

# Quality Evaluation of Virgin Coconut Oil Produced with Enzymatic Extraction using Coated Crude Papain

*by Amran Laga*

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## Quality Evaluation of Virgin Coconut Oil Produced with Enzymatic Extraction using Coated Crude Papain

AMRAN LAGA, FEBRUADI BASTIAN, MUSDALIFA MUSDALIFA,  
MUHPIDAH MUHPIDAH and MUSPIRAH DJALAL\*

<sup>24</sup> Department of Agricultural Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, Hasanuddin University,  
Makassar, Indonesia.

### Abstract

Papain enzyme has been applied in the production of coconut oil. In this study, crude papain enzyme was coated with maltodextrin to observe the effectiveness of coated papain in the production of virgin coconut oil (VCO). The specific objectives of this research including to determine the effect of the incubation length and temperature of the coated papain enzyme on the yield and quality of the resulting VCO. 0.5% enzyme (w/v) was applied to the coconut milk in different incubation lengths and temperatures to produce VCO. This study applied a randomized complete design with two factors; length of incubation (6, 12, 18, and 24 hours) and incubation temperature (30, 40, 50 and 60 °C). The findings of this study showed that based on a yield of 24.88% and a degree of clarity of 92.15%, the optimal incubation temperature for the production of VCO in this study was 50 °C. The findings of the research, based on a yield of 22.56%, showed that 18 hours of incubation was found to be the optimal incubation time for the production of VCO in this study. Even though the free fatty acids and water content suggest that refinement is necessary for the quality improvement of the produced VCO, the peroxide value and iodine number of VCO in this study show a good quality with a value of fewer than three meq/kg and between 5.78-8.80, respectively.



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### Keywords

Coated Proteinase;  
Crude Enzyme;  
Traditional Oil Extraction.

### Introduction

Virgin coconut oil (VCO) is a pure coconut oil product that is often made from coconuts without heating and with or without the aid of chemicals. It is colourless, liquid, and has a fresh coconut scent.<sup>1,2</sup> According to Narayanankuty,<sup>3</sup> VCO products are widely used

in the food industry, including as a frying medium, since they contain saturated fatty acids which are not easily oxidized. VCO is involved in a number of biological processes that are beneficial to human health, including antiviral, antifungal, antiparasitic, antibacterial, cardioprotective, hepatoprotective,

<sup>21</sup> **CONTACT** Muspirah Djalal ✉ [muspirah\\_djalal@agri.unhas.ac.id](mailto:muspirah_djalal@agri.unhas.ac.id) 📍 Department of Agricultural Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, Hasanuddin University, Makassar, Indonesia.



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antidiabetic, hypolipidemic, anti-inflammatory, and antioxidant.<sup>4-8</sup> Several methods that can be used in VCO production include centrifugation, heating fermentation, and enzymatically.<sup>9,10</sup>

The enzymatic method is very advantageous because enzymes are non-toxic and specific catalytic agents and are produced from natural ingredients, making them environmentally friendly.<sup>11</sup> Besides, according to Prayitno,<sup>12</sup> the enzymatic approach is considered to be the effective way of producing VCO since it avoids damaging essential components by not using severe heating. When making VCO, proteolytic enzymes will accelerate the breakdown of the lipoproteins that cover the oil, using the oil to bond and create pure coconut oil.<sup>13</sup> The enzyme papain is one of the proteolytic enzymes that can be employed. The papain enzyme has some advantages over other proteolytic enzymes, such as having a wider pH range of about.<sup>5-7</sup> It is also quite resistant to temperature treatment, with ranges of 50–65 °C.<sup>14</sup> Enzyme stability during storage can be maintained by using a maltodextrin coating to protect the active site of the enzyme when in contact with the outside environment. However, in the process of making VCO enzymatically, several things need to be considered to produce high yields and good quality, including temperature and incubation time. Coated and non-coated enzymes could have different optimum incubation temperatures and duration.

Excessive temperature and incubation time can affect the quality of the VCO produced because the use of high temperatures will accelerate oxidation and hydrolysis reactions which will lower the quality of the oil,<sup>15</sup> while temperatures below the appropriate temperature will result in enzymes not functioning effectively, resulting in a reduction in acquisition of VCO product, so that these two factors are very crucial to pay attention to in the production of VCO. Several studies that utilize the papain enzyme in the manufacture of VCO include research conducted with variations in temperature treatment with a fixed incubation time of 6 hours, and the result was that 40 °C was the best treatment.<sup>13</sup> Research conducted with the treatment of variations in enzyme concentration,<sup>16</sup> as well as previous research with the treatment of variations in incubation time at room temperature the best results were obtained from the results of incubation for 19 hours.<sup>17</sup> In this research,

the optimum temperature and incubation time in the VCO production using coated crude papain enzyme was determined. The specific objectives of this research including to determine the effect of incubation temperature and length of the coated crude papain enzyme on the yield and quality of the resulting VCO.

## 8 Materials and Methods

### Materials

The main ingredient used in this research was Coconut with the type of "Kelapa Dalam", crude papain enzyme, ethanol, phenolphthalein (Merck, Pro Analysis (PA) grade), Sodium hydroxide (Merck, PA grade), Wij's solution (Merck, PA grade), Potassium iodide (Merck, PA grade), Sodium thiosulfate (Merck, PA grade), starch, Hydrochloric acid (Merck, PA grade) Acetic Acid (Merck, PA grade) Chloroform (Merck, PA grade) Sodium chloride (Merck, PA grade) demineralized water, aluminium foil, and filter paper Whatman 42.

### Crude Papain Enzyme Preparation

The procedure used to manufacture the papain enzyme was followed,<sup>18</sup> the papaya fruit should first be cleaned before the papaya latex is tapped with a tapping knife to a depth of 1-2 mm. The recovered latex was gathered in a beaker. The latex was then homogenized with a homogenizer to create a white emulsion by combining it with 0.3% sodium chloride (NaCl) activating solution at a ratio of 1:4 (v/v). Filtered again to separate the filtrate from the residue. To create crude papain powder, the residue was first dried at 55 °C in an oven before being crushed and filtered. A yellowish-white tint is a sign of high-quality crude papain. Then, a coating of maltodextrin was performed by mixing maltodextrin and crude papain in a 2:1 ratio.

### Grated Coconut Preparation

The preparation of grated coconut followed<sup>19</sup> in which the fresh coconut was selected, then opening the husk, shattering the shell, separating the shell from the fruit and using a knife to peel the coconut testa. The obtained fresh fruit flesh is then grated.

### Coconut Milk Extraction

Coconut milk extraction was performed with several steps.<sup>13</sup> Water was first added to the grated coconut in a ratio of 1:1 (w/v). The mixture is then placed into a spinner machine and filtered to obtain the coconut

milk. This repeated three times. The extract is then collected, combined, and stirred before being placed in a clear container for around two hours to separate the coconut cream from the skim. The cream is taken as an ingredient for making VCO.

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#### Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO) Production

The production of VCO began by putting 100 ml of coconut cream into a beaker.<sup>12</sup> After that, 0.5% (w/v) of coated crude papain was added, and then the mixture of coconut milk and papain enzyme was stirred until homogeneous. Furthermore, the beaker was closed and incubated in different incubation duration (6, 12, 18, and 24 hours) at different temperatures (30, 40, 50, and 60°C) until three layers were formed, namely at the top, there was coconut cake, the middle part is oil, and the bottom is water. Following the formation of three layers, the water in the bottom layer is removed with the use of a syringe, and the oil and coconut cake are then separated using filters.

#### Research Design<sup>31</sup>

This research was designed using a Completely Randomized Design (CRD) consisting of two factors, incubation temperature (30, 40, 50, and 60°C) and incubation time (6, 12, 18, and 24 hours) with two replications.

#### Research Parameters<sup>46</sup>

##### The yield of Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO)

Yield determination of VCO was performed by measuring the volume of coconut cream used<sup>20</sup> and measuring the volume of VCO resulted using volumetric glass, and calculated following the formula.

$$\text{Yield (\%)} = \text{Volume of VCO (ml)} / \text{Volume of Coconut cream (ml)} \times 100\%$$

##### Level of Clarity

Determination of the clarity level<sup>21</sup> begins with preparing samples of oil and demineralized water as blanks. After that, the transmittance was measured using a spectrophotometer with a wavelength of 395 nm. The transmittance value is expressed as the value of the clarity level.

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##### Free Fatty Acid

Determination of free fatty acid<sup>3</sup> (FFA) was carried out by weighing 2 g of oil into an Erlenmeyer

and adding 25 ml of hot 95% ethanol and three drops of phenolphthalein (PP) indicator. Following a 30-second homogenization with a magnetic stirrer, the sample solution was titrated with 0.1 N sodium hydroxide (NaOH) solution until the colour turned pink and lasted for approximately 30 seconds. The results obtained are then entered into the following equation.<sup>22</sup>

$$\text{FFA (\%)} = \text{Vol. NaOH} \times \text{Mw fatty acid} \times \text{N NaOH} / \text{VCO weight (mg)} \times 100\%$$

#### Information<sup>28</sup>

Vol= Volume NaOH used (ml)

N = Normality NaOH (N)

Mw= Molecular Weight of lauric acid

#### Peroxide Value

Determination of the peroxide value following the method from previous research<sup>9</sup> begins by weighing the sample as much as 2 g into the Erlenmeyer. Furthermore, 15 ml of a solvent mixture consisting of acetic acid and chloroform was added in a ratio of 3:2 (v/v). Then 1 ml of saturated KI solution was added, homogenized, and allowed to stand for 2 minutes. After homogeneous, the mixture was incubated for 30 minutes at room temperature, and then added 15 ml of distilled water and 1 ml of starch solution were used as an indicator. The solution was then titrated with sodium thiosulfate (Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) 0.01 N to colourless. The result was performed in milli-equivalents (meq) peroxide O<sub>2</sub> per 1 kg Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO) with the following formula.

$$\text{Peroxide value (meq / kg)} = \text{A} \times \text{N} \times 1000 / \text{VCO weight (g)}$$

#### Information<sup>17</sup>

A= Volume of Sodium thiosulfate (ml)

N= Normality of Sodium thiosulfate (N)

g= Sample weight (g)

#### Iodine Number

The process for calculating the iodine number starts with the addition of 15 ml of chloroform and 25 ml of Wiji's solution to a 0.5 g sample that has been weighed into an Erlenmeyer. After homogenization, the sample is then kept in a dark environment for 30 minutes. Then, 20 ml of 15% KI solution and 100 ml of distilled water were added. Subsequently, the sample was titrated with 0.1 N sodium thiosulfate

( $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ ) until the yellow hue disappeared, and then starch solution was added until the sample turned blue. After that, the titration is carried out again until the blue color disappears or is colorless. The level of iodine number is then calculated based on the following equation.<sup>9</sup>

$$\text{Iodine number} = (V_b - V_s) \times N \times 12.69 / M \times 100$$

#### Information

$V_b$  = Volume of sodium thiosulfate in blank titration (ml)

$V_s$  = Volume of sodium thiosulfate in sample titration (ml)

$N$  = Normality of sodium thiosulfate

$M$  = Sample weight (g)

#### Water Content

Water content was determined by drying an empty porcelain cup for 1 hour (105 °C), then weighing 2 g of the sample in the dried porcelain cup that previously had been weighed. After that, the samples were placed in the oven for 3 hours at 105°C. Then, it was cooled in a desiccator for 15 minutes and weighed. This treatment was repeated until the sample weight difference was no more than 0.05 mg or constant. After being constant, the weighing results are entered in the following equation.<sup>23</sup>

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$$\text{Water Content ( \% )} = \frac{\text{Initial weight} - \text{Final Weight}}{\text{Initial Weight}} \times 100\%$$

#### Data Analysis

All data obtained in this research were analyzed with Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). The difference was tested with Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT). The application applied was SPSS 16.0 and Microsoft Excel 2019.

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#### Results and Discussion

##### Yield (%)

The yield of Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO) defines as the percentage of VCO results per coconut cream used.<sup>24</sup> It is expected that the yield will be higher in the incubation temperature of 50 and 60°C as it is the optimum temperature for the papain enzyme and that the yield will be higher with the higher incubation time. The yield obtained in this research ranged between 18-24.88%. Statistical analysis showed that at both incubation time and temperature showed significant differences ( $p < 0.05$ ) in the yield results. The yield of VCO in different incubation temperatures and lengths is presented in Figures 1 and 2, respectively.

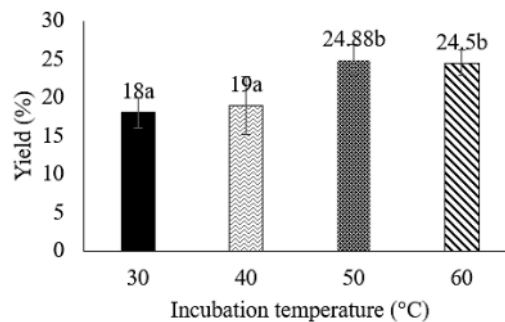


Fig. 1: The yield of VCO in different incubation temperatures. The data presented is the mean of two replications. The value followed by different letters indicated a significant difference ( $p$ -value  $< 0.05$ )

In Figure 1, it can be seen that a higher temperature gives a higher yield. The application of 50 and 60°C shows a yield was significantly higher than the yield in the VCO with the incubation temperature of 30 and 40°C. The maximum yield obtained in the

application of 50 and 60°C was due to the optimum temperature of the enzyme that works optimal in the temperature range of 50-60°C.<sup>25</sup> Up to the optimum temperature, enzyme activity will rise, but temperatures over that point will inhibit enzyme

activity and may even damage the enzyme.<sup>26</sup> The yield obtained in this study was slightly higher than the yield of VCO obtained in a previous study,<sup>13</sup> where it was found that the average yield gain

at crude papain concentrations of 1.0; 1.5; and 2.0% for the treatment at 40 °C was 17.23%, 45 °C was 17.21%, and 50 °C was 17.13%.

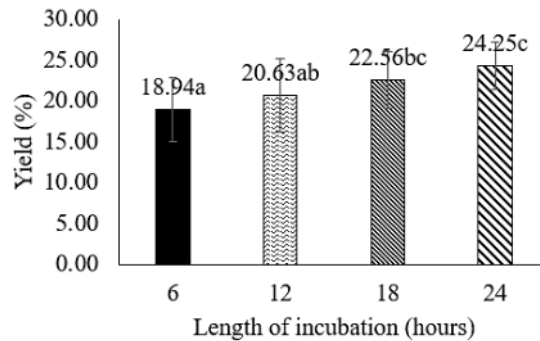


Fig. 2: Yield of VCO in different lengths of incubation. The data presented is the mean of two replications. The value followed by different letters indicated a significant difference (p-value < 0.05)

Figure 2 demonstrated that there was a tendency for the yield to rise as incubation time increased. This is because the papain enzyme works longer to hydrolyze the lipoprotein in the oil emulsion, thus, the oil yielded was maximum. This result is consistent with research in which the longer the incubation, the more breaking activity to produce oil in greater quantities.<sup>17</sup> The yield obtained in this study was similar to the yield obtained in a previous study<sup>17</sup> with the addition of commercial papain enzyme treatment of 0.01; 0.015; 0.02; 0.025; and 0.03 g/ml obtained an average yield at 14 hours of incubation of 9.01%, 16 hours of 17.16%, 18 hours of 21.2%, 20 hours of 24.5%, 22 and 24 hours of 26.1%.

#### Clarity Level (%)

The degree of clarity is a parameter resulting from the transmittance percentage (%T) or the amount of light that is transmitted or passes through the oil.<sup>27</sup> The degree of clarity can be measured using a spectrophotometer at a wavelength of 395 nm using demineralized water as a blank.<sup>28</sup> The transmittance percentage indicates that the higher the %T value, the clearer the VCO produced.<sup>21</sup> Based on the results of observations for all treatment combinations, the degree of clarity (%) was obtained in the range of 85.59-93.29. The statistical test revealed that the incubation temperature treatment

and the incubation time treatment had a significant effect (p < 0.05) on the degree of clarity of the resultant VCO. The clarity level of VCO in different incubation temperatures and lengths are presented in Figures 3 and 4, respectively.

Figure 3 shows a tendency to increase in the value of the degree of clarity as the incubation temperature increases. The result showed that the application of 50 and 60°C of incubation temperature shows a higher value of clarity level and is significantly higher compared to VCO with the application of 30 and 40°C of incubation temperature. This is because the separated proteins in the emulsion have coagulated at high temperatures so that the protein layers do not mix with the VCO emulsion.<sup>29</sup> In addition, the papain enzyme, which works at the optimum temperature, will cause a more optimal separation of lipoproteins from oil. The low level of clarity (%) of VCO at 30 and 40 °C is due to the influence of the protein content which has not been completely separated from the oil.<sup>30</sup>

Figure 4 shows a tendency to decrease the degree of clarity as the incubation time increases. The incubation time treatment of 6 and 11 hours was significantly different from the 18- and 24-hour incubation time treatment. The shrink in the clarity

level, along with the incubation time, is due to the hydrolysis process that occurs during incubation. This results in bound water in the VCO, thereby reducing the degree of clarity. Cooking oil that is not clear tends to have undergone a process

of hydrolysis.<sup>31</sup> The findings of this research align with the research performed by Fikri and Kadir,<sup>30</sup> which explains that the longer hydrolysis process will reduce the degree of clarity of VCO.

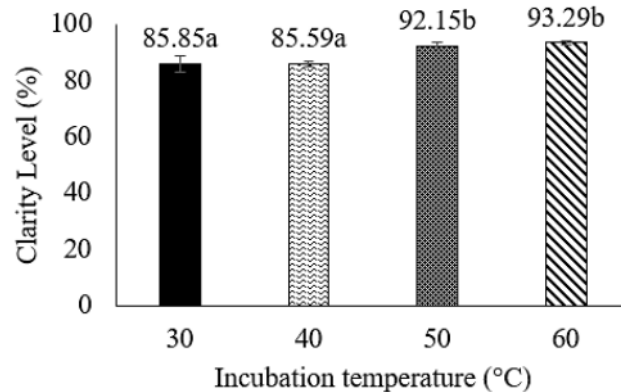


Fig. 3: Clarity level of VCO in different incubation temperatures. The data presented is the mean of two replications. The value followed by different letters indicated a significant difference (p-value < 0.05)

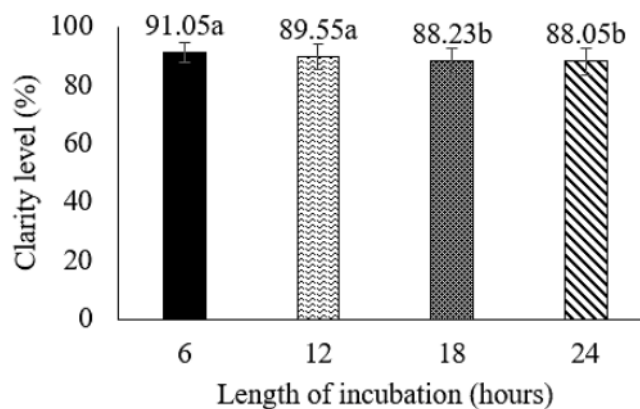


Fig. 4: The clarity level of VCO in different lengths of incubation. The data presented is the mean of two replications. The value followed by different letters indicated a significant difference (p-value < 0.05)

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#### Free Fatty Acids (FFA, %)

Free Fatty acids (FFA) is one indicator that determines the quality of the oil. A high FFA value indicates a decrease in oil quality, which indicates the amount of acid released in the oil hydrolysis process.<sup>32</sup> Based on observations for all treatment

combinations, FFA data were obtained in the range of 0.4-0.84%. The statistical test results showed that the incubation time treatment had a significant effect (p<0.05) on the resulting VCO FFA. The FFA value of VCO in different lengths of incubation is presented in Figure 5.

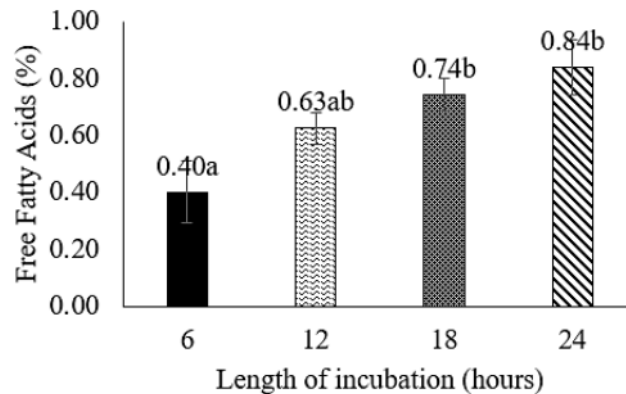


Fig. 5: FFA value of VCO in different lengths of incubation. The data presented is the mean of two replications. The value followed by different letters indicated a significant difference (p-value < 0.05)

Figure 5 shows that there is a tendency for the FFA value to increase as the incubation time increases. The 18 and 24-hour incubation duration shows significantly higher FFA value than the FFA of VCO after 6 hours of incubation. The FFA value resulting from VCO in this research did not meet the ICC standard,<sup>33</sup> in which the maximum FFA in VCO is set to 0.2%. The high levels of free fatty acids obtained and the increase in FFA levels with the length of incubation time were due to the fact that during the incubation process, there was direct contact between the oil and water layers, which resulted in hydrolyzed oil. This explanation is supported by the reason that the contact of oil with water will cause a complex degradation reaction in the oil to produce a free fatty acid.<sup>34</sup> The findings of this research show that the performing of refinement, like with the application of zeolite adsorbent<sup>35</sup> is necessary to decrease the FFA value of VCO result and further increase the quality.

#### Peroxide Value (meq/kg)

Peroxide number is an index of the amount of oil that has undergone an oxidation process or binds oxygen to form peroxide on the double bond or unsaturated fatty acids in the oil.<sup>2</sup> The peroxide number is related to the quality of oil as it can cause rancidity. A broken double bond will result in the formation of short-chain fatty acid bonds and volatile compounds, which result in a rancid smell.<sup>32</sup> Besides, this reaction will cause the destruction of oil-soluble vitamins such as vitamins A, D, E and K. The process of oxidation

of oil by oxygen can occur spontaneously when in direct contact with air, which will be accelerated as the temperature increases.<sup>15</sup> In addition, in the enzymatic method production process, the incubation time will affect the oil oxidation process, which will affect the VCO peroxide value.

Based on observations for all treatment combinations, peroxide number data were obtained in the range of 1.12-2.05 meq/kg. Statistical analysis indicates that incubation temperature and length significantly affect (p<0.05) the peroxide value of VCO resulted. The peroxide value of VCO in different incubation temperatures and lengths are presented in Figures 6 and 7, respectively.

Figure 6 shows a tendency to increase the peroxide value as the incubation temperature increases. The peroxide value of VCO with the incubation temperature of 60 °C was significantly higher than the peroxide value of VCO incubated at 30, 40, and 50 °C. All the temperatures applied, however, produced VCO that had met the ICC standard<sup>33</sup> with a maximum of 3 meq/kg peroxide number. The high peroxide number in high temperatures was caused by the fact that the higher temperature will trigger an oxidation reaction faster and maximally that it reaches a higher number in peroxide number. Oil oxidation occurs spontaneously when oil is exposed to air and even faster with the presence of high temperature, light, and oxygen.<sup>15</sup>

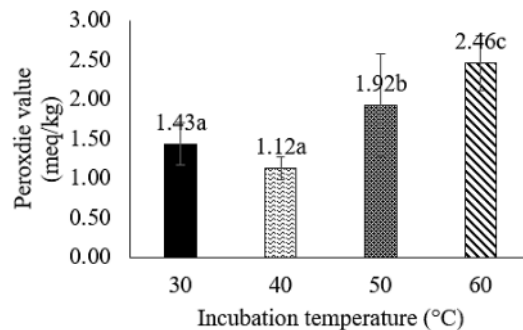


Fig. 6: Peroxide value of VCO in different incubation temperatures. The data presented is the mean of two replications. The value followed by different letters indicated a significant difference (p-value < 0.05)

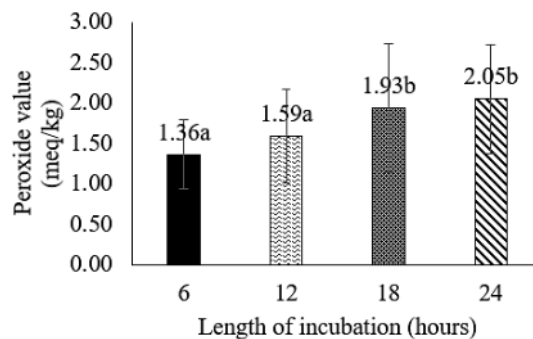


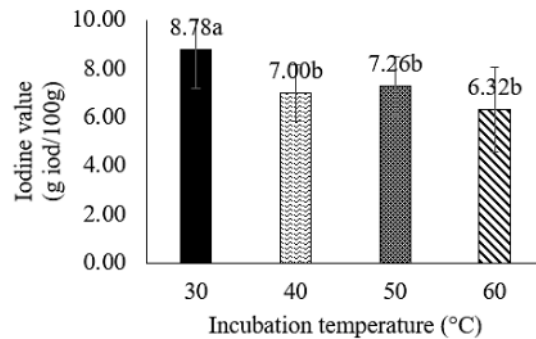
Fig. 7: The Peroxide value of VCO in different lengths of incubation. The data presented is the mean of two replications. The value followed by different letters indicated a significant difference (p-value < 0.05)

Figure 7 shows that there is a tendency for the peroxide value to increase as the incubation time increases. It can be pictured from the figure that the peroxide value of VCO in 18 and 24 h length of incubation is significantly higher than those incubated for 6 and 12 hours. The peroxide analysis revealed that 6, 12, and 18 hours of fermentation of incubation of VCO resulted in VCO that met the standard set by ICC 2021 standard (3 meq/kg).<sup>33</sup> The higher number of peroxides, along with the longest time of incubation, was suspected to be caused by hydrolysis. The hydrolysis process can occur during the incubation process, where the oil layer contacts the water and trigger the hydrolysis process. According to Pramitha and Juliadi,<sup>36</sup> the longer the hydrolysis process, the higher the peroxide produced.

#### Iodine Value (g iodine/100g)

The iodine number indicates the degree of unsaturation or the structure of the double bond in the fatty acid.<sup>37</sup> The more the amount of iodine measured, the more unsaturated fatty acid content in the oil, which indicates the better quality of the oil.<sup>38</sup> The amount of iodine is expressed as the number of grams of iodine absorbed by 100g of oil.<sup>9</sup>

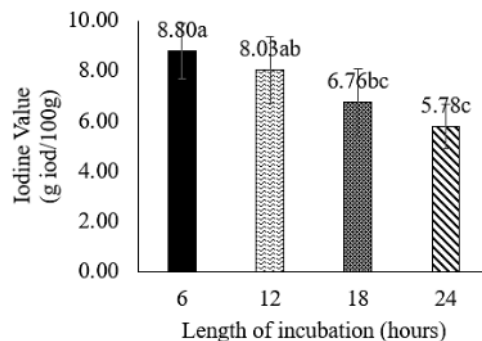
Based on the results of observations for all treatment combinations, data on iodine numbers were obtained in the range of 5.78-8.80 g iodine/100 g. Statistical analysis indicated that incubation temperature and length significantly affected the iodine value of the VCO produced. The iodine value of VCO in different incubation temperatures and lengths are presented in Figures 8 and 9, respectively.



**Fig. 8: The iodine value of VCO in different incubation temperatures. The data presented is the mean of two replications. The value followed by different letters indicated a significant difference (p-value < 0.05)**

Figure 8 demonstrates a tendency for the iodine number to decline with rising incubation temperature. The iodine numbers found in all treatments have met ICC standards<sup>33</sup> regarding the quality standard for VCO, with number of iodine ranging from 4.1-11 g iodine/100 g. The statistical result reveals that the treatment of the resultant VCO iodine number at 30°C was significantly different from the treatments at 40, 50, and 60°C. The iodine number in oil can decrease due to the breaking of unsaturated bonds to become saturated due to heating or frying.

In addition, one of the parameters related to the iodine number is the peroxide number.<sup>39</sup> The formation of peroxides is caused by an oxidation process in the double bonds, which results in a decrease in the number of double bonds or a decrease in the iodine number. Figures 7 and 9, which depict an inverse relationship, show this. This is also emphasized by the previous study that, that there is an inverse relationship between iodine number and peroxide number.<sup>40</sup>



**Fig. 9: The iodine value of VCO in different lengths of incubation. The data presented is the mean of two replications. The value followed by different letters indicated a significant difference (p-value < 0.05)**

Figure 9 demonstrates a tendency for the iodine number to decline with increasing incubation time that is significantly different based on the statistical analysis. All the iodine numbers found in all lengths of incubation time in this study have met the standard

of ICC,<sup>33</sup> which iodine value range between 4.7-11 g iodine/100 g. The double-bond hydrolysis process is strongly influenced by the heating time. The longer the heating, the more double bonds or unsaturated fatty acids are broken into single bonds or saturated

fatty acids,<sup>37</sup> which further resulted in a decrease in the iodine number.

#### 41 Water Content

One of the factors that affect the quality of VCO is water content. This is due to the fact that the low water content will increase the shelf life of VCO by preventing the hydrolysis process, which usually

causes rancidity.<sup>41</sup> Data on water content were found to be between 0.16 and 0.42% based on observations for all treatment combinations. Statistical analysis showed that incubation temperature, incubation time, and the interaction between them showed no significant difference ( $p>0.05$ ) in the water content of VCO. The value obtained for each combination is presented in Table 1.

**Table 1: The water content of VCO in different incubation temperatures and lengths**

Length of incubation	Temperature (°C)				Average
	30	40	50	60	
43 6 hours	0.22	0.16	0.22	0.26	0.22
12 hours	0.36	0.19	0.26	0.38	0.30
18 hours	0.30	0.22	0.29	0.35	0.29
24 hours	0.42	0.36	0.29	0.36	0.36
Average	0.32	0.23	0.27	0.34	

The data presented is the mean of two replications.

Table 1 shows the result of the moisture content analysis of produced VCO. It can be seen from the table that the value fluctuated over time and shows no trend in varied temperatures applied. The result shows that most of the moisture values did not meet the ICC standard<sup>33</sup> with a maximum moisture content of 0.1%. This is because the water content contained in VCO is influenced by the method of separating oil between coconut cake and water. The high-water content obtained in certain treatments was caused by the process of separating VCO from water and coconut cake. Separation, in a simple way, causes the water in the bottom layer to come with the oil layer. This is confirmed by Zein et. Al,<sup>42</sup> that the difference in water content contained in VCO can occur when the oil, coconut cake and water are separated so that there is still water content which is still included in the oil extraction. This result shows that the VCO produced in this research needs to pass refinement to obtain better quality.

#### Conclusion

This research concluded that based on the yield of 24.88% and a degree of clarity of 92.15%, the

optimal incubation temperature for the production of VCO in this study was 50°C. Based on the yield of 22.56%, 18 hours of incubation was found to be the optimal incubation time for the production of VCO in this study. The peroxide and iodine value findings in this study have met the standard quality for VCO. However, the free fatty acids and moisture content suggest that the VCO produced in this study need a refinement process for quality improvement.

#### 2 Acknowledgement

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#### 10 Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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