

R & D ON BENTONITE AND ATTAPULGITE CLAYS : MARCH, 2012

GMDC being involved in mining and beneficiation of mineral wealth of Gujarat State, GMDC Science & Research Centre sponsored M/s. Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute- Bhavnagar for research and development of value added clay base products for their industrial applications from bentonite clays of Banaskantha and Kutch districts and attapulgitic clay of Bhavnagar district.

Research work includes ;

1. Development of acid activated clays from bentonite for application in purification of aromatic hydrocarbons mainly BTX (Xylene) in view of good commercial market and currently imported from Germany and USA. Research indicated possibility of development of this product at par with that of commercially available products. Results to be reconfirmed by further experiments.
2. Development of nano clays from bentonite for their application in nano composite materials using organic modifier. Research indicated possibility of development of this product at par with that of commercially available products. It needs to be further experimented for improvement.
3. Beneficiation and Acid activation of attapulgitic clay for their applications in drilling mud, vegetable oil decolorization and pharmaceuticals. Research indicated possibility of development of this product suitable for these applications. It needs to be further experimented in certain aspects.

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