



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**ASSESSMENT ON SUITABILITY OF RAW AND COMPOSTED GRINDING
SLUDGE FOR AGRICULTURE LAND APPLICATION**

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**ASSESSMENT ON SUITABILITY OF RAW AND COMPOSTED GRINDING
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BY

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**A project report submitted to the Faculty of Agriculture, University Putra
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the award of the degree of Bachelor of Agricultural Science**

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ENDORSEMENT

This project report entitled of Assessment on Suitability of Raw and Composted Grinding Sludge for Land Application is prepared by Izzah Afifah binti Ahmad Borhanuddin and submitted to the Faculty of Agriculture in the fulfillment of the requirement of PRT4999 (Final Year Project) for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Agricultural Science.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTENTS	PAGES
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	i
TABLE OF CONTENTS	ii
LIST OF FIGURES	vi
LIST OF TABLES	viii
LIST OF PLATES	ix
ABSTRACT	x
ABSTRAK	xii
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	
CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 Raw Grinding Sludge	3
2.2 Composted Grinding Sludge	5
2.3 Fertilizers and Soil Amendment from Waste	7
2.4 Heavy Metals in Soil	8
2.5 Heavy Metals Uptake by Plant	10
2.6 Effects of Heavy Metals on Plant	12
2.7 Effect of Heavy Metals on Human Health	14

CHAPTER 3: MATERIALS AND METHOD

3.1 Experimental Site	16
3.2 Soil Analysis	16
3.2.1 pH Determination	16
3.2.2 Electrical Conductivity (EC)	17
3.2.3 Determination of Total N and Total C	17
3.2.4 Determination of Extractable Fe	17
3.2.5 Determination of Extractable Ni	18
3.2.6 Determination of Extractable Cr	18
3.2.7 Determination of Total Fe, Ni and Cr	19
3.2.8 Determination of Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC)	19
3.3 Raw and Composted Sludge Analysis	20
3.3.1 pH Determination	20
3.3.2 Electrical Conductivity Determination	20
3.3.3 Determination of Total N and Total C	20
3.3.4 Determination of Extractable Fe	21
3.3.5 Determination of Extractable Ni	21
3.3.6 Determination of Extractable Cr	22
3.3.7 Determination of Total Fe, Ni and Cr	22
3.4 Plant Tissues Analysis	23
3.5 Planting Materials	23
3.6 Treatments and Experimental Design	24

3.7 Cultivation practices	25
3.7.1 Medium Preparation	25
3.7.2 Planting Method	25
3.7.3 Fertilization	25
3.7.4 Irrigation	25
3.8 Harvesting	28
3.9 Data Collection	26
3.9.1 Fresh Weight of Plants	26
3.9.2 Dry Weight of Plants	26
3.10 Statistical Analysis	27
CHAPTER 4: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	28
4.1 Soil Analysis before Treatments	28
4.2 Raw and Composted Sludge Analysis	29
4.3 Soil Analysis after Harvesting	30
4.3.1 Soil Ph	30
4.3.2 Electrical conductivity	32
4.3.3 Total Carbon	34
4.3.4 Total Nitrogen	36
4.3.5 Total Chromium	38
4.3.6 Total Nickel	39
4.3.7 Total Iron	41

4.3.8 Extractable Chromium	43
4.3.9 Extractable Nickel	45
4.3.10 Extractable Iron	47
4.4 Plant Analyses	49
4.4.1 Fresh Weight of Plant	49
4.4.2 Dry Weight of Plant	51
4.4.3 Plant Chromium Concentrations	52
4.4.4 Plant Nickel Concentrations	53
4.4.5 Plant Iron Concentrations	54
4.5 Chromium, Nickel and Iron Uptake by Maize Plant	55
4.6 Heavy Metals Content in Maize Plant and Permissible Limits	58
4.7 Correlation	60
CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION	64
REFERENCES	66
PLATES	70
APPENDICES	76

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Plot layout using Split Plot	24
Figure 2: Average of soil Ph of all treatments	31
Figure 3: Effect of different treatment rates on soil pH	31
Figure 4: Average of soil EC of all treatments	33
Figure 5: Effect of different treatment rates on EC	33
Figure 6: Average of soil total C of all treatments	35
Figure 7: Effect of different treatment rates on soil total C	35
Figure 8: Average of soil total N of all treatments	37
Figure 9: Effect of different treatment rates on soil total N	37
Figure 10: Effect of different treatment rates on soil total Cr	38
Figure 11: Average of soil total Cr off all treatments	40
Figure 12: Effect of different treatment rates on total soil Ni	40
Figure 13: Effect of raw sludge and composted sludge on soil total Fe	42
Figure 14: Effect of different rates on soil total Iron	42
Figure 15: Effect of raw sludge and composted sludge on soil extractable Cr	44
Figure 16: Effect of different treatment rates on soil extractable Cr	44
Figure 17: Average of soil extractable Ni of all treatments	46

Figure 18: Effect of different treatment rates on soil extractable Ni	46
Figure 19: Average of soil extractable Fe of all treatments	48
Figure 20: Effect of different treatment rates on soil extractable Fe	48
Figure 21: Average of plant fresh weight of all treatments	50
Figure 22: Effect of different treatment rates on plant fresh weight	50
Figure 23: Effect of different treatment rates on plant dry weight	51
Figure 24: Effect of different treatment rates on plant Cr concentrations	52
Figure 25: Effect of different treatment rates on plant Ni concentrations	53
Figure 26: Effect of different treatment rates on plant total Fe	54
Figure 27: Total Cr uptake by plant	56
Figure 28: Total Ni uptake by plant	56
Figure 29: Total Fe uptake by plant	57
Figure 30: Correlation studies of raw sludge treatment	62
Figure 31: Correlation studies of composted sludge	63

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Heavy metal composition of raw grinding sludge	4
Table 2: Heavy metal composition of composted grinding sludge	6
Table 3: Maximum Permissible limits of heavy metals in soil	9
Table 4: Permissible limits of heavy metals in maize plants	11
Table 5: Routine requirement for mankind	15
Table 6: Soil analysis before treatment	28
Table 7: Analysis results of raw grinding sludge and composted grinding sludge	29
Table 8: Comparisons of Cr, Ni and Fe in maize plant with permissible limits	58

LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1: Maize planted in polybag with Split Plot experimental design

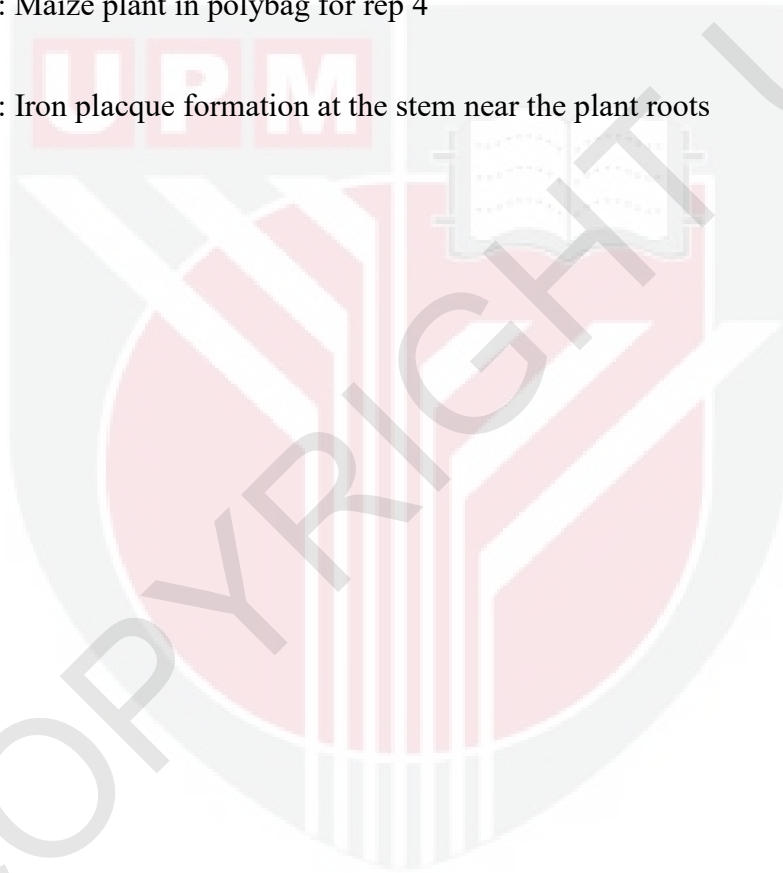
Plate 2: Maize plant in polybag for rep 1

Plate 3: Maize plant in polybag for rep 2

Plate 4: Maize plant in polybag for rep 3

Plate 5: Maize plant in polybag for rep 4

Plate 6: Iron plaque formation at the stem near the plant roots



ABSTRACT

This project was conducted to determine the suitability of raw and composted grinding sludge for land application. Grinding sludge is a waste product from the steel and bearing industries. SKF Bearing Industries (M) Sdn. Bhd produced about 480 tons per year of grinding sludge. The grinding sludge is disposed off landfill of Kualiti Alam Sdn. Bhd but the disposal cost is high. In order to utilize the waste, this experiment is conducted to investigate whether it is suitable for land application. However, raw grinding sludge may not be ideal by itself for land application. High concentration of Fe, Cr and Ni content in it may cause toxicity to human health. Therefore, composting the sludge with sawdust might help alleviate the metal toxicity problem. This study is conducted in Ladang 15's Glass house unit, Faculty of Agriculture, UPM. The experimental design for this study is Split Plot. For each set, there are 5 treatments (0, 2.5, 5, 10, 20 tons/ha) with 4 replications for SET A (raw grinding sludge), and there are also 5 treatments (0, 3.125, 6.25, 12.5, 25 tons/ha) with 4 replications for SET B (composted grinding sludge). The plant material used in this project is sweet maize variety (*Zea mays*) of Thai Super Sweet. The data collection for soil parameters were soil pH by using pH meter, soil organic matter, soil CEC, and soil EC. Determination of extractable Ni is by the DTPA Method. Determination of extractable Cr is by EDTA Method and determination of extractable Fe is by Dilute Double Acid Method, and total element content of Ni, Cr, and Fe were determined by the Aqua Regia Method. The plant tissues analysis is carried out to determine the total element content of Ni, Cr and Fe using Dry-Ashing Method. The significant difference between the treatments is analyzed using ANOVA test. Correlation analysis between soil parameter and plant analysis is conducted to see any correlation. From this study, it can be concluded that

composted sludge is more suitable on land application compared to raw sludge. Correlation study shows that there were some negative correlations. Soil pH and soil total C are negatively correlated with plant Ni concentrations. Based on overall results, the optimum rate of composted grinding sludge for land application is 3.125 t/ha. The highest yield was at this rate. There was no heavy metals toxicity problem with the application of composted sludge at this rate. The plant tissues analysis shows that Ni, Cr and Fe concentrations were still below the toxicity levels. However, the composted sludge that was applied at 3.125 t/ha gives almost the same result as the control. Since at rate 3.125 t/ha composted sludge gives the same results as the control, we can choose not to apply this sludge at. However, to reduce the disposal of this grinding sludge at the land fill, the raw grinding sludge must be composted before applying on land and only suitable to be applied at the rate of 3.125 t/ha.

ABSTRAK

Projek ini dijalankan untuk menentukan kesesuaian *grinding sludge* mentah dan *grinding sludge* yang telah dikompos apabila diaplikasikan pada tanah. *Grinding sludge* adalah bahan buangan daripada industri keluli dan logam. SKF Bearing Industries (M) Sdn. Bhd menghasilkan kira-kira 480 tan setahun *grinding sludge*. *Grinding sludge* yang terhasil dilupuskan di tapak pelupusan di Kualiti Alam Sdn. Bhd tetapi kos pelupusan tersebut adalah tinggi. Dalam usaha untuk mengurangkan kos pelupusan, projek ini dijalankan bagi mengetahui tahap kesesuaian bahan ini apabila diaplikasikan pada tanah. Walau bagaimanapun, *grinding sludge* mentah mungkin tidak sesuai untuk diaplikasikan pada tanah. Kandungan Fe, Cr dan Ni dalam *raw grinding sludge* boleh menjejaskan kesihatan manusia. Oleh itu, *grinding sludge* yang dikompos bersama dengan habuk kayu (*composted grinding sludge*) mungkin dapat membantu mengurangkan masalah tersebut. Kajian ini telah dijalankan di unit rumah kaca Ladang 15 Fakulti Pertanian, UPM. Reka bentuk eksperimen bagi kajian ini adalah Split Plot. Terdapat 5 rawatan (0, 2.5, 5, 10, 20 tan / ha) dengan 4 replikasi untuk SET A (*grinding sludge* mentah), dan juga 5 rawatan (0, 3.125, 6.25, 12.5, 25 tan / ha) dengan 4 replikasi untuk SET B (*grinding sludge* yang telah dikompos). Jenis tumbuhan yang digunakan dalam projek ini adalah varieti jagung manis (Zea Mays) Thai Super Sweet. Data bagi parameter tanah yang dikenalpasti ialah pH, bahan organik, KPK tanah, dan EC tanah. Kaedah DTPA digunakan untuk menentukan *extractable* Ni. Kaedah EDTA digunakan bagi penentuan *extractable* Cr. Penentuan *extractable* Fe adalah dengan kaedah *Double Acid*. Jumlah kandungan unsur Ni, Cr, Fe ditentukan dengan kaedah *Aqua Regia*. Analisis tisu tumbuhan dilakukan untuk menentukan jumlah kandungan unsur Ni, Cr dan Fe dengan menggunakan kaedah pengabuan kering (*dry ashing*). Perbezaan

ketara antara rawatan akan dianalisis menggunakan ANOVA. Analisis korelasi antara parameter tanah dan tumbuhan dijalankan untuk mendapatkan sebarang korelasi. Daripada kajian ini, dapat disimpulkan bahawa *grinding sludge* yang telah dikompos adalah lebih sesuai diaplikasikan ke tanah berbanding *grinding sludge* mentah. Kajian korelasi menunjukkan bahawa terdapat beberapa korelasi negatif. pH tanah dan kandungan C tanah dikaitkan dengan kepekatan Ni. Berdasarkan keputusan keseluruhan, kadar optimum *grinding sludge* yang telah dikompos untuk diaplikasikan ke tanah adalah 3,125 t/ha. Hasil tertinggi ialah pada kadar ini. Tiada masalah ketoksikan logam berat dengan penggunaan *grinding sludge* yang telah dikompos pada kadar ini. Analisis tisu tumbuhan menunjukkan bahawa kepekatan Ni, Cr dan Fe masih di bawah tahap ketoksikan. Walau bagaimanapun, *grinding sludge* yang telah dikompos yang digunakan pada kadar 3,125 t/ha memberikan keputusan yang hampir sama dengan keadaan yang dikawal (*control*). Oleh kerana pada kadar 3,125 t/ha *grinding sludge* yang telah dikompos memberikan hasil yang sama seperti keadaan yang dikawal (*control*), kita boleh memilih untuk tidak mengaplikasikan *grinding sludge* ini. Walau bagaimanapun, untuk mengurangkan kadar pelupusan *grinding sludge* di tapak pelupusan, *grinding sludge* mentah perlulah dikompos terlebih dahulu sebelum diaplikasikan ke tanah dan hanya sesuai untuk diaplikasikan pada kadar 3,125 t/ha.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Grinding sludge is a waste product formed from steel and bearing industries. SKF Bearing Industries (M) Sdn. Bhd produced about 480 tons per year of grinding sludge. Raw grinding sludge may not be ideal by itself for land application. The high concentration of Fe, Cr and Ni contents in it may cause toxicity to human health. Therefore, composting the sludge with sawdust might help alleviate the metal toxicity problem. The Fe, Cr and Ni contents in composted grinding sludge is slightly lower than the raw grinding sludge. Therefore, the composted grinding sludge may be more suitable for agriculture land application compared to the raw grinding sludge as soil amendment.

Maize (*Zea mays*) is from the family Gramineae with other cereal crops such as wheat, rice and sorghum. Maize is a monoecious plant that reproduced through pollination of cross-breed. Maize was originated from Central America and was introduced in Malaysia as sweet maize in the early seventies (70's). Sweet maize is a short-term crop that is popular among smallholders. Thai Supersweet is one of the sweet maize hybrid varieties. Hybrids have long been used for maize crops. There are three categories of hybrids that are commonly used in the commercial production of maize. The advantages derived from hybrid varieties have been proven, where the hybrid is capable of giving high and uniform yields.

1.1 Objectives

The general objective of this study is to determine whether composted grinding sludge is more suitable for land application.

The specific objectives are:

1. To determine the iron, chromium and nickel concentration uptake by maize plants applied with raw and composted grinding sludge.
2. To study the correlation between soil parameter with plant tissue content analysis.

1.2 Hypothesis

The composted grinding sludge is more suitable than raw grinding sludge for agriculture land application.

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