# EFFECT OF BIO-INOCULANTS AND SOME NATURAL RESOURCES ON THE QUALITY OF RICE STRAW COMPOST

By

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B.Sc. (Chemistry & Zoology), Menofia University, 1999 M.Sc. (Agricultural Microbiology), Ain Shams University, 2006

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## **Approval Sheet**

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Yasser Araby Gharib El-Tahlawy: Effect of Bio-Inoculants and Some Natural Resources on the Quality of Rice Straw Composting. Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis, Department of Agric. Microbiology, Faculty of Agricultural, Ain Shams University, 2013.

Six piles of rice straw, as a primary material, were constructed to evaluate various scenarios of composting under controlling of multifarious bio-inoculant sources, represented with farmyard manure (FM), cultural inoculant (LC-Ino.) and/or aerated compost tea (ACT), in order to achieve biotransformation process; as well as tracking some physical, chemical and biological changes along the biotransformation process. Microorganisms Phanerochaete chrysosporium, Trichoderma viride and Trichoderma harzianum fungi were used as a lignocellulose decomposers to form a composite Bio-inoculant. The data revealed that treatments led to variation in the rate and degree of temperature changes pattern, some physiochemical properties as well as biological criteria that in return affect the stability/maturity characteristics of the outcome product. The pile that received farmyard manure resulted in higher bulk density, more salinity and less organic matter losses. Although C/N ratio was nearly acceptable level for mature compost in all piles (ranged from 17.12 - 20.22), the addition of bio-inoculant rapidly produced more stable and mature compost as indicated by maturity indexes and germination assessment. An experiment was conducted in a greenhouse to assay the suitability of the biologically prepared outcome composts, with different strategies, as a peat substitute into the growing media, for nurseries of tomato and cucumber seedlings production. Control media consisted of peat moss, vermiculite and sandy soil in the ratio of 1:1:1 v/v/v. The compost treatments were represented by 100% compost (Mix-1) or substituted peat ingredient of control with different types of compost (Mix-2). The assessment was observed on the base of emergence status as well as some biometric aspects of seedlings. Generally, both tomato and cucumber seedlings behaved similar trends toward such treatments on the

seedlings emergences as well as biometric aspects. Despite of negative effects of the compost treatments on the seed emergence, the substitution of peat with compost led to promotion of seedling. Partially addition of compost increased the biometric indices, which were significantly correlated with greenness index as compared with control. However, the absolute compost media led to inhibition of the seed germination as well as retarding the growth. The compost type that was produced with action of lignocellulose decomposers or compost tea recorded the best results for both vegetables, particularly when partially added to the growth media.

**Key words**: Rice straw, Composting, Bio-inoculant resources; Lignocellulose decomposers, Compost quality, Nurseries of tomato and cucumber.

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