Claims

1. A method for pre-treating non-wood empty fruit bunch (EFB) feedstock comprising:
   (a) washing non-wood empty fruit bunch (EFB) feedstock;
   (b) contacting the washed non-wood empty fruit bunch (EFB) feedstock with an acid solution at a temperature in the range from 80 to 100 °C for a duration of 30 to 60 minutes; and
   (c) contacting the washed non-wood empty fruit bunch (EFB) feedstock with an alkali solution at a temperature in the range from 80 to 100 °C for a duration of 30 to 60 minutes;

   wherein the method includes an additional washing step (d) between steps (b) and (c); and wherein step (b) is performed before step (c).

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein in step (a), the non-wood empty fruit bunch (EFB) feedstock is washed using water and/or steam.

3. The method according to any preceding claim, wherein in step (d), the non-wood empty fruit bunch (EFB) feedstock is washed using water and/or steam.

4. The method according to any preceding claim which further comprises:
   (e) washing the product obtained after steps (a) to (d).

5. A method for producing dissolving pulp (DP) from non-wood empty fruit bunch (EFB) feedstock comprising:
   (i) pre-treating non-wood empty fruit bunch (EFB) feedstock using the method as set out in any one of claims 1 to 4; and
   (ii) cooking the pre-treated non-wood empty fruit bunch (EFB) feedstock to produce DP.

6. A method for producing kraft pulp (KP) from non-wood empty fruit bunch (EFB) feedstock comprising:
   (i) pre-treating non-wood empty fruit bunch (EFB) feedstock using the method as set out in any one of claims 1 to 4; and
   (ii) cooking the pre-treated non-wood empty fruit bunch (EFB) feedstock to produce KP.

7. Dissolving pulp derived from non-wood empty fruit bunch (EFB) feedstock which has a silica content of less than 80 ppm.

8. Dissolving pulp according to claim 7, which has a Fe content of 10ppm or less.

9. Dissolving pulp according to any one of claims 7 or 8, which has a Ca content of 75 ppm or less.

10. Dissolving pulp according to any one of claims 7, or 8 to 9, which has an ash content of 0.12% or less.

11. Kraft pulp derived from non-wood empty fruit bunch (EFB) feedstock which has a silica content of less than 600 ppm.

12. Kraft pulp according to claim 11, which has an ash content of 0.35% by weight or less.

13. Use of Dissolving Pulp (DP) as defined in any one of claims 7 to 10, in the manufacture of cellulosic fibers.

14. Use of Kraft Pulp (KP) as defined in claim 11 or claim 12, in the manufacture of paper.