



FACUALTY OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING



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**PROJECT TITLE: Investigating feasibility of Jatropha seed oil
for Soap Processing**

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Abstract

Soap has been at the forefront of production in Unilever for over 60 years. The most important products made by Unilever to date are soap or home based care products and it is pivotal in the profits made at the multinational company. The first products made by Unilever were soap. This project looks at the problem at Unilever Zimbabwe where the soap products are from South Africa are landing at a cheaper price in Zimbabwe. The main reason is that the formulation currently being used at Unilever is expensive they have decided to not use animal fat for making of soap for Halaal and ethical reasons. Therefore this project seeks to replace one of the expensive reagents (soya bean oil) with a cheaper oil that is jatropha seed oil which has been normally been used to make biodiesel but now has found a new use in the soap making reagents. The main driving forces behind this project are that the jatropha seed oil has the same soap making properties as the soya bean oil therefore it would be feasible replacement, another driving force being that jatropha trees are able to grown in any type of soil therefore land that was regarded as not feasible for food crops can be used to grow jatropha. The other reason is that the jatropha seed oil is not edible by animals or people and therefore is better than the soya bean oil which is food oil and the world is generally moving away from using food oils to make nonfood products like soap.