

BIOGAS PRODUCTION FROM GOAT AND CHICKEN MANURE IN MALAYSIA

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Abstract. The aims of this study were, i) to determine the biophysical characteristics of the substrate using Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), nutrient, heavy metal, Carbon to Nitrogen and Ammonia-nitrogen content analyses, and ii) to compare the biogas production between goat dung and chicken dung using industrial inoculum and traditional bokashi as catalyst. Bio-Methane Potential (BMP) test was used to measure biogas production in mesophilic condition for time duration of 20 days. The goat's dung produced 2141 mL of biogas, higher than 1885.7 mL that of chicken dung using industrial inoculum. It was found that goat dung and chicken dung can be used as an energy source in a small scale industry as compared to the traditional bokashi where no methane gas was produced from the substrates.

Keywords: *industrial inoculum, traditional bokashi, biophysical characteristic, Bio-Methane Potential test, livestock production*

Introduction

In 2012, the number of livestock for goats and chickens in Malaysia was estimated around 505 and 208 millions, respectively. The abundant feces may release nitrate and ammonia gas causing water pollution, odour pollution and health problems to human beings. The alternative measure to manage this problem is to use these feces as raw materials in biogas production. Biogas consists of a mixture of methane gas, hydrogen gas, carbon dioxide and other gases resulting from decomposition of organic matter by anaerobic bacteria in the absence of oxygen. Biomass is defined as ecologically dried materials from living organisms that present in certain periods for each unit of earth surface (Manyi-Loh et al., 2013). Biomass energy is defined as an energy from the plants and raw materials from industrial and municipal waste (White, 1981). The waste from agriculture and animals excrement are among the biomass sources could be converted to energy which are cheaper and renewable energy sources (Zheng et al., 2011). Through anaerobic digestion process, biomass turns to biogas which is a mixture of methane (CH₄) and carbon dioxide (CO₂) gases that used to produce energy (Yadvika et al., 2004). Biogas consists of methane gas (45-70%), carbon dioxide (25-40%), hydrogen (<1ppm), nitrogen (<3ppm) and hydrogen sulphide (<10ppm). The organic material decomposition through several stages namely hydrolysis, acidogenesis, acetogenesis and methanogenesis. Each stage need different anaerobic bacteria such as

Lactobacillus sp., *Clostridium sp.*, *Methanobacter sp.* and *Aminobacterium sp.* to digest the biomass.

Animal husbandry increases rapidly as the human population increases in Malaysia. The demand for mutton and chicken eggs leads to the increase in goat and chicken farms which cause excessive faecal waste dumping. According to Wang et al., (2012), a chicken may produce up to 59 kg dung in a year and a goat could averagely produce 0.7 kg dung in a day. These animal excrement leads to water and odour pollutions because of hydrogen sulfide (H_2S) gas released from the faeces (Oyewole, 2010). In Malaysia, oil palm, woods and agro-industry waste are main biomass sources being used in factory's processing activities and generating power. Animal excrement is an example of agro-industry waste that can be used as biomass to produce biogas. Goat dung (GD) and chicken dung (CD) are rich in organic content as GD have high nitrogen content and stable during fermentation process. Besides that, CD have high nutrient content which is suitable for anaerobic digestion. In biogas production, using substrate as the only feeder in anaerobic digestion produces biogas in small amount of biogas. Therefore, large quantity of substrate is needed to produce large amount of biogas for commercial usage. Inoculum acts as a catalyst to increase total production of biogas (Bruni et al., 2010). Inoculum consists of microbes tends to digest organic content in the substrates efficiently.

The objective of this study was to determine production of biogas from animal manures, i.e. goat dung and chicken dung using two different types of inoculum (industrial inoculum and traditional bokashi). Industrial inoculum was produced by a local company and traditional bokashi was produced from organic material using effective microorganisms (EM) concept introduced by Prof. Dr. Teruo Higa.

Research methods

Sampling stations

The sample for GD was taken from a private goat's farm located at Asahan, Melaka and the sample for CD was taken from Q1 Poultry Farms Sdn Bhd's farm located at Pajam, Mantin, Negeri Sembilan. All the excrements were kept in airtight plastic bags and the plastic bags were stored at 4°C in a airtight container to preserve the freshness of samples and slow down the natural bacteria decomposition.

Apparatus and operation

The dried mass (DM) and organic dried mass (ODM) were measured. The organic loading rate (OLR) was calculated to determine the amount of substrate needed to be digested inside the 1L digester bottle. The OLR was fixed at 4 g/L. Each substrate was mixed with 500 mL industrial inoculum as catalyst before being placed inside the Bio-Methane Potential machine. The experiment was conducted in three replicates. The digester bottle was injected with N_2 gas and released for three times to remove O_2 to maintain the anaerobic condition in the digester bottle at the beginning of experiment. The temperature was controlled at mesophilic temperature (37°C) by water bath machine and reading was taken for 20 days. The acid solution in the eudiometer tube showed the amount of biogas produced. The experiment was repeated using traditional bokashi as catalyst.

Analytical methods

Wet digestion method (ISO 11466, 2002) was used to extract GD and CD. HACH-Reactor Digestion Method was used to measure chemical oxygen demand (COD). Heavy metal content was determined using Inductively Coupled Plasma-Optical Emission Spectrometry (ICP-OES). The protein content was determined using in-house method No. STP/Chem/A03 based on AOAC 16th Edi. 981.10. Fat content was determined using in-house method No. STP/Chem/A02 based on AOAC 16th Edition 991.36. The carbohydrate content was measured using in-house method No. STP/Chem/A06. The ash content was calculated using in-house method No. STP/Chem/A05 based on AOAC 16th Edi. 923.03. Moisture content was determined in-house method No. STP/Chem/A04 based on AOAC 16th Edi. 950.46. The energy content was calculated using in-house method No. STP/Chem/A01 and the nitrogen content was measured using in-house method No. STP/Chem/A03 based on AOAC 16th Edi. 981.10. The ammonia-nitrogen content was measured using Nessler method. The C/N ratio was determined using CHNS analyzer machine. Biogas composition was determined using Binder's COMBIMASS® Portable Gas Analyzer GA-m5.

Results and discussion

Table 1 shows that DM for CD is higher than that of GD. It also shows the water content in GD is higher than that of CD. CD could have water content up to 76% but nutrition factor, health condition and probability of excrement exposed to moisture could change the DM (Pognani et al., 2012). ODM measures the organic content in excrement as 80% of methane gas produced from ODM of a substrate. ODM of GD is 87.07% which is higher than that of CD (65.28%). Total substrate needed in the digester (A) was calculated using this formula:

$$A = \frac{0.5 \times \text{OLR} \left(\frac{\text{g}}{\text{L}} \right)}{\text{DM} \times \text{ODM}} \quad (\text{Eq.1})$$

The organic loading rate (OLR) was fixed at 4 g/L for 1L digester.

Table 1. Laboratory analyses results

Analyses Parameter	Goat Dung	Chicken Dung
DM (%)	63.85 ± 0.65	76.78 ± 1.5
ODM (%)	87.07 ± 0.2	65.28 ± 2.3
Total substrates needed in digester (g)	3.68	4.04
Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) (g/L)	1.93 ± 0.06	2.80 ± 0.14
Expected methane gas production (L)	0.67	0.98
Ammonia-nitrogen test (g/L)	1.30	7.30
Carbon:Nitrogen Ratio (C:N)	12:1	8:1

COD determines the amount of organic content in a substrate. Organic material will be oxidised into carbon dioxide (CO₂) and water (H₂O) in acidic condition. COD of CD is higher than that of GD. According to Heindrich et al. (2011), a gram of COD tends to produce 0.35 L of methane gas. GD is expected to produce 0.67 L methane gas and 0.98 L for CD. The ammonia-nitrogen content of CD is higher than

that of GD as ammonia concentrations between 0.5 to 1 g/L are beneficial to biogas production and the concentration more than 15 g/L will retard the production of biogas (Surendra et al., 2013). Low C:N ratio triggers ammonia production and could increase pH more than 8.5 which is harmful to methanogenic bacteria. High C:N ratio causes shortage in nitrogen which can be digested rapidly by methanogen and decrease in methane production (Khalid et al., 2011). Ideal C:N ratio is ranged from 20:1 to 30:1 (Pang et al., 2008).

Table 2 shows the nutrient analysis conducted on GD and CD. Protein is a combination of amino acids with hydrolysed peptide bonds by proteases. Amino acid forms ammonia (NH₃), carbon dioxide (CO₂) and hydrogen gas (H₂) and its high concentration causes ammonia concentration increase and affect methanogenic bacteria growth (Isci and Demirer, 2007). Fat contains fatty acids which are organic acids that increase biogas productions. Carbohydrate's structure forms from carbon, hydrogen and oxygen in a ratio of 1:2:1, respectively. GD'S carbohydrate is higher than that of CD. Ash contains inorganic material such as mineral and salt which can lower the energy content in substrate. Energy content helps in new anaerobic bacteria growth.

Table 2. The nutrient analysis

Analyses (g/kg)	Goat Dung	Chicken Dung
Protein	0.83	0.69
Fat	0.18	0.05
Carbohydrate	4.73	0.51
Ash	0.6	0.86
Moisture	6.34	7.89
Nitrogen	0.13	0.11
Energy (kJ)	1004	223

Substrate with moisture between 36 to 99% tends to increase biogas production from the substrate up to 67% (Hancsok et al., 2011). Production of amino acids, protein and nucleic acid need nitrogen as nitrogen is converted to ammonia to neutralise volatile acids produced by bacteria and maintain a neutral medium for anaerobic bacteria to growth (Wang et al., 2014).

Table 3 shows the heavy metals content in goat dung and chicken dung. Calcium concentration more than 0.30 g/L is beneficial and concentration as high as 70.00 g/L does not result any negative impact on biogas production (Abbasi et al., 2012). Lithium can be detected on biogas slurry and no negative effect on the present of Lithium (Anderson et al., 1991).

Table 3. Heavy metals analysis

Elements	Goat Dung	Chicken Dung
Calcium (Ca)	1.48	10.50
Lithium (Li)	0.21	0.21
Magnesium (Mg)	8.10	5.53

Magnesium is able to shorten the time taken for substrate to decompose and increase biogas production if magnesium content is more than 0.03 to 0.20 g/L. However, magnesium concentration more than 10.00 g/L will retard biogas production.

Fig. 1 shows the combinations of biogas production from the GD and CD using both catalysts, i.e. industrial inoculum and traditional bokashi. Using industrial inoculum, GD produces 2141 mL of biogas and 1885.7 mL for CD. The pH reading for substrate using industrial inoculum shows decrease toward neutral pH 6.8 and pH 7.2 is the ideal pH for anaerobic digestion (Yadvika et al. 2004). By using traditional bokashi, GD produces 1134.5 mL of biogas and 1118 mL for CD. The pH shows acidic condition which is not suitable for anaerobic digestion. The pH readings are shown in Table 4.

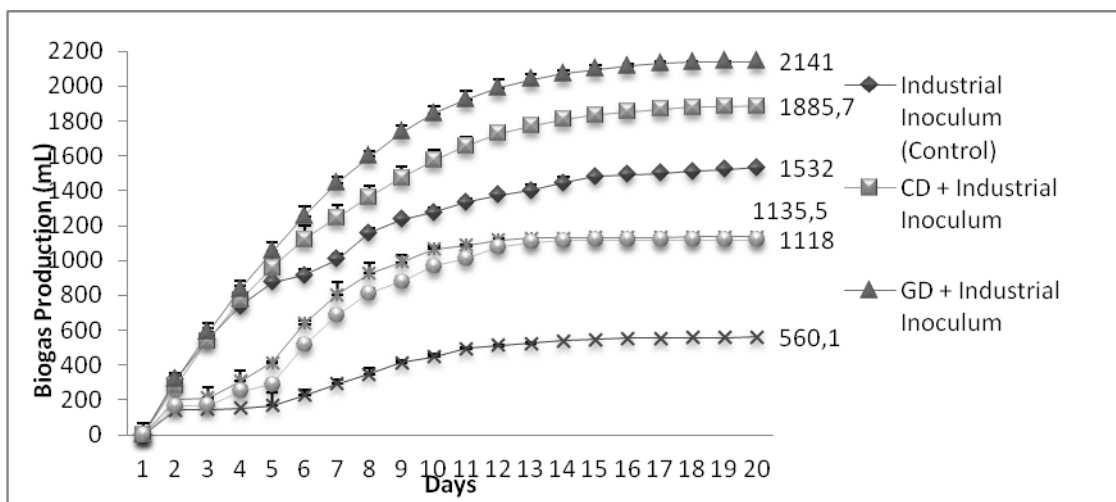


Figure 1. Comparison graph of biogas production from GD and CD using industrial inoculum and traditional bokashi

Table 4. The pH reading in digester bottles

Type of Inoculum	Day 1		Day 20	
	GD	CD	GD	CD
Industrial Inoculum	7.83 ± 0.08	7.83 ± 0.07	7.64 ± 0.08	7.75 ± 0.08
Traditional Bokashi	3.91 ± 0.06	3.86 ± 0.08	3.55 ± 0.05	4.52 ± 0.52

Using industrial inoculum, 3.68g of GD is able to produce 2141 mL of biogas, 29.5% or 631.59 mL is methane gas. Theoretically, 1000 L methane gas produces 9.94 kWj of electrical energy (Angelidaki, 1994). Therefore, 0.0063 kWj could be generated from these methane gases and a kilogramme of GD is able to produce 1.71 kWj of energy. Methane gas produced by 4.04 g of CD is 569.48 mL or 30.2% from 1885.7 mL. Energy could be produced by CD is 0.0057 kWj or 1.41 kWj using a kilogramme of CD. However, traditional bokashi is not capable in producing methane gas although still having biogas production. Traditional bokashi produces high amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂), hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) and ammonia gas (NH₃) and causing methanogenic bacteria growth retarded.

Conclusions

Biogas treatment is the best solution to overcome problems caused by the abundance of animal excrement especially goat dung and chicken dung. Both excrements have potential bio-physical characteristic in producing biogas. As these excrements are used as feeder in an anaerobic digestion, the organic content can be decomposed to form biogas. Inoculum as catalyst is crucial to speed up and increase the biogas production by the substrates. Industrial inoculum contains anaerobic bacteria that can increase biogas production and traditional bokashi is not recommended as catalyst as no methane is produced. Water and odour pollutions could be avoided as the excrements can be used as a feeder. The waste from the digester chamber could be reused as fertilizer for plants as the nutrient content of the excrement decomposed and easier for the plant to absorb the nutrient.

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