Pakistan, small scale anaerobic digestions are used to convert animal manure to biogas for household and small industries. In urban areas of the Pakistan many cattle farms are producing a huge amount of manure which is used as fertilizer in the agriculture sector for soil fertility [59,60].

### 2.4. Municipal solid waste

Pakistan is among those countries which are facing the problem of environmental concerns regarding the health issues due to mishandling of municipal solid waste (MSW). MSW comprises the organic matter as well the inorganic metals and can be processed through various methods to utilize for energy generation. According to literature survey Pakistan, MSW with a calorific value of about 6.89 MJ/kg per annum [61] which can be processed for power generation in capacity around 13,900 GW h annually. In Pakistan major cities like Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi and Multan have industries parks, where huge amount of MSW is produced having a great potential for power generation [62]. MSW includes the industrial wastes as well as commercial and household wastes. However, this potential source of power generation is wasted due to unawareness in proper collection and becoming a source for different diseases instead of an opportunity.

## 3. Biomass conversion technologies

Biomass wastes are effectively converted into bioenergy and biofuels by using various biochemical and thermal technologies including anaerobic digestion, gasification and pyrolysis shown in Fig. 6. It is an efficient way to manage the waste material and convert it into a valuable product. Biomass can be utilized for electricity generation and production of valuable chemicals using Fischer-Tropsch reaction. Biomass in the form of MSW is getting recognition worldwide as a potential source for energy generation. Moreover, integration of biomass conversion to bioenergy is an effective way of waste management for environment protection.

### 3.1. Thermal conversion technologies

During thermal conversion processing, biomass feedstock is processed to bioenergy by heating on different temperatures yielding solid, liquid fuels and gases. These decomposition processes take place both

on small scale and large scale and provides sufficient bioenergy to overcome the power requirements.

### 3.1.1. Pyrolysis

Chemical composition of biomass like cellulose hemicellulose and lignin determines the pyrolytic properties. They go through a series of reactions to produce a variety of different products. The distribution of products depends on the reaction conditions. Biomass and waste material adds up to 10% of the total energy supply of the world. [54]. At temperature below 300 °C, pyrolysis of cellulose decreases the molecular weight, water generation, formation of carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and char. At temperature between 300 to 500 °C, depolymerization of molecules to anhydrous glucose occur that finally converted to tarry pyrolylate. At even higher temperatures the anhydrous sugar go through fission, dehydration, disproportionation and decarboxylation reactions giving volatile and light weight gases and other products. The agricultural waste and organic waste are common raw materials for pyrolysis in Asian countries [63–67].

Biomass feedstock undergoes thermal decomposition at high temperature of 500–800 °C in absence of oxygen yields biogas, liquid (biofuels) and solid (char) products [68]. The amount of yielding products depends upon temperature. Low temperature yields solid medium favours liquid while high temperature yield the biogas [69]. Literature survey on pyrolysis provides information that 40–75% of its major products is biofuel [70–73].

### 3.1.2. Combustion

During combustion, biomass feedstock is directly combusted at a very high temperature of 800–1000 °C [74] and hot flue gases are utilized to produce steam for electricity generation using turbines [75]. Biomass combustion is not only the oldest form of combustion used by humanity, but it is also one of the most complex combustion systems to manage since it involves the use of solid fuels in a multi-phase reaction system with extensive interaction between the thermal and mass fluxes, processes that have only recently been properly analysed and used in simulations to design efficient combustion systems.

### 3.1.3. Gasification

Biomass decomposed to gaseous form through a process called gasification. In this process biomass undergoes through thermal decomposition by incomplete combustion into combustible gas mixture (comprises hydrogen, methane, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen and some water vapours) [76]. By gasification very low yield of gas is produced and utilized on house fuel engines and in laboratory for different chemical transformations [77].

Gasification is similar to pyrolysis but carried out at high temperatures to control the gas production [50]. The gases formed are known as producer gas and are a mixture of methane hydrogen carbon monoxide nitrogen and carbon dioxide. Biomass gasification is recently introduced to enhance the efficiency of the process and reduce input cost with the help of gas turbine technology. Up to 50% of efficiency can be achieved by combined-cycle gas turbine systems. Here waste gases are recycled to produce steam for use in a steam turbine.

## 3.2. Biochemical decomposition

The organic matter in biomass is decomposed by the microorganism in presence or absence of oxygen to generate biogas (Eq. (1)). Microorganisms can efficiently breakdown the chemical structure of organic matter and convert it into biogas as a simple chemical conversion.



In recent decades, much research has been done in Pakistan by utilizing vast amounts of agricultural lignocellulosic biomass and

animal manure and its potential conversion into different high value products including bio-fuels, value added fine chemicals and cheap energy sources for microbial fermentation and enzyme production [78,79].

### 3.2.1. Anaerobic digestion

Biogas is generated from biomass feedstock in the absences of oxygen with the help of microbial activity. Both on domestic and industrial level biomass waste are processed to convert it in valuable biogas which is a mixture of methane, hydrogen, carbon dioxide and traces of other gases. A typical digester is used to digest the biomass by microorganism and to convert it in biogas which can be directly used for cooking as well as in gas engines on industrial scale [80,81].

### 3.2.2. Fermentation

Fermentation is a biochemical process that involves hydrolysis of sugars by the activity of microorganisms especially bacteria into ethanol and the process is termed as fermentation. In various countries of the world, fermentation is carried out on an industrial scale for the production of bioethanol in very high yields. Biomass feedstock used in this process is majorly sugar and starch crops, as 60–70% corn starch used globally for ethanol production [82]. However, use of lignocellulosic biomass is desired to avoid the fuel vs. food competition.

### 3.2.3. Transesterification

Biodiesel is produced through catalytic transesterification of bio-oil. Variety of vegetable oil feedstock including rapeseeds, soya bean, mustard, sunflower, hemp and palm oil as well animal fat is utilized for the production of biodiesel on an industrial scale [83]. During the reaction, catalyst may be an acid, base or an enzyme which is immobilized on a substrate to increase the rate of reaction.

## 4. Drivers and significance of biofuels

We are living in era of technology, where energy is the main driver in the development of countries. Due to growing population and urbanization, energy demand becomes more than production. This deficit in energy cannot be covered by only relying on fossil fuels reservoirs. Thus, new energy sources need to be discovered and utilized in order to overcome the energy crisis.

Pakistan is also facing the energy crisis due to depletion of energy reservoirs and increasing energy demand. So, there is need for alternative energy sources. Concept of bioenergy from biomass become reality in different countries around the world (Table 2) to fulfil the increasing demand of energy due to some of its specific properties [84,85];

- Reducing greenhouse gas emission
- Widely available source and flexible in application
- Rural economy diversification
- Reduce land degradation

**Table 2**

Total primary energy supply (TPES) of biomass in different countries 2016 [85].

No.	Country	TPES biomass (EJ)	TPES per capita (GJ)	TPES per GDP (MJ/s)	Share of biomass in PES (%)
1.	India	8.41	6.79	5.88	23.50
2.	USA	4.12	12.40	0.28	35.51
3.	Brazil	4.07	16.89	2.99	28.30
4.	Indonesia	2.39	9.23	5.33	25.44
5.	Pakistan	1.27	6.97	8.92	5.58
6.	Germany	2.37	16.55	4.38	25.57
7.	Thailand	0.94	14.88	4.41	18.42
8.	China	9.39	6.81	5.05	17.99
9.	World	57.7	8.27	1.10	10.20

**Table 3**  
Comparison of biomass production and its energy potential in Asian countries.

No.	Countries	Biomass production Mt Yr <sup>-1</sup>	Biomass energy potential (PJ)	References
1	Bangladesh	54–61	1344.99	[94,95]
2	China	182.5–210.5	8899.8	[96,97]
3	India	62–310	8764	[98,99,100]
4	Sri Lanka	2.0–9.9	141.8	[101]
5	Thailand	11.6–106.6	821.4	[102]
6	Philippine	3.7–20.4	968.7	[103]
7	Pakistan	0.23–0.31	0.806	[104,105]

#### ● Accessible energy

Pakistan and its neighbouring countries have focused on utilization of biomass for bioenergy with supporting research in this field (Table 3). Bioenergy from biomass not only provides energy to compete for the energy demands but also help in handling the waste of industries, commercial and household in a proper way. Effective management of waste is essential to reduce spread of diseases and other environmental related issues [86].

Concept of bioenergy from biomass not only provides energy but it also helps to diversify the economy of a country and support and developed new industries in developing countries. Utilization of biomass for bioenergy is expected to strengthen the agricultural economy as well [87–93].

#### 4.1. Biogas

Anaerobic bacteria decompose the waste organic matter to convert it into biogas. Biogas comprises of methane (majorly), carbon dioxide and traces of other gases. Biogas formed during anaerobic digestion is respiratory product of decomposers, but being combustible it can be utilized as energy source [106]. It is naturally produced in rice paddies, swamps and in the sediments of lakes and oceans where anaerobic digestion takes place. It can also be produced in animal manure when remains in wet condition. In Pakistan's rural areas, where large amount of crops residue and cattle waste is available, have potential to produce biogas on small scale [107]. Small biogas plants are introduced there for household activities; also on small industries, it could provide enough energy to run them easily.

Literature survey reveals that 5357 biogas plants are installed and working in the whole country and have the potential of biogas production about 12–16 million m<sup>3</sup>/day that can support the population living in rural areas for cooking purpose [108,109].

#### 4.2. Transport fuels

Besides the industrial needs for energy, transportation sector is highly dependent on energy from liquid fossil fuels and transportation is the main consumer of petro-fuels in Pakistan [110]. Biofuels are liquid fuels mostly synthesized from different oils extracted from number of plants and from the crops residues processed as waste through strategic methods [111]. A number of biofuels are synthesized worldwide including biodiesel, bioethanol, gasoline, butanol etc. But in Pakistan biodiesel and bioethanol is can act as an alternative to fossil fuel.

#### 4.3. Biodiesel

It is the liquid fuel mainly a fatty acid alkyl ester produced from the processing of waste oil from household and from oil producing plants. Major plants which contribute for the production of biodiesel include corn, canola, soya bean, peanut sunflower, mustard seeds and avocado.

Recycling of cooking oil and animal fats also yields biodiesel [112].

About 70% of Pakistan's overall geographical area lay coarse, thus providing an opportunity to cultivate inedible oil-yielding vegetation that in turn is converted to biodiesel. Thus, it is necessary to develop plant-based biodiesel productions in Pakistan, which will be valuable for the improving socio-economic settings of the country. To use biodiesel as substitute energy source in Pakistan, the AEDB has verbalized policy recommendations, the primary aims of which are to minimize the bill of imported fuel of the country, address the demand of raw material for biodiesel which will be the prime goods for biodiesel fabrication, and promote a pollution-free environment. Also on 14th Feb. 2008, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the National Cabinet has permitted the strategy for the use of biodiesel as an alternate energy source in its conference. Striking points of the dogma are as follows:

1. AEDB shall be the primary coordinating and facilitating body for the National Biodiesel Program.
2. Gradual introduction of biodiesel fuel blends with petroleum diesel so as to achieve a minimum share of 5% by volume of the total diesel consumption in the country by the year 2015 and 10% by 2025.
3. The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Resources shall come up with the fuel quality standards for B-100 and blends up to B-20.
4. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are to purchase biodiesel (B-100) from biodiesel manufactures; and sell this biodiesel blended with petroleum diesel (starting with B-5) at their points of sale

Esterification of fatty acids plants oil and animal fats in the presence of alcohol and catalyst yield biodiesel used in replacement of petro fuels in transportation [113–116]. Biodiesel favours the transportation over petrofuels due to following benefits [82];

- Eco-friendly
- Can be utilized in any diesel engine without any modification
- Contains no petroleum, but can be blended with conventional diesel engines
- Clean burning alternative fuel
- Degradable, non-toxic and free from sulphur & lead

#### 4.4. Bioethanol

Fermentation of waste residue using bacteria/Yeast can produce bioethanol which is a valuable alternative to gasoline for internal combustion engines [117,126]. Biomass has significant potential for bioethanol production including the crops residues and municipal solid waste [118]. Literature survey reveals number of methods reported for bioethanol production worldwide in recent decades [119–124], where bioethanol proves to be the best fuel for internal combustion engine. Currently, bioethanol is produced on large scale on a large from sugar-containing raw materials including sugarcane and starch based crops [125].

### 5. Potential impact of bioenergy on various sectors

#### 5.1. Bioenergy impacts on households

In Pakistan, around 62% population is living in rural areas, where people fulfil their energy demand by relying on traditional fuels like firewood, animal dung and crops residue for household cooking and heating purposes [127]. Biogas energy has a good prospect in rural areas as well in urban areas as an efficient fuel for cooking stoves Whereas, dung-waste has also the potential to produce approximately 12 million m<sup>3</sup>/day of biogas which can provide average energy of 28 million people of rural areas [128]. Besides private sector, almost 4137 biogas units were installed by Directorate General of New and Renewable Resources (DGNRER) under Ministry of Petroleum and

**Table 4**  
Largest countries using bioenergy on industrial sector [134,135].

No.	Country	<sup>a</sup> Primary solid biomass (PJ)	Industrial Use of Biomass (PJ)	Global Share
1	Brazil	1317	1317	18
2	India	1195	1195	16
3	United States	1063	1171	16
4	Nigeria	379	379	5
5	Canada	287	287	4
6	Thailand	283	283	4
7	Indonesia	272	272	4
8	Congo	185	185	3
9	Sweden	169	169	2
10	Pakistan	135	135	2
11	Finland	111	112	2
12	Australia	105	105	1
13	Other countries	1752	1790	23
14	World	7220	7366	100

<sup>a</sup> Primary solid mass = MSW, Agricultural residues especially bagasse.

Natural Resources throughout the country by a scheme. These units have the potential to provide 3000 and 5000 cubic feet of biogas per day for heating and lighting purposes [129]. 76% household in Pakistan depends on biomass resources due to unavailability of other energy alternatives [130]. As total biomass energy consumption in Pakistan was estimated to be 954.56 PJ by the year 2010, where 711.75 PJ (76%) is consumed by the household sector.

### 5.2. Bioenergy impacts on industrial sector

On industrial scale, petroleum products are primary fuels for running the industries, wherever the introduction of bioenergy from biomass as a new source of energy is now focused as an energy alternative. In Pakistan about 23% (209.34PJ) of the total energy consumption is reserved for industrial sector [131]. Pakistan is ranked at 10th number in list of countries using biomass as energy source in

industries (Table 4). The primary biomass source for industrial scale is bagasse from sugarcane which can be used by many industries as energy source directly or indirectly. About 70% of the total bagasse is directly used as fuel for condensation-extraction steam turbines (CEST) in sugar industry itself while remaining is utilized indirectly in different industries as fuel for combined heat and power (CPH) generation system [132]. Moreover, agricultural residues like rice husk, wheat, corn stalks and cotton sticks etc. contributes about 85.5PJ biomass energy for the industrial sector. But most of the crops residues are directly used as burning fuel in bricks kilns [133].

## 6. Benefits of bioenergy over fossil fuels for Pakistan economy

Urbanization and developments in industrial sector and structures led to environmental problems. Petroleum products are the major energy source in almost every industry as well as primary fuel for transportation. Presence of volatile organic compounds (VOC) cause emission of harmful greenhouse gases (GHG), thus contributing seriously in environmental problems [138]. A long-term solution to these problems is required for a sustainable development. In this regard, renewable energy is emerging as efficient and effective solution for environmental issues [136]. Bioenergy from biomass is getting the attention in recent years. Bioenergy has numerous benefits for environment as follow [137];

- Reducing GHG emissions
- Renewable or biodegradable energy
- Providing economic development as well employment opportunities
- Supporting food- processing and agriculture industries
- Cost saving and abundantly available
- Reduce landfills
- Energy reliability and security
- Reduce dependence on fossil fuels
- Can be used to create different products (i.e. ethanol)

**Table 5**  
Present challenges to bioenergy production from biomass and suggested solutions to them.

No	Challenging issues	Correction measures	Feasible facts
1	Difficulties in harvesting and collection	Well-planned crop rotation that can avoid economically attractive monocultures and deforestation (mainly in the case of rain forests)	Widely available renewable resources
2	Equipment's constraints	Development of new, more energy efficient cultures together with development of biorefineries (based on cluster approach that links together several industries)	Available technology
3	Residues/wastes are seasonally available and variable in quantity	Eco-friendly removal systems: no excessive removal of forest & agriculture residues (the excessive removal deprives ecosystems of vital nutrients and might conduct to irreversible degradation). Moreover, eco-friendly harvesting of residues may lead to restoration of several biosphere aspects (the harvesting of agriculture residues avoid decomposition emissions; no-excessive removal of forestry residues avoid catastrophic natural forest fires and the development of insects that destroy forests; restores degraded/abandoned land)	Diversification of energy sources
4	Loss of CO <sub>2</sub> sinks as a result of the changes in land use	Biomass can act as carbon sinks, in the case of forestry cultures	Security of energy supply
5	Low energy densities resources	Fostering sustainability standards and regulations for biomass	Can deliver energy in all forms (solid, liquid and gaseous fuels for heating, electricity and internal combustion engines)
6	Costly to transport & storage & handling	Development of regulations of land use and labor (land use agreements/human rights and land property rights and labor rights)	Rural development
7	Food security (competition for land between energetic cultures and food cultures)	Protection of biodiversity (designated protected areas for rare species)	Local jobs creation
8	Large-scale biomass development have the potential to increase the prices for food crops	Biomass national inventory	Access to energy facilities and alleviation of poverty
9	Negative effects on soil quality	Sustainable management of forest resources that includes forest health	Reduced emissions (sustainable biomass is "carbon-neutral": it absorbs CO <sub>2</sub> while it grows.
10		Financial support by RES schemes or other financial instruments, like climate related financing, in accordance with the resources sustainability.	Compensating the emissions; it generates.

## 7. Exploitation of bioenergy in Pakistan

Biomass will be a significant source of alternative energy in future. In order to achieve sustainable development in bioenergy, many challenges are there to face and resolve as enlisted in Table 5 [138,139]. Taking the hurdles under consideration biomass utilization for bio-energy production, couples of things are required special attentions.

### 7.1. Awareness on different sectors

There is a need to highlight those success stories of biomass utilization for energy in urban and rural areas, which can be replicated [140]. It will be the most critical and crucial step towards making sustainable bioenergy program successful. Public organizations and media should be actively involved to provide necessary information and general awareness regarding the impacts of bioenergy from biomass through specialized agencies and training facilities. Farmers must be encouraged to adopt the biomass based bioenergy technologies for sustainable agriculture.

### 7.2. Science and technology (S & T) developments

Science and technology centres for bioenergy and clubs should be launched for the promotion of S & T in all educational institutes as well the establishment of museum and display centre for science and technology. Mirza et al. [141] pointed out flaws by suggesting that the community participation is only restricted to just a few demonstrated projects, which resulted in a lack of coordination among departments/institutions responsible for renewable energy development and commercialization. Technical education infrastructure should be efficiently utilized to promote the concept of sustainable development through the introduction of courses dealing with renewable energy technologies. Trained S & T policy making professionals are needed to be involved in policy making process at all levels [142].

### 7.3. Research and development (R & D)

There is need for focused research and development (R & D) to play a vital role in the development of sustainable bioenergy so that the cost can be reduced and the technology is made affordable for the poor households. The professional educational institutes and universities have to play a very important role to accept the challenge and to introduce the subject of renewable energy and other emerging technologies as course in different degree programs. Biomass potential for bioenergy should be considered as capacity issues in govt. and public sector institutions, private sector and also among financial institutions [143].

## 8. Promotional strategies of biomass for energy

Besides conventional sources for bioenergy, there is a need to find other resources to overcome the demand and supply issue of energy. Pakistan is enriched with number of easily available biomass resources which can be utilized in good way to generate energy. In recent studies, Long-range Energy Alternative Planning system (LEAP) model was used to track production and consumption of non-woody crops and livestock (crops and animals) waste biomass in Pakistan and its perspective as renewable energy in coming future, where yield of bagasse rises up to 152.2 trillion with greatest share comparatively in the category of major crops as shown in Table 6 [144]. Here are some suggestions to utilize other alternative biomass available in Pakistan;

### 8.1. City wastes

In Pakistan, urban areas are producing around of 55,000 t of solid

**Table 6**

Gradual increasing inclination of non woody biomass and animal growth up to 2030 [144].

Category	No	Type of Biomass	2009	2012	2030
<b>Minor Crops in million tonnes</b>	1.	Bajra	470	588.8	2275.6
	2.	Maize	296	370.8	1433.1
	3.	Barley	82	102.7	397
	4.	Dry Chili	18.8	23.5	90.9
		<b>Total</b>	866.8	1085.8	4196.6
<b>Major Crops in trillion tonnes</b>	5.	Rice	6.9	7.5	12.8
	6.	Cotton	3	3.3	5.5
	7.	Wheat	23.9	26.9	51.4
	8.	Baggasse	49.4	53.1	82.6
		<b>Total</b>	83.1	90.6	152.2
<b>Animal Live Stock in millions</b>	9.	Buffalo	36.9	46.5	185.7
	10.	Cattle	34.3	43.2	172.7
	11.	Sheep	27.8	31	59.6
	12.	Camel	1	1.1	2.1
		<b>Total</b>	159.9	188.6	548.6

waste on daily basis, which if collected and processed properly can be utilized for energy production. A huge amount of waste is burnt on open land which causes emission of GHG and creating the environmental pollution as well as spreading different diseases. If this waste is burnt properly then its heating energy can be utilized for production of electricity. Through proper landfill techniques and managing solid wastes a reasonable amount of heat and electric power can be generated.

### 8.2. Poultry litter

Poultry-based farms have broad industrial networking in Pakistan. A huge amount of poultry litter especially chicken litter both from layer-chicken and broiler-chicken generated on daily basis. With special attention, such source can be utilized for bioenergy production. It is estimated that 15.0 million layer-chicken and 528 million broiler-chicken are expected to be produce between 2003 and 2004 year including share of 68%, 22%, 6.5% and 3.5% of Punjab, Sindh, KPK and Baluchistan respectively. Literature survey reveals that 15 t per year chicken-litter is scraped out from a shed of 3000 chicken-birds from poultry farms in Pakistan. If this waste-litter processed in a technical way can provide enough energy required for generation of 40 MW of electricity on daily basis.

### 8.3. Animal slurry

According to livestock census of 2000, and Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS) [145] of Pakistan, there are 46.69 million of animals including buffaloes, cows and bullocks producing 700 million Kg dung per day. Hassan et al. [146] estimated that besides 50 million Kg of bio-fertilizers, 17.5 million M<sup>3</sup> biogas can be produced through bi-methanation from animal dung per day. As till now biogas from animal dung is produced at local levels but it can take up to commercial basis if government makes some policies against it.

## 9. Future directions

In Pakistan biomass will be a significant alternative energy source in future. In order to overcome the energy shortage researcher and scientist are now focusing more on biomass for bioenergy production due to its availability for energy generation [147,148]. The Government of Pakistan in collaboration with different countries has made new policies and projects on bioenergy production from biomass [149] that are under progress in different universities, Govt. and privative organizations shown in Table 7. Here are some policies and projects are highlighted which are currently in progress;

**Table 7**

Different organization and universities working on development of Biomass Bioenergy [153].

No.	Govt. Organizations	Private Organization	Universities
1.	Directorate of New and Renewable Energy Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources	Renewable and alternative energy association of Pakistan (REAP)	NED university of engineering and technology Karachi.
2.	Alternative Energy Development Board, Ministry of Water and Power. Government of Pakistan (AEDB)	Engineering Resource Company	(NUST) National University of Science Technology Rawalpindi
3.	National Commission for Alternative Energy	M.G. Engineering Associates	(UET) University of Engineering and Technology Lahore
4.	Solar Energy Research Centre (PCSIR)	Trans Mark International Pvt. Ltd.	(BZU) Bahaudin Zakirya University Multan
5.	Pakistan Council for Renewable Energy technologies (PCRET)	East End Engineers (Pvt.) Ltd.	(SZABIST) Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology
6.	–	Tecnasia International	COMSAT Institute of Information and Technology (CIIT)
7.	–	Sky Green Engineering	(AUF) Agriculture University of Faisalabad
8.	–	EngroTech	University of Baluchistan Quetta.

- Pakistan has made a policy to add RSE (Renewable & Sustainable Energy) for energy production; Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB) has been established to contribute 5% energy production from renewables. AEDB is now working on energy production project by using huge resource of biogas near Karachi in Landhi cattle colony to produce 30 MW which is being funded by New Zealand.
- A letter of intent was issued for 12 MW power plant established for utilization of agricultural wastes in Jhang and 9 MW plant is going to be installed at Pak Ethanol Pvt. Ltd., Sindh.
- In coming years 5000 biogas units will be installed all over the country by Pakistan Counsel of Renewable Energy Technologies (PCRET).
- Government has invested 356 million to import 1400 biogas plants [150].
- Biomass/ Waste-to-Energy Following Biomass/Waste-to-Energy projects are in various stages of implementation under IPP mode:
  - M/s SSJD (12 MW) Sindh
  - M/s Lumen Energia (12 MW) Shahkot
  - Punjab M/s Biomass Power Generation Limited (12 MW), Faisalabad M/s Green Sure Environmental Solutions (12 MW), Mardan, KPK
- Also, framework for power Co-generation 2013 (Biomass/Bagasse) was approved by Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) for bagasse/biomass based sugar industry projects. 1500–2000 MW of power is expected to be generated in next 2–3 years [151].
- Centre for Advanced Studies in Energy at NUST (CAS-EN) is working on project entitled; “Biomass Resource Availability Study” funded by International Finance Corporation a subsidiary of World Bank Group (IFC-WBG) [152].

## 10. Conclusions

Biomass is an emerging renewable resource for bioenergy production to meet the future energy demand in the developing countries. Pakistan as a developing country also needed to put forth its efforts for potential production of bioenergy from biomass to tackle the energy crises. This article highlights the importance of bioenergy production from biomass and areas for more attention on development of infrastructure for biomass conversion to bioenergy, research works and its availability on all scales. Considering the importance of bioenergy from biomass some technological steps has been taken by the govt. However, govt. and private sectors are required to act on emergency basis for producing more bioenergy to cut the energy deficit in the country. In addition, the article has a lot of significance for Pakistan's rural areas where considerable amount of biomass resource in the form of indigenous agricultural wastes is available. It is important to identify suitable thermal or bio-chemical conversion

techniques for different biomass producing flexible fuels like char, pyrolysis vapours, bio-oil or synthesis gas which could be further converted to methane, dimethyl ether (DME), methanol, hydrogen etc. The flexible fuels may then be utilized for combined heat and power production or converting them to vehicle fuels. This article will provide base for future evaluation of potential biofuel, electricity or thermal energy production at distributed small scale that may be sufficient to meet energy requirement in the developing countries globally.

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