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**THE EFFECT OF ORGANIC MEDIUM USE IN FORMULATION OF *TRICHODERMA HARZIANUM* AND *PLEUROTUS OSTREATUS* IN VIABILITY AND DECOMPOSITION OF CACAO POD HUSKS WASTE**

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### ABSTRACT

Biomass waste can be processed into high nutritious organic fertilizer and improve soil structure. This study aims to assess viability of *Trichoderma harzianum* TH03 and *Pleurotus ostreatus* PO2 isolates that propagated in different growth mediums: rice, corn and sawdust medium, followed by formulation in powder form and stored in different packaging after 2-24 weeks of storage periods under room temperature. This study used Completely Randomized Design with two factors : mediums and packaging types with three replications. The highest viability was observed in *T. harzianum* TH03 derived from rice medium and *P. ostreatus* PO2 from corn medium. Aluminum foil and plastic bag provided highest viability on *P. ostreatus* PO2 and *T. harzianum* TH03. *P. ostreatus* PO2 and *T. harzianum* TH03 treatment was appropriate with mature compost criteria. The lowest C/N content was found in cacao pod husk waste treated with *T. harzianum* TH03 (4.85%) whereas the control (23.20%). The nutrient of the compost treated with *P. ostreatus* PO2 is higher than control.

**Keywords:** rot fungi, formulation, viability, packaging variation, compost

### INTRODUCTION

Cacao produces a huge volume of biomass either from leaves or twigs which reached 6.85 ton/ha/year without shade and reached to 11.88 ton/ha/year under shade. Each harvest season, cacao produces 2178kg of wet beans and 6200kg of pod husks waste. This biomass can be processed into a good high nutritious organic fertilizer and returned it back into the soil to improve soil structure.

Utilization of microorganisms such as bacteria, fungi and actinomycetes in decomposition of organic material have been widely used. According to Eriksson *et al.*, (1989), fungi has the most significant decomposition activity can immediately break down the soil organic matter into a simple organic compounds, used as basic ion exchanger and release nutrients around the plant. The Genus *Trichoderma* and *Pleurotus* are the microorganisms widely spreaded in the nature and known as producer of hydrolytic enzyme, cellulase, pectinase and xylanase which can degrade polysaccharides complex such as cellulose, pectin, hemicellulose, and xylan. The use of *Trichoderma harzianum* has several advantageous due of easily cultivation and it rapidly growth rate (Selby, 1983). Fungi also can serve as antagonist toward plant pathogens (Altomare *et al.*, 1999; Hanson and Howell, 2004; Harman 2006) and according to Baloch *et al.*, (2017), invitro evaluation of the bio-control agent *T. harzianum* against *B. theobomae* was found to be very effective and the

maximum inhibition is 40.34% in the colony growth of the test fungus within seven days.

*T. harzianum* and *P. ostreatus* often cultivated in the many form of substrates, like rice bran, sawdust, corn, rice husks and a mixture of several substrates. Application of both *T. harzianum* and *P. ostreatus* in the form of these substrates is not practical because it requires a lot of container and labourous, often encounters obstacles when taken and applied in the field. Therefore, it is necessary to find the best solid formulation, that more practical, effective, and efficient. Biological agents formulation can be made by using of cheap and widely available ingredients such as agricultural waste (Soesanto, 2008). Various substances like talc (Jayaraj *et al.*, 2007) and alginate pellets have been used to formulate the biocontrol agents by different researchers. Talc is a natural mineral referred as steatite or soapstone composed of various minerals in combination with chloride and carbonate. Talc was found as the best carrier material to retain and support maximum propagules of *T. harzianum* up to 180 days Gade *et al.*, (2008).

Apart of the carrier material in the formulation, it is also important to concern the use of product packaging. Commercialized biological product requires ideal packaging for its growth, that can affect their viability (Wigati, 2009). It is necessary to assess the effect of propagation culture media, type of packaging after storage on the viability of the product and their effectiveness in decomposition of cacao pod husks in the field condition.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Cultivation, Formulation and Packaging of Fungal Isolates:** *Trichoderma harzianum* TH03 and *P. ostreatus* PO2 isolate were cultivated on rice, corn, and sawdust medium. Due of unoptimal growth, *P. ostreatus* was grown only on corn and sawdust medium, while *T. harzianum* cultivated on all three types of mediums. After 14 days of incubation, culture of each isolate was harvested and air dried. Inoculum was then grinded using a blender and mixed evenly with sterile talc powder and tapioca flour in ratio of 1:2:0.005. The formulation was filtered and air dried until a moisture level reached less than 12% then packed 100g in three packaging variations: clear plastic, aluminum foil and plastic bag and plastic bottle and stored at room temperature. The effect of temperature (25 °C-35 °C) was checked on the growth and production phase of metabolite by *P. ostreatus*. And highest production of metabolites were achieved at 30 °C (Rana and Dahot, 2017).

**Viability Test:** The viability of fungal spores in powder formulation derived from three different growth mediums and packaging variation was observed every two weeks until 24 weeks of storage periods. Each of 1g formulated isolate diluted with sterile water to 10-6 level, taked 100 µL and spread out on PDA medium then incubated at room temperature. The number of colonies on the medium were observed after 2-3 days of incubation. The population (cfu/g) was counted by average number of colonies formed in each treatment multiplied by dilution factor of sample. Completely randomized design with 2 factors and 3 replications was used in this experiment. Formulation still considered as feasible if the microbial population is still above of 10<sup>6</sup> cfu/ml.

**Percentage of viability:** Percentage of viability was measured comparing the number of colonies that grew before packaging and the number of colonies that grew after packaging in several storage periods.

**Decomposition of Cacao pod husks:** For decomposition test, it used fresh formulated *P. ostreatus*

PO2 and *T. harzianum* TH03 in ratio of 1.25% (w/w). The composting process was conducted in a wooden tub that previously coated with plastic. The first layer consist of ± 1cm thick layer of bran, cacao pod husks and sprinkled with dolomite lime then sprayed with a formulation of both fungal product that has been diluted in water. It was repeated in four layers then covered with plastic. The observation of decomposition process consisted of organoleptic tests to determine the maturity of compost: changes of color, texture and odor according to Asngad and Suparti (2005). Nutrient content and C/N ratio was revealed 60 days after incubation using 100 g of sample in each treatment. This study used a non-factorial Completely Randomized Design (CRD) design consisting of 4 treatments. The treatments were formulation of *T. harzianum* TH03, formulation of *P. ostreatus* PO2, formulation of *T. harzianum* TH03 and *P. ostreatus* PO2, and Control, with 3 replications.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

**Viability of *T. harzianum* TH03 and *P. Ostreatus* PO<sub>2</sub> Formulation:** *Trichoderma harzianum* TH03 showed best growth using rice medium, indicated by highest colony forming unit after a series of dilution plating method ( $2.17 \times 10^6$  cfu/g), followed by corn medium ( $16 \times 10^6$  cfu/g) and sawdust medium ( $1.1 \times 10^6$  cfu/g). In other hand *P. ostreatus* PO2 growth most optimal using corn medium ( $17 \times 10^6$  cfu/g). However, viability of *T. harzianum* TH03 formulation using rice, corn and sawdust media after 24 weeks of storage on three packaging variations continued to decrease. The percentage of viability can be seen in Figure 1. *T. harzianum* TH03 derived from rice medium can survive until the 12th weeks with viability percentage of 83.3% while using corn medium it viability hold until the weeks 12 indicated with viability percentage of 83.7%. Using sawdust medium the formulation of *T. harzianum* can only survive until 2 weeks with viability percentage of 3.03%.

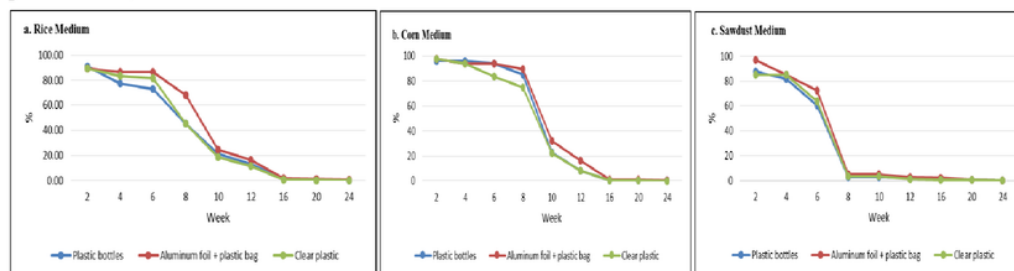


Figure 1: Percentage of *T. harzianum* TH03 viability using rice, corn, and sawdust on 2-24 weeks of storage periods in 3 packaging variations.

The nutrients contained in the carrier is an important factor that can affect the growth of *T. harzianum* and also affect its viability (survival). According to Papavizas (1986), *Trichoderma* need nutrients as a source of energy for its growth. The most important elements that must be present in natural or artificial media are carbon (C) and nitrogen (N) elements. Lopez (2003) stated that substrate conditions with excess C and less N sources would be a factor in growth of fungi mycelium. The carbon element is needed in the growth process as a source of energy and the synthesis of cell components to repair damaged cells. According to Aiman (1999), the C/N ratio contained in good mushroom growth substrate is relatively low or almost the same as the soil has that is between

10-20. The ratio of C/N ranges from 10 to 20 can spur the growth of fungi mycelium and increase production of conidia, whereas an overly high of C/N ratio may inhibit mycelium growth and decrease conidia production. Nitrogen element is needed to support the process of vegetative growth and cell organelle formation.

Different result was observed in *P. ostreatus* PO2 formulation. The viability of *P. ostreatus* PO2 propagated using sawdust medium and corn medium decreased significantly after 4 weeks of storage periods in room temperature (Figure. 2). Percentage of viability in formulation using corn medium was 88.47% while formulation using sawdust medium was 15.69%.

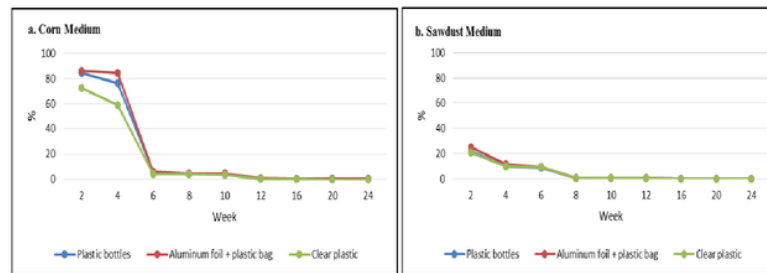


Figure 2: Percentage of *P. ostreatus* PO2 viability using corn and sawdust powder on 2-24 weeks of storage periods in 3 packaging variations.

This is because the ability of the fungus in maintaining its life longer requires sufficient energy at the growth growth, where the source of energy is obtained from substrate rich in nitrogen and carbohydrates. An ideal substrate should contain nitrogen (supplement) and carbohydrates for rapid mushroom growth (Khare, 2010), Corn medium contains a lot of sugar (monosaccharide) is a carbon source for fungal growth compared to sawdust. Corn media contains carbohydrates that are the source of C and protein as the source of N to obtain the optimal C/N values required for growth of mycelium (Cappucino et al., 2014). *P. ostreatus* mushroom can grow well on KanAyo-dele and Akpaja sawdust medium, that was reported that supplementation of sawdust with oil palm fibres can enhance mycelia growth and sporophore yield of wood ear mushroom but at the time of formulation into flour turned out the good viability at age 14days, this is because protein and carbohydrate content in sawdust media was not as good as on corn medium (Ayodele and Akpaja, 2007).

In general, the antagonists multiplied in an organic food base have longer shelf life than the inert or inorganic food bases. Jayaraj et al. (2005)

prepared formulations of *B. subtilis* AUBS-1 including talc based powder and reported that populations of bacteria in the formulations were stable up to 2 years of storage at room temperature but was significantly reduced beyond one year of storage. Talc, peat, lignite and kaolin based formulation of *Trichoderma*, have a shelf life of 3-4 months. The viable propagules of *Trichoderma* in talc formulation were reduced by 50% after 120 days of storage (Sankar and Jeyarajan, 1996).

The proper packaging is necessary to maintain the viability of the inoculum and protect the product until it is ready to be marketed and applied. The efforts to maintain probiotic inoculum viability can be done by packaging using several packaging types such as aluminum foil, cover paper, zipact plastic and heat resistant plastic so that the growth and damage of fungi in the packaging can be suppressed by preventing the entry of microorganisms. After the three variations of packaging were used, only the packaging using aluminum foil and plastic bag showed the best result in comparison with clear plastic and plastic bottle, this is because the packaging of aluminum foil and plastic bag thicker and when pressed

very tight and not easily torn, in contrast to the plastic bottle packaging where the lid was easily passed through the air which can be the entry of microbial contaminants, as well as on clear plastic packaging where the material was thin and easily damaged.

Jayaraj *et al.* (2006) evaluated the shelf life of formulations of *T. harzianum* under storage at 24°C up to 11 months and reported that the population of propagules was optimum in all formulations up to 3 months of storage. According to Astiko (2008) good packaging in addition to inhibit the viability decreasing also to facilitate the storage, transportation and distribution. Viability decreasing for 24 weeks of storage is not only caused by the self-defense from biological controlling agent viability itself, but is also strongly influenced by external factor which is microbial contamination either from both fungi and bacteria. Inhibition of *T. harzianum* TH03 and *P. ostreatus* PO2 growth on contaminant fungi and bacteria is suspected due to secondary metabolite activity in the form of antibiotic compound produced by each microbial contaminant that decreased the viability of *T. harzianum* TH03 and *P. ostreatus* PO2, these microbial contaminants can infect the formulation due to poor packaging.

**Decomposition of cacao pod husks:** Maturation of compost was indicated by color change, texture, and smell that was observed organoleptically according to Asngad and Suparti (2005). Compost color was generated ranging from bright brown to black, with crumbly texture and unique compost odor. This is in accordance of Budihardjo (2006). The observation results of color, texture and odor of composted cacao pod husk waste are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Color, texture and odor of composted pod husks waste, 60 days after fermentation.

Treatment	Organoleptic		
	Color	Texture	Odor
<i>P. ostreatus</i> PO2	2B	2.67B	2.67B
<i>T. harzianum</i> TH03	1A	2.00A	2.00A
<i>P. ostreatus</i> PO2 + <i>T. harzianum</i> TH03	1A	2.00A	2.00A
Control	3.67C	4.67C	4.00C

Numbers followed by the same letter in the same column are not significantly different (DMRT test,  $\alpha = 0.05$ ).

Application of *T. harzianum* TH03 and *P. Ostreatus* PO2 and *T. harzianum* TH03 gave better result in decomposition of cacao pod husk waste than *P. ostreatus* PO2 in single application. Organoleptic observation in control without rot fungi, smell and texture did not analogous with the criteria of mature compost. Applications of *T. virens* and manure on cacao pod husks that contaminated with *P. palmivora* showed that color, odor, and texture was appropriate with mature compost criteria (Sriwati *et al.*, 2013). In general, the composting proses will gradually change the color of the compost material toward the blackish brown resulting from the transformation of organic matter from forming humus substances and compost color changes due to differences in material moisture, but also due to changes in CO<sub>2</sub> or organic acids of a nature Volatile (Brinton and Droffner, 1994).

**Nutrient content and C/N ratio of cacao pod husk compost:** The nutrient content of cacao pod husk compost treated with *P. ostreatus* PO2 formulation and *T. harzianum* TH03 formulation was analyze after 60days. Table 3 showed on all four treatments was significantly different. The lowest C/N content was found in the treatment of *T. harzianum* TH03 formulation (4.85%) compared with control that had the highest C/N ratio (23.20%).

Table 3: The total of N content, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, K<sub>2</sub>O, C-organic and C/N ratio of Cacao pod husk compost fermented with *P. ostreatus* PO2 and *T. harzianum* TH03 formulation and control, 60 days after fermentation.

Treatment	Nutrient				
	C (%)	N total (%)	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> (%)	K <sub>2</sub> O (%)	C/N (%)
<i>P. ostreatus</i> PO2	5.88B	0.48B	6.2D	7.65D	12.25C
<i>T. harzianum</i> TH03	5.80B	0.54C	3.45B	6.59C	10.74A
<i>P. ostreatus</i> PO2 + <i>T. harzianum</i> TH03	4.85A	0.45B	4.65C	6.39B	10.77B
Control	5.80B	0.25A	3.28A	5.61A	23.20D

Numbers followed by the same letter in the same column are not significantly different (DMRT test,  $\alpha = 0.05$ )

C/N ratio meets the SNI standard of compost was 10-20 (Dirjen Cipta Karya, 2004). This result

indicates that the decomposition process occurs in the composting process on formulation of *T.*

*harzianum* TH03 treatment. One indicator that showed the decomposition process in composting is the decomposition of C/N substrates by microorganisms or other decomposer agents. The destruction of lignin and cellulose causes the carbon content will be decreased and the nitrogen level will be increased so that the C/N value becomes small (Mey, 2013).

The nutrient content of cacao compost inoculated with the fungal rot showed nutrient content capable of being released by microbes. The result of cacao pod husk compost using *T. harzianum* TH03 isolate formulation fulfilled SNI standard which determine parameter minimum N 0.40%, P 0.10% and K 0.20% is the best used for re-fertilization in cacao plant. The DMRT test results in the analysis of the macro nutrient content average from Cacao pod husk compost given treatment at total N content showed *T. harzianum* TH03 formulation treatment was the highest N content which is 0.54% while the highest P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> nutrient content level is in the *P. ostreatus* PO2 formulation treatment which is 6.42% and the highest K<sub>2</sub>O nutrient content level is also in the *P. Ostreatus* PO2 formulation treatment which is 7.65%. Inoculate with the molding fungi showed nutrient content capable of being released by microbes. Organic trash added to fungi *Trichoderma* sp, the NPK nutrient content is higher than composting without using *Trichoderma* sp. (Mardhiansyah and Widyastuti, 2007). The straw compost content that given *Trichoderma* sp. and local microorganisms (Mole) yielded lower C/N ratio and higher N, P, K, Ca and Mg nutrients (Suyanto and Tutik, 2015). Sharma <sup>10</sup> *al.*, (2012) also emphasized that *T. harzianum* appeared to be more effective in the biodegradation of these organics compared with **1** *viridae*.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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