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To: striyono2001@yahoo.com

Date: Tuesday, May 17, 2022, 10:44 AM GMT+7

Manuscript ID: IJROWA-2204-1456

Manuscript Title: **Influence of composting conditions on compost quality produced from cow manure and wheat straw composting**

Date: 2022-05-16

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TITLE: Influence of composting conditions on compost quality produced from cow manure and wheat straw composting

ABSTRACT:

The composting of manure is the common practice for the feedlots of cattle, but the emission of gasses during the composting was poorly understood. The main objective of this study was to quantify the emission of methane (CH₄) and carbon dioxide (CO₂) during composting process. The experiment was performed under CRD with three treatments (T1 = 3:1, T2 = 1:1 and T3 = 1:3) of cow manure and wheat straw under aerobic and anaerobic composting conditions. The results showed that the composting conditions significantly influenced the emission of greenhouse gasses and the compost quality. The maximum gas volume (658 ml) and methane production (58.89%) was produced under the anaerobic decomposition of cow manure and wheat straw 3:1, respectively. The maximum carbon dioxide (18.56 %) was produced under the aerobic decomposition of cow manure and wheat straw 1:3, respectively. The nutrient analysis of compost revealed that the high-quality compost with maximum total organic carbon (20.1 %), total nitrogen (2.47 %), phosphorus (0.76%) and potassium (1.49%) was observed from the compost produced from the anaerobic decomposition of cow manure and wheat straw @ 3:1, respectively. This work highlights that the anaerobic composting of cow manure and wheat straw has potential to reduce the organic waste, produce the biogas and best quality compost which ultimately reduce the environmental pollution.

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Manuscript ID: IJROWA-2204-1456

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Reviewer's comments (Sugeng Triyono)

Abstract: format just follow the rule

Introduction:

Line 31-37. This article is nothing about antibiotics. So replacing with related issues is better

Materials And Methods

Line 59-61. This experiment comprised on six treatments viz. T₁: CM + WS (25 % + 75 %), T₂: CM+WS (50 %+50%) and T₃: CM +WS (75% +25%) under aerobic and anaerobic conditions.

The first factor (treatment) comprised of three levels e.g.: T₁: CM + WS (25 % + 75 %), T₂: CM+WS (50 %+50%) and T₃: CM +WS (75% +25%). While the second factor consisted of two levels e.g. aerobic and anaerobic conditions. Adjust your abstract too.

Line 64. Water is added. How much?

Line 87-88. When the color will be changed from black to green or white then the flask was cooled at room temperature.

Didn't you use heating for this digestion? Clarify.

Line 91. N(%)=

Every code/label/abbreviation should be added description properly.

Line 98. P(%) = ... needs description too

Results and Discussion

Line 107-114. These were supposed to be described in the method section. If analysis of Variance used, Authors have to mention the data analyses in the methodology section too. And what multiple comparison method did you use? Describe completely in the method section.

Looking at the immersing factor of "days (T)", you actually had three factors instead of two. The day factor (D) had to be mentioned in the methodology too. Clarify and corrected. Also highlight id if this factor was just for observing gas dynamic during the composting.

Conclusion Part

Limit your conclusion just on what your finding. Which method of composting produced best quality of compost, mostly conserved nutrient, and emitted least GHG.

Overall: I do not see any Figures.

Influence of composting conditions on compost quality produced from cow manure and wheat straw composting

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ABSTRACT

The composting of manure is the common practice for the feedlots of cattle, but the emission of gasses during the composting was poorly understood. The main objective of this study was to quantify the emission of methane (CH₄) and carbon dioxide (CO₂) during composting process. The experiment was performed under CRD with three treatments (T1 = 3:1, T2 = 1:1 and T3 = 1:3) of cow manure and wheat straw under aerobic and anaerobic composting conditions. The results showed that the composting conditions significantly influenced the emission of greenhouse gasses and the compost quality. The maximum gas volume (658 ml) and methane production (58.89%) was produced under the anaerobic decomposition of cow manure and wheat straw 3:1, respectively. The maximum carbon dioxide (18.56 %) was produced under the aerobic decomposition of cow manure and wheat straw 1:3, respectively. The nutrient analysis of compost revealed that the high-quality compost with maximum total organic carbon (20.1 %), total nitrogen (2.47 %), phosphorus (0.76%) and potassium (1.49%) was observed from the compost produced from the anaerobic decomposition of cow manure and wheat straw @ 3:1, respectively. This work highlights that the anaerobic composting of cow manure and wheat straw has potential to reduce the organic waste, produce the biogas and best quality compost which ultimately reduce the environmental pollution.

Key words: Composting, Greenhouse gasses, Organic waste, Anerobic composting, Compost quality

INTRODUCTION

Composting is the widely used practice in the farms for management of management and development of various fertilizers rich in nutrients. The composting process uses many methods, windrows, in-vessel and static pile composting. The pile composting can be done in different intensity levels, by turning, forced aeration and addition of water within open or closed containers. Furthermore, some farms amend the compost with other organic matter sources while others only used solid manure for composting (Peigné and Girardin, 2004). The main objective of the researchers in composting is to enhance the nutrient availability in the soil by the application of compost and reduce compost volume, odor reduction and weight reduction of compost.

Additionally, for solid manure recycling, the composting process is the most effective for the mitigation of antibiotics. Many studies highlighted that the composting process can reduced the tetracycline in manure up to 70 to 90% (Wu *et al.*, 2011; Massé *et al.*, 2014). The sulfonamides concentrations, like sulfamethazine, sulfamethoxazole and sulfadiazine are also minimized or eliminated through composting (Selvam *et al.*, 2012; Liu *et al.*, 2015). It was observed that the

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36 degradation of antibiotics during composting process are associated with the nature of composting
37 substrate, ratio of carbon to nitrogen (C:N), moisture content, temperature, pH and aeration.

38 An efficient composting process primarily depends on the maximum control of feed stock mixture,
39 ratio of carbon to nitrogen (C:N), moisture content, temperature, pH and aeration (Gao *et al.*,
40 2010). The ideal condition for the composting is ratio of carbon to nitrogen (C:N) is 20 and 40,
41 moisture content (40 to 60%), temperature (55 to 60 °C) and pH (5.0 to 8.0) (Neklyudov *et al.*
42 2008). But international technical standards need the ratio of carbon to nitrogen about 20-30 for
43 the production of high quality compost (Vochozka *et al.* 2017). The high C:N slow the process of
44 composting as the microorganism has to degrade the excess amount of carbon, but low ratio of
45 C:N indicate an excess of nitrogen which may be lost from the process (Antil *et al.* 2014).
46 Therefore, low ratio of C/N needs addition of more composting material for balancing of both
47 elements. The carbon amendments and manure proportion in the compost effects the microflora of
48 compost which may disturbs the zoonotic pathogen survival (Erickson *et al.* 2009). The balancing
49 of C/N ratio is also essential in composting for optimization of bulking material which availability
50 is limited in some areas. So, there is immense need to enhance the nutrient contents in the
51 composting material, reduce the odor and other impurities by various amendment in the composting
52 material. This study was planned to find the best condition of composting for quality compost
53 production.

54 MATERIALS AND METHODS

55 For decomposition of biomass, wheat straw (WS) and cow manure (CM) were collected and
56 subjected to decomposition process through oxidative CC1 (aerobic) and fast decomposition and
57 fermentative and CC2 (anaerobic), slow decomposition way.

58 The experiment was laid under completely randomized design (CRD) in factorial arrangement
59 with three replications under two factors i.e., treatments and composting conditions. **This**
60 **experiment comprised on six treatments viz. T₁: CM + WS (25 % + 75 %), T₂: CM+WS (50**
61 **%+50%) and T₃: CM +WS (75% +25%) under aerobic and anaerobic conditions.** The composting
62 materials are mixed thoroughly to homogenize the material (Figure 1).

63 The decomposition was carried out in the controlled container of (20L) which was filled one third
64 with the mixed ratio of composting material and then **water** is added to fill the container. The
65 composting was carried out for 48 days (Figure 2).

66 The data was recorded for the emission of greenhouse gasses (CH₄ and O₂) on daily basis up to 48
67 days with the help of BH-4S Portable Multi-Gas Detector Bosean Electronic Technology Co., Ltd.,
68 Zhengzhou, China (Figure 3). The gas volume was also recorded from the gas storage bags. The
69 daily outside and inside drum temperature was also recorded with the help of portable
70 thermometer. When the composting process is completed then the compost was air dried in the
71 shade and then used for the analysis of organic matter, nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and
72 potassium(K) in the sample. The detailed procedure is given below.

73 **Organic matter (%)**

74 Organic matter is estimated by the loss on ignition (LOI), or “volatile solids,” method, which
75 estimates the portion of sample weight lost during combustion at 550°C (1,022°F). Because
76 organic matter content is not determined directly by the LOI method, the reported value is only an
77 approximation. Weight can also be lost during combustion from other sources, including rubber,
78 plastic, and “mineral-bound” water. Often, low organic matter values in compost (below 25
79 percent) result from soil or sand being mixed into the compost during turning. This is common
80 when compost is prepared on bare ground. Composts with high levels of organic matter (more than
81 65 percent) may not have been thoroughly composted. These materials may contain considerable
82 unstable organic matter that will be lost (as carbon dioxide gas) via rapid decomposition after field
83 application.

85 **Nitrogen (%)**

86 After grinding of compost one gram sample was added into 50 ml digestion flask by adding 12 ml
87 H₂SO₄ for each sample. **When the color will be changed from black to green or white then the**
88 **flask was cooled at room temperature** and volume was made up to 100 ml and put the sample in
89 distillation unit for distillation. The nitrogen in the form of ammonia was collected in 4% boric
90 acid solution and then titrate with 0.1 normal H₂SO₄ as described by Jones *et al.* (1991).

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$$91 \text{ N (\%)} = \frac{(V-B_1) \times N \times V_2 \times 14.01 \times 100}{92 \quad W_{t_2} \times V_3 \times 1000}$$

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93 **Phosphorus (ppm)**

94 Dicarboxylic acid mixture was used for digestion of compost sample. After digestion color
95 developing reagents were prepared by using ammonium molybdate and nitric acid. Then sample

96 were run in spectrophotometer after calibration with 'P' standards as method described by Jones
97 Jr *et al.*, (1991).

$$98 \quad P (\%) = \frac{\text{ppm P (From calibration curve)} \times V_1 \times 100}{Wt \times V_2 \times 1000} \times 1$$

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100 Potassium

101 Flame photometer was calibrated with standard solution. One-gram dried sample was dissolved in
102 (distilled) water and then filtered through filter paper. Emission reading was taken at 767 nm
103 wavelength. The potassium was determined by using flame photometer as described by Jones Jr
104 *et al.*, (1991). Potassium concentration was calculated according to callibration curve.

105 Soluble K (ppm) = ppm K (from calibration curve)

106 Results and Discussion

107 During composting the greenhouse gasses produced were measured with the portable gas detector
108 (BH 4S, Bonsean Technologies China) from each treatment separately. The obtained data was
109 statistically analyzed find the differences among the treatments. The results showed significant
110 differences among days (D), conditions (C), treatments (T), days × condition (D × C), days ×
111 treatments (D × T), condition × treatments (C × T) and days × condition × treatments (D × C × T)
112 for Oxygen (O₂), Methane (CH₄), Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S), Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), Volume and
113 Inside temperature, while the Oxygen (O₂) differed non-significantly among the treatments (Table
114 1).

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115 The gas volume varied significantly among the conditions, composting treatments and composting
116 duration. In case of **Conditions x Treatments (C × T)** the more gas volume was produced under
117 anaerobic conditions than the aerobic conditions. Among the treatments the maximum gas volume
118 (658 ml) was recorded under cow manure : wheat straw (3:1) under anaerobic conditions, followed
119 by cow manure : wheat straw (3:1) under anaerobic conditions (378 ml). The lowest gas volume
120 (285 ml) was recorded under cow manure : wheat straw (1:3) (Figure 4). It was observed that the
121 composting condition has the significant effect on the gas volume and more gas was produced
122 under anaerobic composting.

123
124 In case of **Days x Conditions (D × C)** the more gas production was observed under anaerobic
125 conditions compared to aerobic composting. The maximum gas volume (469 ml) was recorded

126 under anaerobic composting after 15 days of composting, followed by anerobic composting under
127 20 and 25 days of composting (362 and 367 ml). The lowest gas volume was observed (30 and 0
128 ml) was recorded under aerobic conditions at 45th and 50th day of composting (Figure 5).

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129 In case of **Days × Treatments (D × T)** the cow manure : wheat straw (3:1) produced more gas
130 volume compared to other treatments. The maximum gas volume (539 ml) was observed under
131 cow manure : wheat straw (3:1) at 15th day of composting, followed by 451 ml, recorded under
132 cow manure : wheat straw (3:1) at 10th day of composting. The minimum gas volume (24 ml) was
133 recorded under cow manure : wheat straw (1:3) at 50th day of composting (Figure 6).

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134 The methane production is the most important during the composting process as in the commercial
135 composting the methane used as a biogas to fulfil the energy demand. It was observed that the
136 methane production was more in the anaerobic composting than the aerobic composting. The
137 results showed that among the **Conditions x Treatments (C × T)** the composting under anerobic
138 conditions produced more methane than the aerobic composting. The maximum methane (58.89
139 %) was produced under anaerobic condition from the treatment manure : wheat straw (3:1),
140 followed by 47.41% produced under anerobic condition from the treatment manure : wheat straw
141 (1:1). The lowest methane (18.83 %) was produced under aerobic composting of the treatment
142 manure : wheat straw (1:3) (Figure 7).

143 The interactive effect of **Conditions x Days (C × D)** also influenced the methane production. It
144 was observed that the maximum methane (57.29 %) was recorded under anaerobic condition at
145 30th day of composting, followed by 40.77 % recorded under anaerobic condition at 25th day of
146 composting. The lowest 10.96% and 0 % was recorded under anaerobic and aerobic conditions at
147 50th day of composting (Figure 8).

148 In case of **Days × Treatments (D × T)** the maximum methane was produced under cow manure : wheat
149 straw (3:1) compared to other treatments. The maximum methane (63%) was observed under cow manure
150 : wheat straw (3:1) at 30th day of composting, followed by 49.57 %, recorded under cow manure : wheat
151 straw (3:1) at 25th day of composting. The minimum methane (15.36 %) was recorded under cow manure :
152 wheat straw (3:1) and (1:1) at 50th day of composting (Figure 9). According to Beck-Friis et al. (2003),
153 the emission of methane, occurs only during the thermophile phase, representing less than 2% of
154 the initial TOC in the case of a poorly ventilated compost pile. Volatile fatty acids, found in young
155 composts can also be released during composting. These results demonstrated that the anaerobic
156 decomposition produces the more gases compared to aerobic decomposition of the organic waste.

157 Our results showed that aerobic composting produced more carbon dioxide compared to anaerobic
158 composting, as in the aerobic composting more oxygen is present so, more production of carbon
159 dioxide. The results revealed that among **Conditions x Treatments (C × T)** aerobic composting
160 produced more carbon dioxide compared to anaerobic conditions. The maximum carbon dioxide
161 (18.56 %) was produced under aerobic condition from the treatment manure : wheat straw (1:3),
162 followed by 15.64 % recorded under aerobic conditions from the treatment manure : wheat straw
163 (1:1). The lowest carbon dioxide (11.34 and 12.05 %) was recorded under anaerobic conditions
164 from the treatment manure : wheat straw (1:1 and 3:1), respectively (Figure 10).

165 In case of **Conditions x Days (C × D)** the maximum carbon dioxide (46.9 %) was produced under
166 aerobic condition at 5th day of composting, followed by 43.4 % recorded under aerobic condition
167 at 15th day of composting. The lowest carbon dioxide 0 and 0.2 % was recorded under aerobic and
168 anaerobic conditions at 50th day of composting (Figure 11).

169 In case of **Days × Treatments (D × T)** the maximum carbon dioxide was produced under cow
170 manure : wheat straw (3:1) compared to other treatments. The maximum carbon dioxide (49.8 %) was
171 observed under cow manure : wheat straw (3:1) at 15th day of composting, followed by 49.35
172 %, recorded under cow manure : wheat straw (1:3) at 5th day of composting. The minimum carbon
173 dioxide (0, 0 and 0.3 %) was recorded under cow manure : wheat straw (1:3, 1:1 and 3:1) at 50th
174 day of composting, respectively (Figure 12). To maintain the aerobic condition inside the compost
175 pile, a minimum rate of 5% O₂ in pore space is required, while anaerobic condition occurs with
176 less than 1% of O₂ (Mustin 1987). During the active phases of aerobic fermentation, the
177 microorganisms consume 15 to 30 times more carbon than nitrogen (Mustin 1987). Thus, resulting
178 in more oxygen production in the aerobic composting compared to anaerobic composting. The
179 production of methane is the main event during the anaerobic composting. The possible presence
180 of anaerobic sites in the compost pile may result in methane (CH₄) emissions associated with
181 fermentative metabolism (He *et al.*, 2000).

182

183 **Nutrient analysis of compost**

184 The compost produced from both aerobic and anaerobic composting were analyzed for the nutrient
185 composition. The results showed significant differences for the total organic carbon among the
186 treatments (T), conditions (C) and interaction treatment × conditions (T × C), while the nitrogen
187 differed significantly among the treatments and non-significantly among conditions and

188 interaction ($T \times C$). The phosphorus showed non-significant differences among the treatments,
189 conditions and interaction ($T \times C$). The potassium differed significantly among treatments and
190 conditions, but non-significantly differed among the interaction ($T \times C$) (Table 2). The compost
191 quality is determined by the micronutrients produced during the composting process. Our results
192 showed that the maximum nitrogen, total organic carbon, phosphorus and potassium was produced
193 by the decomposition of cow manure and wheat straw under anaerobic condition, while the
194 anaerobic composting produced lower than anaerobic composting. During the active phases of
195 aerobic fermentation, the microorganisms consume 15 to 30 times more carbon than nitrogen
196 (Mustin 1987).

197 In case of total organic carbon the maximum value (20.1 %) was observed under anaerobic
198 composting of cow manure : wheat straw (3:1), followed by 15.1 %, recorded under anaerobic
199 composting of manure : wheat straw (1:1). The lowest value of total organic carbon (11.98 %) was
200 observed under aerobic composting of manure : wheat straw (1:3) (Figure 13). So, it is concluded
201 that the composting of cow manure under anaerobic conditions produces more total organic carbon
202 compared with anaerobic composting. Thus, suggesting that the organic carbon is less in the
203 aerobic composting than anaerobic composting. During composting, organic nitrogen of waste is
204 mineralized mainly into ammonium (NH_4^+) and nitrate (NO_3^-) when nitrification is achieved. Part
205 of this mineral nitrogen is reincorporated into the active microbial metabolism during composting,
206 some is incorporated into organic matter compost in their humification, and part is released in the
207 form of inorganic nitrogen matrix (Larsen and McCartney 2000).

208 The maximum value (2.47 %) of total nitrogen was observed under anaerobic composting of cow
209 manure : wheat straw (3:1), followed by 1.93 %, recorded under anaerobic composting of manure
210 : wheat straw (1:1). The lowest nitrogen (1.56 %) was observed under aerobic composting of
211 manure : wheat straw (1:3) (Figure 14). At the end of composting, mineralization process become
212 predominant, and an increase in the content of NO_3^- is frequently observed (Sanchez-Monedero
213 et al. 2001). Under optimal aeration condition, the pH rise causes a transformation of NH_4^+ into a
214 volatile nitrogen (NH_3). On the other hand, the limited ventilation causes an increase in the content
215 of volatile fatty acids, resulting in a decrease of the pH, and locking of nitrogen as NH_4^+ (Michel
216 and Reddy 1998). These results showed that the anaerobic composting reduces the nitrogen losses
217 thus more nitrogen is produced in the anaerobic composting. Finally, these results showed that the

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218 anaerobic composting produced more gas volume and best quality compost compared to aerobic
219 composting.

220 The composting conditions also significantly influenced the phosphorus and potassium. The
221 maximum phosphorus (0.76 %) and potassium (1.49 %) was observed under anaerobic composting
222 of cow manure : wheat straw (3:1), followed by 0.71 % and 1.42 % of phosphorus and potassium
223 was recorded under anaerobic composting of manure : wheat straw (1:1). The lowest value of
224 phosphorus (0.63 %) and potassium (1.26 %) was observed under aerobic composting of manure
225 : wheat straw (1:3) (Figure 15 and 16, respectively).

226 **Conclusion**

227 There are many parameters that can be considered for start-up, monitoring and quality of compost.
228 However, it becomes challenging when extrapolating the process into field and industrial level.
229 Nowadays, gas and moisture sensors become to be used in monitoring by large composting
230 companies, but farmers and small composters cannot afford the device and the analytical cost. The
231 composting of cow manure will help to minimize the solid waste and also results in the production
232 of gas for the household use. It also produces the best quality compost and minimize the farmers
233 input expenses for the purchase of expensive inorganic fertilizer. The composting has the potential
234 to reduce the environmental pollution by reducing the extensive inorganic fertilizer use and it also
235 enhance the soil organic profile.

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285
286 Reviewer's comments

287 Abstract: format just follow the rule

288 Introduction:

289 Line 31-37. This article is nothing about antibiotics. So replacing with related issues is better

290 Materials And Methods

291 Line 59-61. This experiment comprised on six treatments viz. T₁: CM + WS (25 % + 75 %), T₂: CM+WS (50
292 %+50%) and T₃: CM +WS (75% +25%) under aerobic and anaerobic conditions.

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293 The first factor (treatment) comprised of three levels e.g.: T₁: CM + WS (25 % + 75 %), T₂: CM+WS (50
294 %+50%) and T₃: CM +WS (75% +25%). While the second factor consisted of two levels e.g. aerobic and
295 anaerobic conditions. Adjust your abstract too.

296 Line 64. Water is added. How much?

297 Line 87-88. When the color will be changed from black to green or white then the flask was
298 cooled at room temperature.

299 Didn't you use heating for this digestion? Clarify.

300 Line 91. N(%)=

301 Every code/label/abbreviation should be added description properly.

302 Line 98. P(%) = ... needs description too

303 Results and Discussion

304 Line 107-114. These were supposed to be described in the method section. If analysis of
305 Variance used, Authors have to mention the data analyses in the methodology section too. And
306 what multiple comparison method did you use? Describe completely in the method section.

307 Looking at the immersing factor of "days (T)", you actually had three factors instead of two. The
308 day factor (D) had to be mentioned in the methodology too. Clarify and corrected. Also
309 highlight id if this factor was just for observing gas dynamic during the composting.

310 Conclusion Part

311 Limit your conclusion just on what your finding. Which method of composting produced best
312 quality of compost, mostly conserved nutrient, and emitted least GHG.

313 Overall: I do not see any Figures.

314