

# Investigation of Adsorbent Morphology Characteristics of some Agro-Based Materials for Treatment Integration

Ukpaka, C. P.<sup>1\*</sup>, Nnadi, V. G.<sup>2</sup>

## Abstract

Research conducted on the investigation of adsorbent morphology characteristics of some agro-based materials for the purpose of treatment application was carried out to examine the potential in terms of element present in it. The agro-based material considered are plantain Ogoni Red (POR), Banana Ogoni Red (BOR), Banana Native (BN), Plantain Agbagba 1 (PA1), Plantain Agbagba 2 (PA2) and 34 banana of different particle size examined. The result of elements of the morphology of each adsorbent by weight percent was determined using the conceptual procedure of x-ray florescence (CPXRF) and energy dispersive X-ray florescence (EDXRF) concepts. The research further revealed the possible element present in each of the agro-based material with the effect of particle size. The elements identified are silicon (Si), Magnesium (Mg), calcium (Ca), Aluminium (Al), Potassium (K), Sulphur (S) and Oxygen for 34 Banana sample, whereas for plantain Agbagba 2 (PA2), Iron (Fe) was present but Magnesium (Mg) and Sodium (Na) were absent. In the case of Plantain Agbagba 1 (PA1) the following elements was identified for Banana calcium (Ca), Magnesium (Mg), Oxygen (O), Carbon ©, Silicon (Si), Iron (Fe), Potassium (K), Sodium (Na) and Sulphur (S) and same element were identified for Banana Native (BN) and Banana Ogoni Red (BOR). The element weight percent of each sample vary with effect of particle size and sample specie. This research has shown that the element weight percent of sample determination in term of morphology is dependent of particle size as well as sample specie.

**Keywords:** Investigation, adsorbent, morphology, characteristics, agro-based materials, treatment, integration

## INTRODUCTION

Adsorption is a mass transfer process that is a phenomenon of sorption of gases or solutes by solid or liquid surfaces. The adsorption on the solid surface is that the molecules or atoms on the solid surface have residual surface energy due to unbalanced forces. When some substances collide with the solid surface, they are attracted by these unbalanced forces and stay on the solid surface. According to the

different adsorption forces, the adsorption process can be divided into two categories: physical adsorption and chemical adsorption (Dahuke and Johnson, 1990., Munte, 1985Schollenherger, 1927., Sorersen et al, 1971). Physical adsorption is produced by the interaction of intermolecular forces (i.e., van der Waals forces), for example, the adsorption of activated carbon for gas. Physical adsorption is generally carried out at a low temperature, and fast adsorption rate, low adsorption heat, and nonselective. As the effect of intermolecular attraction is weak, the structure of the adsorbate molecules hardly changes, the adsorption energy is small, and the adsorbed substance is easily separated again. The adsorption due to the action of chemical bonds is chemical

### \*Author for Correspondence

Ukpaka, C.P.

E-mail: peter.ukpaka@ust.edu.ng

<sup>1</sup>Professor: Department of Chemical/Petrochemical Engineering, Rivers State University Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.

<sup>2</sup>Research Student: Department of Chemical/Petrochemical Engineering, Rivers State University Port Harcourt., Rivers State, Nigeria.

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adsorption. Chemical adsorption process includes the formation and destruction of chemical bonds. The absorption or release of adsorption heat is larger, and the activation energy required is also larger. Physical adsorption and chemical adsorption are not isolated and often occur together. In wastewater treatment technology, most of the adsorption is the result of several kinds of adsorption processes. Due to the influence of adsorbents, adsorbates, and other factors, some kind of adsorption may play a leading role (Lowther et al. 1990., Ozean and Ozean, 2006., Schiute and Hopkins, 1996., Drymalski and Gelderman, 1990).[1-3]

To clean up sites polluted with petroleum products, adsorption comes into play. Sorbents are material which recover petroleum products through absorption or adsorption. Sorbents could be natural or synthetic (Maternyi and Durackova, 1994., Fox, et al. 1964., Jackson 1953). Research has focused on agriculturally based sorbents because of their biodegradability and low cost (Deschamps *et al*, 2003; Choi and Cloud, 1992). Some natural sorbents have been reported to show good oil sorption capacity and, in some cases, higher oil sorption capacity than synthetic sorbents. Bundy and Sturgul (1884) examined a hollow cellulosic kapok fibre, and reported the fibre oil sorption capacity was approximately 1.5 – 2.0 times greater than that of polypropylene mat a commonly used synthetic sorbent in oil spill clean-up. Similarly, the cellulosic fibres milkweed (*Asclepias*) and cotton were shown to sorb significantly higher amounts of crude oil than polypropylene fibre and polypropylene web (Conibs, 1995., Bundy and Meisinger, 1994 Menilich, 1984) [46]

## Materials and Methods

### *Conceptual Scanning Electronic Microscope (CSEM)*

The conceptual scanning electronic microscope (ESEM) approach was used to examine the characteristics of the various adsorbent's raw materials in terms of the morphology examination. The procedure allows sample preparation for the purpose of removing all debris and the sample is then subjected into scanning. The aim is to achieve the morphology characteristics of the various samples used for the formulation of the mix ratio for adsorbent production, which is examined to ascertain its potential in terms of capability for adsorption of oil uptake. The image of the various samples in terms of morphology are presented in chapter 4 of this thesis.

### **Conceptual Procedure of X-Ray Fluorescence (CPXRF) and Energy Dispersive X-Ray Fluorescence (EDXRF)**

The conceptual application of the energy dispersive x-ray fluorescence in this investigation was for purpose of identification of the possible elements present in each adsorbent material used for this investigation. The type of x-ray fluorescence used is made of SKYIRAY model of EDX3600B of x-ray fluorescence spectrometer integrates XRF technology for the purpose of fast conduction with precise analysis in terms of complex composition. The instrument possesses the characteristics of identifying elements within the range of magnesium – Mg – atomic number (Z) = 12 as well as Uranium – U – atomic number (Z) = 92 and great resolution as well as fast analysis.

### **Preparation of Sample**

In the case of non-homo generous sample, the concept of sample will require crushing to achieve fine homogeneous size as well as sample then pelletized. [79]

### **The Procedures for Testing Steps**

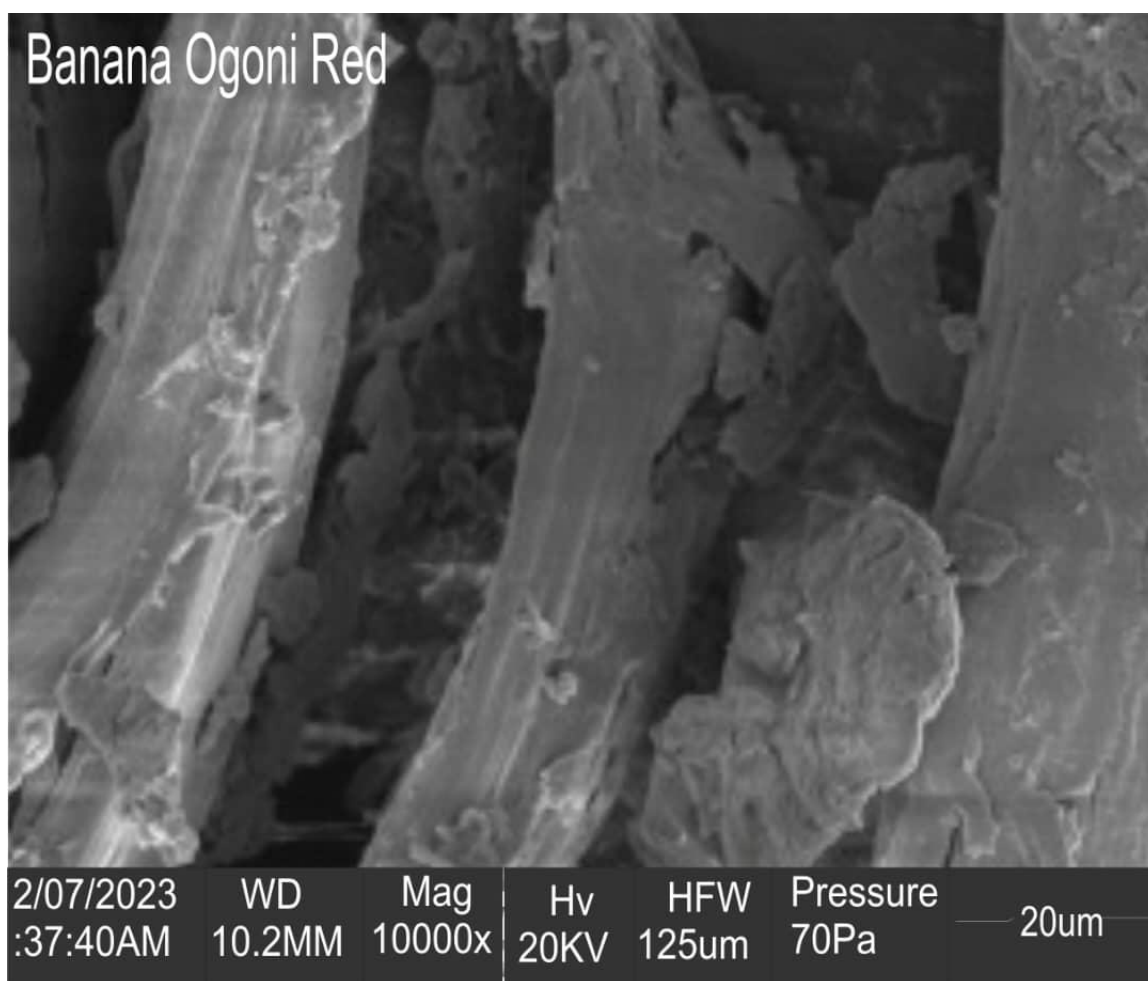
The following testing steps were adopted which include;

- i. Starting processes
- ii. Procedure of calibration as well as initialization through the mechanism of pure silver standard
- iii. Procedure that allows selection of the workable curve to achieve the aim with accordance to the conceptual sampling
- iv. Procedures for the test samples
- v. Procedures from the Excel output
- vi. Procedure to end

## Results and Discussion

### *Result of Morphology of the Adsorbents Used for this Research*

The morphology of the different species of the agro-based materials used in the formulation of the adsorbent was experimental determined for the following samples such as Banana Ogoni Red (BOR) Banana Native (BN) Plantain Agbagba 1 (PA1) Plantain Agbagba 2 (PA2) and 34 Banana. The result of the morphology of this research is demonstrated from Figure 1 to 19. [1011] The surface area of the adsorbents was determined with the aid of the morphology analyzer and which further identified the possible elements and their percentage by weight of those element as demonstrated in Figures shown below.



**Figure 1:** Morphology of the adsorbents of Banana Ogoni Red (BOR) with weight diameter of 10.2 MM

Figure 1 shows the morphology result of the Banana Ogoni Red (BOR) specie used for the research. The morphology results revealed weight diameter (WD) of 10.2 mm, Mag value of 10000x, high voltage value of 20 KV, HFW value of 125  $\mu\text{m}$ , pressure 70Pa of particle size of 20 $\mu\text{m}$ .

Figure 2 show the characteristics of the morphology result of the Banana Ogoni Red sample. The composition with respect to the element present as well as the percentage of each element in weight was obtained as illustrated in Figure 2 and furthermore the result shows potassium value of 1.2 %, oxygen value of 22.2 %, carbon value of 8.0 % silicon value of 45.4 %, iron value of 1.6%, sulphur value of 6.1 %, sodium value of 2.7 %, magnesium value of 2.4 % and calcium value of 10.4 %. In the

BOR sample, the morphology result demonstrates the present of element of silicon with percentage in weight of 45.4% and the presence of Si enhance adsorption process also. In this case the percentage in weight of elements is in the order of silicon (Si) 45.4 % > oxygen (O) 22.2 % > calcium (Ca) 10.4 % > carbon (C) 8.0 % > sulphur (S) 6.1 % > sodium (Na) 2.7 % > iron (Fe) 1.6 % > potassium (K) 1.2 %.

The composition in weight in terms of percentage of the element present in the morphology test of the BOR revealed its potential to be

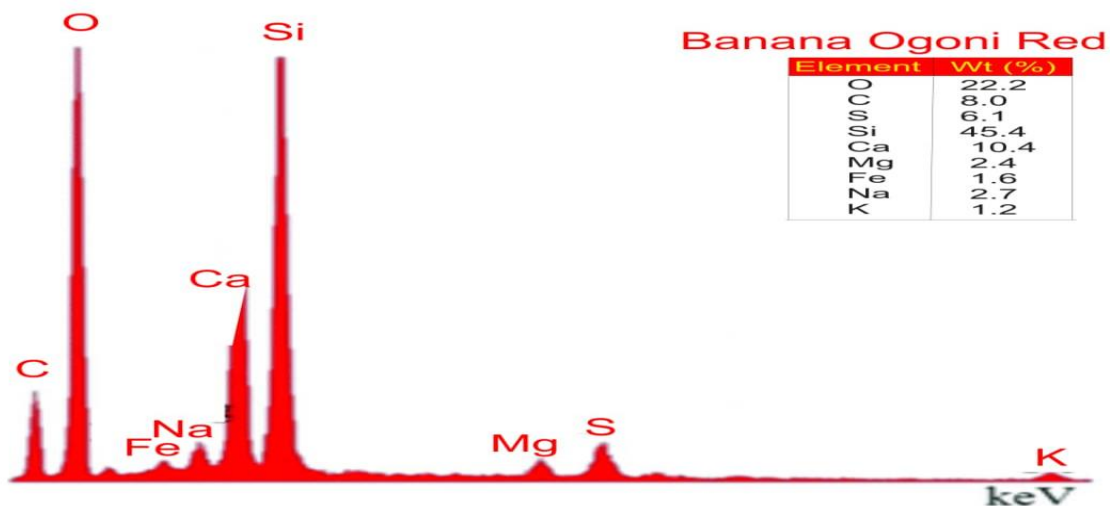


Figure 2: Results of Elements of the Morphology of the adsorbents of Banana Ogoni Red (BOR) in Weight Percent

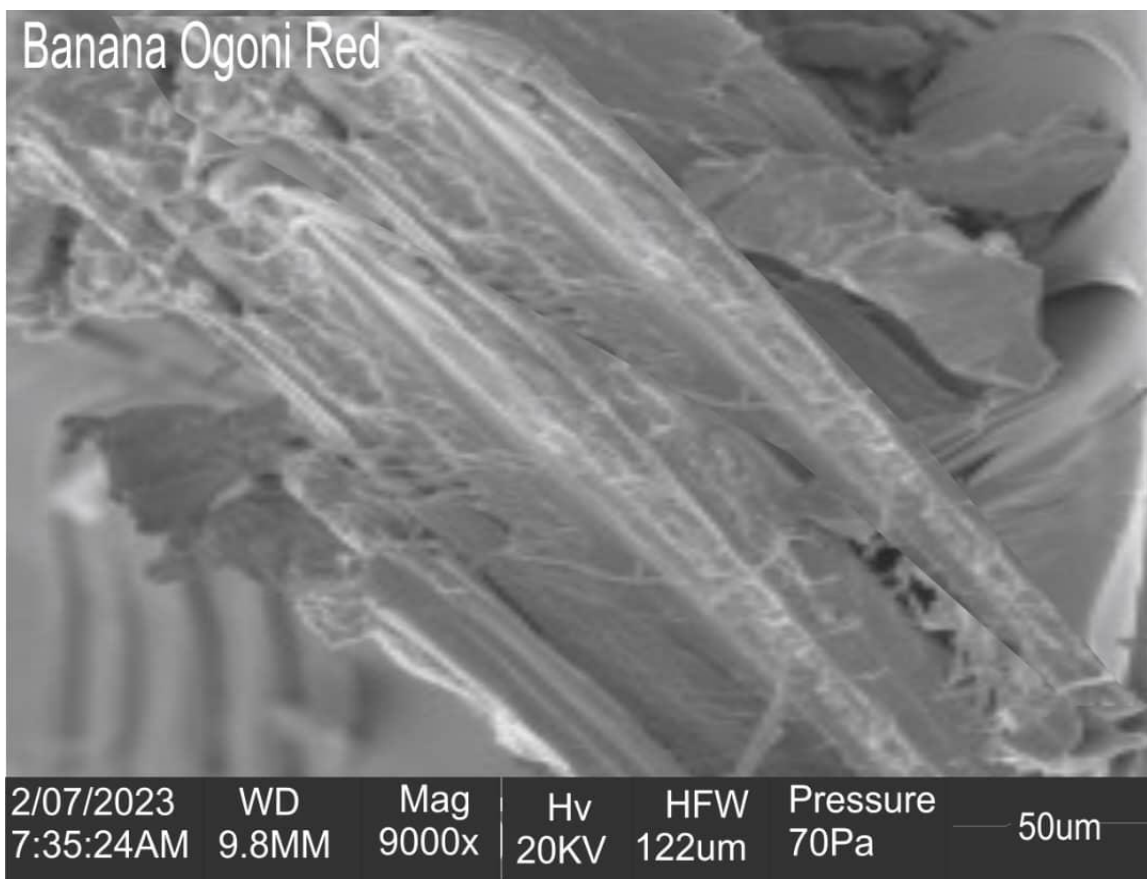
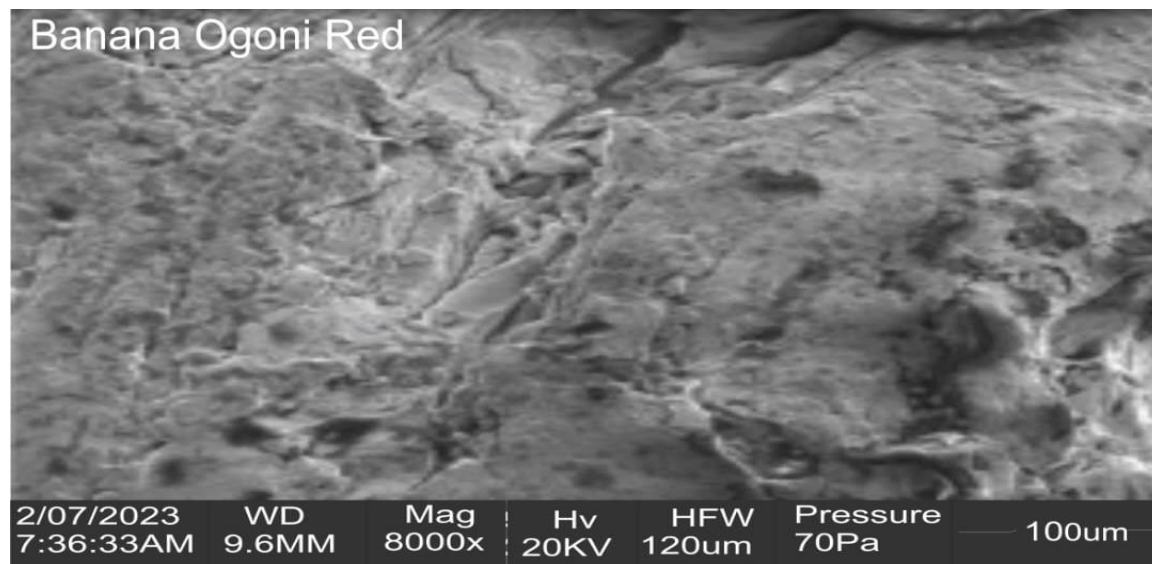


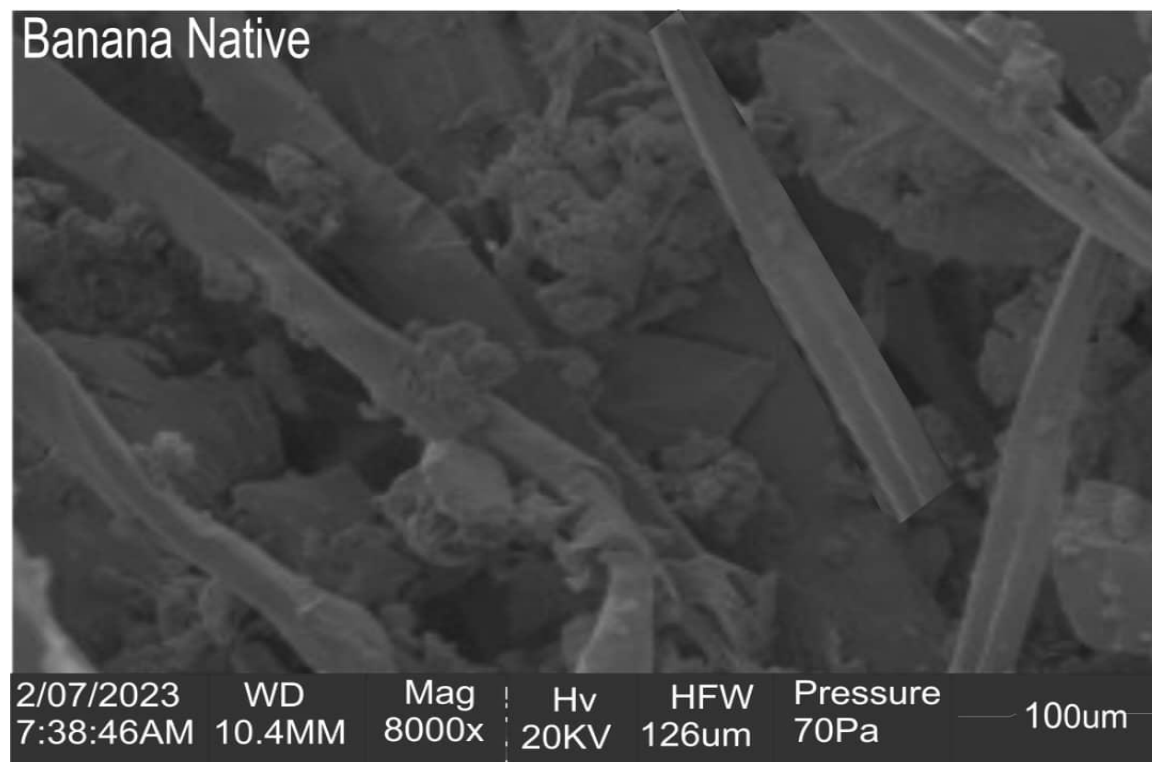
Figure 3: Morphology of the adsorbents of Banana Ogoni Red (BOR) with weight diameter of 9.8 MM

Figure 3 shows the operational shape of the Banana Ogoni Red (BOR) in terms of the surface area as demonstrated by the morphology. However, the reading of the operational value reveals WD value of 9.8 mm, HFW value of 122  $\mu\text{m}$ , Mag value of 9000x and pressure value of 70 Pa for particle size of adsorbent of 50 $\mu\text{m}$ . The through shape of the adsorbent was showcased by morphology analyzer.



**Figure 4:** Morphology of the adsorbents of Banana Ogoni Red (BOR) with weight diameter of 9.6 MM

Figure 4 shows the morphology result of the Banana Ogoni Red (BOR) specie used for the research. The morphology results revealed weight diameter (WD) of 9.6 mm mag value of 8000x, high voltage value of 20 KV, HFW value of 120  $\mu\text{m}$ , pressure 70 Pa of particle size of 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .



**Figure 5:** Morphology of the adsorbents of Banana Native (BN) with weight diameter of 10.4 MM

Figure 5 reveals the morphology of the Banana Native (BN) sample subjected into analysis for the determination of the surface area. The colour looks dark and the particle size of the adsorbent used is 100µm. Indeed, the operational conditions demonstrates WD value of 10.4 mm, Mag value of 8000x, HV value of 20 KV, HFW value of 126 µm and pressure value of 70 Pa

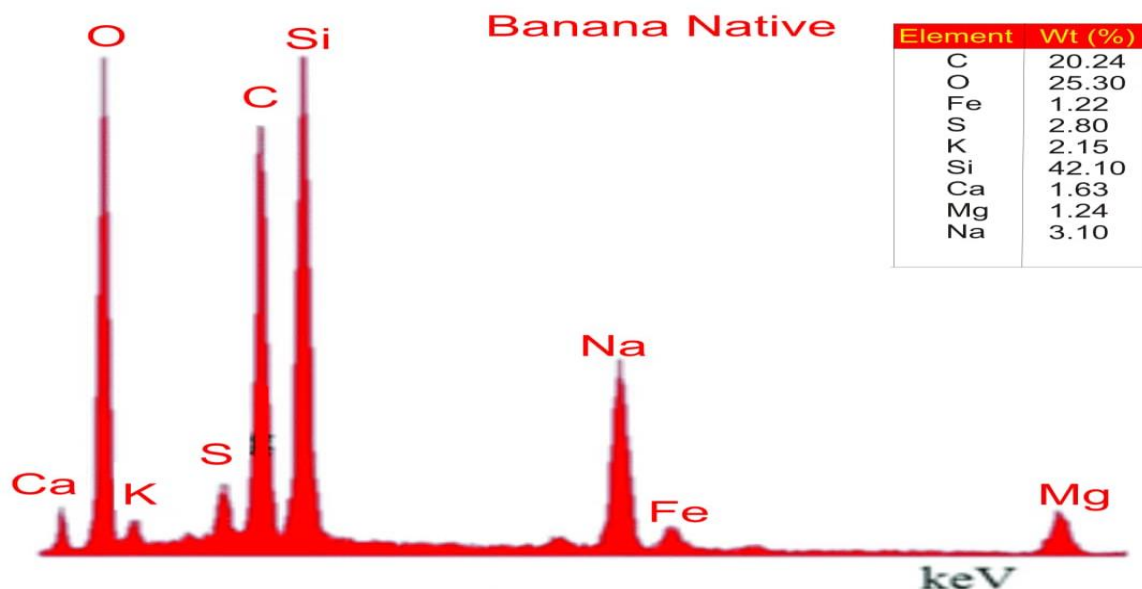


Figure 6: Results of Elements of the Morphology of the adsorbents of Banana Native (BN) in Weight Percent

Figure 6 shows the composition of the Banana Native morphology elements present in it. The analysis revealed the presence of the following weight in percent of elements such as carbon (C) 20.24 %, oxygen (O) 25.30 %, iron (Fe) 1.22 %, sulphur (S) 2.80 %, potassium (K) 2.15 %, silicon (Si) 42.10 %, calcium (Ca) 1.63 %, magnesium (Mg) 1.24 % and sodium (Na) 3.10 %. The percentage weight of the various elements is in the order of silicon (Si) > oxygen (O) > carbon (C) > sodium (Na) > sulphur (S) > potassium (K) > calcium (CA) > magnesium (Mg) > iron (Fe). The silicon is a good bonding agent as well as possesses the characteristics of good adsorbent material and peak value in the morphology shows the same trend.

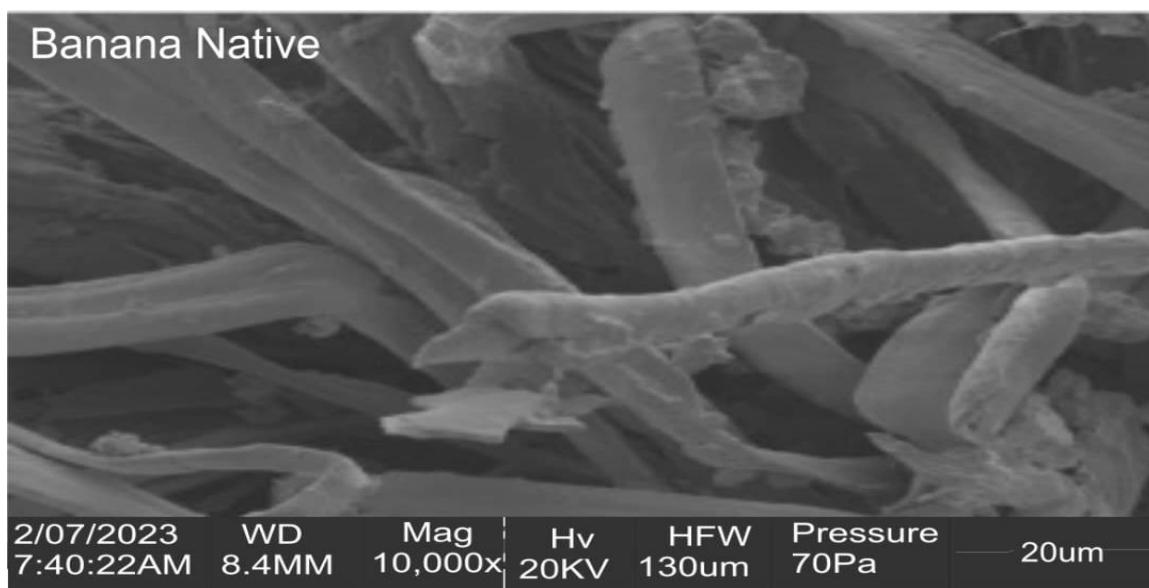
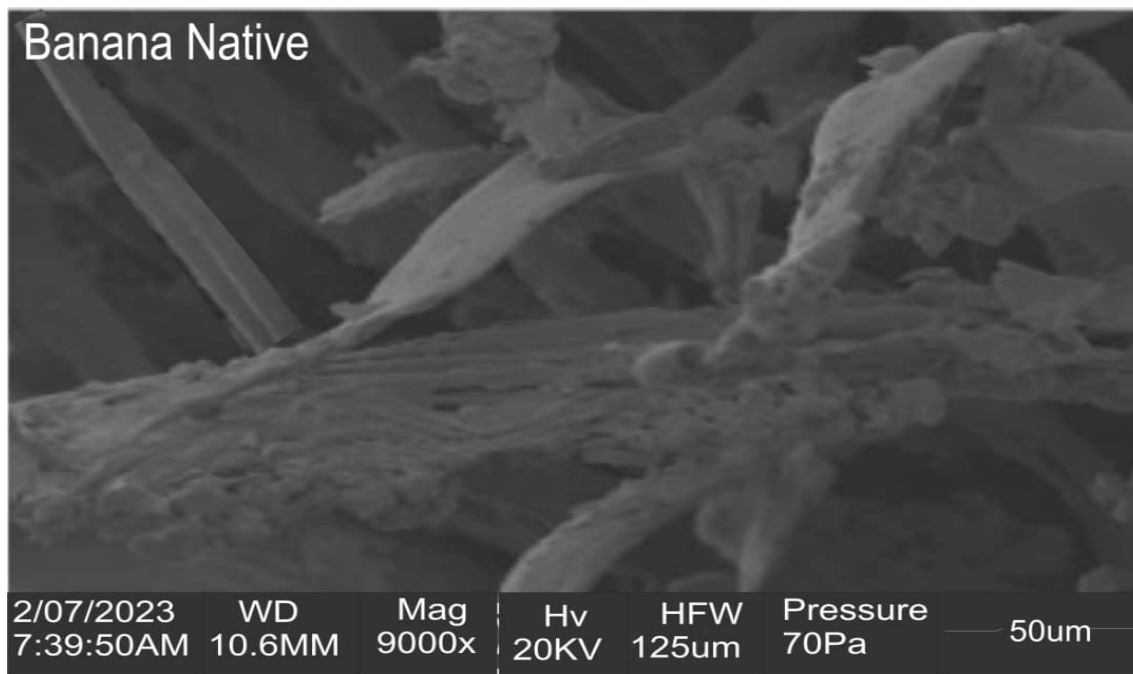


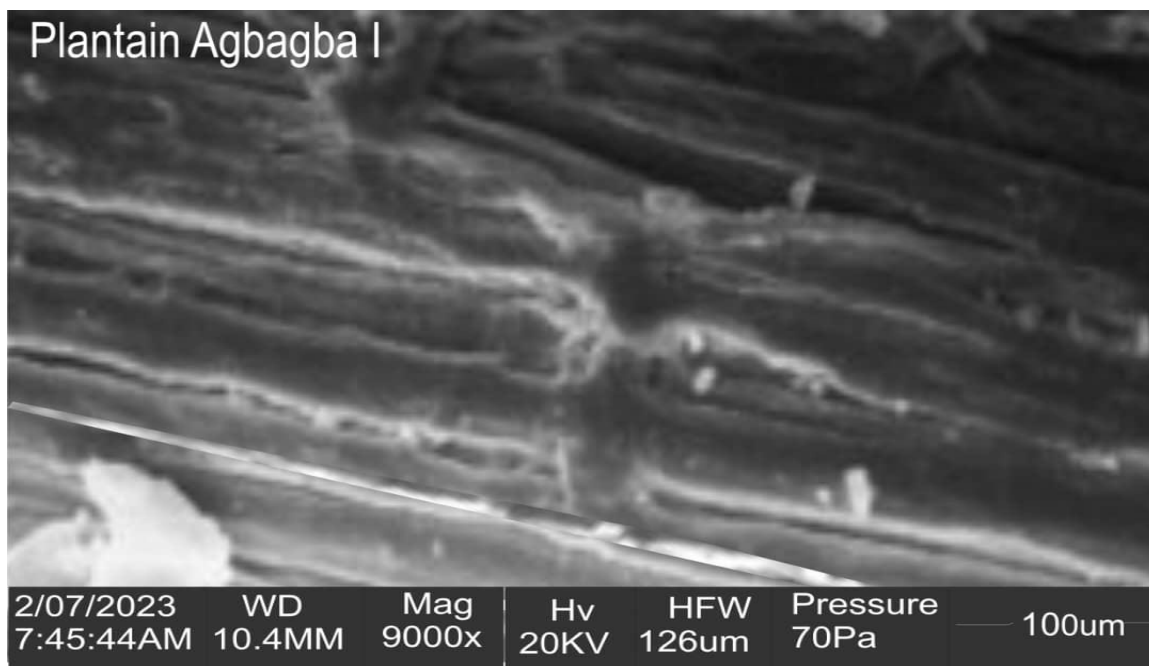
Figure 7: Morphology of the adsorbents of Banana Native (BN) with weight diameter of 8.4 MM

Figure 7 shows the morphology of particle size of 20  $\mu\text{m}$  and the surface area of the Banana Native and operational characteristics shows WD value of 8.4 mm, Mag value of 10,000x HIV value of 20 KV, HFW value of 130  $\mu\text{m}$  and pressure of 70 Pa



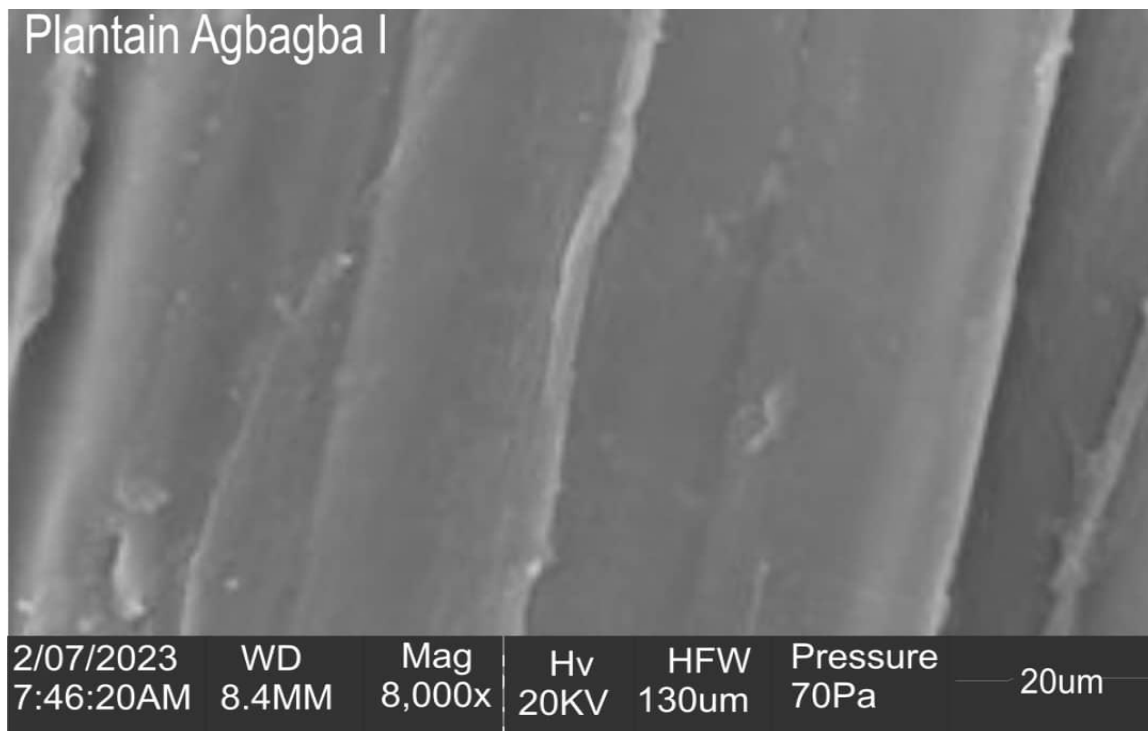
**Figure 8:** Morphology of the adsorbents of Banana Native (BN) with weight diameter of 10.6 MM

Figure 8 shows the significance of surface area examination through the application of morphology analysis. The morphology analysis demonstrates the following properties of WD value of 10.6 mm, Mag value of 9000x, HV value of 20 KV, HFW value of 125  $\mu\text{m}$  and pressure value of 70 Pa for particle size of Banana Native (NB) of 50  $\mu\text{m}$



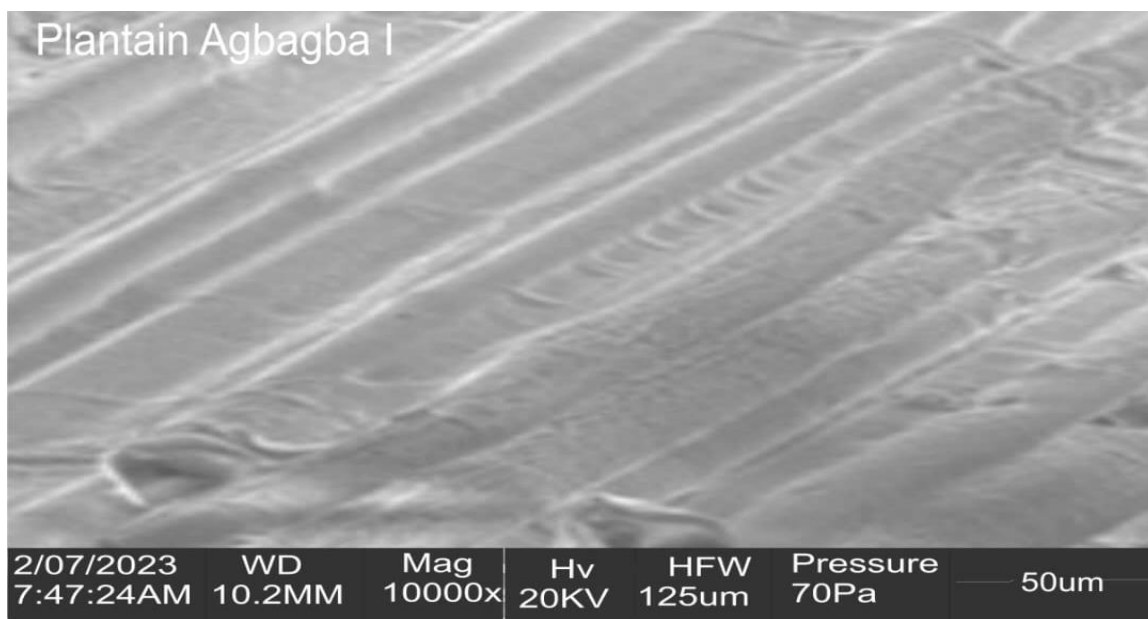
**Figure 9:** Morphology of the adsorbents of Plantain Agbagba I (PA1) with weight diameter of 10.4 MM

Figure 9 shows Plantain Agbagba 1 morphology shape of the sample with the operational analysis properties of WD value of 10.4 mm, Mag value of 9000x, HV value of 20 KV, HFW value of 126  $\mu\text{m}$  and pressure value of 70 Pa for particle size of 100 $\mu\text{m}$ . The morphology characteristics give us the overview of the surface area of the Plantain Agbagba 1 used in the formulation of the adsorbent



**Figure 10:** Morphology of the adsorbents of Plantain Agbagba 1 (PA1) with weight diameter of 8.4 MM

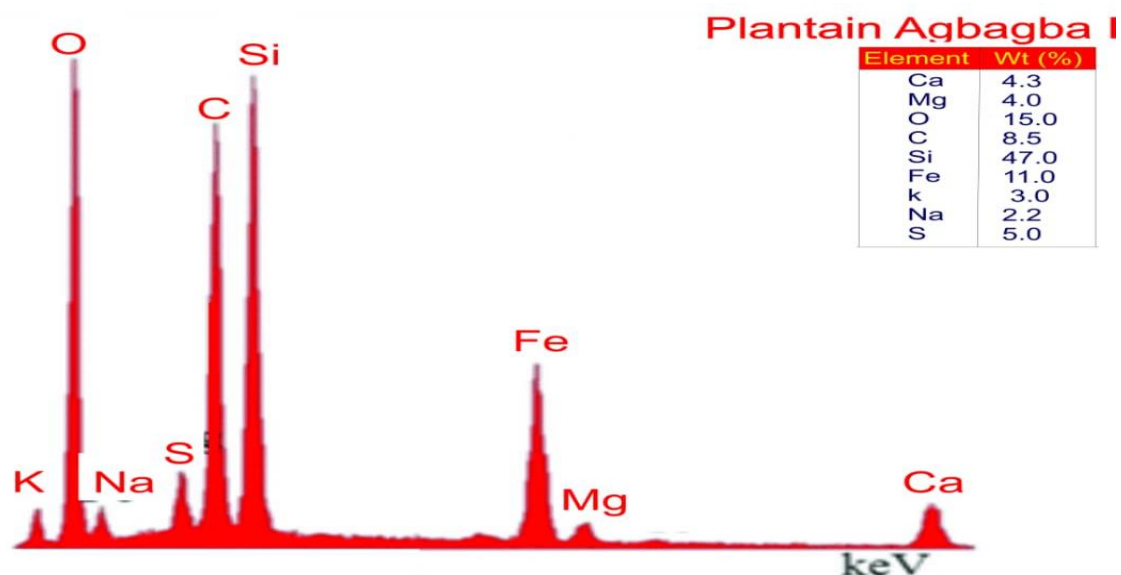
Figure 10 shows the operational analysis characteristics of sample parameters of the Plantain Agbagba 1 of particle size of 20 $\mu\text{m}$ . The parameters are WD value of 8.4 mm, Mag value of 8000x, HV value of 20 KV, HFW value of 130  $\mu\text{m}$  and pressure value of 70 Pa. The surface area of Plantain Agbagba 1 was showcased from the view of the morphology characteristics.



**Figure 11:** Morphology of the adsorbents of Plantain Agbagba 1 (PA1) with weight diameter 10.2 MM

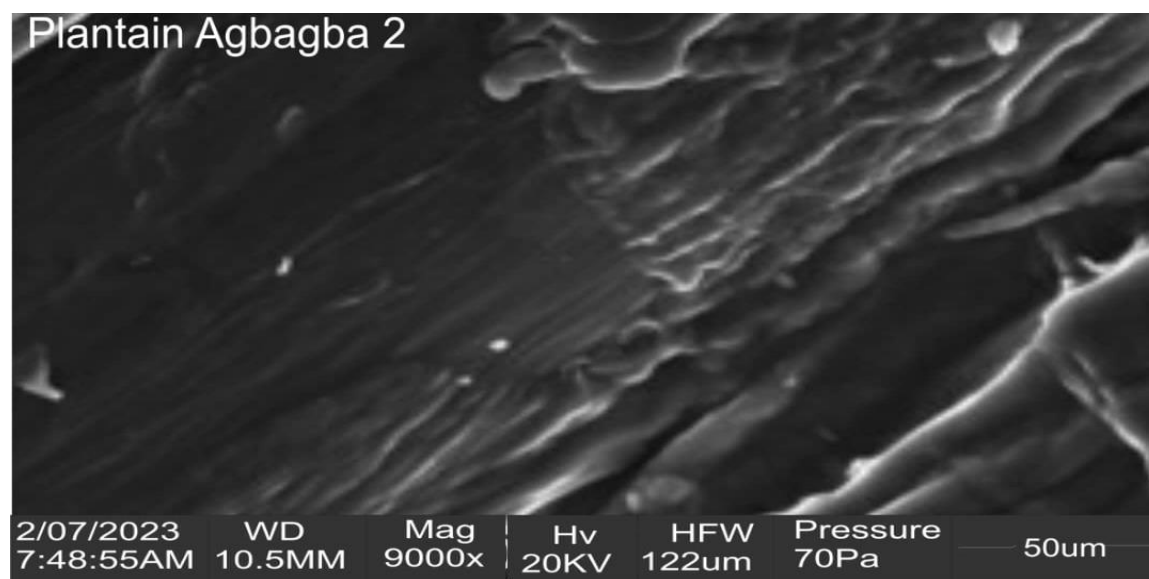


Figure 11 shows the morphology of the particle size of 50µm of the plantain Agbagba 1 in view with the operational values of WD 10.2 mm, Mag 10000x, HV 20 KV, HFW 125 µm and pressure 70 Pa. The shape of the surface area was showcased through the medium of the morphology analysis.



**Figure 12:** Results of Elements of the Morphology of the adsorbents of Plantain Agbagba 1 in Weight Percent

Figure 12 shows the magnitude of element present in the Plantain Agbagba 1 adsorbent sample subjected into the morphology test. However, the analysis result revealed the percentage in weight of the following elements, which include calcium (Ca) 4.3 %, magnesium (Mg) 4.0 %, oxygen (O) 15.0 %, carbon (C) 8.5 %, silicon (Si) 47.0 %, iron (Fe) 11.0 %, potassium (K) 3.0 %, sodium (Na) 2.2 % and sulphur (S) 5.0 %. The morphology result of the Plantain Agbagba 1 shows that the order of percentage in weight of the element is 47.0 % of Si > 15.0 % of O > 11.0 % of Fe > 8.5% of C > 5.0 % of S > 4.3 % of Ca > 4.0 % of Mg > 3.0 % of K > 2.2 % of Na. From the result presented in Figure 4.186 it is observed that the composition of the individual elements demonstrates that Plantain Abgagba 1 is a good adsorbent especially high percentage in weight of the presence of the silicon.



**Figure 13:** Morphology of the adsorbents of Plantain Agbagba 1 (PA2) with weight diameter of 10.5 MM

Figure 13 shows the conceptual parameters for the morphology analysis of the Plantain Agbagba 2 and the parameters reveals WD value of 10.5 mm, Mag value 9000x, HV value 20 KV, HFW value 1.22  $\mu\text{m}$  and pressure value 70 Pa for particle size of 50 $\mu\text{m}$ . Indeed, the surface area was demonstrated by the application of the morphology analyzer

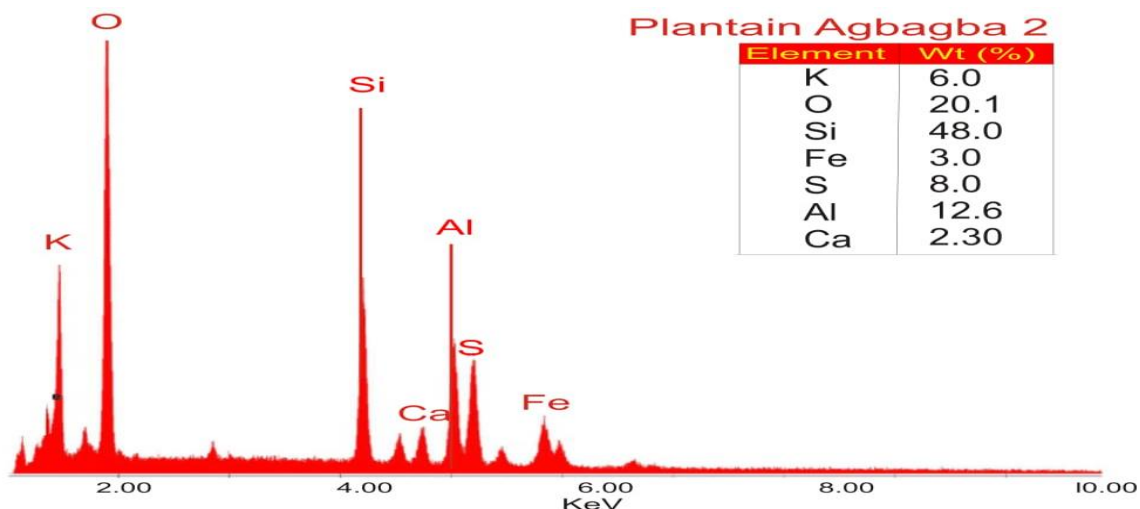


Figure 14: Results of Elements of the Morphology of the adsorbents of Plantain Agbagba 2 in Weight Percent

Figure 14 shows the characteristics of the morphology result of the Plantain Agbagba 2 sample. The composition with respect to the element present as well as the percentage of each element in weight was obtained as illustrated in Figure 4.188 and furthermore the result shows potassium value of 6.0 %, oxygen value of 20.1 %, silicon value of 48.0 %, iron value of 3.0 %, sulphur value of 8.0 % aluminium value of 12.6 % and calcium value of 2.30 %. In the Plantain Agbagba 2 sample, the morphology result demonstrates the present of element of aluminium with percentage in weight of 12.6 % and the presence of AL enhance adsorption process also. In this case the percentage in weight of elements is in the order of silicon (Si) 48.0% > oxygen (O) 20.1% > aluminium (Al) 12.6 % > sulphur (S) 8.0 % > potassium 6.0 % > iron (Fe) 3.0 % > calcium 2.30 %. The composition in weight in terms of percentage of the element present in the morphology test of the Plantain Abgagba 2 revealed its potential to be used as adsorbent.

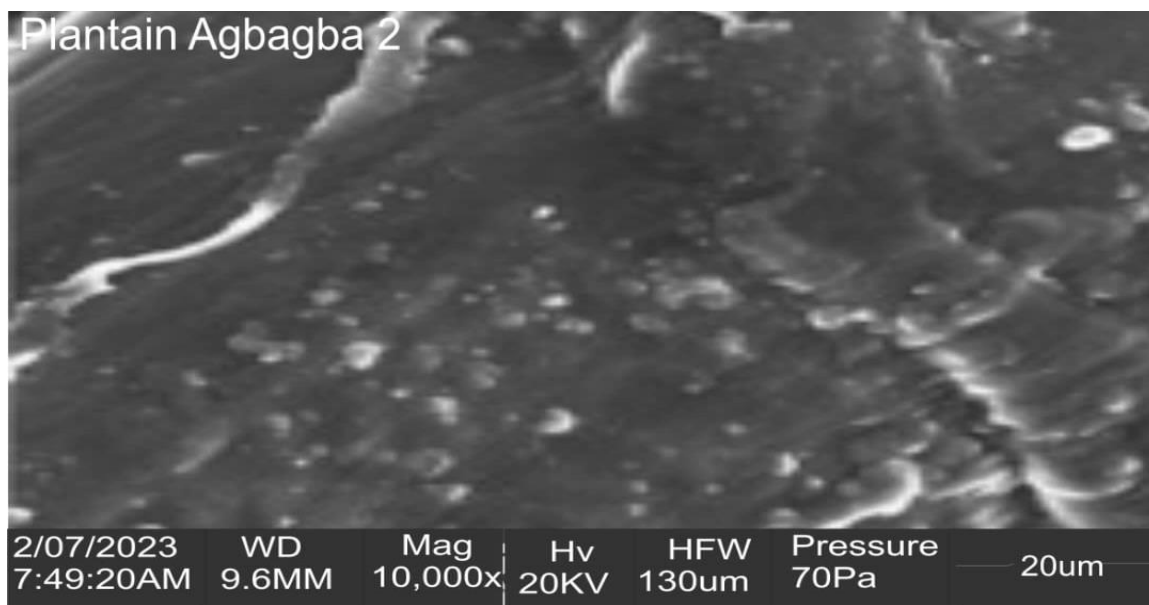
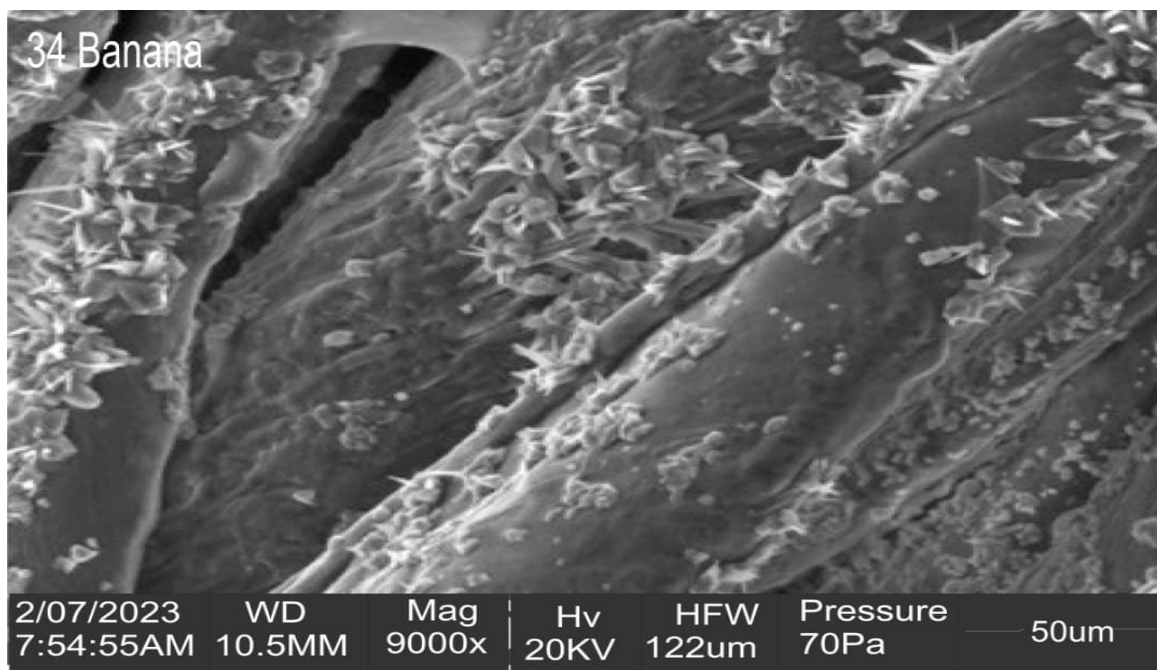


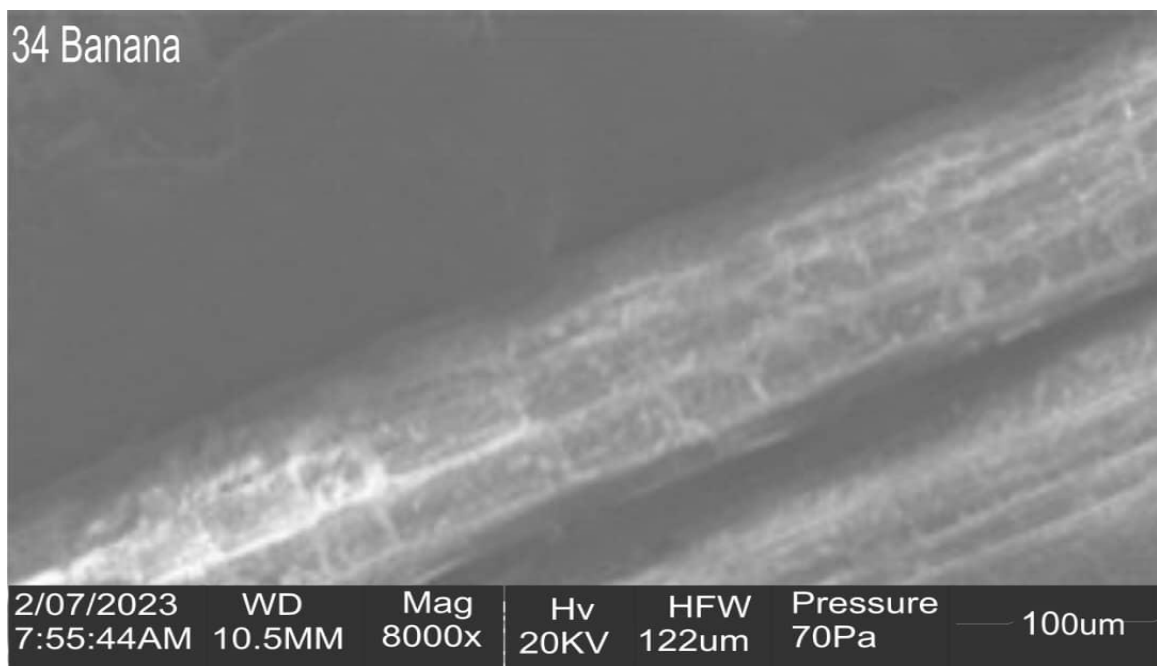
Figure 15: Morphology of the adsorbents of Plantain Agbagba 2 (PA2) with weight diameter of 9.6 MM

Figure 15 shows the morphology shape of Plantain Agbagba 2 with particle size of 20  $\mu\text{m}$  and the operational properties of the morphology analyzer demonstrates that the WD value is 9.6 mm, Mag value is 10000x, HV value is 20 KV, HFW value is 130  $\mu\text{m}$  and pressure is 70 Pa.



**Figure 16:** Morphology of the adsorbents of 34 Banana with weight diameter of 10.5 MM at 9000x Mag

Figure 16 shows the morphology conceptual shape and surface area of 34 Banana sample of particle size of 50 $\mu\text{m}$  and operational component monitored are WD with value of 10.5 mm, Mag with value of 9000x, HV with value of 20 KV, HFW with value of 122  $\mu\text{m}$  and pressure 70 Pa. The shape of the morphology analysis result is well documented as shown in Figure 16



**Figure 17:** Morphology of the adsorbents of 34 Banana with weight diameter of 10.5 MM at 8000x Mag

Figure 17 shows the morphology shape of 34 Banana with particle size of 100µm and the operational properties of the morphology analyzer demonstrates that the WD value is 10.5 mm, Mag value is 8000x, HV value is 20 KV, HFW value is 122 µm and pressure is 70 Pa.

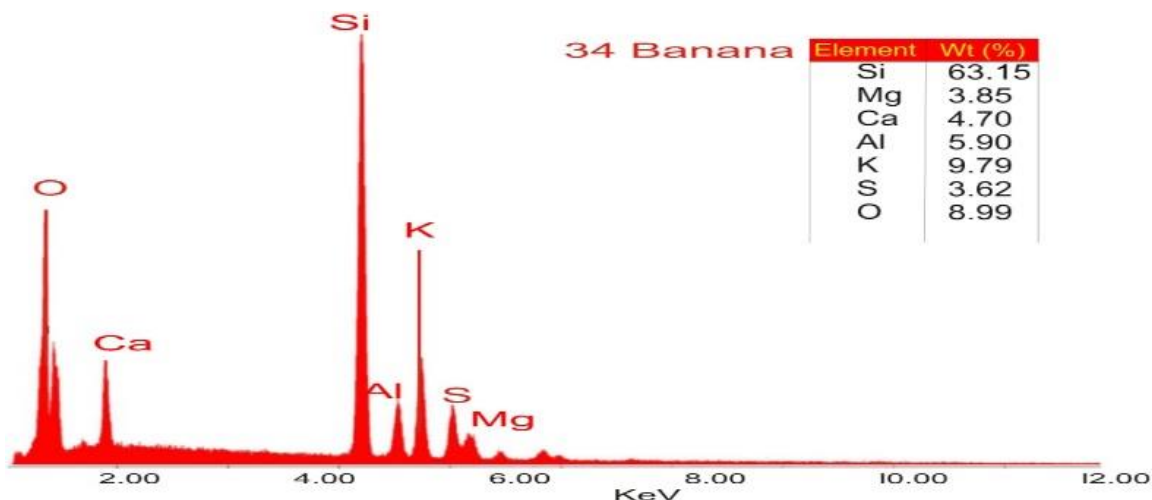


Figure 18: Results of Elements of the Morphology of the adsorbents of 34 Banana in Weight Percent

Figure 18 show the characteristics of the morphology result of the 34 Banana sample. The composition with respect to the element present as well as the percentage of each element in weight was obtained as illustrated in Figure 18 and furthermore the result shows potassium value of 9.79 %, oxygen value of 8.99 %, silicon value of 53.15 %, iron value of 3.0 %, sulphur value of 3.62 % aluminium value of 5.90 %, magnesium value of 3.85 % and calcium value of 4.70 %. In the 34 Banana sample, the morphology result demonstrates the present of element of aluminium with percentage in weight of 12.6 % and the presence of aluminium enhance adsorption process also. In this case the percentage in weight of elements is in the order of silicon (Si) 63.15 % > potassium (K) 9.79 % > oxygen (O) 8.99 % > aluminium (Al) 5.90 % > calcium 4.70 % .> magnesium (Mg) 3.85 % > sulphur (S) 3.62 %. The composition in weight in terms of percentage of the element present in the morphology test of the Plantain Abgagba 2 revealed its potential to be used as adsorbent.

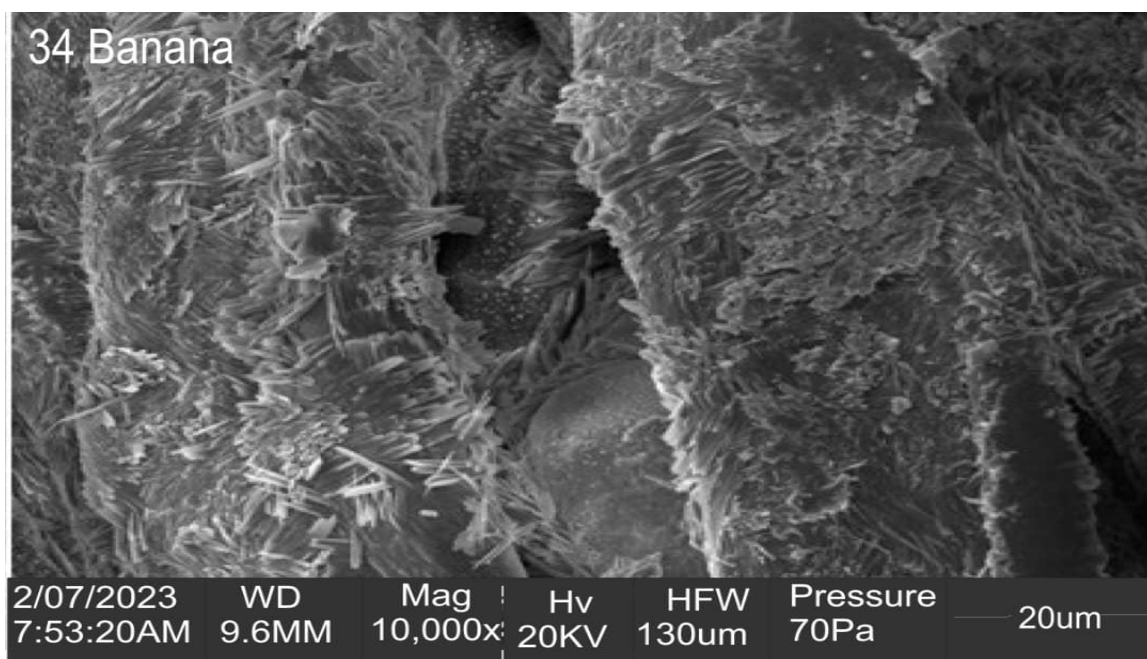


Figure 19: Morphology of the adsorbents of 34 Banana with weight diameter of 9.6 MM and 10,000x Mag.

Figure 19 shows the morphology shape of 34 Banana with particle size of 20  $\mu\text{m}$  and the operational properties of the morphology analyzer demonstrates that the WD value is 9.6 mm, Mag value is 10000x, HV value is 20 KV, HFW value is 130  $\mu\text{m}$  and pressure is 70 Pa. [1215]

## CONCLUSION

The morphology of the bio-adsorbent was considered, because of its role on the adsorption processes. However, the morphology of the Banana Ogoni Red (BOR), Banana Native (BN), Plantain Agbagba 1 (PA1), Plantain Agbagba 2 (PA2) and 34 Banana were considered. The element in weight in terms of percentage of composition of banana native in relationship to the morphology versus KeV reveals element wt. % of C (20.24), O (25.30), Fe (1.22), S (2.80), K (2.15), Si (42.10), Ca (1.63), Mg (1.24) and Na (3.10). The thesis further demonstrated the element wt. (%) of Plantain Agbagba 1 as follows: Ca (4.3), mg (4.0), O (15.0), C (8.5), Si (47.0), Fe (11.0), K (3.0), Na (2.2) and S (5.0). From the morphology analysis of the Plantain Agbagba 2 the element weight percent revealed K (6.0), O (20.1), Si (48.0), Fe (3.0), S (8.0), Al (12.6) and Ca (2.30). Indeed, the morphology analysis on the 34 Banana shows that the element in weight percentage obtained are silicon Si (63.15), manganese Mg (3.85), calcium Ca (4.780), aluminium Al (5.90), potassium K (9.79), sulphur S (3.62) and oxygen O (8.99). Following the morphology data obtained it demonstrate that carbon C is only present in Banana Native and Plantain Agbagba 1 with high value of element weight percent of 20.24 for Banana Native against 8.5 for Plantain Agbagba 1. For oxygen O, it revealed that BN – (25.3) > PA2 – (20.1) > PA1 – (15.0) > 34 Banana – 8.99, and in the case of iron Fe, we have PA1 – Fe (11.0) > Banana Native – Fe (1.22) showing that the iron content was more in Plantain Agbagba 1 than Banana Native, whereas in Plantain Agbagba 2 and 34 Banana species does not contain iron content. For sulphur content the morphology data obtained illustrates the present of it in all the agro-based materials sampled and data shows morphology value of element weight in percent as Plantain Agbagba 2 – PA2 – 8.0 > Plantain Agbagba 1 – PA1 – 5.0 > 34 Banana – 3.62 > Banana Native 2.80. In the case of calcium Ca 34 Banana 4.7 > Plantain Agbagba 1 – PA1 – 4.3 > Plantain Agbagba 2 – PA2 – 2.3 > Banana Native – BN – 1.63 and the presence of potassium is only notice on the Banana species which revealed value of 9.79% for 34 Banana specie and 2.15% for Banana Native species. The silicon content from the morphology data revealed 34 Banana 63.15 > Plantain Agbagba 2 – 48.0 > Plantain Agbagba 1 – 47.0 > Banana Native – BN – 42.0 and the manganese Mg content from the morphology data demonstrates the presence of substance in 34 Banana specie – 3.85 > Plantain Agbagba 1 – 4.0 > Banana Native – BN – 1.24.

The morphology of sodium Na showcases the weight percent of 3.10% for Banana Native (BN) greater than 2.2% of Plantain Agbagba 1 (PA1) whereas the species of Plantain Agbagba 2 (PA2) and 34 Banana has no trace of sodium content. The morphology data of all the different plant tested show the presence of aluminium AL in Plantain Agbagba 2 (AP2 – 12.5% in weight > 5.90% in weight of 34 Banana specie, whereas Banana Native BN and Plantain Agbagba 1 has not trace.

The morphology analysis and the data obtained has shown the possible potential element weight percent available in each sample and surface area. The presence of these elements aided the effectiveness of the formulated adsorbent for the treatment of PMS and AGO removal from the polluted salt and fresh water environment or media.

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