



Efficacy of Tricompost on Vegetative Growth of Chilli Plant

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Received: April 24, 2019; Published: June 11, 2019

DOI: 10.31080/ASAG.2019.03.0518

Abstract

The objective of the study was to determine the efficacy of Tricompost as biofertilizer as maintenance for the chilli plant growth and productivity in the net house at Agropark, UMK jeli campus. The treatments were: T1 = 100 g Tricompost, T2 = 10 g chemical, T3 = control, T4 = 50 g Tricompost + 5 g chemical, T5 = 15 g chemical and T6 = 150 Tricompost. A total of 53 chilli seedlings were planted in polybags contained soils. Plant growth was determined based on plant length, diameter of stem and number of leaves. The result showed that T6 (150 Trichocompost +15 g NPK) was effective for the highest growth of chili plant and increased the number of leaves while T5 (15 g NPK) result was highest in length of chili plant growth among the rest other treatments. To vast using chemical fertilizer can increase the yield; nevertheless, chemical residues caused environment pollution. The result of this study indicate that Trichocompost had the efficacy to growth chilli plant as like chemical fertilizer; thus it might be inform that combination of Trichocompost and chemical fertilizer can play role to reduce the unparalleled using of chemical fertilizer.

Keywords: Chilli Plant; Trichocompost; Bio Control Agent; Antagonistic Activity; Growth

Introduction

Nowadays, people are more interest in application of chemical fertilizer on their vegetables and fruits crops due to the ability of chemical fertilizer in increasing yield productivity. Chemical fertilizer paly to increase crop productivity, but they also bring an impact on human health. Excessive use of chemical nowadays created serious environmental problem [1].

Mismanagement of chemical fertilizer brings the side impact to environments such as pollution of rivers, lakes and stream flows. Common examples chemical fertilizer used in chilli plant by farmers in Malaysia are NPK 30-10-10 Hydroponic Fertilizer (solid) and B fertilizer (liquid) while example of biocompost in market today for chilli planting such Garden Boost Sheep Wool Sheep Wool Pallet (sheep manure pallet) [2]. A study by [3] Alfred (2007) had discussed the properties of chemical fertilizer which have the ability in harden the soil and reduce soil fertility. Moreover, leeching of chemical fertilizer to water stream and environment surrounding can caused water and air pollution.

Chemical fertilizer can depletes essential nutrient and minerals in soil. In fertile soil, nutrient are replenish but in chemical fertilizer application only replenish in nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Potassium are not soluble in water. Thus, it cause the hardened soil structure formation. Sodium nitrate the alkaline fertilizer can reduce the soil fertility and making it barren. Soil degradation due excessive use of chemical leads to the loss of equilibrium of a stable soil. Though the use of chemical fertilizer help in growing the plants faster, plant are not healthy and strong due to short time on the growth of root, stem and nutritious fruits.

In addition, chemical fertilizer contains heavy metal such as cadmium and chromium have high radionuclides concentration. Wide use of chemical fertilizer cause more serious in accumulation of inorganic pollutants. Amount of nitrite in drinking water. To overcome this problem, best way to use biofertilizer that can help to reduce the use of chemical fertilizer. With this regards, this study was aimed to use biocompost of Trichocompost on maintenance of chilli plant growth in net house experiment.

Materials and Methods

Collection of samples

Sugarcane waste (6 kg) was collected from farmers in Kedah. Citrus leaves were purchased from Jeli market for 500 g (RM5). *Antigonon leptopus* leaves were collected from UMK Jeli Campus tunnel garden. Compost was decomposed by using *Trichoderma parareesei* which was collected from the stock culture (Biology laboratory, UMK Jeli Campus).

Pure Culture of *Trichoderma parareesei*

The pure culture of *Trichoderma parareesei* was performed from the stock culture of *Trichoderma parareesei* which was isolated and identified in another study. *Trichoderma parareesei* from the stock culture was transferred on PDA (potato dextrose agar) containing plate of mycelia. The culture was carried in fume chamber to prevent the contamination. All the culture were sealed neatly by parafilm. The plate were incubated for full growth colony in the room temperature at 30°C for 7 - 8 days. The full growth of the culture of *Trichoderma parareesei* plates were kept for further study.

Suspension Preparation of *Trichoderma Parareesei*

Trichoderma parareesei was diluted with 10 ml of treated distilled water to prepare *Trichoderma parareesei* suspension. The culture was mixed by using a glass rod. Suspension process was carried in fume chamber. All prepared suspension were kept in test tubes with closely tightly. They were used for Tricompost preparation.

Counting Spores of *T. parareesei* by Haemocytometer

A drop of *Trichoderma parareesei* suspension was poured on haemocytometer for counting the spore from cultures plate before applying in Trichocompost and then after 2 weeks growth in Trichocompost. The *Trichoderma parareesei* spores counted using the formula 1 as below:

$$\text{Number of spores} = \text{Number of spores} / 25 \text{ boxes} \times 25 \text{ boxes} \times 1 / \text{total volume (10 ml)}$$

Preparation of Trichocompost

Sugarcane, leaves of *Antigonon leptopus* and citrus leaves were washed thoroughly with water and then the sample were dried under the hot sun for 4 days. All the samples were crushed into small

size by miller. A total of 80 g of sugarcane, 10 g of rice husk and 5 g of dried leaves of *Antigonon leptopus*, 5 g of citrus leaves and 1 plate of *Trichoderma parareesei* suspension (10 ml) was transferred in a pack of 100 g of Trichocompost. A total of 80 Trichocompost bags were prepared and kept in a closed box not near the light sources for microbial growth inside packs for 2 weeks.

Soil Filing to polybags and tagging

A total of 54 polybags were filled with sandy and loamy soil from Agropark, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan, Jeli Campus. They were been weighed to achieve 4 kg of soil for each polybags before transplanting the seedlings. Polybags of soil were arranged randomly in nursery.

Plant treatments

Trichocompost were used to maintenance of the vegetative growth in chilli plant. A total of 54 seedlings of chilli on the age of 30 days were transferred from the trays to the polybag filled with 4 kg of soil. They were been watered every morning at 8.00a.m and evening 6.00p.m to keep the moisture for the seedlings growth condition. The reason to do the early watering on the chilli plant to prevent the extreme water loss on the high temperature during the day. Six different treatment were used on chilli plant to observe the effectiveness of Trichocompost which shown in Table 1.

Treatment	Composition	Total Plant
T1	100 g of Trichocompost	9
T2	10 g of Chemical Fertilizer, NPK	9
T3	Control	9
T4	50 g of Trichocompost + 5 g of Chemical Fertilizer	9
T5	15 g NPK	9
T6	150 g Trichocompost + 15 g of NPK	9

Table 1: Layout of Treatments on Chilli Plant.

Data Collection and analysis

Growth of chilli plant were observed on the parameters of length, stem diameter, number of leaves, presence of branch. Data was collected on 6 weeks plant growth. All collected data were analyzed by ANOVA test to determine the significant differences among the treatments on maintenance of growth for chilli plant.

Results and Discussion

Counting *Trichoderma parareesei* spore

A cultured plate of *Trichoderma parareesei* was diluted with 10 ml of distilled water. Before Trichompost preparation the number of spore of *T. parareesei* was counted to observe the spore density. One drop of *T. parareesei* suspension was poured on haemocytometer and counted the spore under light microscope. The spore counting was analyzed using formula 1. The analysed result showed that *Trichoderma parareesei* spores were 19×10^7 spores/ml. Then, a plate of *T. parareesei* was poured into a packet of Tricompost and mixed thoroughly. Same procedure was used in 2 weeks growth of Trichocompost to calculate the spore of *T. parareesei* in Trichocompost and it was 179×10^7 spores/ml. It is noted that the spore number increased of *T. parareesei* after been for 2 weeks in the compost. It showed that compost ingredients help for enhancing sporulation of *T. parareesei* spore. For spore sporulation in compost, the proper ingredient play a role as good media for enhancing spore sporulation. In study of Yang, *et al.* [4] showed that arbuscular mycorrhizal (AM) spores were increased in cow manure and maize straw combination compost.

Assessment of Trichocompost for vegetative growth of Chilli plant

In this study to observe the efficacy of Trichocompost for maintenance of chilli plant growth was conducted by assessment of plant highest, plant diameter, shoot growth and leaves number among the six treatments. The treatments were T1: 100 g Trichocompost; T2: 10 g NPK fertilizer; T3: control, without any treatments; T4: 50 g of Trichocompost + 5 g of Chemical Fertilizer; T5: 15 g NPK, and T6: 150 g Trichocompost +15 g of NPK. Plant growth length was highest at week 6 in Treatments of T2, T5 and T6. It also showed that However, T4 is the first highest among T2 and T5, it can be noted that nutrient uptake stimulate from NPK in the presence of good concentrate trichocompost in treatment 6. However, there was similar plant diameter growth observed in all treated plants whereas the number of leaves were different in each treatment. The highest number of leaves were observed in T2, T5 and T6 treatments. Here also noted that number of leaf increased of good concentrate trichocompost in treatment 6. A similar trend also observed in study of Tomato plant which was treated with *Trichoderma* enriched biofertilizer and NPK fertilizer

combination, however, it showed that 50% of *Trichoderma* enriched biofertilizer either soild or liquied and 50% NPK fertilizer produced the highest yield compare to control and *Trichoderma* enriched biofertilizer alone or NPK alone treated tomato plant [5]. *Trichoderma* is filamentous fungus well known for biocontrol agent, while it has extraordinary ability that enhanced plant growth. The secondary compounds in this group of fungus harzianolide, anthraquinoues, T39 butenolide isolated and evident showed incorporated with these compounds enhanced plant growth of wheat plant [6].

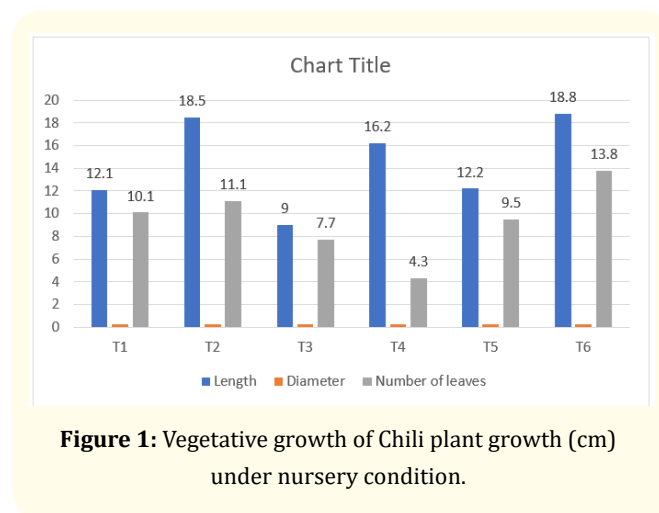


Figure 1: Vegetative growth of Chilli plant growth (cm) under nursery condition.

Conclusion

In this study showed that the combination of Trichocompost and NPK showed the good vegetative growth of chilli plant compare to trichocompost or NKP alone treatments. So it can be concluded that combination of Trichocompost can help to reduce vast using of chemical fertilizer or excessive using N subsequently it can contribute to minimizing environmental pollution.

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Volume 3 Issue 7 July 2019

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