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BUKTI KORESPONDENSI ARTIKEL
COGENT FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
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Submission received for Cogent Food & Agriculture (Submission ID: 231870827)

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Submission ID	231870827
Manuscript Title	Application of Biochar and Biological Fertilizer to Improve Soil Quality and Oryza sativa L. Productivity
Journal	Cogent Food & Agriculture
Article Publishing Charge (APC)	USD \$635.00 (plus VAT or other local taxes where applicable in your country)

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Hasil review tahap 1 (14 Maret 2023)



Nana Danapriatna <danapriatna.nana@gmail.com>

231870827 (Cogent Food & Agriculture) A revise decision has been made on your submission

2 pesan

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14 Maret 2023 pukul 08.51

Ref: COGENTAGRI-2023-0141
231870827

Application of Biochar and Biological Fertilizer to Improve Soil Quality and Oryza sativa L. Productivity
Cogent Food & Agriculture

Dear Danapriatna,

Your manuscript entitled "Application of Biochar and Biological Fertilizer to Improve Soil Quality and Oryza sativa L. Productivity", which you submitted to Cogent Food & Agriculture, has now been reviewed.

The reviews, included at the bottom of the letter, indicate that your manuscript could be suitable for publication following revision. We hope that you will consider these suggestions, and revise your manuscript.

Please submit your revision by Apr 12, 2023, if you need additional time then please contact the Editorial Office.

To submit your revised manuscript please go to <https://rp.cogentoa.com/dashboard/> and log in. You will see an option to Revise alongside your submission record.

If you are unsure how to submit your revision, please contact us on agriculture@cogentoa.com

You also have the option of including the following with your revised submission:

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If you require advice on language editing for your manuscript or assistance with arranging translation, please do consider using the Taylor & Francis Editing Services (www.tandfedittingservices.com).

Please ensure that you clearly highlight changes made to your manuscript, as well as submitting a thorough response to reviewers.

We look forward to receiving your revised article.

Best wishes,

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Reviewer 1: Yes

Title, Abstract and Introduction – overall evaluation
Reviewer 1: Sound with minor or moderate revisions

Methodology / Materials and Methods – overall evaluation
Reviewer 1: Sound with minor or moderate revisions

Objective / Hypothesis – overall evaluation
Reviewer 1: Sound with minor or moderate revisions

Figures and Tables – overall evaluation
Reviewer 1: Sound

Results / Data Analysis – overall evaluation
Reviewer 1: Outstanding

Interpretation / Discussion – overall evaluation
Reviewer 1: Sound

Conclusions – overall evaluation
Reviewer 1: Sound

References – overall evaluation
Reviewer 1: Outstanding

Compliance with Ethical Standards – overall evaluation
Reviewer 1: Outstanding

Writing – overall evaluation
Reviewer 1: Sound

Supplemental Information and Data – overall evaluation
Reviewer 1: Sound

Comments to the author

Reviewer 1: The article entitled "Application of Biochar and Biological Fertilizer to Improve Soil Quality and *Oryza sativa* L. Productivity" is submitted to the journal *Frontiers in Agronomy* section *Agroecological Cropping Systems*. This study at determining the potential of biochar and biological fertilizers to improve the quality of soil planted with lowland rice. This paper is a good fit for the journal's audience and subject matter, specifically the, biochar and biological fertilizer are environmental friendly applications which can reduce the use of chemical fertilizer in sustainable agriculture. I recommend this article for publication in the journal with revision based on the comments and questions detailed below.

1. Please improve the language of the paper it seems to be inappropriate in many places, especially in the abstract and introduction sections. There are also some spelling as well as grammatical mistakes in the manuscript that should be corrected. Write the study's objective in a more appropriate way and at the proper place in the manuscript. Make the conclusion section briefer. Finally, this will improve your manuscript in a better way.
2. When was biochar applied? Before the plantation? Mention the days.
3. It will be better to give names to treatments such T1, T2....T6 or Control, 0BC+BF, 10BC, 10BC+BF, 25BC, 25BC+BF,
4. Write the experimental design clearly, pot size, biochar rate to pot soil, biochar method adding to soil, etc
5. Which rate of biochar was beneficial for soil N: P: K
6. What were the properties of biochar and biological fertilizers? Provide a table where the contents of nutrients are presented of both amendments.
7. Write standard units in tables, what is ppm, should be explained in the table caption.
8. A Pearson correlation or regression analysis among soil attributes and plant attributes should be done to understand the impact of biochar on soil then, consequently, on plant growth and development.
9. Species name should be italic such as *Pseudomonas* sp. etc

Abstract

The effect of this treatment..... which treatment? Rephrase the sentence and check throughout the manuscript.

I advise you to revise your manuscript following ALL the suggestions of those reviewers. For this, I recommend that you highlight in different colors the changes made in accordance with the suggestions of each referee in the revised manuscript.

Since there have been two referees, you must use two different colors (one for each referee).

This is very important to me, because in this way I can know if you have followed ALL the suggestions that these referees indicate.

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Nana Danapriatna <danapriatna.nana@gmail.com>

Author Reminder - Your revision is due soon

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Ref: COGENTAGRI-2023-0141
231870827
Application of Biochar and Biological Fertilizer to Improve Soil Quality and Oryza sativa L. Productivity
Cogent Food & Agriculture

Dear Nana Danapriatna,

We hope you are well and that work on your revision for "Application of Biochar and Biological Fertilizer to Improve Soil Quality and Oryza sativa L. Productivity", 231870827, is moving along steadily.

This email is to remind you your revision is due on on Apr 12, 2023.

As we have not yet received your revised submission, we would like to remind you that we are here to help you should you need any support. Please contact us at OAFa-peerreview@journals.tandf.co.uk for assistance with your revised submission.

Alternatively, if you have decided not to continue with your revision, and would prefer to submit your manuscript elsewhere, please let us know by emailing OAFa-peerreview@journals.tandf.co.uk. You may also decide to submit this paper elsewhere upon declining to revise.

Please ensure you include the following elements in your revised submission/Please check the attachment for information on what you will need to include in your revised submission. If you have any further questions about your submission, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes,

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Application of Biochar and Biological Fertilizer to Improve Soil Quality and *Oryza sativa L.* Productivity

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Application of Biochar and Biological Fertilizer to Improve Soil Quality and *Oryza sativa L.* Productivity

ABSTRACT

Rice husk is an agricultural waste that can be processed into biochar as the main ameliorant to improve soil quality and crop productivity. Biochar has the potential to be combined with biological fertilizers for intensive paddy farming. This study aimed at assessing the potential of biochar and biological fertilizers to improve soil quality and lowland paddy rice (*Oryza sativa L.*). This study used an experimental approach and the treatment of rice plants was carried out in a greenhouse. Rice plants were given biochar and biological fertilizer containing N-fixing and P-solvent microorganisms. The completely randomized experimental design involved four replications with six treatment combinations. The effect of this treatment was analyzed using analysis of variant (ANOVA) and least significant difference (LSD) with a 95% confidence level (α 0.05). We found that the optimal combination is 10 grams of biochar with three times of fertilizer (10BC+BF) on all parts of the plant. This research showed that the combination of biochar with biological fertilizers was able to significantly affect N, P and K in the soil. Only N in rice plants was also significantly affected by the treatment. The combination capable to increase the rice productivity according to paddy clumps and yield.

Keywords: endophyte microorganism, paddy, rice husk, soil fertility, yield production.

1. INTRODUCTION

Strategies to increase agricultural productivity rely heavily on the use of inorganic fertilizers. In Indonesia, government policies that support the use of inorganic fertilizers by farmers are met through subsidies (Hoffmann *et al.* 2020). This subsidy policy budget for inorganic fertilizers costs between IDR 25-40 trillion per year (Fahmid *et al.* 2022). However, this policy is still ineffective because it has not been able to guarantee the availability of adequate fertilizer with rational price – according to the highest retail price (HRP) set by the Indonesian central government (Sahim *et al.* 2018). Another problem for this agrarian country is the large number of agricultural lands that have been converted into built-up areas for settlements, industries, and infrastructure (Dede *et al.* 2022; Susiati *et al.* 2022). Agricultural land also faces other threats, such as erosion and decreasing soil fertility, these affect the topsoil is carried away by rainwater and causing environmental problems for aquatic ecosystem (Sunardi *et al.* 2022).

Soil degradation is a real threat to farmers because it affects agricultural business and land productivity. Rice's field continues to decrease in harvest area, even per farmer family only has arable land between 0.1-0.4 hectare, which is accompanied by low professional regeneration for this occupation (Harini *et al.* 2012). It requires farmers and stakeholders to develop appropriate agricultural technology innovations by utilizing local resources, cheap and abundant organic materials. Paddy farming produces residues such as rice husk, straw and chaff. For rice husk, it is well known for its ability to restore soil quality and increase

nutrient holding (Varela-Milla *et al.* 2013). Commercial rice farming requires 5-10 tonnes of organic

substances per hectare (Walianggen 2021; Kantikowati *et al.* 2022). Rice husk can be processed into

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the family name for this author contains two word

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biochar and used as a soil amendment to increase organic matter content, stabilize pH, and gain harvested production of various crops (Karam *et al.* 2021). Rice productivity after being given biochar can increase up to 55% depending on agroecosystem conditions and crop varieties. Biochar is a high-carbon organic compound up to 40-60%, it comes from the pyrolysis process of rice husk and is resistant to weathering through contact water, atmosphere, and organisms for decades in the soil (Uchimiya *et al.* 2017). Despite containing carbon, biochar from rice husk has ash (around 50%) with small amounts of N, P, K, Ca, Mg, Na, Al, and Fe (Ammal *et al.* 2020). Several studies have shown that the use of biochar affected soil characteristics in terms of water-holding capacity, pH, and activity of microorganisms (Glaser *et al.* 2015). Shetty and Prakash (2020) observed an increase in nutrient uptake by paddy after application of rice husk biochar. Application biochar on agricultural land increased its ability to store water and nutrients, reduce evaporation, and suppress the development of pests and plant diseases originating from the soil (Bakhat *et al.* 2021). Research has demonstrated that under certain conditions, biochar does not have a significant effect on soil, plant nutrition, and biomass production. This condition is caused by small doses of biochar, those agricultural activities are done in short periods of treatment (under one year) and without considering environmental factors such as climate, soil characteristics and paddy varieties (Major *et al.* 2010). The potential problem occurred when biochar is applied to intensive rice farming without proper experiments and consideration.

For commercial and intensive agricultural purposes, biochar is still unable to add significant soil nutrients. To tackle this problem, combination of biochar and N fertilizer able to reduce soil bulk density, increase water holding capacity and soil chemical status (Oladele *et al.* 2019). Although inorganic fertilizers could be a solution, rice farming requires an eco-friendly solution through the usage of biological fertilizers to achieve sustainable agriculture. Biochar and compost have been proven to increase rice growth, the combination was able to change soil characteristics – soil organic carbon and microbial biomass. Based on this phenomenon, biochar has the potential to be combined with biological fertilizers for rice plantations. (Rajput *et al.* 2019). Biological fertilizer could be made from a combination of *Pseudomonas mallei* and *Penicillium sp.* which have been shown to increase crop yields by up to 20% and reduce 25% the dose of phosphate fertilization (Fitriatin *et al.* 2009).

Biological fertilizers are inoculants with active ingredients from living organisms that function to bind certain nutrients and facilitate the availability of various nutrients in the soil for plants (Carvajal- Muñoz and Carmona-Garcia 2012; Kumar *et al.* 2021). Biological fertilizers, apart from being abundant in microorganisms, also contain N-fixers and P-solvents. This combination could improve soil quality, and increase fertilization efficiency as well as rice productivity. The use of biochar and biological fertilizers will encourage farmers' income toward supporting sustainable agriculture. Therefore, this study aimed to determine the effect of biochar and biological fertilizers to improve soil quality and rice productivity.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. Description of the Study Area

This greenhouse experiment was carried out at the Faculty of Agriculture, Universitas Islam 45 (Unisma) Bekasi using Ciharang's rice variety as test crop. The Unisma's greenhouse is located at 6° 15' 27.86" S

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and 107° 00' 23.79 E in Bekasi City, West Java, Indonesia with an elevation of 7 meters from the sea level. The study adopted a completely randomized design with four replications. Soil and rice received 6 (six) treatment combinations, including 0 gram of biochar without fertilizer (0BC); 0 gram of biochar with fertilizer (0BC+BF); 10 grams of biochar without fertilizer (10BC); 10 grams of biochar with fertilizer (10BC+BF); 25 grams of biochar without fertilizer (25BC); and 25 grams of biochar with biofertilizer (25BC+BF). Biochar was mixed in the soil one day before the rice was planted. The rice plant sample was 24 pots with the layout and treatment scheme as presented in **Fig 1**.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
(0BC) 2	(10BC) 2	(25BC) 3	(0BC) 4	(10BC) 3	(10BC+BF) 3	(0BC+BF) 2	(25BC+BF) 3
(10BC+BF) 2	(0BC) 3	(25BC+BF) 4	(25BC) 2	(10BC) 1	(0BC+BF) 1	(0BC) 3	(25BC) 4
(0BC) 1	(10BC) 4	(25BC) 1	(10BC+BF) 4	(10BC+BF) 1	(25BC+BF) 2	(0BC+BF) 4	(25BC+BF) 1



Figure 1. Layout for the experiment in the greenhouse.

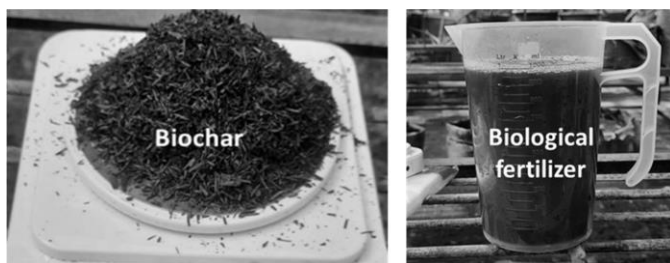


Figure 2. Biochar and biological fertilizer for rice's treatments.

Biochar was obtained from rice husks by a combustion process in the pyrolysis machine at temperatures between 250-3500 °C for one hour. For the biological fertilizer, this study consisted of two N-fixing endogenous bacteria (*Bacillus sp.* 1×10^7 , *Azospirillum sp.* 1×10^7) and one phosphate-solubilizing bacteria (*Pseudomonas sp.* 1×10^7) as a consortium. Every 30 grams of the biological fertilizer should be dissolved in 320 ml of water, biochar and the biological fertilizers also their contents showed in Fig 2 and Table 1. Rice seeds were placed in each 12 liters bucket that had previously been filled with 10 liters of agricultural soil (entisols) from Karawang Regency, Indonesia (Table 2). The area has annual temperature of 27°C with rainfall reach 1,500-3,000 mm. Karawang Regency is a center for national rice production, hence rice farming has made it a leading economic sector (Dede *et al.* 2016).

A concentrated solution of fertilizer must be added with 20 liters of water. Fertilization was sprayed whole part of the rice plant on days 7, 14 and 28. Each plant is also given inorganic fertilizer according to the Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture's dose for rice fields in Karawang (Rafiuddin *et al.* 2016). Paddy needs inorganic fertilizers such as 3.75 grams of Urea (equivalent to 70% the recommendation), one gram of super-phosphate (SP-36), and 0.625 grams of KCl. These inorganic fertilizers aim to adapt to real conditions and avoid biological adaptation failure (Fang *et al.* 2021). Paddy was observed every week, whereas the productivity and whole crops were analyzed to understand the different effects of treatments.

Table 1. Properties of biochar and biological fertilizer.

Properties	Biochar	Biological fertilizer
Moisture (%)	5.52	Not available
Volatile matter (%)	23.74	Not available
Ash (%)	35.51	Not available
C (%)	34.45	1.36
N (%)	0.32	0.08
P (%)	0.15	2.41
K (%)	0.31	2.96

Table 2. Soil characteristic for the experiment.

Parameter	Technique	Detail	Status
Soil texture and clay (28.30%)	Peptizing	Sand (10.20%), silt (60.50%)	Silty clay loam
pH	Potentiometric	H ₂ O (7.05) and KCl (6.10)	Neutral

2.2. Data Analysis

Different treatments of soils were observed in nutrient content (N, P, K, C). Effects on rice plants were observed by nutrient (N, P, K), panicle number and yield productivity. This study used Analysis of Variant (ANOVA) and Least Significant Difference (LSD) (Equation 1-2). ANOVA compares the means of two or more data groups, while LSD can measure treatment differences and serves as a post hoc test (Ismail *et al.* 2022; Nurbayani and Dede 2022; Zhang *et al.* 2022a). LSD required the mean squared error (MSE) and degrees of freedom for error (dfE) from ANOVA (Frene *et al.* 2021). These analyses were performed in Microsoft Excel and PSPP by 95% confidence level with a significance limit (p-value) less than 0.05.

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$$MST = \frac{SS_T}{df_T} \quad (1)$$

$$F = \frac{MST}{MSE} \quad (2)$$

$$LSD_{\alpha} = t_{(\alpha, dfE)} \sqrt{\frac{2MSE}{r}}$$

where F is the F-statistical value, MST known as the mean square of treatments, MSE for the mean square error, α indicates the significance value, and r is the Pearson's correlation. **Commented [A17]:** Write it in summarized manner

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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3.1. Effect on Soil Quality

Biological fertilizers in the growing media can increase the K content to more than 150 parts per million (ppm), even in a number of samples that do not use biochar from rice husks. The use of at least 10 grams of biochar has increased the P content to above 30 ppm. The application of one of them, biochar and biological fertilizers, has been shown to increase the N content in the soil. The results of ANOVA in **Table 3** show that the soil groups with these treatments proved to have a significant effect on chemical component, except for C-organic. Even though the N content was increased, the non-dynamic carbon content caused the C/N ratio to remain unchanged (Ye *et al.* 2014; Pérez and Torres-Bazurto 2020). In biochar the use of biochar with or without biological fertilizers can increase the N content between 1.36-1.81%. This result is strengthened by the significant test of biochar's treatment (p-value less than 0.05 with 95% confidence level). biochar results prove that biochar can increase the absorption of the main nutrients of plants. However, the combination should be able to improve soil quality and rice productivity.

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Table 3. Effects of biochar and biological fertilizers on soils and paddy.

Variable	Parameter	F	df	p-value	SEM	SED	CV (%)	LSD
Soil quality	N	4.12	23(5)	0.01	0.00	0.01	3.30	0.01
	P	5.01	23(5)	0.00	1.70	2.40	10.40	5.04
	K	7.13	23(5)	0.00	7.90	11.18	10.23	23.48
	C-organic	2.17	23(5)	0.10	0.02	0.03	2.16	0.07
Paddy crops	N	3.92	23(5)	0.01	0.13	0.18	17.39	0.37
	P	1.68	23(5)	0.19	0.01	0.02	12.61	0.04
	K	1.09	23(5)	0.40	0.30	0.42	14.49	0.88

Note: NPK stands for nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium; C is the carbon; df is the degree of freedom; SEM is the standard error of mean; standard error of difference; CV is the coefficient of variation; LSD is the least significant difference.

Table 4. Effects of biochar and biofertilizer application on selected soil properties

Treatment	N (%)	P (ppm)	K (ppm)	C-org (%)	C/N ratio
0BC	0.19 a	26.97 a	129.65 a	2.04 a	10.90 a
0BC+BF	0.20 b	31.45 abc	152.95 ab	2.07 a	10.49 a
10BC	0.20 b	30.17 ab	139.38 a	2.05 a	10.42 a
10BC+BF	0.20 bc	35.35 cd	167.53 bc	2.09 a	10.47 a
25BC	0.20 bc	34.42 bcd	148.50 ab	2.09 a	10.33 a
25BC+BF	0.21 c	37.32 d	188.73c	2.13 a	10.29 a
LSD	0.01	5.04	23.48	0.09	0.58

Note: The same letter in one column indicates no significant difference; ppm is parts per million.

The usage of biochar with biological fertilizers has been, significantly, increase N, P, and K in the soil. This indicates that microorganisms present in biological fertilizers (*Bacillus sp.*, *Azospirillum sp.*, and

Pseudomonas sp.) play an active role in fixing N and dissolving P. Based on LSD test, these treatments were not able to significantly affect changes in C-organic and C/N in the soil (Table 4). The highest N and P were in the sample that received 25 grams of biochar with biological fertilizer. These combinations affect the nutrients, including microorganisms and soil physical properties – density, porosity, water content (Masulili *et al.* 2010). Meanwhile in rice plants, this treatment only had a significant impact on increasing N content. From LSD test, it was found that these treatments were not able to increase P and K content in the plant, because the changes were very minor (Table 5). A highest N was found in the treatment of 10 grams of biochar with biological fertilizer (10BC+BF). These results were confirmed by Chen *et al.* (2022), the use of biochar and organic fertilizers had positive effects on soil pH and organic carbon.

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Table 5. Various combinations of biochar and biological fertilizers on rice plants.

Treatment	N (%)	P (ppm)	K (ppm)
0BC	1.28 a	0.23 a	3.93 a
0BC+BF	1.14 a	0.21 a	3.92 a
10BC	1.36 ab	0.21 a	3.72 a
10BC+BF	1.81 c	0.24 a	4.23 a
25BC	1.42 ab	0.24 a	4.10 a
25BC+BF	1.66 bc	0.26 a	4.61 a
LSD	0.37	0.04	0.88

Note: The same letter in one column indicates no significant difference; ppm is parts per million.

3.2. Effect on Rice Productivity

The combination of biochar and biological fertilizers not only has a positive effect on improving soil quality and plant content, but also has the potential to increase productivity as seen from the number of clumps of rice and dry grain harvested. LSD test showed that the combination treatment of 10 grams of biochar and biological fertilizer (10BC+BF) was the most optimal, efficient, and significant increase in rice productivity as shown in Table 6. This treatment increased the number of clumps by 25%, and the dry grain harvest almost doubled. It further proves that the combination does not only have a positive effect on clumps, but also on body size and dry rice grains. Improving soil quality ensures that essential nutrients (N, P, and K) can be absorbed by plants, resulting in optimal growth and more abundant rice yields (Budiono *et al.* 2019; Ye *et al.* 2019; Paiman *et al.*, 2021). The biochar maintains nutrients in planting media from water solution and the top layer is not eroded by runoff. Improving carbon content in the soil brought benefits to the cereals family's root system (Imran, 2022).

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Table 6. Various combinations of biochar and biological fertilizers on rice productivity.

Treatment	∑ clumps	Dry grain per pot (gram)
0BC	16 a	31.14 a
0BC+BF	19 ab	40.15 ab
10BC	17 a	51.55 bc
10BC+BF	21 bc	61.87 c
25BC	20 bc	53.26 bc
25BC+BF	22 c	62.44 c
LSD	3	15.562

Note: The same letter in one column indicates no significant difference.

Biochar from rice husk is proven to be able to improve soil characteristics and increase fertilization efficiency, thus nutrient is more absorbed by plants. The application of 10 grams of biochar has increased the content of macro nutrients in the soil. Biochar not only contain carbon, but other ingredients such as 50% cellulose, 25-30% lignin, 15-20% silica, and 10-15% moisture (Singh 2018; Hossain *et al.* 2020). On the other hand, biochar influences the nutrient cycle and keeps them longer in the soil (Petrus *et al.* 2020; Zhang *et al.* 2022b). The effect of biochar is better when soil and plant are exposed to biological fertilizers from spraying. Microorganisms contained in the fertilizer increase the nutrients in the soil by fixing and releasing nitrogen, phosphate, and potassium compounds. Biochar is an ideal habitat for various soil-fertilizing bacteria (Ebe *et al.* 2019). This study confirmed that biological fertilizers have improved soil quality better than only used synthetic fertilizers. Biological fertilizers restore the soil ecosystem and do not disturb macroorganisms on agricultural lands (Escobar and Solarte 2015; Pellejero *et al.* 2021). The application of biochar with biological fertilizers should consider soil types, rocks, climatological factors, rice varieties, and local community culture to increase agricultural productivity.

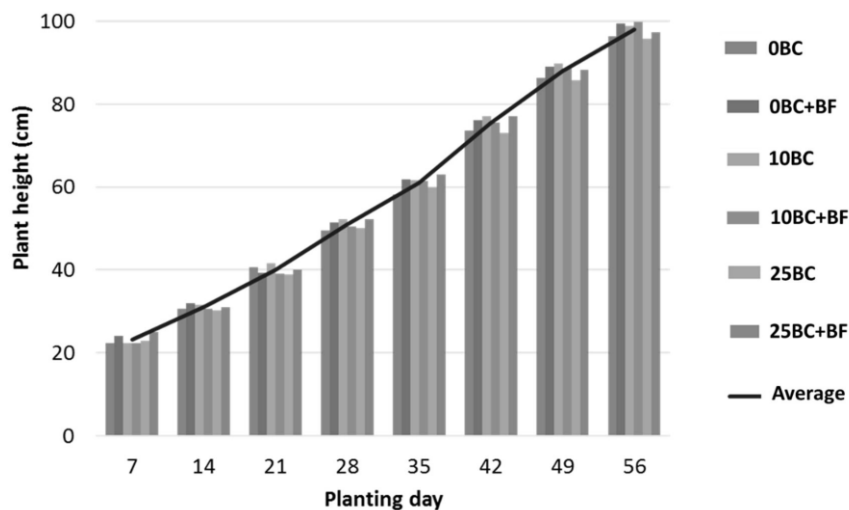


Figure 3. Comparison of the rice's growth in 56 days in six different treatments (bottom) after planting day.

The use of biochar and biological fertilizers should be in a right dose. We recommend using 10 grams of biochar per pot along with the biological fertilizer (10BC+BF). This treatment is effective and efficient to improve soil quality as well as rice productivity as shown by the LSD test. Excess biochar only adds biomass and reduces agricultural productivity (Yu *et al.* 2018; Ullah *et al.* 2020). The biochar dose of 10 grams per pot should be adjusted in the field's scale and prevent harm to rice plants (Fig 3). Awad *et al.* (2018) stated that biochar had toxicity potential under redox conditions due to land flooding and poor drainage. Although it was a pragmatic solution, excessive biochar would detrimental to farmers with weak socio-economic status without receiving subsidies from the government (Mohammadi *et al.* 2020). For

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biological fertilizers, the dosage for each hectare is 300 grams for three applications in 7-14 days interval. Excess in biological fertilizers causes an imbalance of soil microorganisms and changes to pathogens. An abundance of *Bacillus* sp. in agricultural ecosystems causes diarrhea and food contamination associated with vegetables, rice, ready-to-eat food, milk and egg (Haque *et al.* 2021). Overpopulation of *Pseudomonas* sp. would harmful to the ecosystem of *Pseudomonas pneumonia* (Public Health Agency of Canada 2011). Rice husk biochar for paddy cultivation must be used efficiently by considering its effectiveness to increase productivity. This study showed that very high doses of biochar did not give optimal results, even though the clumps paddy was abundant. The right dose is able to improve aeration and soil function, resulting in an increase in soil physicochemical properties, which results in better health, structure, and soil fertility for paddy crops (Sy *et al.* 2021). The biochar effect can actually be significant when combined with biological fertilizers, it triggers increasing biomass in the soil and ultimately has a positive impact on paddy productivity (Hadiawaty *et al.* 2019). However, in salt-affected soil, the combination of biochar and biological fertilizers was less than optimal where P and exchangeable K concentrations did not change significantly, hence the paddy productivity was not gained (Nguyen *et al.* 2018). Therefore, it is very important to pay more attention to soil and its agroecosystem before applying biochar and biological fertilizers.

4. CONCLUSION

Application of biochar with biological fertilizer had significant effects on soil N, P, and K, but this treatment was not significant to increase C-organic and C/N. For paddy, biochar and biological fertilizer increase N in the whole part of plants. This treatment stimulates paddy to grow faster and produces dry yields higher than conventional treatments. The best combination for lowland rice is 10 grams of biochar with 3 times fertilizing (10BC+BF) on all parts of the plant. The right doses would avoid adverse effects on plants, animals, and humans. Further research in extensive paddy field trials is required to know these effects on a massive scale. In addition, the treatment of crops with biochar and biofertilizers should be considered due to the rice varieties that exist among farmers.

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AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

ND: Conceptualization, Methodology, Software, Investigation, Funding, Writing – Original Draft; **II:** Conceptualization, Methodology, Resources, Supervision; **MD:** Formal analysis, Validation, Writing – Review and Editing.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST STATEMENT

The authors declare there is no conflict of interest.

ETHICAL STATEMENT

Not applicable.

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Dear Nana Danapriatna,

Thank you for submitting your revised manuscript.

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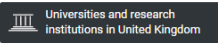
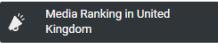
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
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