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# Green Electricity from Rice Husk: A Model for Bangladesh

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Additional information is available at the end of the chapter

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## 1. Introduction

Bangladesh has reportedly over one hundred thousand Rice Mills - large, medium and small. They process paddy, using mostly the parboiling practice. The rice mills use the thermal energy of steam generated in boilers, which are fired by rice husk - a byproduct of paddy processing in the rice mills and which is globally well-known as very convenient source of dry biomass energy of reasonable heat value. In global context, annual rice husk production is 137 million tonnes whereas, in Bangladesh, about 9.0 million tonnes of rice husk is produced reported in 2011 [1]. In Bangladesh context, out of 37.08 million tonnes of total biomass produced from agro-residues, rice husk contributes about 26% by mass [2]. At present about 67-70% of rice husk is consumed for steam producing in rice mills [3, 4]. With a few exceptions, presently most of the 'boilers', used in these rice mills of Bangladesh are very inefficient. This results in a huge wastage of rice husk, which is an important source of biomass. Preliminary estimates are indicative that at least 50% of the rice husk produced could be saved and made surplus for its better use as input for small power generation [5]. Energy demand for rice processing is increasing every year due to the increased production of rice for ensuring food security of the population. More energy efficient rice parboiling boilers is to be suggested to replace the existing inefficient rice parboiling systems. So that the surplus amount of rice husks could be available for other sectors. If this husk is to be briquetted, then it will be an alternative fuel for replacing wood-fuel. Rice husk based co-generation system could be an alternative for large rice mills, or even for a cluster of small to medium rice mills. If the electricity were generated from rice husk then net carbon dioxide emissions could be reduced [6]. As a matter of basic dissemination strategy, applicable to most of the developing countries, initially the entrepreneurs/investors feel shy to invest in a relatively new area technology, as they lack the confidence on the technical functioning and financial/economic viability of ventures in such an area. Before launching a husk based power generation technology, it is important to know the

production and distribution of available rice husk resource at different location. There are some different options to enhance the availability of rice husk such as increasing the un-parboiled process, improvement of thermal and combustion efficiency of existing husk fired boiler for parboiled process of paddy. Another important issue is the sustainable supply of rice husk in future for husk based power generation plant. Therefore, rice husk production and supply system is analyzed for electricity generation from husk in Bangladesh.

## 2. Methodology

There are main two sector of rice process viz. household level process and processed in rice mill. Husk obtained from household level process cannot be collected due to its wide spread localized. Therefore, husk from household level process is not considered as supply source of husk for electricity generation. Paddy processed in rice mill is considered the source of husk supply. There are several rice processing zones in the country. To conduct the investigation four major rice processing zones were selected to estimate potential husk available for electricity generation. The selected rice mill clusters are located at Dinajpur, Naogaon, Bogra, and Ishawrdi (Pabna). A survey questionnaire was used to collect the information on monthly quantity of paddy processed, amount of husk produced, amount of husk consumed for rice processing purposes and the surplus amount of rice husk (Survey questionnaire is shown in Appendix). Two hundred number of rice mills were surveyed in this study.

Another study is conducted to estimate the total electricity generation from rice husk in Bangladesh. LEAP (Long-range Energy Alternative Planning System) tool is used to make three different scenarios for consumption of energy. The basic parameter for estimating scenarios data are shown in Table 1.

Activity level	Reference scenario	Scenario-1
Paddy processed in mill	70%	90%
Parboiled processed paddy	90%	90%
Unparboiled processed paddy	10%	10%
Traditional parboiling	100%	5%
Improved parboiling	0	95%

**Table 1.** Assumption of activity levels at different scenario

## 3. Results and discussion

### 3.1. Available husk at rice mills

Annual paddy processing capacity and surplus amount of husk from the four selected rice processing zones are analyzed. The annual paddy processing capacities were estimated to be

936923, 394976, 1366980 and 925048 tonne per year for Pulhat (Dinajpur), Bogra, Naogaon and Ishawrdi cluster, respectively. Total paddy processed in these clusters was 3.62 million tonne. Amount of surplus husk for selected rice processing zones were estimated to be 82904, 586925, 192551 and 121209 tonne per year for Pulhat, Bogra, Naogaon and Ishawrdi cluster, respectively. Total surplus of husk were 455356 tonne per year in the selected four clusters.

### 3.2. Electricity generation capacity based on rice husk energy at the study areas

Electricity generation from rice husk depends on the availability of raw material and the technology for conversion rice husk to energy. For a steam turbine power plant consumption of rice husk is 1.3 kg per kWh electricity as reported by Singh [7]. On the other hand for a gasification power plant consumption of rice husk is 1.86 kg per kWh electricity generation [8]. Based on this assumption the capacity of electricity power generation was estimated for the study areas (Table 2). The potential power capacities is estimated to be 41450 kW in four selected zones considering the steam turbine technology, whereas the corresponding power capacities is estimated to be 29050 kW considering gasification technology.

Rice processing zone	Available husk from rice mill, '000' tonne/yr	Potential of electricity generation	
		Steam turbine plant kW	Gasification plant kW
		@1.3 kg husk/kWh <sub>e</sub> *	@1.86 kg husk/kWh <sub>e</sub> **
Dinajpur	82.90	7250	5150
Ishawrdi	121.21	10750	7500
Bogra	58.69	5200	3600
Naogaon	192.55	18250	12800
<b>Total</b>	<b>455.35</b>	<b>41450</b>	<b>29050</b>

\*[8], \*\*[7]

**Table 2.** Summary of electricity production from rice husk

Husk supply from rice mills is not uniform in quantity throughout the year. Sometimes the husk supply is surplus so that the husk is leftover after consumption and sometimes the husk supply is deficit than needed. Therefore, further analysis is done to see the surplus and deficit pattern of husk supply throughout the year. In this study it is estimated that the husk supply is surplus for 8 months and the quantity of surplus amount is 19428 tonne for Dinajpur. This surplus amount of husk is to be stored for the use to overcome the deficit of rice husk for rest of four months of the year. The deficit amount is 17956 tonne, therefore surplus amount of husk is sufficient to overcome the deficit amount for 7250 kW steam turbine power plant at Dinajpur area (Fig. 1). Similarly 18540 tonne of surplus husk is sufficient to make up 18399 tonne shortage of husk for gasification power plant at Dinajpur (Fig. 2).

At Ishawrdi area, the husk supply is surplus for 9 months and the quantity of surplus amount is 16271 tonne. This surplus amount of husk is to be stored for the use to overcome the deficit of rice husk for rest of three months of the year. The deficit amount is 15806 tonne, therefore surplus amount of husk is sufficient to overcome the deficit amount for 10750 kW steam turbine power plant (Fig.3). Similarly 16432 tonne of surplus husk is sufficient to make up 15752 tonne shortage of husk for 7500 kW gasification power plant (Fig. 4).

At Bogra area, the husk supply is surplus for 9 months and the quantity of surplus amount is 2759 tonne. The deficit amount is 2474 tonne, therefore surplus amount of husk is sufficient to overcome the deficit amount for 5200 kW steam turbine power plant (Fig. 5). Similarly 3174 tonne of surplus husk is sufficient to make up 2335 tonne shortage of husk for 3600 kW gasification power plant (Fig. 6).

At Naogaon area, the husk supply is surplus for 9 months and the quantity of surplus amount is 23235 tonne. Whereas the deficit amount is 21299 tonne, therefore surplus amount of husk is sufficient to overcome the deficit amount for 18250 kW steam turbine power plant (Fig. 7). Similarly 22697 tonne of surplus husk is sufficient to make up 21477 tonne shortage of husk for 12800 kW gasification power plant (Fig. 8).

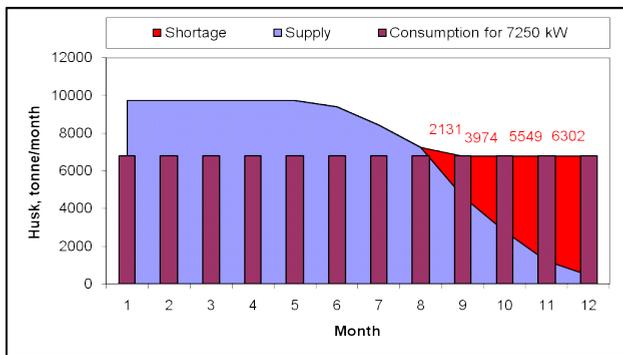


Figure 1. Potential production capacity of electricity at Pulhat for steam turbine plant

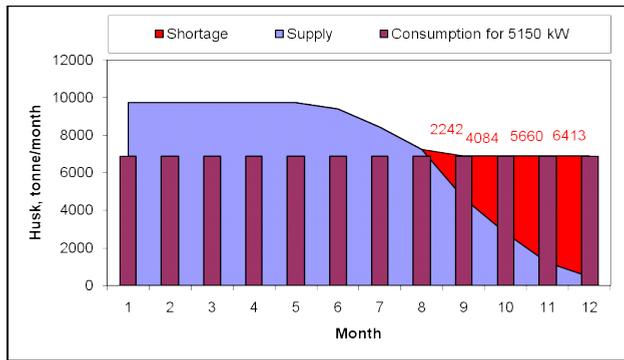


Figure 2. Potential production capacity of electricity at Pulhat for gasification plant

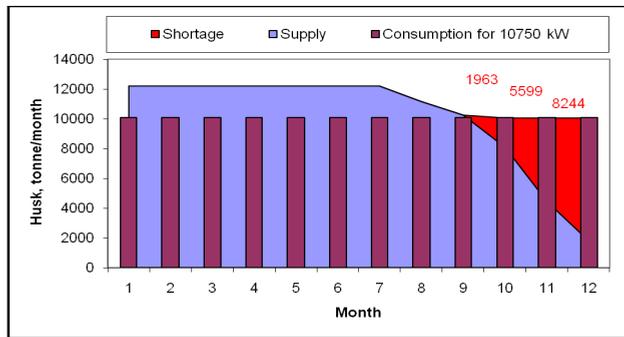


Figure 3. Potential production capacity of electricity at Ishawrdi for steam turbine plant

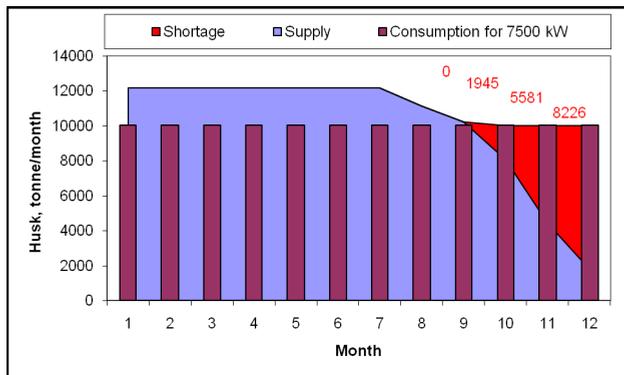


Figure 4. Potential production capacity of electricity at Ishawrdi for gasification plant

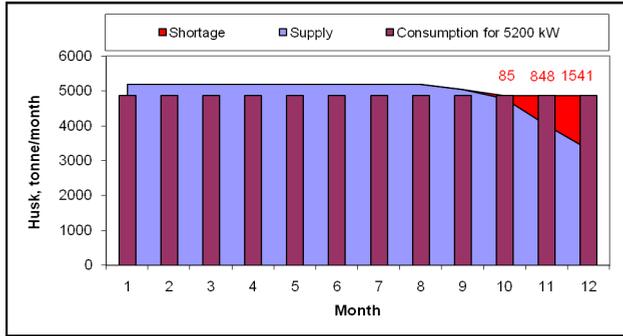


Figure 5. Potential production capacity of electricity at Bogra for steam turbine plant

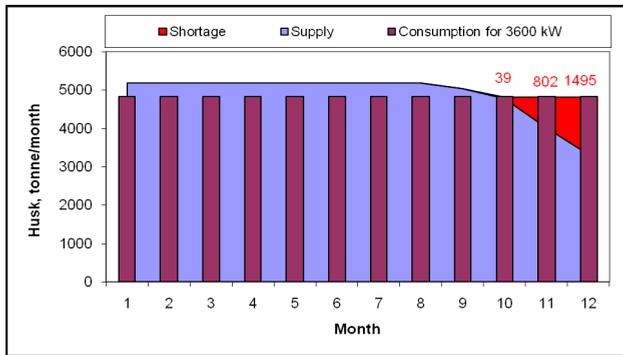


Figure 6. Potential production capacity of electricity at Bogra for gasification plant

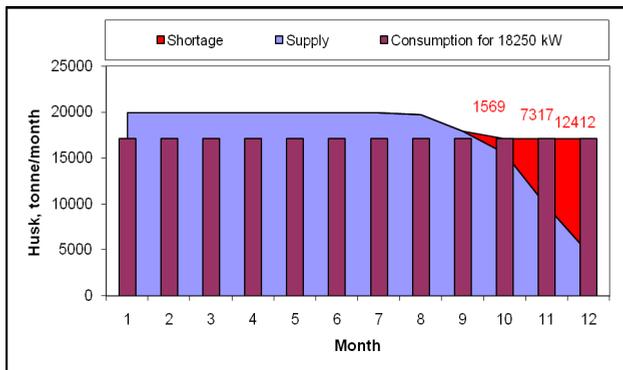
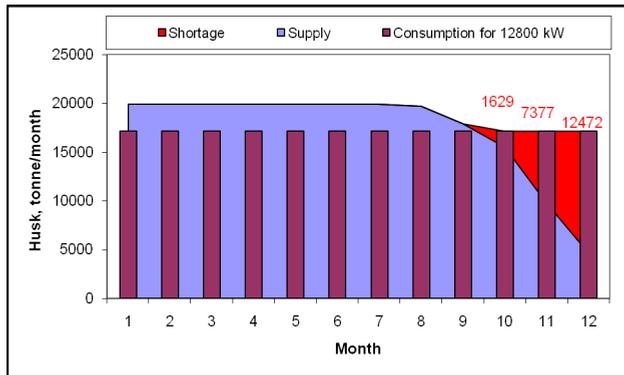


Figure 7. Potential production capacity of electricity at Naogaon for steam turbine plant



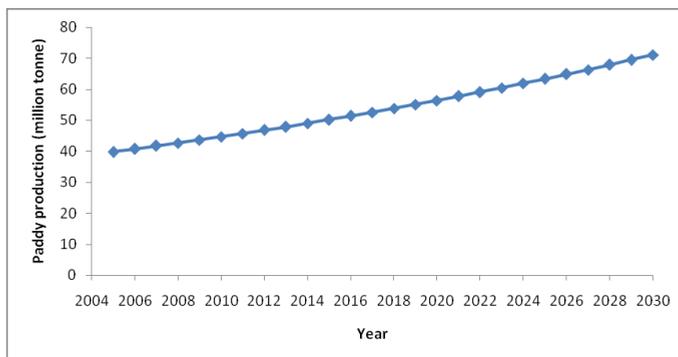
**Figure 8.** Potential production capacity of electricity at Naogaon for gasification plant

### 3.3. Projection of future rice production in Bangladesh

The production of rice is projected using the growth of 2.35%. The growth is calculated from the average growth of rice production data from 1971 to 2009. The projected rice production is increased to 71 million tonne in 2030 (Fig 9).

### 3.4. Rice processing in Bangladesh

All produced paddy is not processed for preparation of food grain. About 5% of total paddy is used as seed for using next growing season. Among the rest of paddy about 70% is processed in local rice mill. The rest 25% of paddy is processed in rural household level. Rice husk is produced as by product in rice mill at the rate of 20% of mass fraction of paddy. The rice husk is primarily consumed for steam producing in parboiling process and drying process of paddy. The rest amount of husk could be an important source of husk based electricity generation plant.



**Figure 9.** Raw rice production scenario in Bangladesh

### 3.5. Husk produced in rice mill

Amount of husk produced in rice mill depends on the amount of paddy processed in mill. Husk produced in rice mill could be increased by increasing the amount of processed paddy in mill. Share of paddy processed in mill is considered 90% of total paddy at the end of 2030 for scenario-1. As a result the husk production is increased from 9.96 million tonne (reference scenario) to 13.16 million tonne (Fig 10).

### 3.6. Husk consumed in rice mill

Husk is consumed primary for steam producing in rice parboiling process. More amount of parboiled paddy consumes more rice husk. At present about 90% of paddy is parboiled process. Therefore major amount of husk is consumed for parboiling of paddy. About 120 kg of husk is consumed for each tonne of paddy parboiled. The husk consumption for parboiling could be reduced from 120 kg to 49 kg for each tonne of paddy parboiled by replacing the traditional boiler with improved boiler. At present all boilers used are traditional type. In scenario-1, it is assumed that 95% of traditional boiler is to be replaced by improved boiler to reduce the husk consumption for parboiled process. The other way to reduce the rice husk consumption is reduction of parboiled coverage as well as enhancement of unparboiled process. The results of husk consumption for two different scenarios are shown in Fig 11. The husk consumption is reduction to 4.56 million tonne (Scenario-1) from 6.47 million tonne (reference).

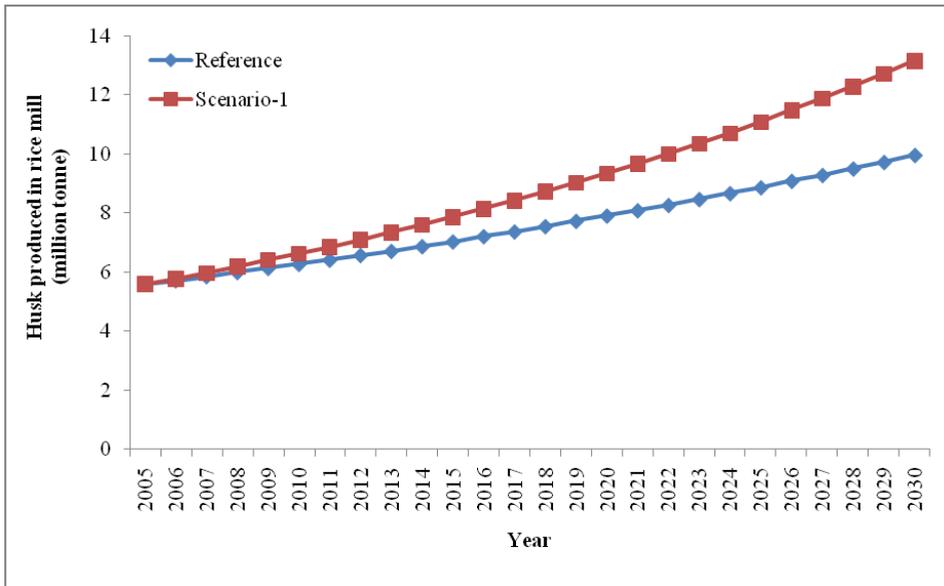
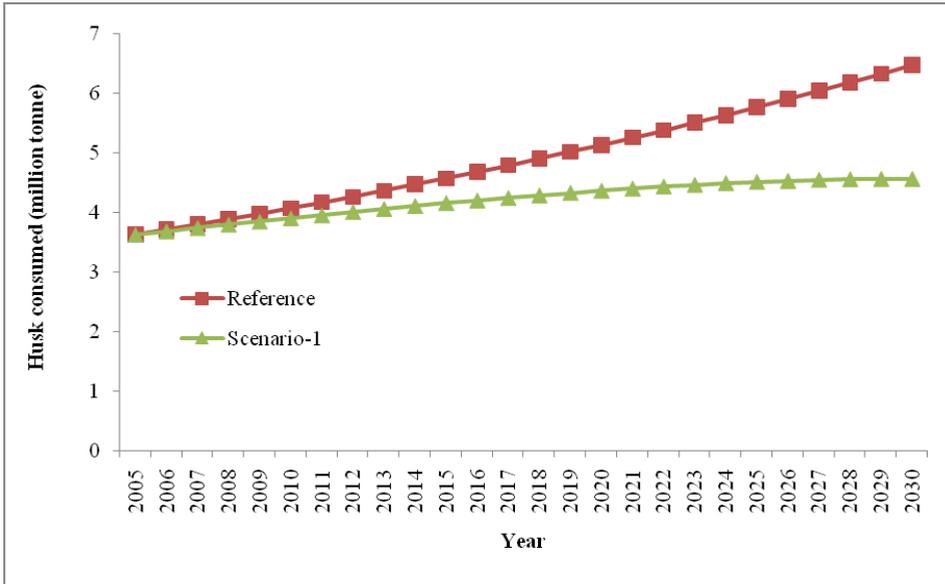


Figure 10. Rice husk production scenario in rice mill



**Figure 11.** Rice husk consumption in rice mill at reference case ad scenario-1

### 3.7. Husk surplus after consumed in rice mill

The surplus amount of husk is calculated deducting the consumed amount of husk from total potential of husk (20% of paddy mass). The surplus amount of husk is increased to 8.60 million tonne (Scenario-1) from 3.49 million tonne (Reference) (Fig 12). The results show that there is huge potential to save rice husk by changing the technology for parboiling.

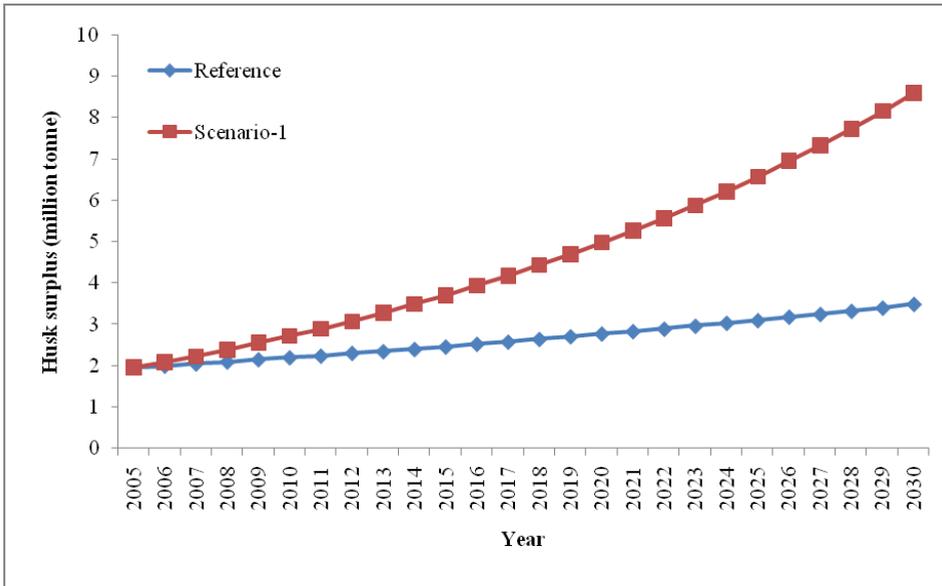


Figure 12. Rice husk surplus from reference case and scenarios-1

### 3.8. Potential of electricity generation from rice husk

Rice husk biomass easily can be used for electricity generation. Amount of electricity generated from rice husk depends on the amount of raw material and type of technology used for energy conversion. There are several technologies for electricity generation from biomass. In the present study steam turbine and gasification technology are considered for estimating the potential of electricity generated from surplus amount of husk from different scenarios. For a steam turbine power plant consumption of rice husk is 1.3 kg per kWh electricity as reported by Singh [7]. On the other hand for a gasification power plant consumption of rice husk is 1.86 kg per kWh electricity generation [8]. Based on this assumption the potential electricity generated from husk is presented in Fig 13 and Fig 14.

Potential electricity generated is estimated to be 1689 GWh (Reference), 2092 GWh (Scenario-1) in 2010 and these values will be increased to 2683 GWh (Reference) and 6612 GWh (Scenario-1) in 2030 for steam turbine technology use (Fig 13).

Potential electricity generated is estimated to be 1180 GWh (Reference) and 1462 GWh (Scenario-1) in 2010 and these values will be increased to 1875 GWh (Reference), 4621 GWh (Scenario-1) in 2030 for gasification technology use (Fig 14). Corresponding power capacities of husk based generation plant are shown in Fig 15 and Fig 16.

Electricity consumption for rice processing in Bangladesh is shown in Fig 17. Amount electricity consumed is estimated to be 812 GWh (Reference) and 891 GWh (Scenario-1) in 2010 and these values will be increased to 1292 GWh (Reference) and 2030 GWh (Scenario-1) in 2030.

The results show that amount of electricity generated from rice husk is sufficient to meet the electricity needed for rice processing purposes. Moreover, surplus amount of electricity could be served to national grid.

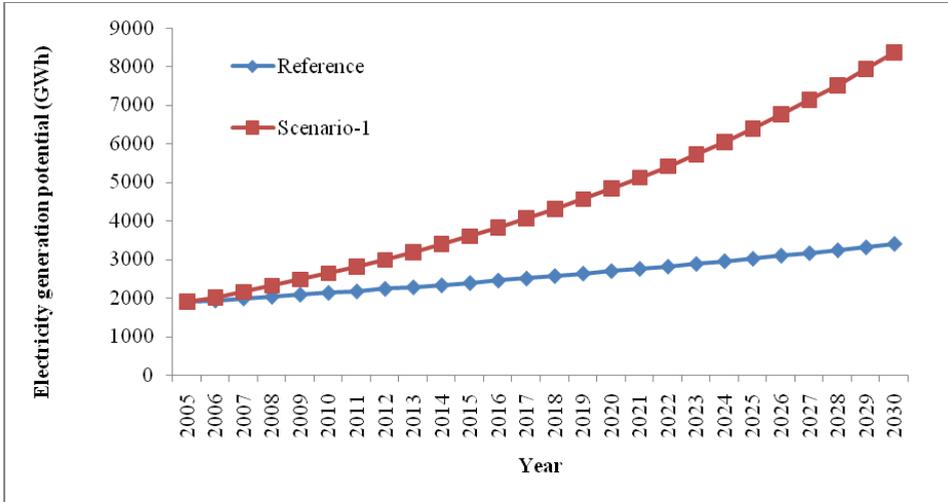


Figure 13. Potential of electricity generation from available rice husk at different scenario for steam turbine technology

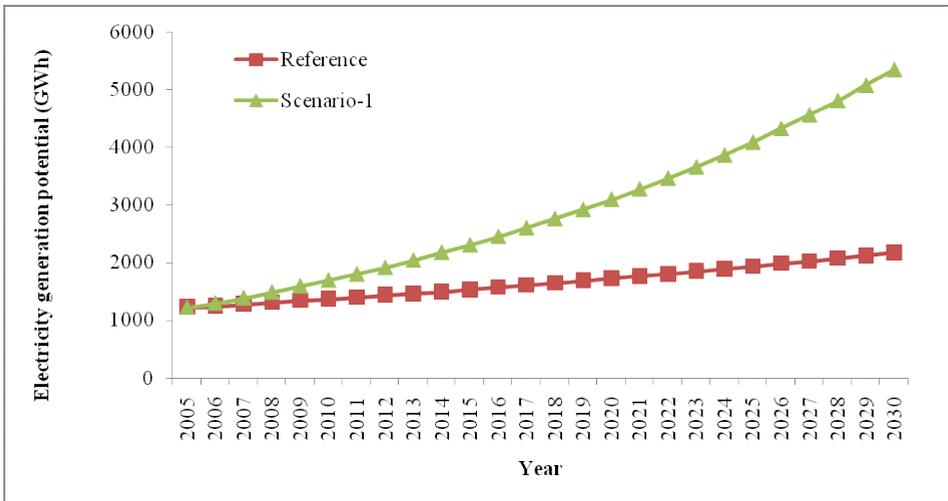


Figure 14. Potential of electricity generation from available husk at different scenarios for gasification based technology

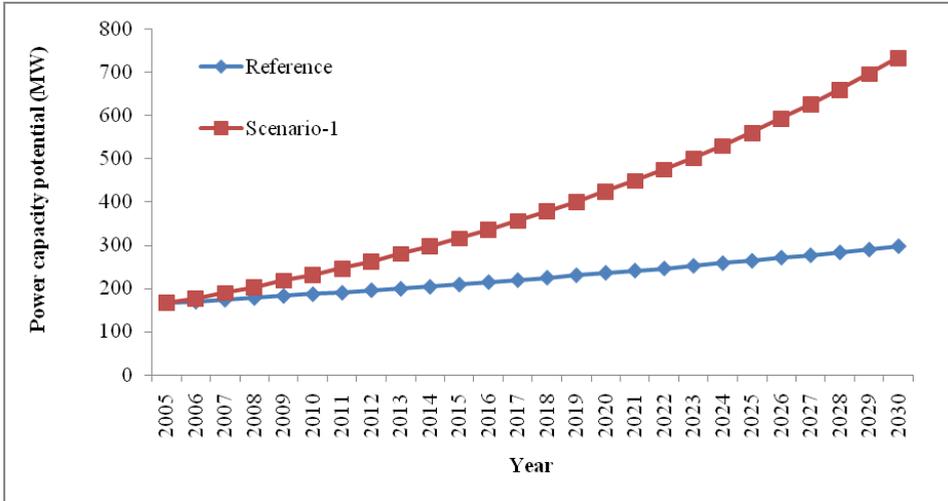


Figure 15. Potential of power capacity from available rice husk at different scenarios for gasification based technology

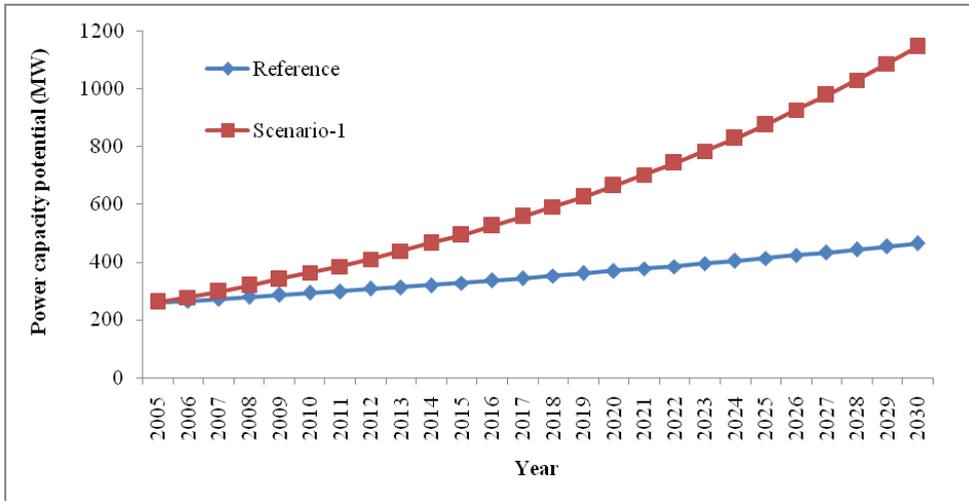


Figure 16. Potential of power capacity from available rice husk at different scenario for steam turbine technology

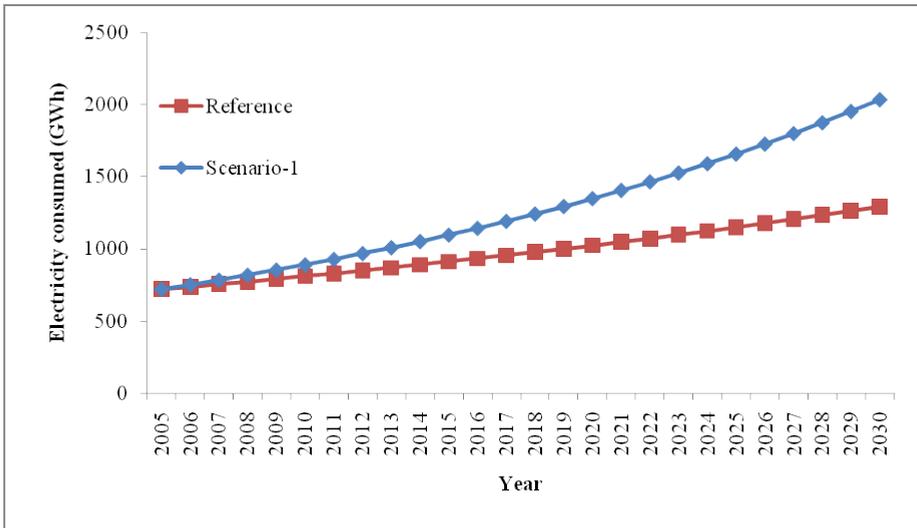


Figure 17. Electricity consumption for rice milling at different scenario

## 4. Conclusion

Power generation from rice husk is modern use of this waste material. The study results conclude that there is a potential to produce electricity from rice husk in selected rice processing zones of Bangladesh. It is estimated that 29 to 41 MW capacity generation plant can be installed in the selected areas based on the available surplus husk after their own consumption. In national context maximum 7682 GWh electricity can be generated from rice husk with a power capacity of 1066 MW in 2030. The amount of electricity generated from rice husk is sufficient to meet the electricity needed for rice processing purposes. Moreover, surplus amount of electricity could be served to national grid.



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