

Recent Scenario and Integrated Sustainable Method for CCUS in India



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Abstract

Abstract The Earth's average surface temperature has risen by roughly 1.55°C since the pre-industrial era of 1850–1900, according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO, 2024). Presently, the planet is facing a rapid phase of global warming primarily driven by human-induced carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, a major contributor to climate change and extreme weather phenomena. This research focuses on creating a cost-effective, small-scale prototype to capture CO₂ from stationary sources such as coal-fired power plants, cement manufacturing plants, and steel industries. The captured carbon is then converted into calcium carbonate (CaCO₃), a versatile compound with practical applications in construction, cement production, and as a filler in paper and plastic industries. The method relies on solvent-based absorption—an established post-combustion carbon capture method within the broader Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) paradigm. In addition to capture, the study explores long-term underground geological storage options such as saline aquifers and depleted gas fields, as well as utilization pathways that transform CO₂ into valuable industrial products. This integrated approach not only prevents CO₂ emissions from reaching the atmosphere but also promotes sustainable reuse and permanent containment. The proposed strategy has the potential to contribute significantly to climate mitigation efforts and help India advance toward its Net Zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions target by 2050.

1. Introduction

Carbon Capture, Storage, and Utilization (CCUS) technology which captures carbon and stores it from being released by industries and energy-related fossil burning sources into the air. India is the world's second most populous nation with a rapidly growing economy. Due to the fast increase in global economies and population, which requires a greater energy supply on a worldwide scale, fossil fuels will continue to play an important role. India is the 3rd largest emitter of CO₂ in the world after China and the US (Atanu Mukherjee & Saurav Chatterjee 2022). UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and Department of Science and Technology (DST) in India are aiming to identify emerging research priorities in the area of CCUS. This paper focuses on a more technological method known as the Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage. The impact of climate change is soaring continuously due to the environmental burden accumulated for the past two decades. This technique will evaluate the technological, and environmental aspects of each type of CCUS technology. LCA evaluates the environmental performance of each technology to help in decision-making and reduce the environmental impact. The application of LCA will be useful for product development and improvement, strategic planning and marketing. Since the start of the industrial revolution, global greenhouse gas emissions have been increasing, and the greenhouse effect has become more and more serious. Climate change has become a serious challenge to be faced. According to statistics, CO₂ is the main gas causing the greenhouse effect, accounting for more than 70% of the global greenhouse gas, and the rest are methane, nitrous oxide, and various fluorinated gases. Carbon capture technologies rely mainly on two basic principles, chemical absorption and physical separation. Both constitute the basis of technologies that are well-known in the oil and gas industry for natural gas processing such as amine solvents and solid adsorbents. The technologies focusing on CO₂ removal before combustion are classified as Pre combustion capture technologies, the most advanced ones, present in the Oil and Gas industry. Post-combustion captures technologies, on the other hand, focus on CO₂ removal from flue gas, where the concentration of CO₂ is lower, a challenge that recent technology developments have been focusing on to overcome in an increasingly efficient manner. Lastly, oxyfuel combustion focuses on modifying the combustion process so that the flue gas has a high concentration of CO₂ to enable an easier separation (Alphen et al.2009). India is the 3rd largest emitter of CO₂ in the world after China and the US (Atanu Mukherjee & Saurav Chatterjee 2022), with estimated annual emissions of about 2.6 gigatonne per annum (gtpa). The Government of India has committed to reducing CO₂ emissions by 50% by 2050 and reaching net zero by 2070 (Atanu Mukherjee & Saurav Chatterjee 2022). The growth of renewable power capacity has been one of the key success stories of the clean energy transition in India; however, the power sector only contributes to about 1/3rd of the aggregate CO₂ emissions, which will continue to abate as renewables increasingly replace fossil fuel-based power generation.

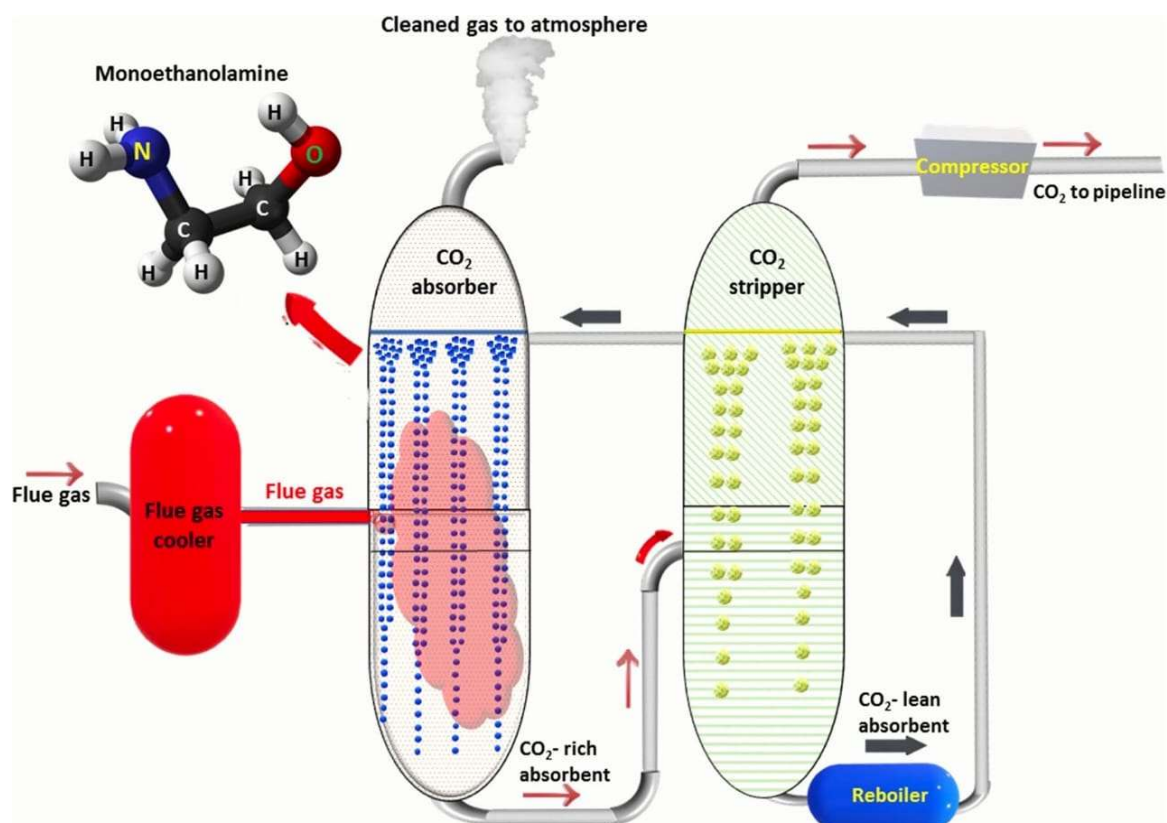


Fig.1 A simple Process of Capturing Carbon Dioxide (Osman et al., 2020).

World Metrological Organization (WMO) reported that 2023 was the warmest year on record globally, with the global average near-surface temperature at 1.45 ± 0.12 °C above the pre-industrial baseline (1850-1900) (WMO 2023)”. Let’s see the variation of concentration of carbon dioxide with the help of a graph of last some years provided by WMO.

The report suggests that carbon dioxide (CO₂), a major greenhouse gas, is a significant driver of this warming. By examining the variation in CO₂ concentration over the last several years (using data from the WMO), we can better understand how this greenhouse gas has contributed to the warming trend. A graph of the CO₂ concentration data would visually show how CO₂ levels have been changing in recent years.

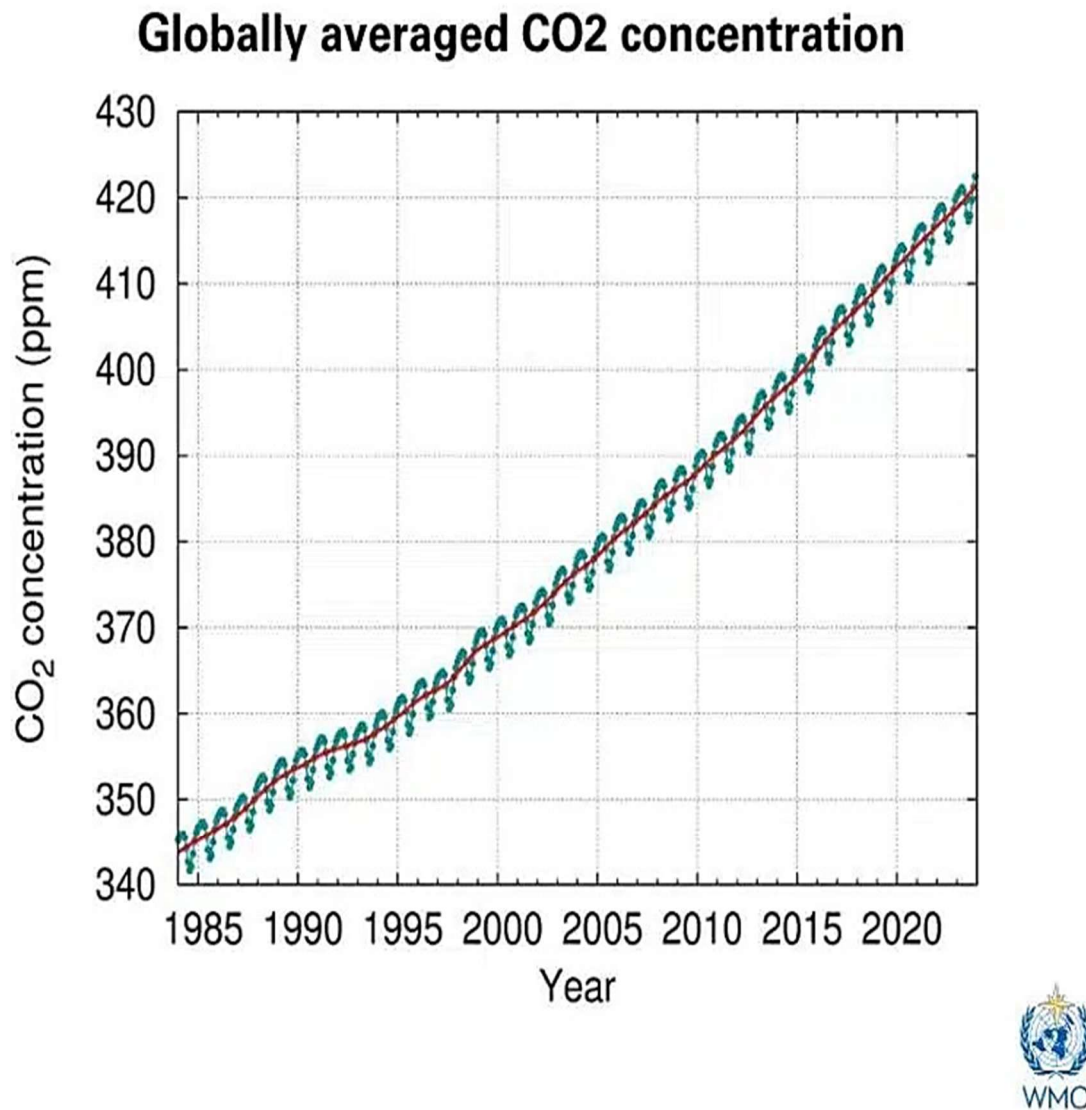


Fig.2 Variation Of Concentration Of CO₂ (WMO Report 2023).

1.1 Problem Statements

The world is facing increasingly extreme weather and climate events, including rising temperatures and fewer cold days. One of the major drivers of climate change is the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs), particularly from the burning of fossil fuels for energy. Among these, carbon dioxide (CO₂) is a key contributor.

1.2 Objective of Study

This project is focused on exploring practical and affordable solutions for capturing and using carbon dioxide (CO₂) on a small scale. With growing concerns about climate change and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the project aims to design a low-cost experimental setup that can effectively capture CO₂ from the atmosphere or other sources. It will investigate simple and efficient capture methods that are suitable for small-scale use, making them accessible for educational, research, or local applications. In addition, the project will demonstrate how the captured CO₂ can be put to good use in various practical ways, instead of letting it go to

waste. Finally, it will assess the environmental impact of these techniques and how they can contribute to reducing overall carbon emissions. The main objectives of the project are:

1. To develop a low-cost, small-scale experimental setup for capturing carbon dioxide.
2. To investigate efficient and affordable carbon capture techniques suitable for small-scale applications.
3. To demonstrate practical methods for utilizing captured CO₂ in various applications.
4. To assess the environmental benefits of CO₂ capture and utilization in reducing carbon emissions.

2. Theoretical background

To achieve the Paris Agreement target of keeping the global temperature rise well below 2°C—and ideally limiting it to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels—a significant and fundamental transformation of the industrial sector will be necessary. The UK and India, as signatories to the Paris Agreement, have committed to reaching net-zero emissions—by 2050 for the UK and by 2070 for India. Both nations understand that Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) will play a key role in achieving these targets.

2.1 Current scenario in India

India is the 3rd largest emitter of CO₂ in the world after China and the US. The Government of India has committed to reducing CO₂ emissions by 50% by 2050 and reaching net zero by 2070. CCUS technology in India is at initial stage. Currently only 8 R and D institutions leading the CCUS research in India i.e, IIT Bombay, National Chemical Laboratory, IIT Delhi, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute. CCUS technology provides a good solution against the global climate change (Sun et al.2017). India's CO₂ emissions in 2023 were 2.8 Gt (2.8 billion metric tons) (IEA Report 2023).

2.2 Capture Technologies

Carbon capture technologies work mainly in two ways: using chemicals to absorb CO₂ or using physical methods to separate it. These methods are already used in the oil and gas industry, especially in natural gas processing, with tools like amine solvents and solid materials that trap gases (Li et al.2018). There are three main types of carbon capture: -

1. **Pre-combustion capture** – This removes CO₂ before burning the fuel. It's the most advanced method and is already used in the oil and gas industry.
2. **Post-combustion capture** – This takes CO₂ out of the gases released after burning fuel. Since CO₂ levels are lower in these gases, it's more challenging, but new technologies are making it more effective.
3. **Oxyfuel combustion** – This changes the way fuel is burned so that the gases released have more CO₂, making it easier to separate and capture.

method is aimed at reducing CO₂ emissions in different ways. Depending on when and how the gas is captured. These are the main types-Each

- **Solvents:** This is the most common method used today. CO₂ is absorbed into a liquid, either through a chemical reaction or by physical means. The most popular solvents are based on amines, which are widely used in industry.
- **Solid Adsorbents:** CO₂ gas moves through a container filled with solid materials that can capture it. These materials work best at high pressure. Once they are full, they are cleaned and reused by either heating them (called Temperature Swing Adsorption or TSA) or by lowering the pressure (called Pressure Swing Adsorption or PSA).
- **Membranes:** CO₂ is separated from other gases using a thin barrier called a membrane. This membrane lets CO₂ pass through more easily than other gases, helped by pressure differences on each side.

2.3 Utilization Technologies

Once CO₂ is captured, it can either be stored or used. It can be used directly in different industries, or it can be used as a raw material to make other chemicals and products. Direct and indirect use of captured CO₂ are-

- **Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR):** CO₂ is injected into underground oil and gas fields to help extract more oil. This is the most common way captured CO₂ is used today. (IEA, 2019b)
- **Other Uses:** High-purity CO₂ is used in various industries. It's used in food production (like carbonating drinks), in medical applications, and as a cooling fluid in factories. It also works as a cleaning solvent (such as in dry cleaning or for removing caffeine from coffee). CO₂ can also help plants grow faster in greenhouses and algae farms.
- **Chemicals and Polymers:** The main use of CO₂ in chemicals is to make urea, which is produced during ammonia manufacturing. CO₂ can also be turned into building blocks (monomers) for making plastics like polycarbonates. Another method involves using microbes to convert CO₂ into useful chemicals. (IEA, 2019b)

- **Fuels Production:** CO₂ can be combined with hydrogen to produce methanol, which can then be made into different fuels. In another process, CO₂ is first converted into carbon monoxide (using the reverse water-gas shift reaction) and then combined with hydrogen through Fischer–Tropsch synthesis to create gasoline, diesel, and other fuels. (Styring and Dowson, 2021).

2.4 Storage & Transport Technologies

CO₂ can be stored by injecting it deep underground into places like saline aquifers or old oil and gas reservoirs. In these spaces, the CO₂ is trapped under layers of rock because it is lighter than the surrounding fluids—this is called structural trapping. Over time, some of the CO₂ can also slowly react with the rocks and turn into solid minerals, helping to keep it safely stored for the long term.

Captured CO₂ can be transported using pipelines, trucks, road way or ships. Pipelines are the most widely used and cost-effective method for large-scale CO₂ transport, particularly over short to medium distances. Before transport, CO₂ is typically compressed into a supercritical state, which improves efficiency and reduces volume. The choice of transportation method depends on the distance, volume, and specific infrastructure available. Large-scale CO₂ transportation generally uses pipelines (Zhang et al.213).

3. Experimental Setup and Methodology

At Saharsa Engineering College, Saharsa, we developed a model for capturing carbon dioxide from stationary sources such as coal power plants, cement factories, and steel plants. The equipment and setup required for developing this model are described below.

3.1 Equipment's Required

- Source of CO₂ (ex-coal)
- Mono ethanolamine (C₂H₇NO)
- A small exhaust pump.
- Ca (OH)₂ (Lime Water)
- Three Containers (Reactor, Adverse Reactor and Limewater Container).
- Induction Stove

Coal:

Coal is a combustible black or brownish-black sedimentary rock composed mostly of carbon, along with hydrogen, sulfur, oxygen, and nitrogen. It forms from the remains of ancient vegetation that accumulated in swamps and peat bogs millions of years ago.



Table 1: Different types of coal and percentages of carbon contents.

Fig.3 Coal

Type	Carbon Content	Moisture	Heat Content	Use
Peat	~55%	High	Low	Fuel in some regions
Lignite	25–35%	Very high	Low	Electricity generation
Sub-bituminous	35–45%	Moderate	Medium	Electricity generation
Bituminous	45–86%	Low	High	Power and steel industries
Anthracite	86–97%	Very low	Very high	Heating and metallurgy

Mono ethanolamine (C_2H_7NO): Mono ethanolamine (MEA) is an organic compound with the chemical formula C_2H_7NO or $HO-CH_2CH_2-NH_2$. It is also called:

- Ethanolamine
- 2-Aminoethanol

It has both an amine group ($-NH_2$) and a hydroxyl group ($-OH$), making it both an alcohol and a primary amine.

MEA in Carbon Capture:

- MEA is one of the most commonly used solvents in carbon capture and storage (CCS) systems: CO_2 reacts with MEA to form carbamate, which is later heated to release pure CO_2 for sequestration.
- MEA-based systems are used in post-combustion CO_2 capture from power plants. However, MEA has drawbacks:
- Corrosive nature
- Degradation at high temperatures
- Energy-intensive regeneration
- Newer amines and blends are being developed to overcome these issues.

A small exhaust pump:

This is the motor which is used for mixing the fuel gas with mono ethanolamine in reactor. The motor sucks the fuel gas from one end from the chimney and throw from other end with pressure so that fuel gas easily mixes with the solvent that is mono ethanol amine.

Cyclonic Separator:

This is the cyclonic separator. The main function of cyclonic separator is to remove dust coming with fuel gas. It is used just before the reactor.

Reactor:

This is the reactor which contains mono ethanol amine (C_2H_7NO). In this container carbon dioxide present in fuel gas only react with mono ethanol amine and make carbon dioxide reach solvent.

Adverse Reactor:

This is adverse reactor, the carbon dioxide rich solvent allows to move in adverse reactor, where by heating it at $120^\circ C$ to $130^\circ C$ an adverse reaction is happened in which carbon dioxide separated from carbon dioxide rich solvent.

Lime Water Container:

This is the lime water container which contains lime water $Ca(OH)_2$. The carbon dioxide separated in adverse reactor is allow to move in lime water container, where it reacts with lime water and make water and very useful product calcium carbonate ($CaCO_3$) which make the water milky in color.

Induction Stove

This is the Induction stove which is used to heat the adverse reactor so that adverse reaction will happen.



Fig.9 Lime water container



Fig.10 Induction stove



Fig.4 C_2H_7NO



Fig.5 small exhaust pump



Fig. 6 Cyclonic Separator



Fig.7 Reactor



Fig.8 Adverse Reactor

3.2 Methodology

Flow Chart for the adopted methodology

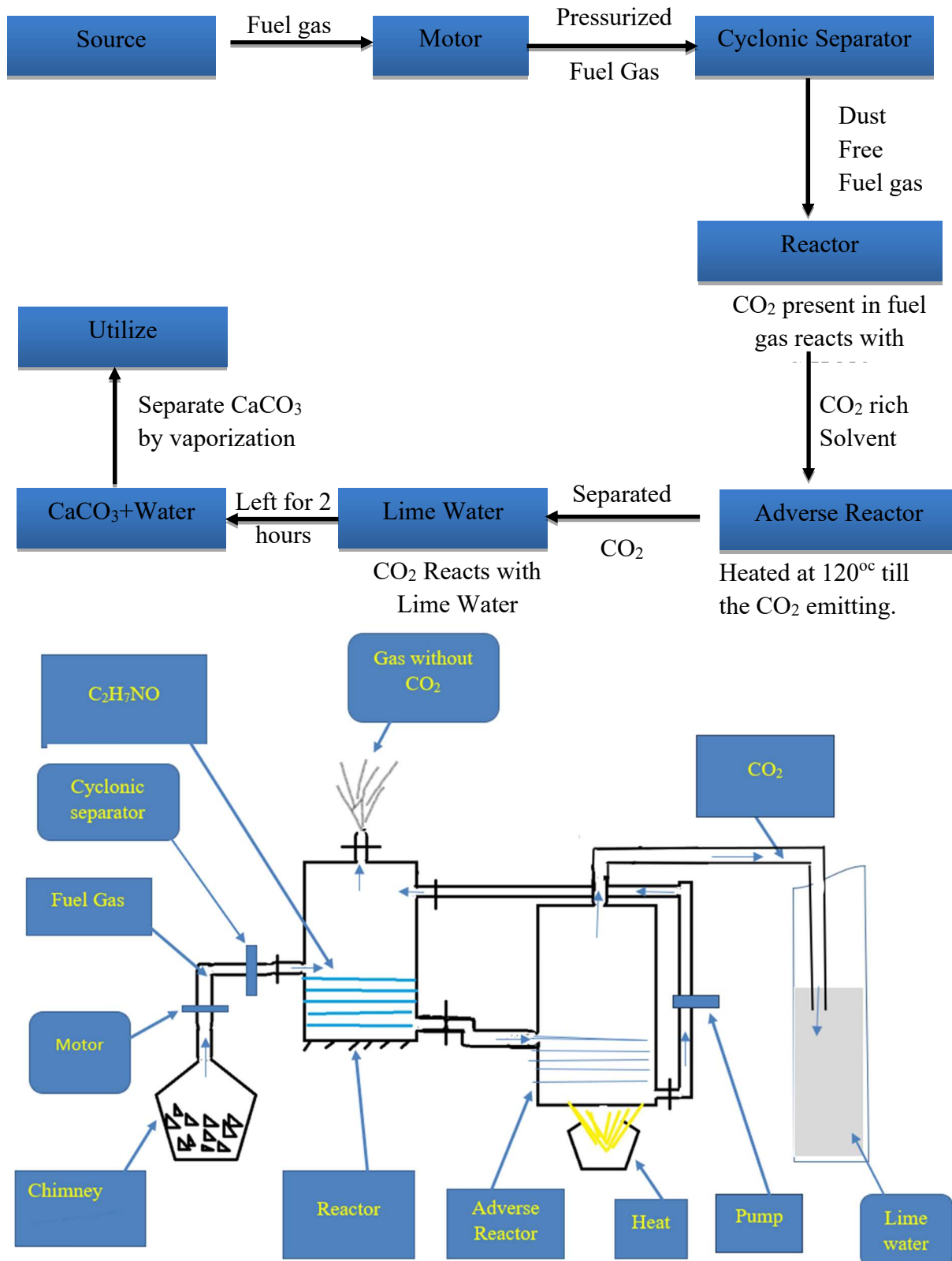


Fig.10 Flow Chart of Proposed Methodology

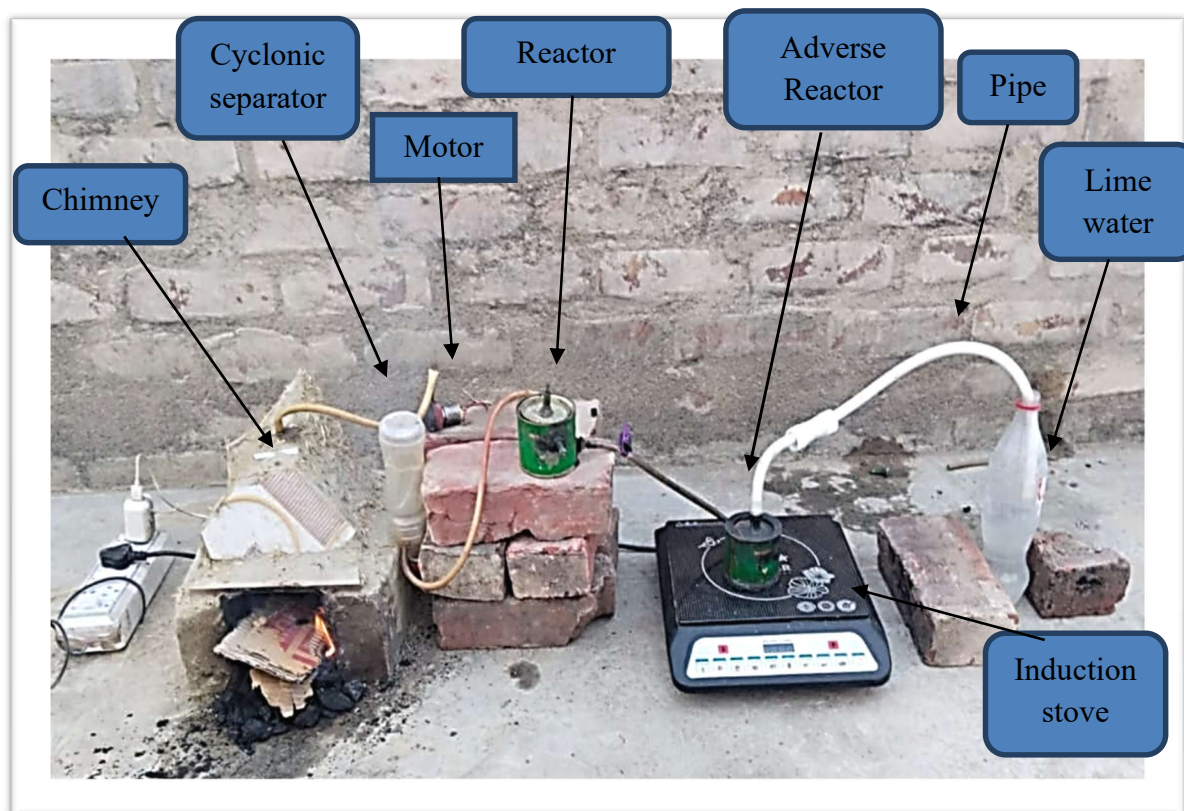


Fig.12 Final Experiment Setup for CCUS at Saharsa College of Engineering Saharsa

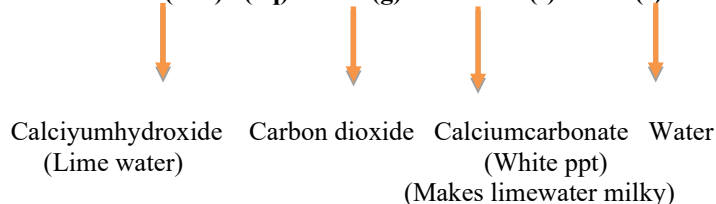
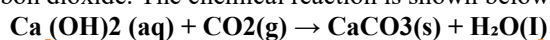
3.3 Different Steps should be Flowed for Experimental setup

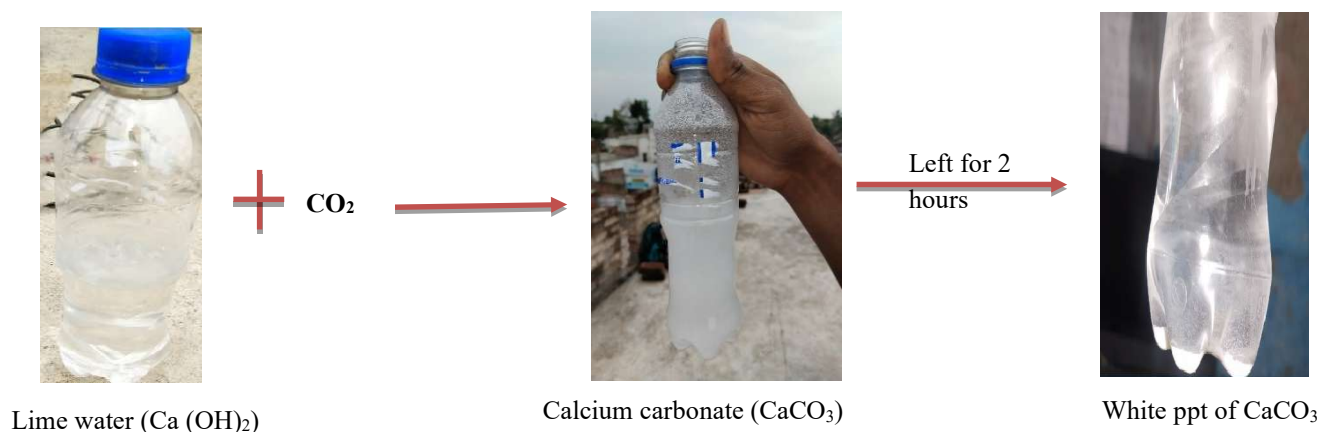
1. Set up the equipment as shown in flow chart.
2. Pour mono-ethanolamine (C_2H_7NO) in reactor.
3. Transfer the fuel gas to reactor from source.
4. In reactor mono-ethanolamine react with CO_2 and other gases remove in atmosphere.
5. Reacted CO_2 rich solvent transfer in adverse-reactor.
6. Further heat the adverse-reactor at $110^{\circ}C$ to $130^{\circ}C$ so that reaction will reverse i.e., CO_2 will separate from the solvent.
7. Separated CO_2 is further allowed to flow in lime water content container.
8. Carbon dioxide reacts with lime water and forms calcium carbonate (s) and water (l), due to calcium carbonate become milky as shown in figure 4.11
9. Left the carbon dioxide (CO_2) reacted lime water for an hour.
10. Whipt ppt of calcium carbonate ($CaCO_3$) is settled down figure 4.11
11. Separate the calcium carbonate and further use for different purposes such as building material, in medical field, used in manufacturing of paints, paper and plastic ...etc.

3.4 Lime Water Test of Carbon Dioxide (CO_2)

Processes:

- a. Allow the separated gas to mix with lime water properly.
- b. If the colour of lime water changes from colour less to milky colour, then it is verified that separated gas is nothing but carbon dioxide. The chemical reaction is shown below.



**Fig.13 Reaction of lime water with CO_2** **4. Data Collection and Analysis**

Now we are sharing the data which are calculated during the experiment work regarding Capturing and Utilizing the carbon dioxide present in fuel gas. The implementation of CCUS technology involves a comprehensive approach to data collection, calculation, and analysis to ensure efficiency, safety, and sustainability.

Table 2: Collection of Data During Experiment

Experiment no.	Quantity of coal(g)	Quantity of mono ethanol amine ($\text{C}_2\text{H}_7\text{NO}$) (ml)	Quantity Of lime water (Ca(OH)_2) (ml)	Generated calcium carbonate (CaCO_3) (g)
01	200	100	200	47.5
02	250	100	250	70
03	300	125	250	90
04	350	150	300	105
05	400	175	325	120
06	450	200	400	140
07	500	250	450	157.5

This table shows the variation of requirements of quantity of mono ethanolamine for the certain amount of coal used in industries.

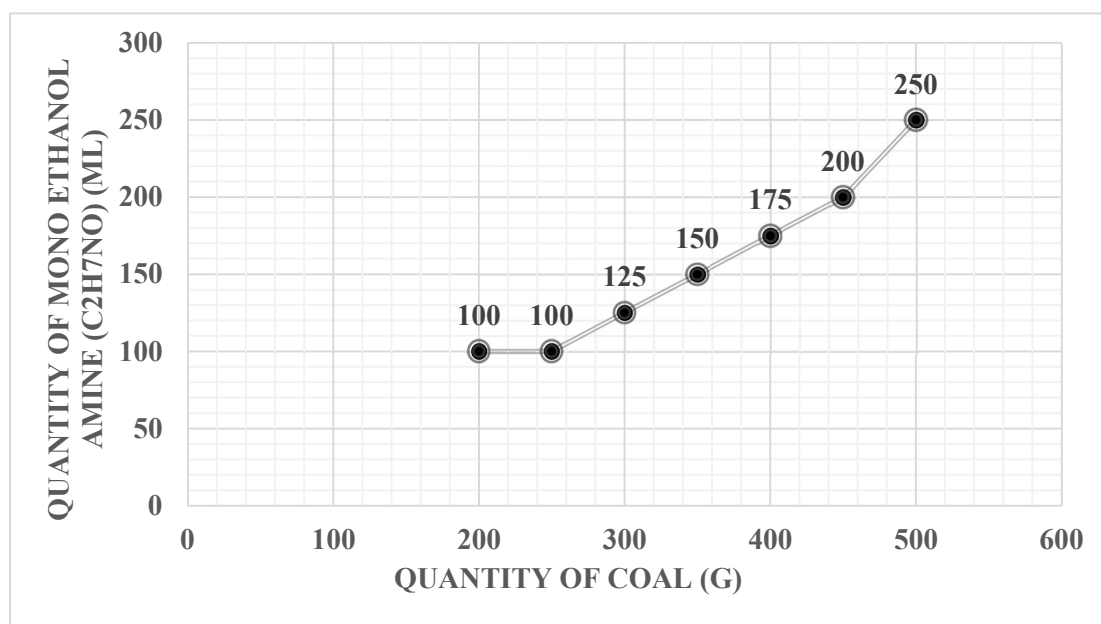


Fig.14 Variation of C₂H₇NO with Coal.

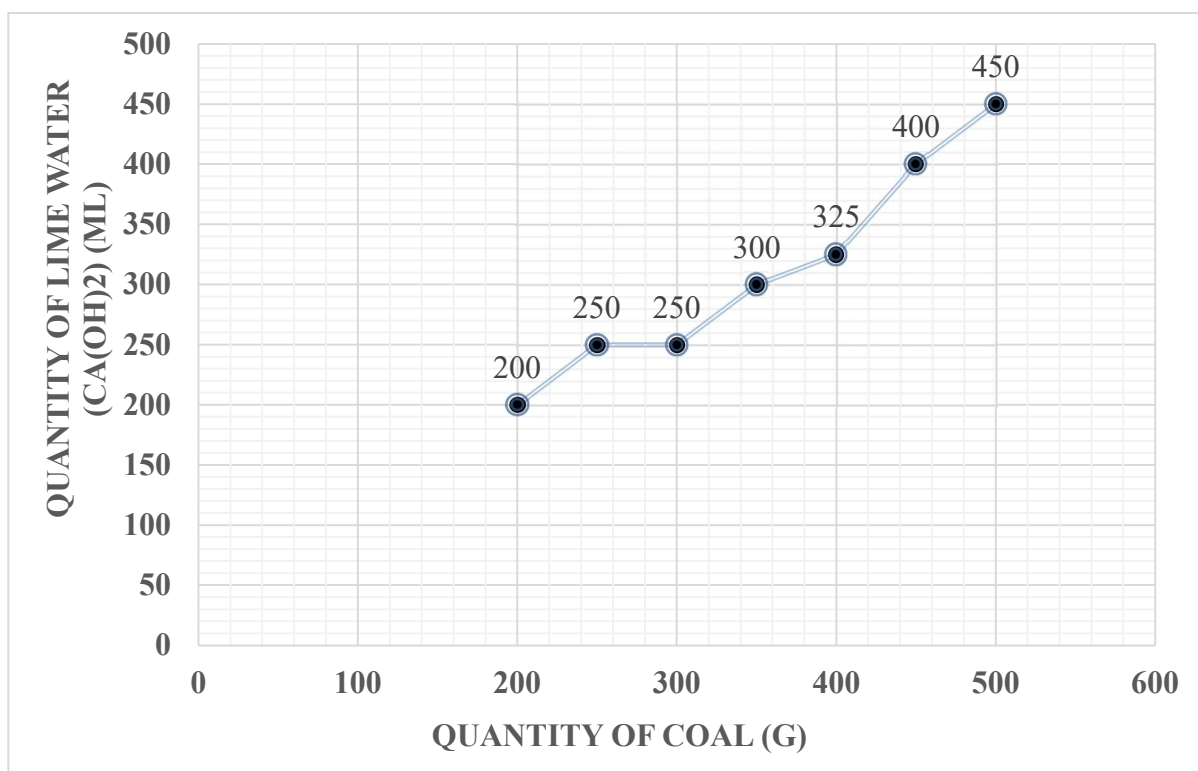


Fig.15 Variation of Ca (OH)₂ with Coal.

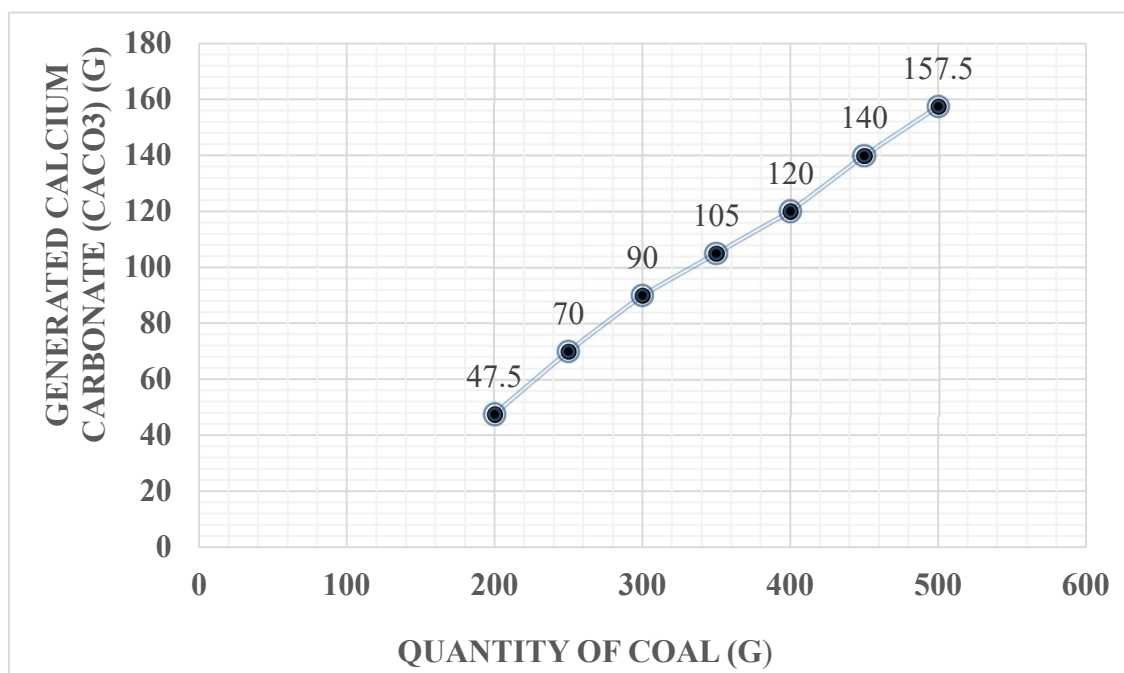


Fig.16 Variation of CaCO₃ with Coal.

5. Results And Discussion

We have performed the experiment on carbon capture utilization and storage at Saharsa engineering college Saharsa during Project Works, the results and discussion of these experiences are After detail study and experiment on carbon capture storage and utilization (CCUS) technology we find out a very simple and economical process to separate carbon dioxide from fuel gas which is emitting from the source of carbon dioxide such as cement factory ,steel factory, coal power plant , paper industries , bricks manufacturing plant etc and the process to converting the main and very dangerous gas carbon dioxide which is the main cause of Global Warming into very useful product Calcium Carbonate (CaCO₃), which can be used in different sectors for different purpose.

As we see in methodology from figure (13) Colour of lime water changed from color less to milky colour which verified that separated gas is nothing but carbon dioxide. and from the acid test we verified that the ppt is nothing but calcium carbonate. During the experiment period total used material and produced calcium carbonate are shown in table 3.

Table 3: Total Used Material and Produced Calcium Carbonate

Quantity of coal (kg)	Quantity of mono ethanol amine (C ₂ H ₇ NO) (ml)	Quantity Of lime water (Ca (OH) ₂) (ml)	Generated calcium carbonate (CaCO ₃) (g)
2.4	500	2175	50

When we focus on current situation of environment of India particularly in Bihar we observe that the environment very fluctuated within last some decades , we observe that in every season extreme weather condition is occurred , currently we can see the temperature of Bihar is 42°C to 44°C occurred even in the month of April and May which is very more . When we try to see the record of WMO (World Meteorological Organisation) regarding temperature 1 decades back we will see that rarely temperature goes up to 35 to 38°C in the month of June – July which is the month of highest temperature in India particularly in Bihar. The point of discussion is that why this change occurred , if this changing will continue what will happen after 1 decades .This question and this problem attracts all the thinkers and environmentalists. To control this change of environment government has also taken many steps like “ National Mission for Green India” etc.

These all problems are happened due to Greenhouse gases mainly due to excess amount of carbon dioxide present in atmosphere. According to WMO the normal percentage of carbon dioxide in atmosphere should not be more than 400 parts per million (ppm) or 0.04%, according to WMO report 2023 the percentage of carbon dioxide is 420 ppm or 0.042% which are highest values in last decades. “The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) reported that 2023 was the warmest year on record globally, with the global average near-surface temperature at

1.45 ± 0.12 °C above the pre-industrial baseline (1850-1900) (WMO 2023)” Lets see the variation of concentration of carbon dioxide with the help of a graph of last some years provided by WMO. The study of Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) reveals promising yet complex outcomes across various applications and technologies. The results highlight that CCUS can significantly reduce CO₂ emissions from major industrial sources, including power plants, cement production, and steel manufacturing, by capturing up to 90% of CO₂ emissions before they reach the atmosphere. Pilot and large-scale projects worldwide demonstrate capture efficiencies ranging between 85% and 95%, depending on the capture technology employed (e.g., post-combustion, pre-combustion, or oxy-fuel combustion).

5.1 Sustainable Management

This analysis shows that the ideal plant for this application has two specific characteristics; (1) high CO₂ purity so that further purification is not required; and (2) large amounts of CO₂ available (Zoelle et al. 2014). Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is considered one of many emerging strategies essential in the global effort to meet the dual challenge of providing affordable and reliable energy while addressing rising greenhouse gas emissions, particularly anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere, which are the most significant (Hoffman et al. 2023). For the end consumers of petroleum products, which include end products such as gasoline, fuel oil, aviation kerosene, diesel fuel, lubricants, oils, bitumen, petrochemical raw materials, coke, etc., the quality of the refined oil is important. Therefore, the value of oil products is entirely dependent on the quality of the refining of crude oil (Rauth et al. 2023).

Sustainable management of captured carbon dioxide involves long-term storage in geological formations or its conversion into stable, value-added products. It emphasizes minimizing environmental risks, ensuring safe containment, and integrating carbon utilization into circular economy practices. This approach supports climate goals by reducing atmospheric CO₂ while creating economic opportunities. Sustainable management of CCUS (Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage) technology involves optimizing capture efficiency, ensuring safe and permanent CO₂ storage, and promoting the use of CO₂ in value-added products. It requires strong regulatory frameworks, continuous monitoring, and integration with renewable energy to minimize the overall environmental impact and support long-term climate goals.

1. Scalability and Flexibility: Designing CCUS systems that can be scaled up or adapted to various industrial settings to meet changing climate and economic needs.
2. Carbon Accounting and Certification: Implementing systems for tracking, reporting, and certifying the amount of CO₂ captured, utilized, and stored to ensure transparency and accountability.
3. Collaboration and Partnerships: Fostering collaboration between governments, industries, and research institutions to share knowledge, reduce costs, and accelerate deployment.
4. Energy Efficiency: Ensuring that CCUS processes are energy-efficient and ideally powered by renewable sources to maximize their climate benefits.
5. Environmental Safeguards: Conducting thorough environmental impact assessments and protecting ecosystems near storage or utilization sites.
6. Job Creation and Skill Development: Promoting green jobs and training programs to build a skilled workforce for CCUS industries.
7. Long-term Vision: Aligning CCUS development with national and global climate targets such as net-zero emissions by mid-century.

6. Conclusions

In an effort to mitigate extreme climate change, slow the progression of global warming, reduce atmospheric CO₂ concentrations, and support environmental goals—including the government’s target of achieving zero carbon emissions by 2050—we conducted an in-depth study on Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) technology. This research was carried out at Saharsa College of Engineering, Saharsa, Bihar, where a working model was developed and a series of experiments were performed. Based on our comprehensive study, experimental work, and data analysis, we arrived at the following conclusions:

- 1) A low-cost, small scale experimental setup has been successfully developed for the capture of carbon dioxide (CO₂).
- 2) The setup is designed to be versatile, making it suitable for both large-scale industrial applications (such as coal-fired power plants, cement factories, and steel industries) and small-scale operations (including rice mills, utensil manufacturing, and brick production units).
- 3) The captured CO₂ exhibits high purity, eliminating the need for further purification before use.
- 4) Captured CO₂ can be stored either underground or in suitable cylinders for future utilization.
- 5) The captured CO₂ has been effectively converted into a valuable product marble powder or calcium carbonate (CaCO₃).
- 6) The synthesized CaCO₃ can be utilized across various industries: as a key ingredient in cement manufacturing, a filler and coating pigment in the paper industry, a filler material in plastic production, a building material, and even in the medical field for multiple applications.

- 7) This technology contributes to mitigating global warming and climate change by preventing the release of 7.67 million tonnes CO₂ per day into the atmosphere.

By taking this step, we are not only contributing to the fight against climate change but also working to protect the environment and preserve the lives of various endangered species—such as the Indian vulture, mynah, sparrow, crow, polar bear, and many others—that are gradually disappearing. These efforts support the broader goal of restoring ecological balance and maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) technology represents a vital tool in the global strategy to address climate change. By capturing carbon dioxide emissions from industrial sources and power plants, and either reusing them in industrial applications or storing them securely underground, CCUS can significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions.

This technology is particularly essential in hard-to-abate sectors like cement and steel production, where reducing emissions through traditional methods is more challenging. However, the large-scale deployment of CCUS is not without obstacles. High implementation costs, substantial energy demands, and the need for strict regulatory oversight to ensure safe storage present significant challenges.

Despite these barriers, ongoing research, supportive government policies, and collaboration between the public and private sectors can drive improvements in efficiency and cost-effectiveness. When combined with renewable energy and other sustainable practices, CCUS has the potential to play a crucial role in achieving net-zero emission goals and promoting a more sustainable industrial future.

Conflict of Interest

The authors state that there are no conflicts of interest related to this study.

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