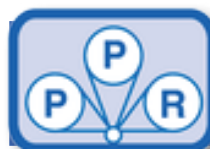


Promising innovations from the 10th Research Forum on Recycling

Editor's Note: In this issue, TAPPI Journal (TJ) once again welcomes the inclusion of exclusive content from Progress in Paper Recycling (PPR). TAPPI thanks Mahendra Doshi and Carl Houtman of the TJ Editorial Board for organizing this content.

– **Monica Shaw,**
Editorial Director



Progress in Paper Recycling

The first Research Forum on Recycling took place in October 1991. Subsequently, the Forum was organized every other year. However, in 2001 organizers felt that researchers needed more time between forums to present new innovations and useful results. In order to maintain the quality of research papers, they decided to hold the Forum every three years, starting with the 7th Forum held in 2004.

At the TAPPI Fiber Recycling Committee meeting in 2012, members questioned whether there was sufficient interest from paper recycling mills and the research community to have the Forum in 2013. Dr. Carl Houtman, scheduled to take over as committee Chair in 2013, agreed to poll prospective contributing researchers and attendees. He and other committee

members were pleasantly surprised with the overwhelmingly positive response. Needless to say, recycling researchers were ready with novel and “cutting-edge research results from around the world,” as stated in the Forum’s program book.

In all, 25 high-quality papers were presented at the 2013 Forum, which culminated with an “Operation Panel” comprised of four highly experienced individuals from recycling mills. Five of the 25 papers are published in this issue of *TAPPI Journal*, while one was published earlier (Lee et al., April 2014) and several more will be published at a later date.

Lessons learned

Whenever I return from a conference, my colleagues will ask: “So what did you learn?” Another may ask: “What do you know now that you did not know before?” My answer is always the same: “We can always learn something new if we keep an open mind.”

Results from a pilot plant study of a new deinking process called Cavitation-Jet Deinking were quite interesting. The Wayne Carr Award winning paper on the topic is published in this issue (p. 19), along with a laboratory study presented at an earlier conference (p. 9), from researchers Goto et al. of Nippon Paper Industries in Japan.

Researchers from Europe, such as Hirsch et al. of Germany on p. 41, continue to emphasize how difficult it is to economically deink large quantities of inkjet printed papers using current technology. It is heartening to know that printer manufacturers are working closely

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with paper recycling researchers to address this issue.

In a deinking mill study presented at the Forum, the importance of soap or surfactant retention time was emphasized. Researchers observed that increasing soap retention time increases air content and reduces bubble size, resulting in increased ink removal, higher brightness, and lower soap carryover.

The measurement of stickies is quite crucial for the efficient and trouble-free operation of paper machines. A new method involving the controlled boiling of a sample to agglomerate and quantify microstickies was presented by researchers Ben et al. of FPInnovations in Canada at the Forum and is published in this issue (p. 27).

Increasing fiber yield is very important to all recycling mills. One possible way to increase yield that was discussed at the Forum involved recovering fibers from screen rejects by dispersed air flotation.

The preceding are just some of the highlights of the 10th Research Forum on Recycling. I strongly urge those who did not attend the Forum to obtain the proceedings from TAPPI to get the full benefit from the variety of topics covered: deinking; process improvement; tack control; microstickies measurement and control; water loop management; test methods; and contaminant removal. **TJ**

Mahendra Doshi, Ph.D., is a member of the TAPPI Journal Editorial Board and founder of Progress in Paper Recycling. Currently, he is president of Doshi & Associates Inc., Appleton, WI, USA. The company is involved in consulting, training, research and publication – all related to paper recycling. Doshi can be reached at mahen@aol.com.

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