

# Efficient treatments of sewage sludge to produce energy and organic fertilizer

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This study was designed to evaluate the biological and chemical characters of sewage sludge generated in Abu-Rawash sewage plant, and the possibility of producing biogas and natural organic soil conditioner by aerobic and anaerobic treatments which aimed to the inactivation of bacterial and parasite pathogens and to improve the biological and chemical characters of the product from the waste which is known as a great source of disease and environmental pollution. The suitable beneficial reuse of the waste in the soil for the benefit of the crops and man and as a source of energy will be a secure and reliable long term sludge disposal strategy for the benefit of the society.

**Biological and chemical monthly evaluation of sewage sludge generated from Abu-Rawash sewage plant**

This experiment was carried out to evaluate the chemical and biological characters of the sewage sludge generated from Abu-Rawash sewage plant aiming to full benefit from this waste. The monthly evaluation for one year proved that :-

- The agronomic value of the sewage sludge which has major elements in average 2.32 %N, 0.57 % P and 0.29 % K.
- The organic carbon content varied from 41.41 % to 21.73 %.
- The total solids per cent varied from 5.64 to 3.18 %.
- The C/N ratio varied from 20: 1 to 9

The heavy metal content revealed that some elements were in the allowed limits but there were a considerable excess in some heavy metals content.

**Parasite ova**

The monthly evaluation proved that the sewage sludge contained some different kinds of parasite ova as, *Ascaris*, *Ankylostoma doudenale*, *Schistosoma hematobium*, *Tinea solium*, *Tinea saginata*, *Entamoeba histolytica* and *Balantidium coli*.

**Pathogenic bacteria**

The investigated pathogenic bacteria namely coliform group, *Salmonella* & *Shigella*, *Streptococcus faecalis* were found in great numbers during study but *Clostridium perfringens* was found in some.

**AN AEROBIC TREATMENTS**

**5-2 : EFFECT OF TEMPERATURE ON THE METHANATION OF SEWAGE SLUDGE**

This experiment was carried out to evaluate the effect of temperature at 37°C and 55°C on the biogas production and the survival of some pathogenic bacteria and parasites. The results revealed that :-

- There was an increase in the total biogas production at 55°C more than that produced at 37°C during the 70 days fermentation. The daily production at the peak was higher by 1.5 times. The biogas cumulative production at 55°C reached more than twice the production at 37°C after 26 days, while after 70 days the increase was only 11 %.
- The counts of coliform group, *Salmonella* & *Shigella*, *Streptococcus faecalis* and *Clostridium perfringens* were determined in the beginning and at the end of the study, the rate of destruction was greater at the higher temperature at 55°C than at the mesophilic temperature 37°C, effect of temperature on selected parasite survival showed that, at 37°C the parasite destruction was not complete in the case of *Ascaris* and *Schistosoma hematobium*, *Tinea*, *Entamoeba histolytica* was detected at the end of the experiment. Thermophilic fermentation at 55°C probably destroyed all the parasites which were detected at the beginning.

**5-3 BI GAS GENERATION FROM SEWAGE SLUDGE CONTAINING DIFFERENT CONCENTRATIONS OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTES (MSW)**

The aim of this experiment was to detect the best biogas production from sewage sludge to which was added increasing amounts of municipal solid wastes then fermented in batch digesters; the results revealed that:

  - A positive increase in biogas production with TS concentration in the fermenting materials up to 6 %, then decreased at TS more than that. The best gas production was 23.67 liter/fermentor in the treatment of SS+2% MSW, (~% T8). The volatile solids revealed a decreasing order according to T8 added. The pH in the

fermenting materials during the period of the study increased by increasing the T8 concentration. The behaviour of ammoniacal and total nitrogen during fermentation of sewage sludge treatments in relation to the TS content indicated that ammonia concentration increased by increasing the TS content in the digested material. The data proved a decrease in nitrogen losses by the increasing of TS content in the digesting materials. The behaviour of volatile fatty acids showed increasing of volatile fatty acids by increasing the TS content. The survival of coliform group and salmonella & shigella decreased. The values obtained showed no great differences at the different concentrations of TS.

### GENERATION DURING TWO PHASE FERMENTATION

The aim of this experiment was to improve biogas production. The objective of the first phase was to maximise the conversion of volatile sludge solids to the form of volatile fatty acids and to study the performance of the acid phase reactor, the productivity of volatile fatty acids and their accumulation in relation to time, changes of pH, total solids, volatile solids, and ammoniacal nitrogen through the depth of the acid phase reactor. The quantitative and qualitative productivity of biogas in relation to time was estimated at hydraulic retention times 20, 10, and 5 days. The aim of the second phase was to determine the best hydraulic retention time suitable for methane phase reactor to get the maximum biogas production. The data showed that the daily biogas productivity, CH<sub>4</sub> content from the fermented sewage sludge in the acid phase increased with decreasing hydraulic retention time (HRT). The samples which were taken from different ports level in the acid phase fermentor confirmed that :- The pH, TS, NH<sub>4</sub>-N and VS values decreased with the depth till the fourth port then increased again. The VFA values increased with the depth till the fourth port then decreased again. The effect of different HRT's on biogas production in methane phase revealed that the maximum cumulative biogas production at 7 days was 401.7 liter while it was 231.76 and 121.52 liter at HRT 10 and 20 days respectively, for 20 days fermentation. A highly significant negative correlation was found between hydraulic retention time and biogas production.

### DIC TREATMENT -COMPOSTING OF SEWAGE SLUDGE AND CILICIAL SOLID WASTES (MSW)

The aim of this experiment was to make combination between the N-rich sewage sludge with the C-rich municipal solid wastes to reduce nitrogen losses. The experiment was carried out also to evaluate the effect of increasing temperature during composting on some pathogenic bacteria and parasites. It showed that :- organic matter content decreased with time during the period of the study. The reduction rate of organic matter reached 29.5% in municipal solid wastes treatment while it reached 16.3% in the dry sludge treatment and lay in between these figures in the tested mixtures. The percentage of nitrogen generally increased but there was a continuous decrease in nitrogen content. [The true losses reached 5.6% in MSW treatment and reached 24.38% in dry sludge treatment]. The C/N ratio generally narrowed throughout the composting period. This effect was higher in the early weeks and remain at lower until the end of the experiment. The C/N ratio narrowing in municipal solid wastes was greater than that of the dry sludge treatment. It narrowed from 37.4 to 19.7 and from 11.9 to 11.1 in municipal solid and dry sludge, respectively. The other treatments lay among these two ratios. Nitrate showed a gradual increase during the first week and a high increase during the second and the third weeks of the study. The data revealed a slight increase in pH values to the second week of composting and then gradually decreased to the neutral values. Data showed that the highest temperature reached 64 °C. The dried sludge treatments show a lower increase in temperature. Coliform group and salmonella & shigella were used as indicator organisms for the destruction of pathogenic bacteria in the end product. The numbers of coliform group and salmonella & shigella bacteria were high in the initial samples. Salmonella & shigella colonies were not detected at the end of the experiment. In the dry sludge treatment, coliform group remained present in lower numbers (6.5x10<sup>1</sup>) at the end of the study. The effect of co-composting on the survival of selected parasites in sewage sludge showed a great reduction of the selected parasites in all treatments except the dry sludge treatment. The behaviour of macronutrients during the co-composting experiment revealed that :- highest content of nitrogen was in the dry sludge and the lowest in the municipal solid wastes treatment and the values of the other were among these two values. It is worthy to mention that there was nitrogen losses during composting of the dried sludge. Phosphorus behaviour revealed the higher concentration in municipal solid wastes + dried sludge 1:4: the amount reached 0.7%. But the lowest content was 0.24 % in the municipal solid wastes treatment. Phosphorus in the other treatments was among these two values. The results showed that

potassium content in municipal solid waste was the highest, it reached 0.440%, but the lowest content was in dried sludge treatment it reached 0.16%. Potassium content in the other treatments was between these two values. The trace element and heavy metal evaluation showed that the concentration of these elements in the end product was bigger than its initial concentration.

### MICAL TREATMENTS OF SEWAGE SLUDGE WITH QUICK LIME AND CEMENT DUST

The aim of this experiment was to evaluate the effect of lime and cement dust additions to sewage sludge on its biological content and chemical characteristics. Quick lime treatment showed an increase in pH by fermentation period till 28 days in control, 5% and 10% while there was a clear decrease in pH during the fermentation 0% and 50% treatments. At 20% and 50% quick lime treatments, pH decreased with time from 11.46, 12.06 to 8.92 and 10.6 in the 20% and 50% treatments respectively. Cement dust treatments seemed to take the same trend of quick lime with a slight lowering values. Data showed that the maximum release of ammonia occurred after 7 days in both quick lime and cement treatments. Concerning the effect of quick lime and cement dust additions on the reduction of pathogenic bacteria, the results showed that the coliform group was not detected after 7 days in 20% and 50% quick lime treatments, and after 42 and 21 days at 20% and 50% cement dust treatments, respectively. Salmonella & Shigella was not detected in all the treatments after 42 days of the study. Quick lime 20% and 50% treatments were more effective than the cement dust at the same concentration. Quick lime treatment at the concentration of 10% was effective after 42 days in the destruction of *Entamoeba histolytica* while *Tinea saginata* was reduced at 20% level. *Scymnus*, *Soma*, *Hematobium*, *Ankylostoma doudenale* and *Ascaris* needed 50% quick lime to be not detected after 42 days of the study. (Lime treatment at 50% was effective in the probable destruction of *Entamoeba histolytica* as well as *Tinea saginata*, *Schistosoma*, *Hematobium*, *Ankylostoma doudenale* and *Ascaris* after days of the study. Quick lime addition almost raised volatile fatty acids intensity more than the doses of cement dust. The quick lime and cement dust addition retarded drying which has happened with the storage of the residues. This effect increased by increasing the fermentation period and by the added amount of cement dust or quick lime. The quick lime and cement dust treatments showed increasing losses in nitrogen content with increasing the added amounts of these substances. Results showed that the addition of quick lime or cement dust in high concentrations as 20% and 50% decreased organic matter mineralization. There was an increase in phosphorus and potassium concentration in the final determination of the treatments of quick lime and cement dust. The results showed that the concentrations of the micronutrient elements Fe, Mn, Cu, Zn, Pb, Co and Ni in the end-product of the quick lime and cement dust treatments as well as control were higher than their respective initial concentrations.

### 5-7 BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT OF ANAEROBIC DIGESTED SEWAGE SLUDGE WITH CHLORELLA SP

The aim of this experiment was to study the effect of algae growing in digested sewage sludge on the chemical and biological changes of sludge during 15 days growth. Results revealed that concerning the removal of ammonia from the culture medium it was that in the control and in the added effluent concentrations 5%, 10% and 15%, ammonia was completely removed. While the ammonia decreased in the culture medium containing 20%, 25%, 50% and 75% effluent. The efficiency of P<sub>205</sub> removal from the control (synthetic) medium due to *Chlorella* growth was 43.39%. The treatments containing 5%, 10% and 15% biogas effluent showed 100% removal after 15 days. The more concentrated treatments containing 20%, 25%, 50% and 75% biogas effluent showed incomplete removal of P<sub>205</sub> and the percentage of P<sub>205</sub> removal was 78.85%, 63.33%, 43.07% and 17.09%, respectively.orthy to say that the chlorophyll (a) content in 25% biogas effluent was better than the control (synthetic medium). Chlorophyll (a) content was increased gradually with increasing biogas effluent to 25% then decreased with further increase of The highest biomass production was achieved from the treatment of 25% concentration biogas effluent (6.5 g/L). The higher and lower concentrations showed lower dry matter content. Regarding protein content, the same results of biomass was observed. highest protein content production was 2.99 g/L at 25%, reduction of chemical oxygen demand (COD) and biological oxygen demand (BOD) evaluation showed that at 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 25%, 50% biogas effluent concentration, there was a complete destruction of organic matter. At the higher concentration of the biogas effluent (70%) algae could not be able to remove all the organic matter. The efficiency of COD reduction was 68.7%. The efficiency of BOD reduction was 65.62% at 75% of biogas effluent concentration.

- The results about the

inactivation of pathogenic bacteria showed that the biogas effluent concentration 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 25%), and 50% when treated with *Chlorella* sp for 15 days removed pathogenic bacteria completely from the counting plates. The higher biogas effluent treatment 750/0 decreased coliform group counts from  $5.8 \times 10^4$  to  $6.0 \times 10^3$  after 15 days growing period. • The heavy metals in the treatment containing 5, 10 and 15 % sewage sludge effluent was completely removed after 15 day of growing. *Chlorella* Mn, Cu, Pb, Cd and Ni were removed in the 20% and 250/0 treatment; increasing the concentration did not increase the removal efficiency. Recommendations :- 1- It is recommended to raise the temperature of fermentation in order to increase methane production and to activate the removal of pathogenic bacteria and parasites. 2- The addition of municipal solid wastes (MSW) to sludge increased gas production up to 6% TS. In the two-phase fermentation technique the hydraulic retention time not exceed 5 days in the acid-phase and 7 days in the methane phase. 4- Co-digesting sludge and municipal solid wastes showed the best rate 4 : 1.5. 5- The best treatment of sludge with quick lime and cement dust was 20 % for both chemicals. 6- The biological treatment of anaerobic digested sewage sludge effluent with *Chlorella* sp must be practiced at the concentration 25% of biogas effluent.