

## Solar Energy Engineering for a Sustainable Global Future

Malik Adnan Faisal AL-Khafaji <sup>1\*</sup>, Shafi Jumaah Saeed Al-Buaiji <sup>1</sup>, Hussein Khaleel Rashid <sup>1</sup>, Ali Haydar Ali Alali Alhassoon <sup>1</sup>

1- Department of Mechanical Engineering, South Tehran Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran

\*Corresponding Author: [eng\\_m88alik@yahoo.com](mailto:eng_m88alik@yahoo.com)

---

### ABSTRACT

Solar control is the most prominent source of vitality for solar-based forms of desalination, and the productivity of refined water depends on the correct use of solar energy vitality in the beneficial form of heat. To absorb the largest amount of radiation directed at the solar rays, energy-producing nanomaterials have been developed and used in bio-economic and renewable applications such as solar-powered shots, solar steam generation, etc. It showed maximum power retention, transmission, and power transmission characteristics, and high broadband absorption characteristics display the accelerated evaporation rate in solar water desalination. In this present survey paper, energy and bio-capacity materials that include nanocomposites (phase change materials), nanoscale fluids and nanoparticles, nanostructures with efficient steam generation, and materials with reasonable storage for solar water desalination are talked about.

**Keywords:** solar energy, Sustainability, Global Future

---

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Due to the quick development of mechanical globalization and population, the quality of immaculate water is decimated each day. In 2050, natural resources are about to run out and everyone should focus on alternative sources of desalination, drinking water, and other basic needs. For pure water, the alternative solution is to go to use solar energy to desalinate the water [1-2]. In it, one of the frameworks for water purification was the solar-powered shots which are exceptionally straightforward and easy to manufacture due to their high efficiency distilled water yield with some internal and external modifications [3-5]. created the nanostructures by utilizing the CuO-nano-coated safeguard plates (NCAPs) and studied the impact of those structures on distinctive safeguard plates incorporated with PVA (Polyvinyl Alcohol ) wipes. Various researchers concurred that the distillate yield of the sun based stills was enhanced with the assistance of utilizing the nano liquids [7-8], localized energy capacity materials [9-10], Stage alters materials [11-12]. Advances in materials with efficiency have been expanded from rising sunlight to changing vitality with ultra-broadband steam-generating materials for sterile water production. [13] He talked roughly about various broadband nanostructured materials to convert salt water into pure using photothermal methods. [14] The various changes in a steam generator to produce clean water were investigated and carbon nanocomposites were roughly examined with graphene-based nanomaterials and carbon uptake for thermal transfer images. This review sheet is illustrated in **Figure 1**. In this current survey paper, energy exchange and vitality capacity materials counting PCMs (phase change materials), nano liquids and nanoparticles, nanostructures with effective steam generation, and sensible warm capacity materials for solar-powered desalination are talked about.

## 2. SOLAR DESALINATION MATERIALS

In this part, bio-capacity materials for solar water desalination such as PCM, nanoscale fluids, nanoparticles, and nanostructures are discussed.

### 2.1. Nano embodied phase change materials (NPCMs)

[15] Solar energy is still associated with stable PCM (SSPCM). To improve system efficiency, SSPCM consists of 5% graphite with 94% broadband retention. The efficiency of conventional solar distillation (TSS) and hierarchical solar energy is still around  $2.3 \text{ L} / \text{m}^2$  per day and  $3.4 \text{ L} / \text{m}^2$ , separately. The photograph of the SSPCM and line diagram of the setup is described in Fig. 2.

### 2.2. Nanofluids and nanoparticles in solar desalination

[17] Initially analyzed copper oxide (CuO) and graphite to improve the warm exchange with three identical static forms with a range of  $0.25 \text{ m}^2$ . The concentrations of graphite and CuO were 0.5% and mixed water. The efficiencies of nano-CuO and nanoscale graphite liquid

were 38.61% and 41.8% compared to CSS (thermal solar distillation) with 32.35% of clean water output. Zanganeh et al. [18] It was roughly shown that the wettability of the material can affect the efficiency of solar distillation based on sunlight and conduct a test with special substances by changing the wettability of the materials with the help of the nano-coating described in **Fig. 3**.

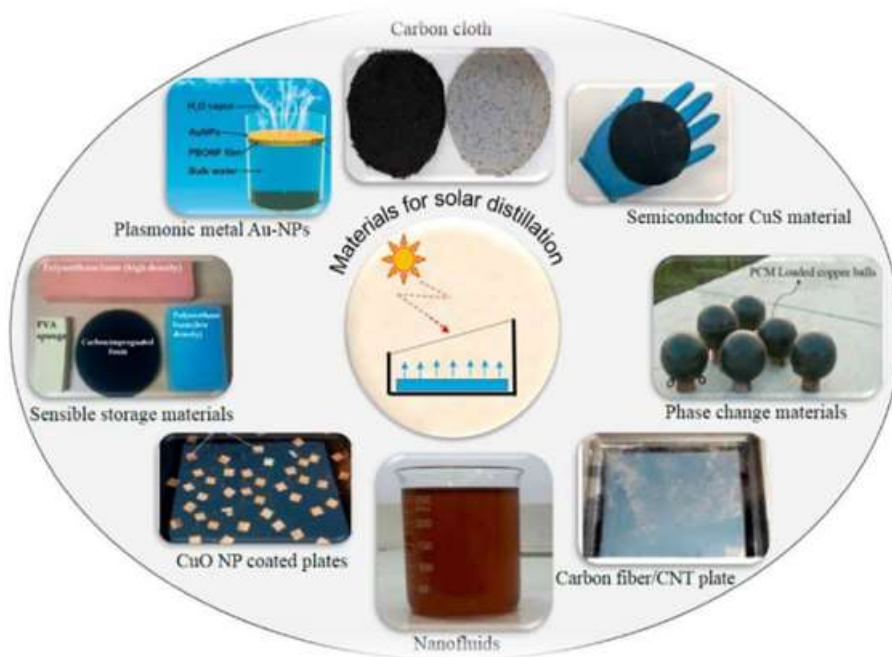
### 2.3. Nanostructures for solar steam generation

[19] fabricated the carbonized melamine foam (CMF) for the steam generation in one step calcination process. The CMF was tested under one sun illumination of around 1000 W/m<sup>2</sup>; it yields 95% absorption broadband and a 160 mm pore diameter approximately which enhance the evaporation of water as 1.27 kg/m<sup>2</sup> h. After evaporation, the concentration of ions (Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Cr, SO<sup>2+</sup>) were reduced to 3–5 orders of magnitude which is described in **Fig.4**. , **Fig. 5** portrays the planning of BDS (BGNPs deposited sponge) and MRS (melamine tar wipe) photothermal conversion. [22] He introduced a plasmonic dynamic filter paper (PP) to improve the evaporation of seawater that is shown in Figure 6.

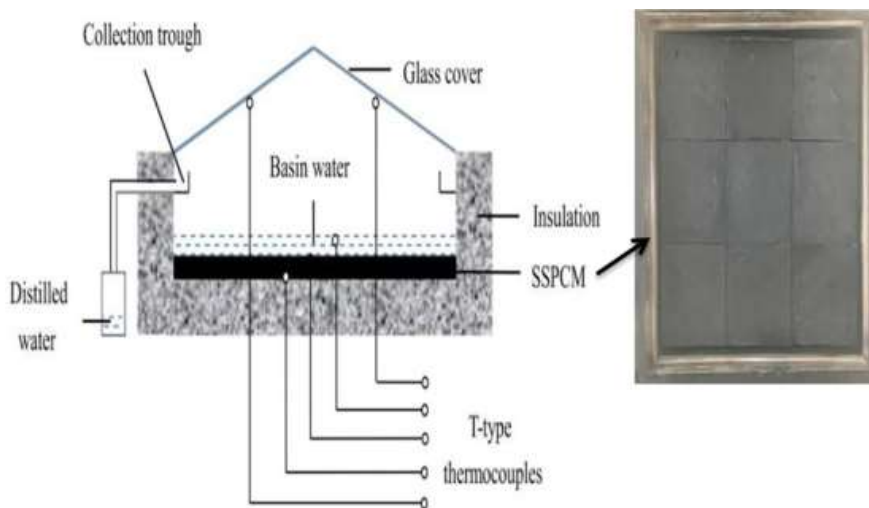
### 2.4. Sensible heat storage energy materials

The items with reasonable temperature storage are fins, sand, stones, and sponge separately. [24] It worked on the ability to store sand in solar distillation with a mixture of jute cloth that causes water to evaporate due to its capillary activity. Here, the sand was kept underwater for a certain period until the saltwater evaporated. The evaporation rate was 5.9 l / m<sup>2</sup>. Today with jute cloth and sand-based energy capacity. Also, this material was used in still solar powered sunlight which gives a yield rate of 5.93 kg / m<sup>2</sup>. After evaporation, the salinity levels decreased to 3-4 times the volume.

[25] Experimental investigations in DSSS (double slope solar) with square fins as well as circular fins with different depths of water such as 10 mm, 20 mm, and 30 mm, respectively. Refined water efficiency for three different water depths such as 0.967, 0.936, and 0.950 L / m<sup>2</sup> for square fins and 1.4, 1.2, and 1.3 L / m<sup>2</sup> for circular blades separately. **Figure 8** shows the arrangement of the circular and square balances within the trough.



**Fig. 1.** Different materials for the productive generation of clean water [2]



**Fig. 2.** Schematic representation test setup and SSPCM [15]

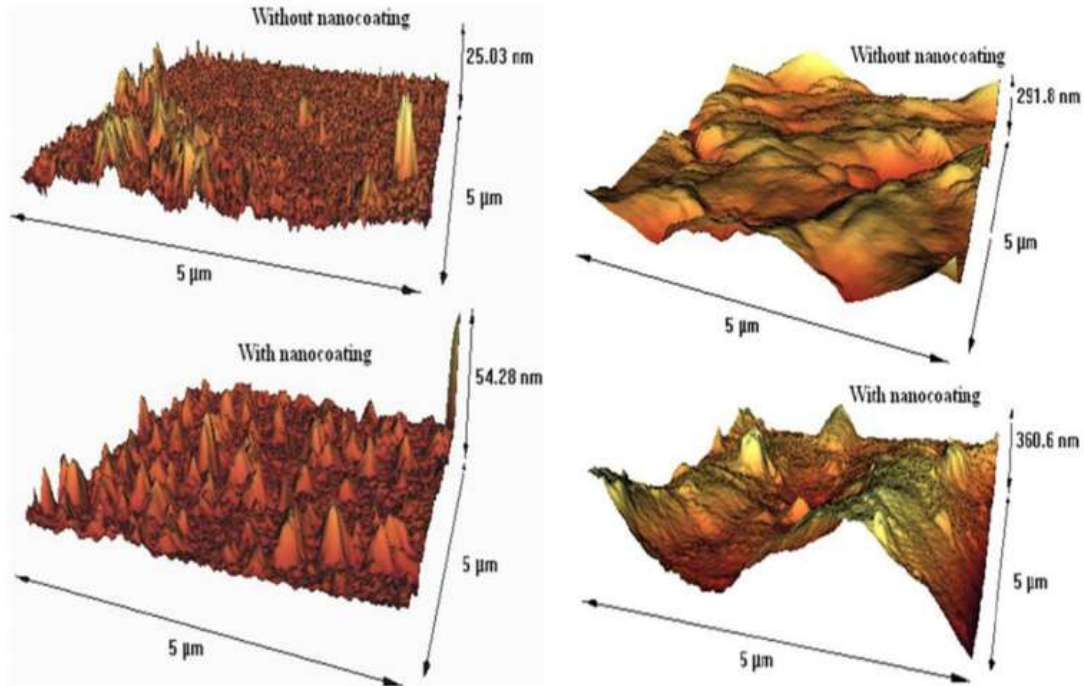


Fig. 3. Glass surface at left out and aluminum surface at right [18].

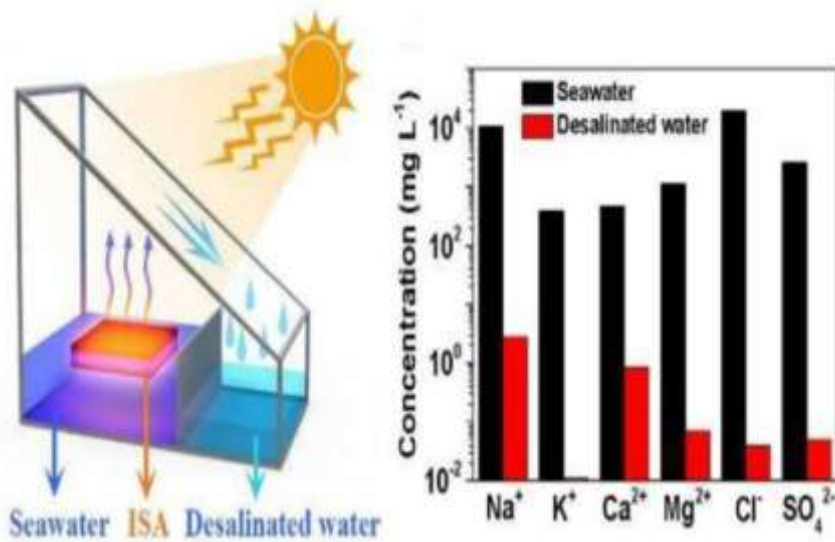
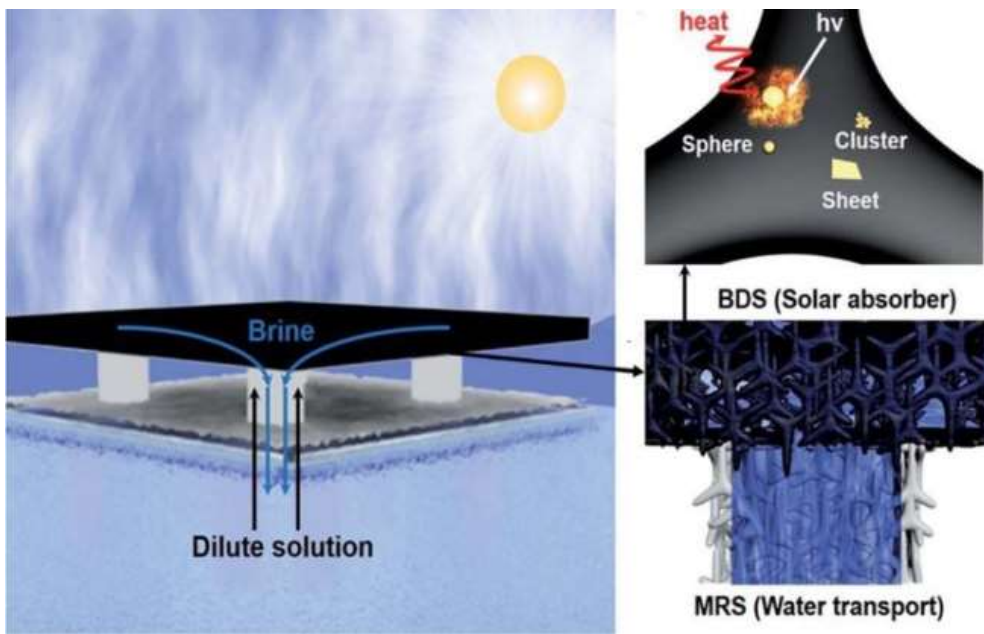
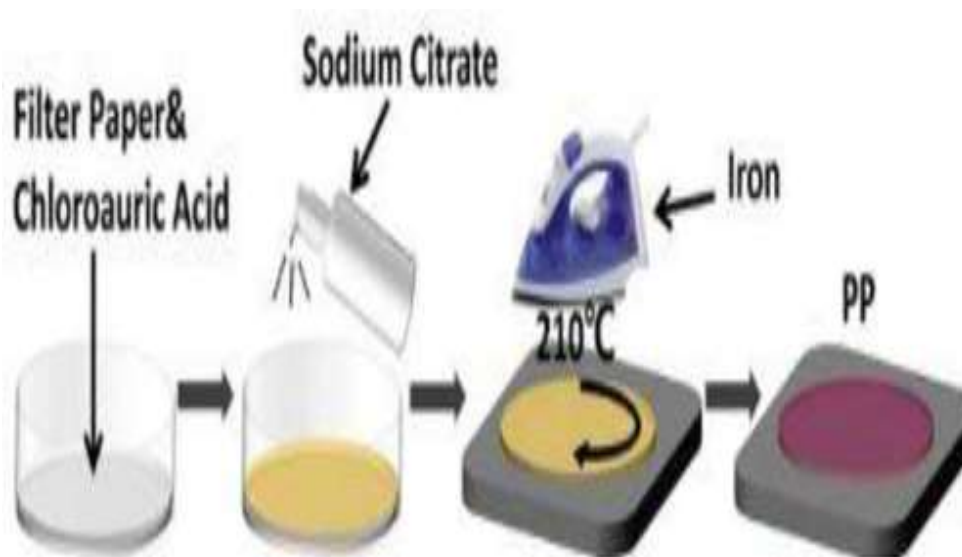


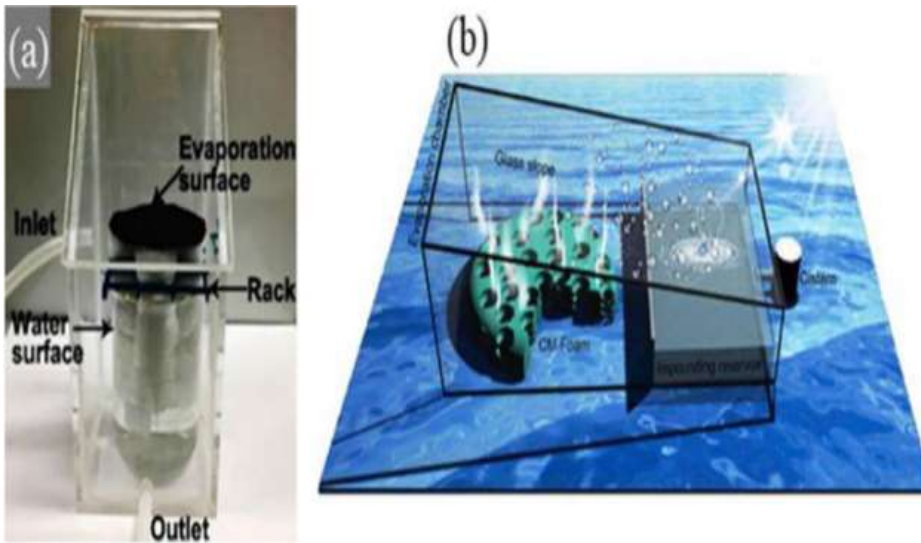
Fig. 4. Schematic representation of CMF in solar desalination and quality of the results [19].



**Fig. 5.** Graphical representation of BDS and MRS formation of photothermal conversion [21].



**Fig. 6.** Preparation of plasmonic active filter paper filter paper [22]



**Fig. 7.** a.) CuS coated on cotton in solar still b.) Graphical representation of schematic setup [23].



**Fig. 8.** Pictorial representation of circular (left) and square (right) fins [25].

### 3. CONCLUSIONS

- 1- This survey paper presents data about subtle energy materials such as PCM nanoscale devices, nanoscale fluids, nanoparticles, and solar directed vapor generation nanostructures along with few materials with reasonable storage such as stones, sponges, blades, etc.
- 2- Among all materials with efficient production, solar steam generating materials donate the best method of implementation along with strong absorption with a noteworthy broadband wavelength of over 96%.
- 3- High-efficiency materials reduce heat loss and increase material storage capacity by increasing the surface of the solar irradiance zone.

### 4. FUTURE SCOPE

- 1- These high-performance nanomaterials can be used in water treatment to reduce costs.
- 2- The wonders behind these high-performance nanomaterials are still required to better understand the mechanisms of heat transfer.
- 3- Energy and stress analysis in high performance of these materials remains an unexplored area of work

## REFERENCES

- [1] E. Delyannis, Historic background of desalination and renewable energies 2003;75:357–66.
- [2] T. Arunkumar, Y. Ao, Z. Luo, L. Zhang, J. Li, D. Denkenberger, et al., Energy-efficient materials for solar water distillation - A review, *Renew. Sustain Energy Rev.* 115 (2019) 109409.
- [3] P. Durkaieswaran, K.K. Murugavel, Various special designs of single basin passive solar still - A review, *Renew. Sustain. Energy Rev.* 49 (2015) 1048– 1060.
- [4] P. Vishwanath Kumar, A. Kumar, O. Prakash, A.K. Kaviti, Solar stills system design: A review, *Renew. Sustain. Energy Rev.* 51 (2015) 153–181.
- [5] A.K. Kaviti, A. Yadav, A. Shukla, Experimental investigation of solar still with opaque north triangular face, *Int. J. Green Energy* (2019) 1–8.
- [6] T. Arunkumar, D. Murugesan, K. Raj, D. Denkenberger, C. Viswanathan, D.D.W. Rufuss, et al., Effect of nano-coated CuO absorbers with PVA sponges in solar water desalting system, *Appl. Therm. Eng.* 148 (2019) 1416–1424.
- [7] A. Zeiny, H. Jin, G. Lin, P. Song, D. Wen, Solar evaporation via nanofluids: A comparative study, *Renew. Energy* 122 (2018) 443–454.
- [8] W. Chen, C. Zou, X. Li, H. Liang, Application of recoverable carbon nanotube nanofluids in solar desalination system: An experimental investigation, *Desalination* 451 (2019) 92–101.
- [9] P.K. Srivastava, S.K. Agrawal, Winter and summer performance of single sloped basin type solar still integrated with extended porous fins, *DES* 319 (2013) 73– 78.
- [10] S. Shanmugan, B. Janarthanan, J. Chandrasekaran, Performance of single-slope single-basin solar still with sensible heat storage materials, *Desalin. Water Treat.* 41 (2012) 195–203.
- [11] A.E. Kabeel, M. Abdelgaied, Improving the performance of solar still by using PCM as a thermal storage medium under Egyptian conditions, *DES* 383 (2016) 22–28.
- [12] T. Arunkumar, A.E. Kabeel, Effect of phase change material on concentric circular tubular solar still-Integration meets enhancement, *Desalination* 414 (2017) 46–50.
- [13] Kim JU, Lee S, Kang SJ, Kim T. Materials and design of nanostructured broadband light absorbers for advanced light-to-heat conversion 2018:21555– 74.



- [14] F. Frank, H. Li, W. Wang, J. Huang, D. David, Nano Energy Scalable, eco-friendly and ultrafast solar steam generators based on one-step melamine-derived carbon sponges toward water purification, *Nano Energy* 58 (2019) 322–330
- [15] W. Cheng, Y. Huo, Y. Nian, Performance of solar still using shape-stabilized PCM : Experimental and theoretical investigation, *Desalination* 455 (2019) 89– 99.
- [16] M.S. Yousef, H. Hassan, Energetic and exergetic performance assessment of the inclusion of phase change materials (PCM) in a solar distillation system, *Energy Convers. Manag.* 179 (2019) 349–361.
- [17] S.W. Sharshir, G. Peng, A.H. Elsheikh, E.M.A. Edreis, M.A. Eltawil, T. Abdelhamid, et al., Energy and exergy analysis of solar stills with micro/nano particles: A comparative study, *Energy Convers. Manag.* 177 (2018) 363–375.
- [18] P. Zanganeh, A.S. Goharrizi, S. Ayatollahi, M. Feilizadeh, Productivity enhancement of solar stills by nano-coating of condensing surface, *Desalination* 454 (2019) 1–9.
- [19] Yang M, Chen G, Yu D, Zhang M, Hong W, Chen X, et al. Integrative solar absorbers for highly efficient solar steam generation 2017.
- [20] Weng D, Xu F, Li X, Li Y, Sun J. Bioinspired photothermal conversion coatings with self-healing superhydrophobicity for efficient solar steam generation 2018:24441–51.
- [21] Liu Y, Liu Z, Huang Q, Liang X, Zhou X, Fu H, et al. A high-absorption and self-driven salt-resistant black gold nanoparticle-deposited sponge for highly efficient, salt-free, and long-term durable solar desalination 2018.
- [22] Zhipeng Liu, a Zhenjie Yang, a Xichong Huang, a Chaoyan Xuan, a Jiahui Xie, a Huide Fu, a Qixing Wu, a Junmin Zhang, a Xuechang Zhou a YL. High- absorption recyclable photothermal membranes equipped in bionic system for high-efficiency solar desalination via enhanced localized heating. *J Mater Chem* 2017:1–10.
- [23] Xuan Wu, Max Edward Robson, Jack Leslie Phelps, Jeanette Sorupia Tan, Bo Shao, Gary Owens HX. A Flexible Photothermal Cotton-CuS Nanocage- Agarose Aerogel towards Portable Solar Steam Generation. *Nano Energy* 2018.
- [24] A.E. Kabeel, S.A. El-agouz, R. Sathyamurthy, T. Arunkumar, Augmenting the productivity of solar still using jute cloth knitted with sand heat energy storage, *Desalination* 443 (2018) 122–129.
- [25] H.K. Jani, K.V. Modi, Experimental performance evaluation of single basin dual slope solar still with circular and square cross-sectional hollow fins, *Sol. Energy* 179 (2019) 186–194.