



LATERITIC SOIL WITH VARYING PERCENTAGE AND PROPERTIES OF NIGERIAN LIME USED AS A BRICK ADMIXTURE

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ABSTRACT

This paper was aimed at producing cost-effective brick admixture materials for construction works using locally made materials. Lime from several localities in Abuja, F.C.T, Nigeria was mixed with lateritic soil to create brick admixture. The results indicated that the 60%–40% ratio of Kwali laterite to hydrated lime was the most effective and optimal mix. This was in terms of Plasticity index (PI) of 6.08% and California bearing ratio at 45.0%, with flow speed of 1.87 L/hour.

Keywords: Hydrated, lime, Lateritic, soil, Atterberg Limit.

1. INTRODUCTION

Soils admixture based on lime have been used in various parts of the earth as a system of stabilizing and brick admixture for construction works use. The introduction of lime isn't uniquely new and trendy approach, but it cheap and the use of locally available chemical in soil admixture. The use of lateritic soil and lime from North-center Nigeria is worth researching upon for use as brick admixture materials. Nigerian lateritic soils and lime had been used in past researches for several stabilizing purpose [1–3].

Methods

Lateritic soils sampled from many localities (Kwali, Sheda, Yangoji, Gadabiu and Abaji) in Abuja, Nigeria were pulverized and sieved through the 0.425 mm sieve size. Natural hydraulic lime powdered form was purchase from store in Deidei Market, Abuja. The sieved samples of lateritic soils and hydrated lime were mixed in different ratios with water to form stiff consistency and mouldable paste. The moulded brick firing process was performed in a traditional (locally made) kiln after an air drying phase had been concluded. The air drying was to avert brick admixture from cracking as a result of quick heating during the firing process. These were also cured after firing to prevent loss of moisture and physical changes in the material over time for 28 days. Atterberg limit and California bearing ratio tests [4] were carried out on the lateritic samples with and without lime additive. The brick admixture was also tested for flow speed.

Results and conclusions

The Physical characteristics of lime admixture bricks and colour of the Abuja samples are itemized in Table 1. The Consistency (Atterberg limits) and California bearing ratio values are presented in Table 2. The flow speeds were determined based on the decrease in the water column level over time (Table 3). From the results, Kwali laterite and hydrated lime in 60%:40% ratio had the maximum performance level regarding PI, CBR and flow speed.

Table 1

Physical characteristics of bricks admixture and colour of the Abuja samples.

| Soil samples | Colour | Soil type | Crack pattern | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Hydration | | | | |
| Kwali | Reddish brown | A-2-7 (Silty-clayey soil) | No cracks | Very slow |
| Sheda | Reddish brown | A-2-4 (clayed soil) | Tiny cracks | Slow |
| Yangoji | Reddish brown | A-2-7 (Silty-clayey soil) | No cracks | Very slow |
| Gadabiu | Reddish brown | A-2-4 (Silty-clayey soil) | Tiny cracks | Slow |

Abaji Reddish brown A-2-7 (Silty-clayey soil) No cracks Very slow

Table 2

Consistency and California bearing ratio tests

| % soil to % lime mix ratio | Plasticity index (PI) and California Bearing ration (CBR) (%) | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|------|------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|------------|------|
| | Kwali soil | | Sheda soil | | Yangoji soil | | Gadabiu soil | | Abaji soil | |
| | PI | CBR | PI | CBR | PI | CBR | PI | CBR | PI | CBR |
| 100:0 | 5.15 | 9.87 | 5.10 | 8.67 | 5.04 | 7.12 | 5.11 | 7.35 | 5.13 | 9.56 |
| 90:10 | 5.49 | 15.5 | 5.28 | 14.9 | 5.30 | 13.8 | 5.34 | 14.8 | 5.34 | 15.2 |
| 80:20 | 5.62 | 25.7 | 5.58 | 24.9 | 5.54 | 23.8 | 5.50 | 23.9 | 5.60 | 25.4 |
| 70:30 | 5.84 | 34.8 | 5.76 | 32.6 | 5.73 | 33.8 | 5.78 | 34.0 | 5.81 | 34.5 |
| 60:40 | 6.08 | 45.0 | 5.57 | 44.8 | 5.53 | 43.8 | 5.45 | 44.5 | 6.05 | 44.9 |
| 50:50 | 4.02 | 39.2 | 3.97 | 37.4 | 3.82 | 39.6 | 3.67 | 38.4 | 4.01 | 38.9 |
| 40:60 | 3.14 | 32.6 | 3.02 | 30.4 | 3.05 | 31.8 | 3.01 | 30.8 | 3.10 | 31.9 |
| 30:70 | 2.29 | 25.6 | 2.15 | 21.8 | 2.05 | 22.8 | 2.18 | 20.9 | 2.23 | 25.2 |
| 20:80 | 1.09 | 11.6 | 1.03 | 10.8 | 1.02 | 10.4 | 0.5 | 10.7 | 1.07 | 11.4 |
| 10:90 | 0.56 | 5.45 | 0.48 | 5.21 | 0.36 | 4.67 | 0.28 | 3.89 | 0.52 | 5.37 |
| 0:100 | 0.07 | 0.12 | 0.04 | 0.09 | 0.03 | 0.10 | 0.02 | 0.10 | 0.06 | 0.11 |

Table 3

Flow speed data of several lateritic soils to lime mix ratios (soil admixture)

| %soil to % lime mix ratio | Flow speed (litres/hour) | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| | Kwali soil | Sheda soil | Yangoji soil | Gadabiu soil | Abaji soil |
| 100:0 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 90:10 | 0.03 | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.04 |
| 80:20 | 0.09 | 0.07 | 0.06 | 0.07 | 0.08 |
| 70:30 | 1.34 | 1.31 | 1.28 | 1.14 | 1.32 |
| 60:40 | 1.87 | 1.86 | 1.84 | 1.85 | 1.87 |
| 50:50 | 1.58 | 1.52 | 1.50 | 1.51 | 1.56 |
| 40:60 | 1.46 | 1.40 | 1.39 | 1.40 | 1.44 |
| 30:70 | 1.04 | 1.00 | 1.02 | 1.00 | 1.04 |
| 20:80 | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.04 |
| 10:90 | NR | NR | NR | NR | NR |
| 0:100 | NR | NR | NR | NR | NR |

Note: NR means "No result" (because materials were disintegrated during sintering).

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