Studies on Variation in Aerobic Composting Parameters

***Dr. Seema Arora**

Abstract
In this study, solid food waste is handled aerobically. Studies examine changes in factors like as pH, moisture content, organic content, and temperature. The parameters were assessed using lab-based chemical analysis procedures. The pH of composting material increased from 6 at ambient to 5.5 at mesophilic stage. The pH quickly rose to 8.5 during the thermophilic phase. The temperature dropped to 6 throughout the cooling process. Moisture content in the ambient stage was 58%. This increased to 40% during the cooling stage. Organic content reduces between ambient and mesophilic stages. This cooling implies the breakdown of organic waste. The temperature rose from 25°C in the ambient stage to 40°C in the mesophilic stage. The temperature rises to 54oC during the thermophilic stage. The research may aid in optimizing waste decomposition parameters for optimal efficiency.

Keywords: Composting, solid waste, biodegradation, microbiological degradation, decomposition.

1. Introduction

Garbage, ashes, debris, dust, and other similar items are considered solid waste. Garbage refers to putrescible organic waste from kitchens, hotels, and restaurants, such as food scraps, vegetable and fruit peelings. It also contains animal waste, grass, leaves, and bird excrement. Ashes are incombustible waste products from homes, factories, hearths, and furnaces. Rubbish encompasses any non-biodegradable waste, including ashes. Solid waste may be classed as organic or inorganic.

Solid waste may be disposed of by several processes, including controlled tipping, landfilling, marine dumping, pulverization, incineration, and composting. Composting involves digesting or decomposing putrescible organic materials in garbage, either anaerobically or aerobically. Several investigators have conducted inquiries on solid waste treatment. The studies include both aerobic and anaerobic therapy modalities. Studies show that using an anaerobic technique greatly lowers sludge volume. The practice may cause annoyance to neighboring residents and workers owing to unpleasant odors. Asnani8 investigated aerobic thermophilic composting of municipal solid waste. The investigations found that composting parameters, including pH, moisture content, temperature, C/N ratio, and volume reduction, remained within acceptable ranges. Vermicomposting is becoming

the most prevalent technique for managing solid waste. Vermicomposting has been extensively researched and case studies have been published (9, 10). It offers benefits over aerobic and anaerobic composting. Vermicomposting requires equivalent area to both aerobic and anaerobic techniques. It is less than the aerobic approach. Unpleasant and harmful smells are significantly decreased. In this study, solid food waste is handled aerobically. Studies examine changes in factors like as pH, moisture content, organic content, and temperature.

2. Methodology.

Food trash was distributed around the tank. The bed was created with a depth of 160mm. The proportions of bed material were as follows: Raw material amounts utilized for bed preparation: We used 185 kilogram of raw food waste, 20 kg of soil, 10 kg of cow dung, and 22 L of water. The raw food waste was scattered with a design bed size and depth of 160 mm. To prevent the spread of pathogens like flies and mosquitoes, the composting bed was carefully covered with dry grass and leaves. After every 4 days, the bed was properly dusted with cow dung slurry (1kg dung in 5 liters of water) and flipped over. A representative sample from the bed will be collected for laboratory investigation of physicochemical characteristics. The beds took 60 days to completely degrade, and the resulting aerobic compost was black, light, and odor-free.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Variation in pH

Figure 1 shows that the pH of composting material decreased from 6 at ambient to 5.5 at mesophilic stage. The pH rose quickly to 8.6 during the thermophilic phase.

It decreased back to 6 throughout the cooling spell. Microorganisms' activity on carbohydrates may cause the first decrease in pH during the mesophillic stage. Ammonia production may cause an elevation in pH during the thermophilic stage. The procedure maintains a high pH by gradually using organic acids and increasing mineral content till completion.

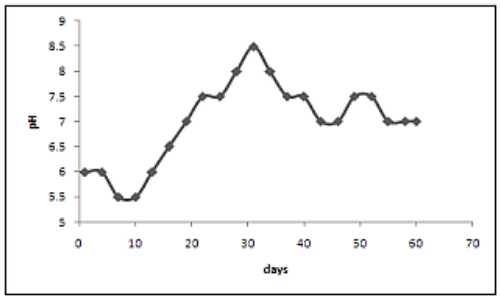

Fig. 1. Variation in pH

3.2 Variation in moisture content

As indicated in Figure 2, the moisture content at the ambient stage was 58%. The percentage increased to 40% during the cooling step. The optimal moisture level for composting ranges from 30% to 70%. Compost with a greater water content loses air from its pores. The low moisture content inhibits microbial deterioration. Heat from metabolism and air movement lowers moisture content in the end.

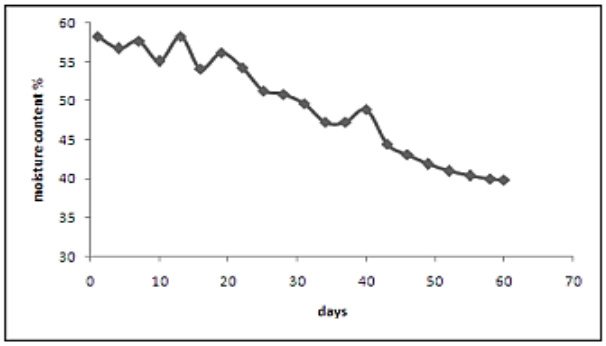

Fig. 2. Variation in moisture content

3.3 Variation in organic content

Figure 3 shows a drop in organic content from the ambient to mesophilic stage. This cooling implies the breakdown of organic waste. In the current study, it reduced from 65 to 48 percent. The compost's microbial population broke down organic carbon. Microorganisms ingested some of the carbon in degrading wastes, while some was released as carbon dioxide.

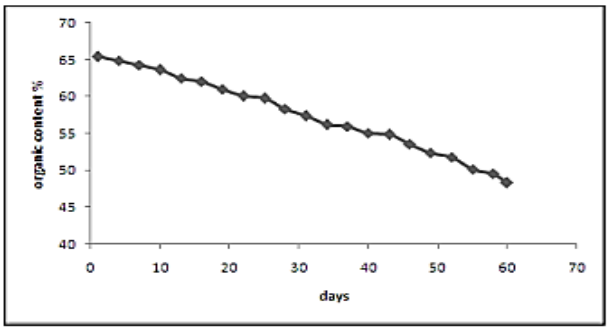

Fig. 3. Variation in organic content

3.4 Variation in temperature

The temperature climbed from 25°C in the ambient stage to 40°C in the mesophilic stage. During the thermophilic stage, it reaches 54oC and fluctuates between 40-54oC for two weeks before decreasing to 39oC during the cooling stage. Microorganisms first cause temperature increases by oxidative activity. Increased mesophilic population leads to higher temperatures. As temperatures climb over 40°C, thermophilic bacteria replace mesophilic bacteria. Figures 4 and 5 depict temperature variations and differences between ambient and bed temperatures.

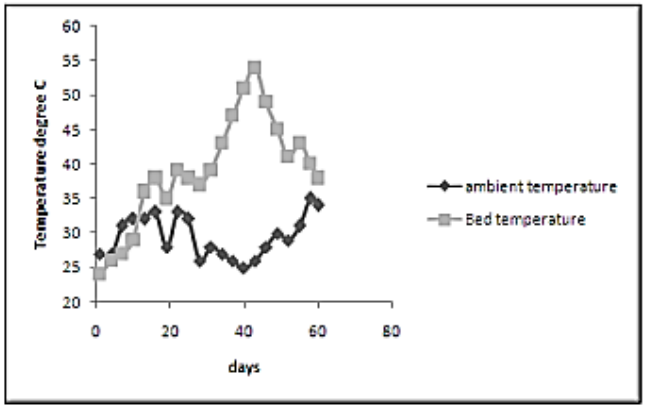

Fig. 4. Variation in ambient and bed temperature

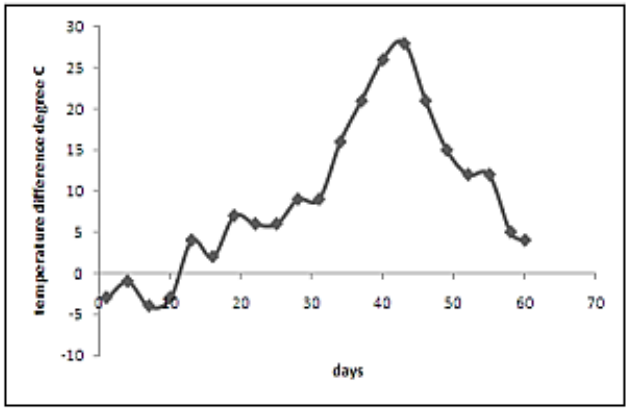

Fig. 5. Variation in temperature difference.

4. Conclusion.

In this study, solid food waste is handled aerobically. Research examines changes in factors like as pH, moisture content, organic content, and temperature. The composting material's pH shifted from 6 at ambient to 5.5 during mesophilic stage. The pH rose quickly to 8.5 during the thermophilic phase. It dropped to 6 during the cooling phase. Moisture content in the ambient stage was 58%. This was then increased to 40% during the chilling step. Organic content reduces between ambient and mesophilic stages. This cooling implies the breakdown of organic waste. The temperature rose from 25°C in the ambient stage to 40°C in the mesophilic stage. In the thermophilic stage, the temperature rises to 54 degrees Celsius.

***Department of Chemistry**
S P N K S Govt. College
Dausa (Raj.)

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