



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF PINEAPPLE
RESIDUES**

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**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**



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By

OSUMANU HARUNA AHMED

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra
Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Degree of Doctor of
Philosophy**

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to the needy and the sincere helpers of the needy.



Abstract of the thesis submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF PINEAPPLE RESIDUES

By

OSUMANU HARUNA AHMED

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Studies were conducted to: (i) Investigate the effect of the modification of the existing N, P, and K programme and residue management practice on pineapple fruit yield, (ii) Compare the economic viability of in situ decomposition of pineapple residues untouched (IDPR), i.e. stacking of pineapple residue (leaves, crowns, and peduncles) slashed and raked from 0.60 m x 10 m rows into 0.90 m x 10 m rows (ZBT-zero burn technique), and in situ burning pineapple residues (IBPR) (iii) Quantify the amount of humic acid (HA) that could be extracted from composted pineapple leaves using 0.10M potassium hydroxide (KOH) produced from pineapple leaves and that of analytical grade (0.10M KOH), (iv) Compare the elemental composition (C, H, N, O, and S), functional groups (carboxylic, phenolic OH, and total acidity), and spectral characteristics of HA extracted from composted pineapple leaves using KOH from pineapple leaves and that of analytical grade, and (v) Investigate the potential value added agricultural products that could be produced from pineapple leaves.



The fertiliser programmes studied were: (i) Application of N (176, 176, 176, and 176 kg ha⁻¹), P (11, 11, 7, and 7 kg ha⁻¹), and K (89, 89, 188, and 188 kg ha⁻¹) fertilisers at 65, 135, 191, and 233 days after planting (DAP) (FP1), respectively (the usual practice); (ii) Application of N (176, 176, and 176 kg ha⁻¹), P (11, 11, and 7 kg ha⁻¹) and K (89, 89, and 188 kg ha⁻¹) fertilisers at 65, 135, and 191 DAP (FP2), respectively, and (iii) Application of N (176, 264, and 264 kg ha⁻¹), P (11, 14, and 11 kg ha⁻¹) and K (89, 183, and 285 kg ha⁻¹) fertilisers at 65, 135, and 191 DAP (FP3), respectively. The performances of these rates were studied under IDPR, ZBT, and IBPR (the usual practice).

In situ decomposition of pineapple residues without any interference (IDPR), ZBT, or IBPR did not improve fruit yield in the first rotation of the pineapple planting. Fruits yields of FP1, FP2, and FP3 under each of IDPR, ZBT, and IBPR were not statistically different. Application of N, P and K fertilisers at 65, 135 and 191 DAP (FP2) can serve as a competitive alternative to PF1 (existing fertilisation programme) as besides the fact that N, P, and K uptake and the yields of the two programmes were not statistically different, it was possible to save as much as US\$ 110.17 ha⁻¹ under FP2 through a reduction of N, P, and K fertilisers by 176, 7, and 188 kg ha⁻¹, respectively.

Taking into account the cost of environmental pollution associated with burning of pineapple residues, net present value (NPV) analysis revealed that either the IDPR



or the ZBT practices can serve as an economically competitive alternative to IBPR.

Potassium hydroxide (0.10M) from pineapple leaves extracted 20% HA from composted pineapple leaves while that of analytical grade (0.10M KOH) extracted 30%. However, the elemental composition (C, H, N, O, and S), the functional groups (carboxylic, phenolic OH, and total acidity), and the spectra characteristics of the HA extracted using these extractants were generally similar. Potassium hydroxide from pineapple leaves can therefore be used to extract some reasonable amount of HA without appreciably altering the elemental and functional groups constitution as well as the spectral characteristics of this humic substance. The potential of using KOH from pineapple leaves in humic substances extraction therefore looks promising. Useful products such as K-humate, and K-fulvate were also produced from pineapple leaves.



Abstrak tesis yang di kemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi syarat untuk mendapatkan ijazah Doktor Falsafah

KE ARAH PENGURUSAN LESTARI SISA NENAS

Oleh

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Kajian telah di jalankan untuk: (i) Mengkaji kesan perubahan kepada pengubahsuaian program pembajaan N, P, K dan kaedah pengurusan sisa terhadap penghasilan buah nenas, (ii) Membandingkan viabiliti ekonomi penguraian sisa nenas secara in situ tanpa di ganggu (IDPR), iaitu menindan sisa nenas (daun, 'crown' dan tangkai), di potong dan dikumpul daripada baris 0.6 m x 10 m kepada 0.9 m x 10 m (ZBT-teknik pembakaran sifar), dan pembakaran sisa nenas secara in situ (IBPR), (iii) Menentukan kuantiti asid humik (HA) yang boleh di ekstrak daripada daun nenas yang di kompos menggunakan 0.10M kalium hidroksida (KOH) yang di hasilkan daripada daun nenas dan daripada gred analitik (0.10M KOH), (iv) Membandingkan komposisi elemen (C, H, N, O, dan S), kumpulan berfungsi (karboksilik, OH fenolik dan jumlah keasidan), dan ciri-ciri spektral HA yang di ekstrak daripada daun nenas yang di kompos dan daripada gred analitik, dan (v) Mengkaji potensi produk pertanian yang di tambah nilainya yang dapat di hasilkan daripada sisa daun nenas.



Program pembajaan yang digunakan adalah: (i) Pembajaan N (176, 176, 176, dan 176 kg ha⁻¹), P (11, 11, 7, dan 7 kg ha⁻¹), dan K (89, 89, 188, dan 188 kg ha⁻¹) pada 65, 135, 191, dan 233 hari selepas penanaman (FP1), (amalan biasa), (ii) pembajaan N (176, 176, dan 176 kg ha⁻¹), P (11, 11, dan 7 kg ha⁻¹), dan K (89, 89, dan 188 kg ha⁻¹) pada 65, 135, dan 191 hari selepas tanam (FP2), dan (iii) Pembajaan N (176, 264, dan 264 kg ha⁻¹), P (11, 14, dan 11 kg ha⁻¹) dan K (89, 183, dan 285 kg ha⁻¹) pada 65, 135, dan 191 hari selepas tanam (FP3). Kesan pembajaan ini di kaji, di bawah IDPR, ZBT, dan IBPR (amalan biasa).

Penguraian secara in situ sisa nenas tanpa sebarang gangguan (IDPR), ZBT atau IBPR tidak menambahkan hasil nenas pada pusingan pertama tanaman. Hasil buah untuk FP1, FP2, dan FP3 di bawah IDPR, ZBT, dan IBPR tidak berbeza secara statistik. Pembajaan N, P, dan K pada 65, 135, dan 191 hari selepas tanam (FP2) boleh menjadi suatu saingan alternatif kepada FP2 (amalan pembajaan biasa) selain daripada bukti bahawa pengambilan N, P, dan K dan hasil daripada kedua-kedua program pembajaan tidak berbeza secara statistik. Ia berkemungkinan memberi penjimatan sebanyak US\$ 110.17 di bawah FP2 melalui pengurangan baja N, P, dan K masing-masing sebanyak 176, 7, dan 188 kg ha⁻¹.

Dengan mengambil kira kos pencemaran alam sekitar yang berkaitan dengan pembakaran sisa nenas, analisis nilai kini bersih telah menunjukkan bahawa amalan IDPR atau ZBT boleh menjadi satu saingan secara alternatif kepada IBPR.

Kalium hidroksida (0.10M KOH) daripada sisa daun nenas telah mengestrak 20% HA daripada sisa daun nenas yang di kompos manakala kalium hidroksida daripada gred analitik (0.10M KOH) telah mengekstrak 30%, tetapi, komposisi elemen (C, H, N, O, dan S), kumpulan berfungsi (karboksilik, OH fenolik dan jumlah keasidan), dan ciri-ciri spektra adalah sama secara amnya. Kalium hidroksida daripada daun nenas boleh di gunakan untuk mengekstrak jumlah HA tanpa mengubah kandungan elemen dan kumpulan berfungsi serta ciri-ciri bahan humik. Ini memberikan suatu pandangan yang merangsangkan. Produk berguna seperti K-humate, dan K-fulvate juga dapat di hasilkan daripada sisa daun nenas.



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
DEDICATION		ii
ABSTRACT		iii
ABSTRAK		vi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS		ix
APPROVAL SHEET		xi
DECLARATION FORM		xiii
LIST OF TABLES		xviii
LIST OF FIGURES		xx
CHAPTER		
I	INTRODUCTION	1
II	LITERATURE REVIEW	6
	Sustainable Agriculture.....	6
	Overview of Tropical Peats.....	7
	Definition and Types.....	7
	Physical Properties.....	9
	Chemical Properties.....	12
	Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium Fertilisers Use on peat.....	15
	Fertilisers Use and Some Related Issues.....	17
	Soil Fertility Loss.....	17
	Causes of Nutrient Loss.....	18
	Soil Fertility Maintenance and the Global Fertiliser Use Trends.....	18
	Fertiliser Use and Some Environmental Issues.....	19
	Crop Residue Management Practices and Fertiliser Use.....	22
	Composting of Organic Materials.....	23
	Incineration of Agricultural Wastes and Open Burning of Agricultural Wastes.....	24
	Production of Potassium Hydroxide	26
	Potassium Hydroxide Production Using Mercury Cells.....	27
	Potassium Hydroxide Production Using Diaphragm Cells.....	28
	Potassium Hydroxide Production Using Membrane Cells.....	28
	Production of Potassium Hydroxide from Crop Residues.....	29
	Humic Substances.....	29
	Synthesis of Humic Substances.....	31



The Lignin-Protein Theory.....	32
The Polyphenol Theory.....	33
The Quinones Theory.....	35
The Sugar-Amine Condensation Theory.....	35
Isolation and Fractionation Methods of Humic Substances.....	37
Isolation of Humic Substances.....	38
Purification of Humic Substances.....	43
Fractionation of Humic Substances.....	45
Elemental Composition of Humic Substances.....	47
Functional Group Composition of Humic Substances	53
Humic Substances and Plant Growth.....	56
Causes of Plant Growth Stimulation.....	59
Direct Effects of Humic Substances on Plant Growth	64
Biochemical Effects of Humic Substances.....	65
Greenhouse and Field Trials of Humic Substances...	67
Some New Uses of Humic Substances.....	68
Pineapple Residue Management on Peat in Malaysia.....	71
Summary.....	72

III PINEAPPLE RESIDUE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND N, P, AND K FERTILISATION REGIMES: EFFECT ON N, P, AND K UPTAKE AND FRUIT YIELD.....

Introduction.....	73
Objective.....	75
Materials and Methods.....	75
Experimental Site and Climatic Conditions.....	75
Fertiliser Programmes.....	75
Residue Management Practices.....	76
Treatment Combinations and Experimental Design...	78
Peat Samples Analyses.....	78
Plant, Ash, and Residue Analyses.....	80
Fresh Fruits Harvesting.....	81
Statistical Analyses.....	82
Costs of Fertilisers and Labour Used.....	82
Results and Discussion.....	83
pH and Moisture Content.....	83
Initial Status of N, P, and K on Test Plots.....	83
Effect of Residue Management Practices on N, P, and K Uptake and Yield.....	84
Effect of Fertilisation Programmes on N, P, and K Uptake and Yield.....	88
Present Value of Costs Associated with Fertilisation Programmes.....	92



	Conclusions.....	93
IV	ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF PINEAPPLE RESIDUE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.....	95
	Introduction.....	95
	Objective.....	96
	Materials and Methods.....	96
	Experimental Site and Climatic Conditions.....	96
	Treatments, Experimental Design, and Fertiliser Rates.....	97
	Costs of Labour.....	98
	Costs of Farm Materials and Other Costs	98
	Net Present Value Model.....	100
	Results and Discussion.....	103
	Estimated Yields	103
	Cost of Labour at Transition State.....	105
	Cost of Labour at Steady State.....	105
	Economic Viability of Residue Management Practices without Pollution Cost.....	107
	Conclusions and Recommendations.....	109
V	SUSTAINABLE USE OF PINEAPPLE LEAVES.....	112
	Introduction.....	112
	Objectives.....	114
	Materials and Methods.....	114
	Pineapple Leaves Collection and Preparation.....	114
	Digestion of Ash and Determination of Total K.....	115
	Extraction and Determination of KOH Molarity.....	115
	Elemental Composition and pH Determination of 0.1M KOH.....	116
	Analyses of Ash Residue after Extraction of KOH... ..	116
	Composting of Shredded Pineapple Leaves and Compost Decomposition and Compost Stability Attributes Analyses.....	117
	Extraction and Purification of Humic Substances.....	118
	Elemental Composition of Humic Acid.....	119
	Functional Groups of Humic Acid.....	119
	Spectral Analysis.....	120
	Elemental Composition of Fulvic Acid and Humin... ..	120
	Statistical Analyses.....	121
	Results and Discussion.....	121
	Total K in Ash and Ash Residue.....	121
	pH and Elemental Composition of KOH.....	122
	Compost and Ambient Temperatures.....	125
	Other Information on Decomposition and Stability of Compost.....	127



	Purity of Humic Acid and Yield.....	129
	Elemental Compositions, Atomic Ratios, and Functional Groups of Humic Acids.....	139
	Spectral Characteristic of Humic Acids.....	139
	Reconstitution of Purified Humic Acid with K from Ash Residue after Extraction of 0.10M KOH.....	142
	Reconstitution of Purified Humic Acid with K in 0.10M KOH produced from Pineapple Leaves for Agricultural Use.....	144
	Humin.....	146
	Potassium Accountability.....	146
	Conclusions.....	150
VI	GENERAL DISCUSSION.....	151
VII	SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS.....	154
	BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	156
	BIODATA OF THE AUTHOR.....	172



LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1	Range and Average Percentage of Important Elements in Organic Soils (Source, Lucas, 1982).....	13
2	Comparison of CEC Values on a Weight and Per Volume Basis	15
3	Elemental Composition of Soil Humic Substances.....	48
4	Atomic Ratios of Humic and Fulvic Acids from Soils.....	49
5	Elemental Composition of Humic and Fulvic Acids Extracted from Composted Plant and Woody Residues.....	50
6	Atomic Ratios of Humic and Fulvic Acids Extracted from Composted Plant, Wood and from Soils.....	51
7	Functional Group Content of Humic and Fulvic Acids Extracted from Plant, wood and from Soils.....	54
8	Main IR Absorption Bands of Humic Substances.....	55
9	Total N and Extractable P and K before Experimentation.....	84
10	Effect of Three Pineapple Residue Management Practices on Total N and Extractable P and K.....	87
11	Effect of Three Pineapple Residue Management Practices on Fruit Yield.....	87
12	Effect of N, P, and K Fertilisation Programme under Three Residue Management Practices on N, P, and K Uptake.....	90
13	Effect of N, P, and K Fertilisation Programme under Three Residue Management Practices on Fruit Yield.....	91
14	Costs Associated with Pineapple Fertilisation Programmes.....	93
15	Present Value of Costs of Farm Materials and Other Costs Identical across IDPR, ZBT, and IBPR.....	99
16	Pineapple Residue Management Practices and their Effect on Fruit Yield and Residue Production.....	104



17	Revenues Associated with Pineapple Residue Management Practices at Transition and Steady States.....	104
18	Present Value of Cost of Labour Associated with Different Pineapple Residue Management Practices during Transition and Steady States.....	106
19	Net Revenues Associated with Different Pineapple Residue Management Practices.....	108
20	Elemental Composition of 0.10M KOH from Pineapple Leaves and Analytical Grade.....	124
21	Elemental Composition of Fulvic Acids After Humic Acid Extraction from Pineapple Leaves and Analytical Grade of 0.10M KOH Solution	138
22	Elemental Composition, Atomic Ratios, and Functional-Group Constituents of Humic Acid derived from Pineapple Leaves and Analytical Grade of 0.10M KOH Solution.....	140
23	Absorption Bands in the FR-IR Spectra of Humic Acid Extracted from Composted Pineapple Leaves.....	141
24	Potassium content and pH of Reconstituted Humic Acid (K-humate) with 0.10M KOH produced from Pineapple Leaves using different Humic Acid to 0.10M KOH ratios	145
25	Balance Sheet for Humic Substances Studies.....	149



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1	Soluble K release from Ash Residue.....	122
2	Ambient and Compost Temperature vs. Composting Time of Composted Pineapple Leaves.....	127
3	Effect of Washing on K Removal from HA.....	132
4	Effect of Washing on Ca Removal from HA.....	132
5	Effect of Washing on Mg Removal from HA.....	133
6	Effect of Washing on Na Removal from HA.....	133
7	Effect of Washing on Zn Removal from HA.....	134
8	Effect of Washing on Mn Removal from HA.....	134
9	Effect of Washing on Cu Removal from HA.....	134
10	Equilibrium Study of K in Humic Acids.....	135
11	Absorption of Soluble K Release from Ash Residue by Humic Acid.....	143
12	Relationship between Soluble K Release from Ash Residue and Absorption by Humic Acid.....	143
13	Amounts of K, Ca, and Mg in Humin Extracted from Pineapple Leaves and Analytical Grade at 0.10M KOH Solutions.....	148
14	Amounts of Zn, Na, Mn, and Cu in Humin Extracted from Pineapple Leaves and Analytical Grade at 0.10M KOH Solutions.....	148



CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Pineapple (*Ananas comosus*), a tropical fruit crop (Sampson, 1980) is commonly grown on mineral soils (Py et al., 1987) but in Malaysia, the crop is largely (17,000 hectare), and uniquely cultivated on peat (AGRIQUEST, 1999/2000). This practice has been in existence for nearly a century (Selamat and Ramlah, 1993). The present large scale cultivation started on small scale basis with no fertilisation but after the extensive and comprehensive survey of pineapple cultivation on peat in Malaysia (Dunsmore, 1957), the need to apply balanced fertilisers for a better growth and production of pineapple was apparent. Afterwards, some recommendations (Tay, 1972; Tay, 1973) were put forward. Probably when it became obvious that the existing recommendations have outlived their usefulness, new recommendations were issued (Selamat and Ramlah, 1993; Razzaque, 1999). Despite the fact that pineapple residue management practices such as burning, incorporation, mulching, or zero-burn, each of which, in one way or other forms an integral part of pineapple cultivation, none of the preceding studies took due cognisance of the performances of the fertiliser regimes under any of these residues management practices.

A recent study on the P, K, Ca, and Mg budget in pineapple cultivation has revealed that the existing fertiliser regime (successive applications of N, P, and K fertilisers at 65, 135, 191, and 233 days after planting (DAP)) is inappropriate (Ahmed et al., 2000). This observation has been ascribed to the lack of efficient synchrony between the release of these nutrients from the applied fertilisers (particularly the last stage of fertilisation, 233 DAP) and their uptake. At this period, nutrients are applied at a stage in pineapple growth when active nutrients uptake is quite slow (Py et al., 1987), and hence substantial amounts of nutrients get accumulated. But with average monthly rainfall of 159.75 mm coupled with the low clay in organic soils (Stevenson, 1994), high loss of P and K has been observed (Ahmed et al., 2000; Funakawa et al., 1996). For instance, 32% of P from China phosphate rock and 25.74% of K from muriate of potash of the total amount applied are lost through leaching. In terms of accumulation, 13.89% of P and 47.78% of K, respectively are retained in the soil. The high accumulation of K should be of utmost concern because it seems that there is no guarantee that the residual K can be of any significant benefit in the succeeding cropping years. Studies have shown that even though applied fertiliser K remaining in the exchangeable and solution forms are easily leached under high rainfall, residual K in organic soils is much affected (Shickluna et al., 1972).

From the foregoing nutrient leaching and accumulation estimations, it can be estimated that 46.79% (leaching plus accumulation) of P and as much as 73.52% (leaching plus accumulation) of K are not utilized. This estimation is consistent



with the findings of Ahmed et al. (1999) on P and K fertilisers' use efficiencies that were found to be 53.21 and 29.91%, respectively. At economic rate of 750 to 872 kg N ha⁻¹, Razzaque (1999) reported about 53.30 to 65.90% and 15 to 16% of N leaching and maximum recovery, respectively.

In spite of the growing concern of the polluting effects of excess fertiliser application on the environment, Malaysia is one of the heaviest users of fertilisers in the world (on unit land area basis) even though most of the fertilisers used in the country are imported. For 1995/96, Malaysia used 223.40 kg ha⁻¹ fertiliser nutrients, compared with a world wide use of only 83.40 kg ha⁻¹ (AGRIQUEST, 1999/2000). It is even thought that Malaysia is the only country in the world with a K requirement higher than N requirement. In 1998 (January to September), the fertiliser import bills for nitrogenous, phosphatic, and potassic fertilisers stood at 106.00 (RM 402.80), 39.39 (RM 149.68), and US\$ 115.58 (RM 439.20) million, respectively (AGRIQUEST, 1999/2000).

For the Malaysian pineapple industry to contribute to the reduction of these alarming bills there is a need to judiciously modify the present fertiliser regime. The modification however needs to be in tandem with a superior mode of handling pineapple residues like the modified version of zero-burn technique where with the exception of leaves that need to be removed for value addition instead of burning, roots, stems, crowns, and peduncles could be left to decompose in situ. This