

# Application of Eco-Friendly Cutting Fluids Through Small Quantity Lubrication Technique: A Study

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**Abstract** - Owing to environmental concerns and growing regulations over contamination and pollution, the demand for renewable and biodegradable cutting fluids is rising. The aim of this paper is to review the eco-friendly and user-friendly minimum quantity lubrication (MQL) technique using vegetable-based oil and solid lubricant in different machining processes. It has been reported in various literature that the minimum quantity lubrication (MQL) method using vegetable oil-based cutting fluid shows superior performance as compared to dry and wet machining. The major benefits of MQL are reduction of consumption of cutting fluid, cost saving, reduction of impact to the environment and improved overall performances in cutting operation and the surface quality. To achieve improved thermal conductivity researchers focused attention on nano fluids. Nano fluids are nano-metered sized colloidal suspensions in the base fluid like water, oil, glycol, etc. The application of nano fluid controls the tool wear by reducing the temperature. Impingement of the nanoparticles with high pressure in MQL enables entry of nanoparticles at the tool chip interface. Thus it reduces the coefficient of friction and improves machining performance significantly.

**Keywords:** MQL, Environment, Vegetable oil, Nanofluid

## I INTRODUCTION

Machining processes are widely used to manufacture components that require great accuracy and/or high surface quality finish. Furthermore, machining is a process that can provide low costs to a certain number of parts. However, to obtain these advantages it is necessary to ensure that the set up (machine, tool, cooling, etc.) is in perfect order (Lauro *et al.*, 2014). Metal Working Fluids are widely employed in machining operations to perform three main functions: lubrication, cooling, and chip transport from the cutting zone. In addition, they may perform secondary functions such as providing temporary protection against oxidation and corrosion (Jayal *et al.*, 2007). Today's there are several types of metal cutting fluids (MCFs) that can be extensively classified as straight fluids, petrochemical, synthetic, semi-synthetic fluids, soluble fluids and vegetable based cutting fluids (VBCFs) (Ozcelik *et al.*, 2011). In the absence of adequate lubrication, friction between the tool and work piece in machining operation results in high cutting temperatures and tool wear; hence, lubrication is critical (Rao and Krishna, 2008). Excessive heat and consequently wear formation are the most important factors affecting performance and productivity of metal cutting operations. In addition, cutting fluids help to provide a uniform

temperature field inside the workpiece and machine tool, and help to meet specified tolerances (Weinert *et al.*, 2004).

On the other hand, the cutting fluids have many detrimental effects. Many of the fluids, which are used to lubricate metal forming and machining, contain environmentally harmful or potentially damaging chemical constituents. These fluids are difficult to dispose and expensive to recycle and can cause skin and lung disease to the operators and air pollution. Also the increasingly stricter environmental regulations and their enforcement are eliminating much of the flexibility in the use of cutting fluids. The costs associated with the use of cutting fluids is estimated to be several billion \$/year. Consequently, elimination on the use of cutting fluids, if possible, can be a significant economic incentive (Thakur *et al.*, 2009). As part of an environmental strategy, many manufacturing sites are shifting to dry and semi-dry machining processes. Minimizing the use of cutting fluid also leads to economic benefits, as cutting fluids can account for a significant portion (up to 20%) of machining costs. All costs involved with cutting fluids (purchasing, recycling, chip drying, etc.) represent 7.5–17% of the manufacturing costs of a part, which in many cases is even higher than tool costs (Braga *et al.*, 2002).

Hence, the increasing consciousness for green manufacturing globally and consumer focus on environmentally friendly products have put increased pressure on industries to minimize the use of cutting fluids. Any attempt to minimize or avoid the use of coolant can only be addressed by replacing the functions normally meant for the coolants with other methods (Lawal *et al.*, 2013). Therefore, an alternative to conventional cutting fluids techniques such as high pressure coolants (HPC), cryogenic cooling, solid lubricants, air/gas/vapour coolant and minimum quantity lubrication (MQL) or near dry machining (NDM) have been reported by different researchers to have addressed the shortcoming of conventional cutting fluid application.

MQL is one of the promising techniques adopted by researchers (Sayuti *et al.*, 2013). The encouraging results include significant reduction in tool wear and surface roughness by MQL obtained as a result of lowered temperature in the cutting zone and favorable changes in the chip-tool and work-tool interactions (Diaz *et al.*, 2010). The



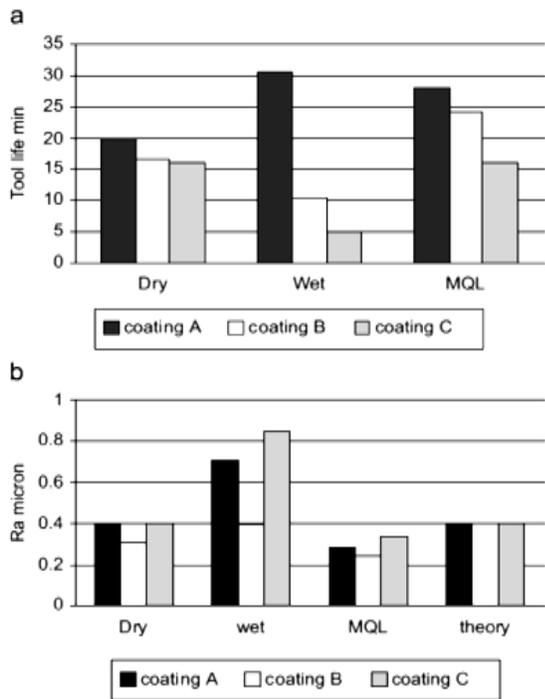


Fig. 3 Tool life and surface finishes in dry, wet and MQL machining for three different coated tools (Kamata and Obikawa, 2007)

While the MQL/NDM method aiming at reducing the usage of cutting fluids, the other branch of research has been dedicated to boost the performance of cutting fluid through modification or enhancing tribological properties, among which nano-fluids with the addition of nano-particles are overwhelmed (Chan *et al.*, 2013). Among various techniques to reduce full usage of metal working fluids (MWF), nano-fluid minimum quantity lubrication (MQL) is an environment-friendly one, which has been recently introduced. Nano-fluid is a fluid containing nano-particles such as carbon nano-tube (CNT),  $C_{60}$ ,  $TiO_2$ ,  $Al_2O_3$ ,  $MoS_2$ , diamond and so forth. In a nano-fluid MQL, the nanofluid is supplied to the machining area as a form of mist mixed with highly pressurized compressed air through a nozzle. Nano-particles are an excellent media to increase the thermal conductivity of the base fluid. Besides, nano-particles significantly enhance tribological and wear characteristics (Nam *et al.*, 2011).

### III. MQL TECHNIQUE USING VEGETABLE OIL – LUBRICANT

Vegetable oils are being investigated as a potential source of environmentally favourable lubricants due to a combination of biodegradability, renewability and excellent lubrication performance (Fox and Stachowiak, 2007). Compared to mineral oil, vegetable oil can even enhance the cutting performance, extend tool life and improve the surface finishing according to some recent analysis from industry. Although, they have many environmental benefits, vegetable oils are more susceptible to degradation by oxidation or hydrolytic reactions. This is a drawback in vegetable oil-based cutting fluids (Alves and Oliveira, 2008).

On other side vegetable oils have a higher flash point, which reduces smoke formation and fire hazard. A higher flash point allows the use of cutting fluid under high temperature conditions (Kuram *et al.*, 2013). In conclusion, vegetable oil-based grinding fluid not only conforms to the environmental and health requirements of environment friendly manufacturing but also satisfies the requirements of lubrication properties (Shashidhara and Jayaram, 2010).

Rahim and Sasahara, 2011 investigated for lubrication behavior of palm oil using MQL in a high speed drilling of Ti-6Al-4V. In this study, synthetic ester using MQL, air blow and flood conditions were used for comparison purposes. The palm oil and synthetic ester demonstrated a comparable performance with the flood conditions and palm oil performed better than synthetic ester on the cutting forces, temperature, power and specific cutting energy. In another study Khan and Dhar, 2006 studied for performance of vegetable based cutting fluids (VBCFs) using MQL on cutting force, tool wear, cutting heat, dimensional deviations and surface roughness in turning. They found that VBCFs with MQL depended on cutting speed and feed rate decreased with tool wear in the range of 5–12% with respect to dry cutting. MQL increased tool life and provided a better surface finish as compared to dry cutting. Cetin *et al.*, 2011 carried out an experiment about the variation of surface roughness, cutting and feed forces during machining of AISI 304 L austenitic steel with sunflower, canola, semi synthetic and mineral based lubricating oils. It was observed that canola oil and sunflower provided the best result in terms of surface roughness values respectively. Whereas, both semi synthetic and mineral based oil failed to give surface finish better as compared to vegetable oils. Other than this, vegetable oils also outperformed both the other oils in terms of cutting and feed forces. Abdalla and Patel, 2006 evaluated the performance commercial and natural VBCFs such as coconut, sunflower, palm olive and rapeseed oils for machining of stainless steels and aerospace-grade titanium alloys. They revealed that low friction values were found for VBCFs in tribological studies and the naturally derived fluid was better for stainless steels and titanium alloys machining process.

### IV ROLE OF NANO-PARTICLES UNDER MQL TECHNIQUE

Nano-fluids are advanced and functionalized fluids that are designed by adding nano-sized solid particles in low to moderate volumetric fractions to a base fluid (Chandrasekar *et al.*, 2012). Most common nano-particle includes the oxide, carbide, nitride of metals and non-metals and carbon nano-tubes (CNT) (Setti *et al.*, 2015). Recent experiments have also demonstrated that nano-fluids with minimum quantity lubrication technique have attractive properties for machining.

Nam *et al.*, 2011 studied the characterization of the micro-drilling process with the nano-fluid minimum quantity lubrication (MQL) at the spindle speed, feed rate and drilling

depth (60,000 rpm, 50 mm/min and 0.4 mm) respectively. The size of the nano-diamond particles was 30 nm. The experimental results indicated that the nano-fluid MQL significantly increases the number of drilled holes and reduces the drilling torques and thrust forces. In addition, the nano-fluid MQL effectively eliminates remaining chips and burrs to enhance the quality of drilled holes. Ozcelik *et al.*, 2011 studied the performances of both new developed environmental friendly vegetables based cutting fluids (refined sunflower and canola oils) including different percentage of extreme pressure (EP approximately 1500 N/mm<sup>2</sup>) additive and two commercial cutting fluids (semi-synthetic and mineral cutting fluids) in turning processes. The results indicated that the canola based cutting fluids (CCF-II) with 8% and 12% of EP additives gave higher surface quality performance than sunflower based cutting fluids (SCF-II) with 8% and 12% of EP additives, which was related to the higher lubrication property of CCF-II. But commercial semi-synthetic cutting fluid (CSCF) gave the best performance in terms of cutting forces. It was also noted that commercial mineral based cutting fluid (CMCF) and commercial semi-synthetic cutting fluid (CSCF) can be replaced by the vegetable based cutting fluids (VBCFs), thus reducing the occupational health risks associated with petroleum oil based cutting fluids (CFs) and reducing the waste treatment costs due to their inherently higher biodegradability.

In another study Zhang *et al.*, 2015 stated that the experimental evaluation of MoS<sub>2</sub> nano-particles in jet MQL grinding with different types of vegetable oil as base oil. It was observed that the palm oil-based nano-fluids added with MoS<sub>2</sub> nano-particles produce the best lubricating property in the nano-particle jet MQL condition as compared with other vegetable oils (liquid paraffin, soybean oil and rapeseed oil). This is because of the high saturated fatty acid and high film-forming property of carboxyl groups in palm oil. Talib and Rahim, 2018 evaluated the turning performances of modified jatropa oils (MJOs), with and without hBN particles, were investigated in comparison with synthetic ester. It was observed that modified jatropa oil with hBN particles (0.05 wt% concentration) significantly reduce the cutting force, cutting temperature and surface roughness, as well as prolonging tool life, in terms of cutting length by 9%, 8%, 8% and 78%, respectively. Because the addition of hBN particles caused a lubrication film to be developed, which is protected the contact surfaces, resulting in reduced friction and thus, lower cutting forces as shown in Fig. 4. This reflected the ability of 0.05 wt% of hBN particles added, to reduce the cutting forces, due to the direct effects of rolling mechanism. The hBN particles rolled between contact surfaces of tool and workpiece, converting sliding friction to rolling friction, made possible by the lubricant flow between bearing elements. However, the excessive amount of hBN particles (>0.05 wt%) caused particle agglomeration, leading to poor machining performances, in terms of cutting force, cutting temperature and surface roughness.

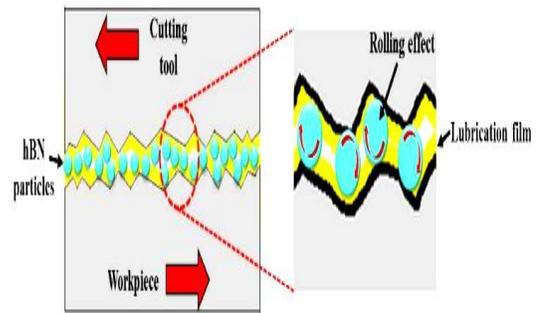


Fig. 4 Schematic diagram of contact surfaces with the presence of lubricant and hBN particles with 0.05 wt% concentrations (Talib and Rahim, 2018)

## V. CONCLUSION

This paper has been reviewed the application of mineral oils, vegetable oils and nanofluid-based cutting fluids with the help of MQL technique during various machining processes. The literature suggested that the green manufacturing methods such as vegetable-based cutting fluids, nanofluid-based cutting fluids etc. The outcomes from this literature are summarized as follow

1. MQL has emerged as a superior technique which minimized the ecological and biological problem caused by the rampant use of metal working fluids. Machining with the minimum volume of fluid provided results equivalent or better than conventional flood cooling. MQL successfully reduced the cutting forces, surface roughness and cutting temperature in machining operations such as turning, milling, drilling and grinding.
2. Other hand to reduce the effect of mineral based cutting fluid replaced by vegetable based oil using MQL technique which is good approach to make the machining environmental friendly. Vegetable based cutting fluids are not only biodegradable, renewable, and less toxic, but also they have been found to improve the machining performance.
3. Heat generated during machining is critical in terms of workpiece quality, as it directly affects product quality at the tool-workpiece interface. In addition of nano-particles in the base fluid increases heat transfer rate and also reduces coefficient of friction by forming thin tribofilm on the ground surface. The product quality also improves by the using of nanolubricants due to the rolling action of nano-particles at the tool-workpiece interface, which significantly reduces cutting force.

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