

Study of The Utilization of Ruminant Ruments as A Bioactivator For Palm Oil Frond Compost Quality

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Abstract.

The aims of this study were to determine the physical and chemical quality of oil palm frond compost with the addition of ruminant liquid bio-activator cattles (cattle, goats and buffalo). The material used in this research was palm fronds and ruminant animal rumen fluid obtained from Gandus Slaughterhouse in South Sumatra. This study used a Completely Randomized Design with 5 treatments with 3 replications consisting of P0 (compost of oil palm fronds without addition of bio-activator), P1 (Compost of oil palm frond with bio-activator EM4), P2 (Compost of oil palm frond with bio-activator goat rumen liquid), P3 (Compost of oil palm fronds with bovine rumen liquid bio-activator), and P4 (Compost of oil palm fronds with buffalo rumen liquid bio-activator). The parameters measured in the study are physical quality (odor, texture, pH, temperature and color) and chemical quality (nitrogen, water content, phosphorus, calcium and C-organic). The data obtained were analyzed by ANOVA, if there any significant differences were followed by Duncan's test. The best ruminant rumen bio-activator in the composting process is cow bio-activator, with produced temperature of 33.66 °C, moisture content of 61.47%, particle size of 74.0%, compost color is dark, compost has soil smelt, pH 7.30, N-Total 0.50%, P-Available 0.0061%, K-Total 0.24, C-Organic 6.58 and C/N 13%.

Keywords: bio-activator, compost, ruminant rumens

1. Introduction

Palm fronds are one of the most wasteful uses of oil palm plantations. The production of the midrib can reach 22 kg / tree / year, where the weight of the midrib meat is around 2.2 kg and the palm frond biomass reaches 6.3 tons / hectare / year. The content of the chemical compounds making up the oil palm fronds consists of cellulose, hemicellulose, and lignin, respectively 31.7%, 33.9%, and 17.4% [1]. Oil palm midrib, including material with high cellulose content and has a density more than wood, that is equal to 1.16 g / cm³, where it is an organic material that can be composted with nitrogen content per dry weight reaching between 2.2- 2.5% and the C / N ratio is 20 (Rokhman, 2004).

Many farmers have known very well with inorganic fertilizers which nutrients are very high but the rate of economic input has greatly increased, this has an impact on increasing yield including the price of inorganic fertilizers. Problems like this can be overcome by making compost organic fertilizer, namely by using palm fronds as organic material which is assisted with ruminant rumen fluid as a bio-activator.

Bio-activator is a bioactive material that is able to decompose organic materials in general. The use of bio-activator derives from ruminant animal rumen fluid is a simple step to obtain good quality compost and composting time which is considered faster in the composting process. The function of this bio-activator is to speed up the decomposition process and improve the quality of nutrients. In the rumen fluid there are microorganisms that can help in decomposition, namely bacteria, fungi, and protozoa. The survey results indicate that the availability of ruminant rumen fluid is very large, if every day slaughtering ruminant animals by 5 animals, rumen fluid is obtained as much as 155 liter (Saidi et al., 2008).

Compost is the result of incomplete decomposition of a mixture of organic materials that can be artificially accelerated by populations of various microbes in warm, humid, and aerobic or anaerobic conditions. Compost can increase soil fertility and stimulate healthy roots, improve soil structure by increasing soil organic matter content and will increase the ability of soil to maintain soil water content.

The purpose of this research is to get the best ruminant rumen bio-activator (goat, cow and buffalo) in the composting process and to compare the results of decomposition of ruminant bio-activator and Effective Microorganism 4 (EM4) on the quality of compost of palm oil fronds.

2. Research Methodology

This research was carried out for 5 months at the Center for Organic Fertilizer Research at the Department of Soil and the Laboratory of Chemistry, Biology and Soil Fertility, Faculty of Agriculture, Sriwijaya University.

This study used a Randomized Design of the Bio-activator Treatment Group:

1. B0 = Compost of oil palm fronds without addition of bio-activator
2. B1 = Compost of oil palm fronds with EM4 bio-activator
3. B2 = Compost of oil palm fronds with goat rumen liquid bio-activator
4. B3 = Compost of oil palm fronds with buffalo rumen liquid bio-activator
5. B4 = Palm frond compost with a cow rumen fluid bio-activator

Starter Agent Treatment

1. S1 = Chicken manure
2. S2 = NPK fertilizer

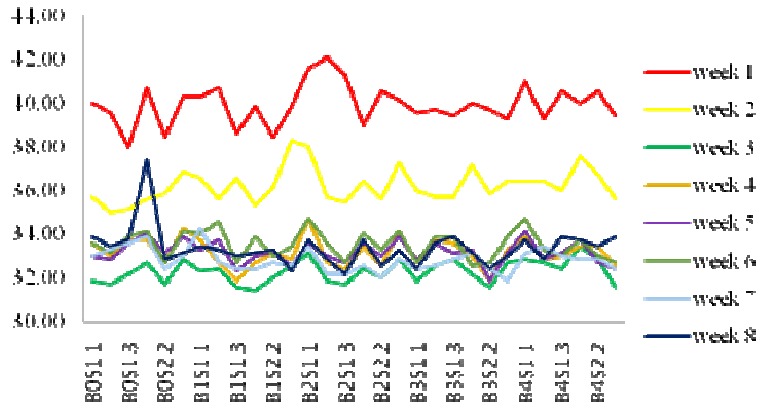
All treatments are replicated 3 times so there are 30 experimental pots

3. Results And Discussion

3.1 Compost Temperature

In the composting process, observation of compost temperature needs to be done to determine the level of compost maturity and to know the decomposition process is still on going. Following are observations of average compost temperature every week (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Graph of the average temperature of compost on every week for Composting



Source: the Center for Organic Fertilizer Research at the Department of Soil and the Laboratory of Chemistry, Biology and Soil Fertility, Faculty of Agriculture, Sriwijaya University

According to Indriani, (2007), an important indicator in the composting process is the temperature of the composting, because the temperature at the time of composting can show the process of microorganisms in decomposing organic matter.

Of the thirty trials conducted temperatures experienced an increase in the first week and for subsequent weeks decreased but still above 30°C. According to Indriani (2007) the optimal temperature in the composting process is 30 -50 °C. Based on SNI 19-7030-2004 the temperature of compost that has been ready is the maximum temperature of ground water temperature.

3.2 Compost Water Content

The important role of humidity becomes very important for oxygen supply and microbial metabolism.

Table 1: Compost water content

No	Treatment	Water content (%)
1.	B ₀ S ₁	55.90
2.	B ₀ S ₂	62.04
3.	B ₁ S ₁	60.15
4.	B ₁ S ₂	63.64
5.	B ₂ S ₁	59.47
6.	B ₂ S ₂	63.11
7.	B ₃ S ₁	59.28
8.	B ₃ S ₂	62.18
9.	B ₄ S ₁	59.39
10.	B ₄ S ₂	61.47

Source: the Center for Organic Fertilizer Research at the Department of Soil and the Laboratory of Chemistry, Biology and Soil Fertility, Faculty of Agriculture, Sriwijaya University

According to Kusumawati's research (2011), water content affects the rate of compost decomposition and temperature parameters except for pH and nitrogen

levels. Water content affects the rate of compost decomposition and temperature caused by microorganisms need optimal water content to decompose organic material. Based on 30 experiments, there are some treatments whose water content exceeds 60% and there are also below 50%.

Moisture compost affects the activity of microorganisms involved in composting (Yenie, 2008), and the optimum humidity for aerobic composting is 50-60%.

3.3 Compost Color

The color of compost that has been matured is black. The color change from 10YR 4/6 (brown) at the beginning of composting to black is on a mature fertilizer due to the decomposition of organic matter by the activities of various microorganisms. The aerobic decomposition process is shown by the change of color to black (Sutanto, 2002).

At the first week after decomposting and mixing it with other ingredients, the color has become dark brown and at the last week or 8th week the color starts to get darker or blackish, in accordance with SNI 19-7030-2004, the color of ripe compost that is black.

3.4 Compost Smell

Mature compost is characterized by a soil-like odor. Aeration can be increased by reversing the compost collision. This is because the material used is not the same as organic material in general, because the material used is difficult to decompose (Djuarnani et.al 2006).

From the observation of compost odor, all treatments have experienced odor changes from the beginning of the composting process until the end of the composting process. Matured compost in this study smells like soil, this is in accordance with SNI 19-7030-2004 the smell of ripe compost smells like soil.

3.5 Compost Particle Size

The smaller the piece of raw material, the faster the decay time. The size of the material about 5-10 cm suitable for compost in terms of aspects of air circulation that may occur. To speed up the weathering process, manually chopped leaves, twigs and other organic material by hand or machine.

Table 2: Compost particle size

No	Treatment	Particle size (%) 5 mm
1.	B ₀ S ₁	57.3
2.	B ₀ S ₂	40.7
3.	B ₁ S ₁	62.3
4.	B ₁ S ₂	49.7
5.	B ₂ S ₁	58.7
6.	B ₂ S ₂	50.3
7.	B ₃ S ₁	56.7
8.	B ₃ S ₂	52.7
9.	B ₄ S ₁	58.3
10.	B ₄ S ₂	74.0

Source: the Center for Organic Fertilizer Research at the Department of Soil and the Laboratory of Chemistry, Biology and Soil Fertility, Faculty of Agriculture, Sriwijaya University

In this research, the counting of oil palm leaf fronds uses a chopping machine so that the initial particle size of the material is around 3-5 cm. according to SNI 19-7030-2004 the particle size for mature compost ranges from 0.55-25 mm. Referring to

compost SNI which has a maximum particle size of 25 mm, all treatments are in accordance with SNI.

3.6 N, P, K, C / N ratio and C-Organic Compost (%)

The nutrient content in each compost is different. The difference in content can be seen in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Compost analysis data.

No	Treatment	pH	N-Total	P-available	K-Total	C-Organik	C/N
1.	B ₀ S ₁	7.17	0,62	0,0062	0,20	8.19	20
2.	B ₀ S ₂	6.80	0,45	0,0062	0,20	7,31	16
3.	B ₁ S ₁	7.29	0,51	0,0060	0,22	8,99	18
4.	B ₁ S ₂	7.02	0,49	0,0059	0,23	8,35	17
5.	B ₂ S ₁	6.98	0,52	0,0061	0,23	7,79	15
6.	B ₂ S ₂	6.98	0,58	0,0060	0,22	10,95	19
7.	B ₃ S ₁	7.12	0,41	0,0062	0,26	5,74	14
8.	B ₃ S ₂	6.89	0,40	0,0062	0,20	7,25	18
9.	B ₄ S ₁	7.04	0,51	0,0065	0,22	9,25	18
10.	B ₄ S ₂	7.30	0,50	0,0061	0,24	6.58	13

Source: the Center for Organic Fertilizer Research at the Department of Soil and the Laboratory of Chemistry, Biology and Soil Fertility, Faculty of Agriculture, Sriwijaya University

It can be seen in the data in Table 3 above that the pH, N, P, K, C / N and C-Organic content of all treatments varies greatly. Based on the above results, it can be compared with SNI 19-7030-2004. All pH, N, P, K, C / N and C-Organic contents are in accordance with the standards. In this research, the initial content of C / N ratio of composted material is 62.67%. Compost is determined by low C / N levels. The lower the C / N level the more mature the compost. According to the standard compost requirements, the C / N ratio must be <20, if > 20 then compost has not been said to be matured.

4. Conclusion

The best ruminant rumen bioactivator in the composting process is buffalo bioactivator with NPK fertilizer starter agent, producing a temperature of 33.66 °C, moisture content of 61.47%, particle size of 74.0%, compost color is dark, compost has smelly soil, pH 7, 30, N-Total 0.50%, P-Available 0.0061%, K-Total 0.24, C-Organic 6.58 and C / N 13%.

Acknowledgment

Thanks you to Anggaran DIPA BLU UNSRI Tahun Anggaran 2019, No. SP DIPA-042.01.2.400953/2019 for the research funding provided

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