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Development of the concept of a bioethanol plant based on the biopalping technology platform

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Abstract

Modern methods for the production of motor bioethanol are focused mainly on the processing of agricultural waste, while the production of "cellulosic" bioethanol from wood remains an unsolved problem. The technologies for processing wheat straw implemented on an industrial scale are based on the use of a steam explosion for the pretreatment of raw materials. A high-temperature effect on wood under conditions of a steam explosion can lead to partial condensation of residual lignin and the formation of products of its pyrolysis, which will complicate the subsequent conversion of cellulose into fermentable sugars. For this reason, the use of a steam explosion for pretreatment of wood can lead to an increase in the consumption of enzyme preparations, an increase in the cost of the target product and a decrease in its competitiveness in comparison with bioethanol obtained from straw. Probably, biopalping technology will be more preferable for wood pretreatment, which does not require complex equipment and harsh processing conditions. This article compares the key technological and technical and economic characteristics of the existing steam explosion technology and the promising biopalping technology. Based on tests of a prototype preparation for biopalping of aspen wood, the possibility of a significant reduction in the duration of solid-phase fermentation of aspen wood in comparison with known biodelignifiers has been shown. In contrast to the steam explosion technology, after biopalping of aspen wood pulp, a higher efficiency of its conversion into fermentable sugars is achieved with a lower (not less than 30%) consumption of enzymes. The proposed concept (brief regulation) of bioethanol production, based on biopalping technology, demonstrates one of the possible options for the technical implementation of the process when obtaining "cellulosic" bioethanol from wood raw materials.

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