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LILIS HERMIDA <lilis.hermida@eng.unila.ac.id>

Successfully received: submission Slow release urea fertilizer synthesized through intercalation of urea into local natural bentonite with various binders for Environmental Technology & Innovation

1 message

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Ref: ETI_2018_342
Title: Slow release urea fertilizer synthesized through intercalation of urea into local natural bentonite with various binders
Journal: Environmental Technology & Innovation

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Title: Slow release urea fertilizer synthesized through intercalation of urea into local natural bentonite with various binders
Journal: Environmental Technology & Innovation

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Gmail **LILIS HERMIDA <lilis.hermida@eng.unila.ac.id>**

Reviews complete and decision pending for your manuscript ETI_2018_342

1 message

Environmental Technology & Innovation <EviseSupport@elsevier.com> Tue, Sep 25, 2018 at 1:17 AM
Reply-To: eti@elsevier.com
To: lilis.hermida@eng.unila.ac.id

Reference: ETI_2018_342
Title: Slow release urea fertilizer synthesized through intercalation of urea into local natural bentonite with various binders
Journal: Environmental Technology & Innovation

Dear Dr. Hermida,

I am pleased to inform you that I have received all the required reviews, which I will now evaluate before making a decision on your manuscript referenced above.

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Gmail LILIS HERMIDA <lilis.hermida@eng.unila.ac.id>

Revision requested for ETI_2018_342

2 messages

Ravi Naidu (Environmental Technology & Innovation) <EviseSupport@elsevier.com> Tue, Sep 25, 2018 at 10:39 PM
Reply-To: ravi.naidu@crccare.com
To: lilis.hermida@eng.unila.ac.id

Ref: ETI_2018_342
Title: Slow release urea fertilizer synthesized through intercalation of urea into local natural bentonite with various binders
Journal: Environmental Technology & Innovation

Dear Dr. Hermida,

Thank you for submitting your manuscript to Environmental Technology & Innovation. I have received comments from reviewers on your manuscript. Your paper should become acceptable for publication pending suitable minor revision and modification of the article in light of the appended reviewer comments.

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I look forward to receiving your revised manuscript as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

Professor Naidu
Editor-in-Chief
Environmental Technology & Innovation

Comments from the editors and reviewers:
-Reviewer 1

-

This Research Article highlights the experimental study on "

Slow release urea fertilizer synthesized through intercalation of urea into local natural bentonite with various binders" .

Authors need to address the following clarifications before consideration of this manuscript in this Journal.

1. Why bentonite clay was chosen as a substrate? even though a lot of other cheaper eco friendly materials are available. Some Introduction of material selection.
2. In the preparation of SRUF, on what basis the binder and substrate composition were fixed?
3. Have you analyzed the size of pellets prepared ? what is the average particle size of prepared material?
4. Do the size of pellets have any impact on SRUF? Authors need to add some reference on this.
5. In section 2.4, clearly mention the amount of SRUF taken for static release experiment either using corn starch or HPMC?
6. It could be more appropriate if the author mention the elemental composition of SRUF-4 and SRUF-7.
7. Check the Table.2 for amount of bentonite taken is it 9,2 or 9.2 and 9,8 or 9.8.
8. Check the x-axis title in Figure 3A. Authors need to write the axis title in English Language.
9. In Figure 6, the author need to mark and highlight the new peaks and peak changes in FTIR analysis.

-Reviewer 2

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General Comments

In their study, the authors have addressed the preparation of bentonite-incorporated slow release urea fertilizer while the efficacy of two different binders was tested. Additionally, urea desorption or release studies were carried out to find out the best-suited combination. Indeed, the preparation of slow release urea fertilizers (SRUFs) for one of the best-suited techniques to reduce the environmental problems originated from the application of a huge amount of urea. However, the overall manuscript is poorly organized and prepared that suffers from lack of sufficient data as well as clarification. Hence, several remarks of forms and corrections must be made to the manuscript so that it's suitable for publication.

The major concerns are:

1. The authors have prepared SRUFs by intercalation of urea into bentonite clay. The intercalation process was reported from the EDX analysis. From EDX analysis, we can only get information about elemental composition not intercalation. Generally, the term intercalation is used when any guest molecules are loaded to the interlayer space of any clay. Thus, X-ray diffraction (XRD) analysis is essential before and after urea loading to provide some evidence of intercalation.

2. The authors failed to clarify role of binders used in this study. If the binders facilitate the intercalation of urea to clay, it is needed to describe the possible mechanism. The procedure of SRUFs preparation used in this study is not suited for intercalation of binders into clay as well as to exfoliate the phyllosilicate layers. Rather, from SEM images, it

is observed that the binders acted as surface modifying agents. Moreover, the authors have used only 9.2-9.8 g bentonite to intercalate 90 g of urea, which is not possible. Thus, the term 'intercalation' used throughout the manuscript is questionable. The authors need to be careful during reporting of any scientific term.

3. As per authors, the main objective of this study was to investigate the effects of binder types (i.e. corn starch and HPMC) on structural characteristics and release mechanisms that was not reported by Xiaoyu et al., (2013); Lixiang et al., (2011); Zengming et al., (2008). However, the characteristics of SRUFs pellets are completely missing.

4. The release data presented in Figure 2 is not realistic. The way of data presentation is questionable.

With the above-mentioned concerns, the manuscript is not suitable for publication in its current format. The authors may submit the revised manuscript addressing the following specific comments and suggestions as well.

Specific comments and suggestions

1. Please change the title. For instance, 'Slow release urea fertilizer synthesized through recrystallization of urea incorporating natural bentonite using polymeric binders'. However, if the bentonite used as coating material then please change the title accordingly.

2. Please revise the whole manuscript as it is suffering from the term 'intercalation'.

3. The references used by authors are not appropriate and also indicates that the authors have used some references without any evaluation those journal articles. For an example, in material section the authors mentioned that natural bentonite was treated using method reported in the literature (Higuchi, 1963). Did Higuchi use bentonite in their experiment? If not, why the authors have used this reference?

4. Is it possible to measure urea concentration directly using UV-vis spectrophotometer? If yes, please give some references. If not, please write the procedure in details.

5. Along with Figure 2, another figure representing cumulative release percentages of urea are also appreciated.

6. The way of data analysis using Peppas model is not sound please check again and provide some references.

7. Please mention clearly, why only SRUF-4 and SRUF-7 were selected for characterization as well as understand release mechanism.

8. Please give the elemental composition observed in Figure 5.

9. Please correct the Figure 6. In Figure 6, A: Urea should be A: Bentonite while B: Bentonite is B: Urea

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L Hermida <lilis.hermida@eng.unila.ac.id> Thu, Sep 27, 2018 at 9:21 PM
To: JONI AGUSTIAN <joni.agustian@eng.unila.ac.id>

Yours sincerely

Dr. Lilis Hermida,

Senior Lecturer,
Department of Chemical Engineering, Universitas Lampung, Indonesia
E-mail: lilis.hermida@eng.unila.ac.id
lilish60@gmail.com

[Quoted text hidden]

Your manuscript ETI_2018_342_R1 has been accepted

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Ravi Naidu (Environmental Technology & Innovation) <EviseSupport@elsevier.com> Sat, Nov 24, 2018 at 1:24 PM
Reply-To: ravi.naidu@crccare.com
To: lilis.hermida@eng.unila.ac.id

Ref: ETI_2018_342_R1
Title: Slow release urea fertilizer synthesized through recrystallization of urea incorporating natural bentonite using various binders
Journal: Environmental Technology & Innovation

Dear Dr. Hermida,

I am pleased to inform you that your paper has been accepted for publication. Now that your manuscript has been accepted for publication it will proceed to copy-editing and production.

Thank you for submitting your work to Environmental Technology & Innovation. We hope you consider us again for future submissions.

Kind regards,

Ravi Naidu
Editor-in-Chief
Environmental Technology & Innovation

Comments from the editors and reviewers:

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