

The effect of combination of sugarcane pressmud compost and potassium fertilizer on vegetative growth of corn in coastal sandy soil

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Abstract

Generally, coastal sandy soil has low water content and potassium nutrients. One way to fix this is by adding organic matter and potassium fertilizers. Sugarcane press mud compost as organic material acts as a slow-release fertilizer, it has an effect long enough to support plant growth. A pot experiment was carried out to test the probability of combining sugarcane press mud compost and potassium fertilizer to improve the vegetative growth of corn plants in coastal sandy soils. This research was arranged in a factorial completely randomized design. The first factor is the dosages of sugarcane press mud compost (0, 20, 25, 30, 35 tons per hectare). The second factor is the dosages of potassium fertilizer (0, 60, 90, and 120 kg K₂O per hectare). After applying basal fertilizer (120 kg N per hectare and 90 kg P₂O₅ per hectare) and the treatment factor has been applied, the corn seed is planted and grown until vegetative growth or at flowering. The results showed that sugarcane press mud compost and potassium fertilizer interacted with the effect of shoots fresh and dry weight, fresh weight, and root dry weight. The combination treatment of 25 tons of sugarcane press mud compost per hectare and 90 kg K₂O per hectare (B2P2) resulted in the highest fresh weight and dry weight of shoots. Meanwhile, the combination of 0 tons of sugarcane press mud compost per hectare and 120 kg K₂O per hectare (B0P3) produced the highest fresh weight and plant roots' dry weight. The two treatments did not interact in influencing plant height and potassium content in the corn leaf tissue. Both the sugarcane press mud treatment (20, 25, 30 and 35 tons per hectare), and the application of potassium fertilizer (60 and 90 kg K₂O per hectare) significantly increased plant height growth. The highest dosage of sugarcane press mud compost (35 tons per hectare) and potassium fertilizer (120 kg K₂O per hectare) produces potassium content in plant leaf tissue.

1. Introduction

Coastal sandy soil has potential to be utilized in the biomass production process. In general, the volume space of coastal sandy soil is dominated by the sand fraction. The soil texture ranges between sandy and loamy and does not form soil aggregates (Bruand *et al.*, 2005). One of the problems of coastal sandy soil is that it has a low capacity to store water, low content of clay minerals, organic matter, and nutrients (Ismail and Ozawa, 2006; Slavich *et al.*, 2010). The limitation of coastal sandy soil, which does not form soil aggregates, causes this soil to have a high leaching capacity so that most of the nutrients can move downward through gravity water. Pathan *et al.* (2003) stated that this high leaching capacity is due to the high hydraulic conductivity which contributes to large amounts of water

passing beyond the root zone of plants.

Potassium is an element that plants need, and is absorbed in the form of positive ions. This potassium ion can be stored in the soil colloid complex, which is negatively charged. In general, soil fertility is influenced by soil colloid complexes composed of clay and organic matter interactions. Coastal sandy soil does not have quality colloid qualities due to its low content of clay mineral and organic matter so that its potassium nutrient content is low. Potassium fertilization is not efficient because potassium will be leached out of the sandy soil (Erickson *et al.*, 2005). The research results by Kayser *et al.* (2012) found that the leaching process of potassium nutrients in sandy soils will increase in parallel with the leaching process of nitro-nitrogen elements. Based on this, the use of coastal sandy soil as agricultural land

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must improve the soil's physical properties so that its water-binding capacity increases and potassium nutrients can be stored in the root zone. One way that is worth trying is the addition of organic matter to improve soil infiltration quality. The application of organic matter into sandy soil has been shown to improve soil chemical properties, especially potassium availability (Hamed *et al.*, 2011).

One source of organic material that can be used to improve coastal sandy soil's physical properties is sugarcane press mud, which is a waste processing sugarcane stalks into sugar. This organic waste has a high nutrient and carbon content so that it has the potential to increase soil humus. According to Kumar *et al.* (2017), sugarcane press, a form of bioproduct, has great potential to be used as an organic fertilizer, improving soil health and sustainable agronomic productivity. The composition of the nutrient content in this material varies from one sugar factory to another. The difference in nutrient content is influenced by the sugarcane variety and the soil type. According to Supari *et al.* (2015), sugar cane factory waste in the form of bagasse contains a complete element as an organic fertilizer. The nutrient content is organic-C (9.93%), total -N (1.13%), N-NH₄ (0.50%), N-NO₃ (0.11%), C/N ratio (8.76), P₂O₅ (1.05%), K₂O (0.16 ppm), Fe (10,308.67 ppm), Mn (758,597 ppm), Cu (50.75 ppm) and Zn (90.68 ppm). The nutrient content of sugarcane press mud in vegetable cultivation has been shown to increase yield. The experimental results of Halifah *et al.* (2014) proved that giving composted sugarcane bagasse can increase the weight of plant biomass and tuber weight.

Increasing soil productivity with the sand fraction's dominance can be done by adding materials that can create a soil colloid system. Materials that can be used are clay minerals, sources of organic matter, or a combination of both. The application of organic fertilizers into sandy soil that has been carried out by Ellmer and Baumecker (2008) proves that the use of organic fertilizers can increase the organic-C content compared to crop rotation. Tahir and Marschner (2017) experimented by adding clay minerals into sandy soil. The experimental results proved that the addition of 10-20% clay minerals per soil weight could reduce N and P elements' leaching in sandy soils. Djajadi *et al.* (2011) also proved that the application of a combination of organic matter and clay particles could improve soil aggregate stability, total porosity, and water availability. Senjobi *et al.* (2013) have increased sandy soil productivity using organic matter and mineral fertilizers. The experiment results proved that four kinds of chicken manure, cow manure, Gateway fertilizer, and organo-

mineral fertilizers combined with NPK fertilizer significantly increased the productivity of sandy soil.

Sugar press mud or sugarcane filter-cake is waste from the sugar industry (Diaz, 2016). This material is in the form of a blackish-brown solid with a high enough fiber content. This material can be used as a source of organic matter to increase the productivity of coastal sandy soils. This study is aimed to examine the potential of sugarcane press mud compost as organic compost and its combination with potassium fertilizer to increase corn plants' growth in coastal sandy soils.

2. Materials and methods

The sandy soil used in this research is taken from Trisik beach Kulonprogo, Yogyakarta. Sugarcane press mud compost is taken from the waste processing plant area of the Madukisma sugar factory. CP-II Hybrid corn seeds and inorganic fertilizers are obtained from agricultural shops in Yogyakarta.

This research was conducted using experimental methods arranged in a factorial, completely randomized design. The first factor was the application of sugarcane press mud at a dose of 0 ton per hectare (B0); 20 tons per hectare (B1); 25 tons per hectare (B2); 30 tons per hectare (B3), and 35 tons per hectare (B4). The second treatment factor was the dose of potassium fertilizer, 0 kg K₂O per hectare (P0); 60 kg K₂O per hectare (P1); 90 kg K₂O per hectare (P2), and 120 kg K₂O per hectare (P3). Each treatment combination was repeated six times in order to obtain 120 experimental units. The coastal sandy soil samples from each experimental unit (7,512 g air-dried) were put into a polybag with a perforated bottom, mixed with sugarcane press mud according to the treatment dose, then incubated for one month under conditions of field capacity moisture. Basic fertilizer treatment (120 kg N per hectare and 90 kg P₂O₅ per hectare) and potassium fertilizer treatment were applied after the incubation period was completed. Corn planting is carried out after fertilizer application, and corn plants are grown until the maximum vegetative period, or the plants reach the flowering stage.

Analysis of the soil properties of coastal sandy soil was carried out before the experiment and after the experiment to determine the effect of sugarcane press mud application on coastal sandy soil properties. Analysis of sugarcane press mud properties was carried out to determine the potential properties of sugarcane press mud compost in improving coastal sandy soil's productivity. After the plants reach the flowering period, measurements of the parameters of plant height, fresh weight and dry weight of the vegetative part of the plant

without roots (shoots), fresh weight and dry weight of root and the content of potassium in leaf tissue, as well as the content of K-total, K-available, are measured. C/N ratio and soil pH of the used planting media. All data were analyzed for variance using SAS version 20.0.15, and to differentiate the mean of the treatments that were significantly different, tested Duncan's Multiple Range at 5%.

3. Results and discussion

Coastal sandy soil is unproductive soil with low fertility. The results of determining the potential for soil fertility are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. The characteristics of coastal sandy soil

Soil characteristics	Value
Moisture content (%)	0.18
Sand (%)	97.20
Silt (%)	2.10
Clay (%)	0.70
Specific gravity (g/cm ³)	2.39
Bulk density (g/cm ³)	1.58
Soil porosity (%)	33.89
pH (1:2.5)	6.80
Organic-C (%)	0.12
Total-N (%)	0.00
C/N ratio	30.00
Available-P (Olsen, me/100 g)	2.56
CEC (me/100 g)	3.60
Total-K (%)	0.01
Available-K (me/100 g)	0.04
Humic acid (%)	0.08
Fulvic acid (%)	0.03
Na (me/100 g)	0.16
Ca (me/100 g)	0.82
Mg (me/100 g)	0.37

From Table 1, it is known that coastal sandy soil is dominated by a fraction of sand (97.2%), dust (2.10%), clay minerals (0.70%), and low organic-C (0.12%). As a result of the low clay mineral content and organic matter, this soil does not form aggregates and has a soil porosity of 33.89%, so it has low water retention with 0.18% soil moisture content. The potential for soil chemical fertility is also low, nitrogen content (0.004%), available-P (2.560 me/100 g), total-K (0.012%), Na (0.163 me/100 g), Ca (0.82 me/100 g) and Mg (0.37%). In addition to low nitrogen content, potassium content is also low and is the main problem that sandy soils have; as Alshankiti and Gill (2016) stated, sandy soils generally have low nutrient content and low water storage capacity. According to Budiyanto *et al.* (2020), the available-K content of Parangtritis beach sandy soil was 24.07 mg/

kg, while research by Minhal *et al.* (2020) found that the available-K content of the sandy soils at Samas beach in Yogyakarta was 3.1 mmol/kg.

The properties of sugarcane press mud are determined to know the potential of this material in improving coastal sandy soil properties. The results of determining the properties of sugarcane press mud are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. The characteristics of sugarcane press mud

Characteristics	Value
Moisture content (%)	9.38
Organic-C (%)	18.77
Total-N (%)	1.18
pH (1:2.5)	7.30
C/N ratio	15.00
Humic acid (%)	3.29
Fulvic acid (%)	3.63
CEC (me/100 g)	37.32
Total-K (%)	1.21
Available-K (me/100 g)	14.26

Sugarcane press mud is an organic material that is hydrophilic and can store more water than sandy soil. This material has a water content of 9.38%, so with its amorphous form, this material can increase coastal sandy soil's ability to store water. The content of several elements and their compounds, such as organic-C (18.77%), humic acid (3.29%), and fulvic acid (3.73%), are thought to support the formation of colloid complexes of coastal sandy soil. The cation exchange capacity is 37.32 me/100 g and available-K 14.26 me/100 g, indicating that this material can increase coastal sandy soils' productivity. Sugarcane press mud is an organic material that can function as a source of organic fertilizer. In many countries, sugar factory waste compost has been used to increase soil fertility, plant productivity, accelerate the soil restoration process, suitable for use in the agricultural, horticulture, and aquaculture industries (Salehe-In *et al.*, 2012). This material contains lots of nutrients, cellulose, hemicellulose, organic carbon fiber, nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, calcium, and several microelements such as Zn, Fe, Cu, and Mn (Krishnaveni *et al.*, 2020). Sugarcane press mud compost contains many macro and microelements needed by plants, and in many practices, it is often mixed with other organic fertilizer sources (Diaz, 2016).

Measurement of the vegetative growth parameter of corn was carried out when the plants reached the flowering period. The measurement results are intended to determine the effect of various doses of sugarcane press mud and potassium fertilizer applications, as

shown in Table 3.

Table 3 shows that the treatment of sugarcane press mud and potassium fertilizer did not influence plant height growth. The application of sugarcane press mud and potassium fertilizer separately significantly affected corn's height growth. Sugarcane press mud treatment can provide nutrient needs such as corn plant growth. Application of sugarcane press mud compost of 20 ton per hectare separately can provide potassium for the corn's growth. The dose of 20 tons of sugarcane press mud per hectare has the same effect as other dosages. Meanwhile, the application of 60 kg K₂O per hectare resulted in the highest plant growth and was not significantly different from the effect of 90 ton K₂O per hectare.

On the other hand, the treatment of sugarcane press mud and potassium fertilizer interacted in influencing the fresh weight and dry weight of shoots. The combination

of sugarcane press mud treatment and potassium fertilizer affected the plant roots' fresh weight and dry weight. The combination treatment of 25 tons of sugarcane press mud compost per hectare (B2) and 90 kg K₂O per hectare (P2) produced the largest fresh weight and dry weight of shoots. Meanwhile, the combination of 0 tons of sugarcane press mud compost per hectare (B0) and 120 kg K₂O per hectare (P3) produced the largest fresh weight and plant roots' dry weight. Plant shoots' growth is supported by the accumulation of potassium preparations from both sugarcane press mud compost and potassium fertilizer. The combination of organic matter treatment and inorganic fertilizers is the right method to increase coastal sandy soil's productivity (Nuga and Akinbola, 2011; Orimoloye *et al.*, 2019). On the other hand, the need for potassium for plant root development is mostly provided by inorganic fertilizers, which are faster to release the nutrient content of potassium.

Table 3. The vegetative performance of corn at the flowering stage

Treatments	Plant height (cm)	Fresh weight of shoots (g)	Dry weight of shoots (g)	Fresh weight of root (g)	Dry weight of root (g)
BO	162.38 ^b	170.40	24.32	105.82	14.99
B1	197.26 ^a	246.60	34.14	107.18	15.06
B2	204.88 ^a	282.95	40.49	118.84	16.98
B3	194.12 ^a	244.75	34.95	104.88	13.94
B4	196.82 ^a	258.78	38.23	107.08	15.42
P0	182.16 ^q	211.68	32.93	95.54	14.80
P1	199.78 ^p	242.03	33.48	92.68	12.94
P2	196.48 ^p	258.58	39.47	121.22	17.68
P3	185.98 ^q	250.35	31.82	125.62	15.98
B0P0	134.52	60.62 ^g	9.16 ^f	19.56 ^d	2.95 ^f
B0P1	175.52	183.55 ^f	26.72 ^e	92.22 ^{bc}	13.38 ^{bcde}
B0P2	171.62	196.44 ^{ef}	30.76 ^{b^{cde}}	132.90 ^{ab}	20.95 ^{ab}
B0P3	164.88	240.38 ^{b^{cde}}	30.66 ^{b^{cde}}	177.60 ^a	22.68 ^a
B1P0	198.86	268.48 ^{abc}	41.14 ^{abc}	134.24 ^{ab}	20.56 ^{abc}
B1P1	208.32	231.98 ^{c^{de}}	26.88 ^{d^e}	70.74 ^c	8.20 ^{ef}
B1P2	196.60	271.94 ^{abc}	40.08 ^{abc}	117.88 ^c	17.35 ^{abcd}
B1P3	182.90	214.24 ^{d^{ef}}	28.48 ^{s^{d^e}}	105.90 ^{bc}	14.10 ^{b^{cde}}
B2P0	194.52	255.08 ^{b^{cd}}	39.58 ^{abc}	99.50 ^{bc}	15.28 ^{abc^{de}}
B2P1	216.22	287.92 ^{ab}	39.44 ^{abcd}	117.90 ^{bc}	16.18 ^{abc^{de}}
B2P2	211.54	310.62 ^a	46.46 ^a	137.24 ^{ab}	20.50 ^{abc}
B2P3	195.28	278.18 ^{abc}	36.54 ^{abc^{de}}	121.50 ^{bc}	15.98 ^{abc^{de}}
B3P0	192.20	235.04 ^{b^{cde}}	30.65 ^{b^{cde}}	108.35 ^{bc}	14.58 ^{b^{cde}}
B3P1	195.54	253.48 ^{b^{cd}}	38.04 ^{abc^{de}}	80.68 ^{bc}	12.10 ^{d^e}
B3P2	201.90	241.57 ^{b^{cde}}	36.80 ^{abc^{de}}	121.60 ^{bc}	14.38 ^{b^{cde}}
B3P3	188.20	248.90 ^{b^{cd}}	33.34 ^{b^{cde}}	108.90 ^{bc}	14.58 ^{b^{cde}}
B4P0	190.88	239.24 ^{b^{cde}}	43.14 ^{ab}	117.05 ^{bc}	21.15 ^{ab}
B4P1	196.24	252.90 ^{b^{cd}}	36.42 ^{abc^{de}}	101.80 ^{bc}	14.68 ^{b^{cde}}
B4P2	200.78	272.20 ^{abc}	43.28 ^{ab}	95.52 ^{bc}	15.18 ^{abc^{de}}
B4P3	198.36	270.74 ^{abc}	30.14 ^{c^{d^e}}	113.90 ^{bc}	12.68 ^{c^{d^e}}

Values are expressed as mean. Values with the same superscript within the column are not significantly different based on Duncan's multiple range test at 5%.

Sugarcane press mud compost, which is applied as organic fertilizer, can improve sandy soil's physical fertility to increase its water-binding ability. Organic fertilizers can significantly improve soil structure and nutrient availability (Hoa *et al.*, 2010; Badar *et al.*, 2018). Increasing the availability of water in the root zone can support the K-fertilizer nutrient uptake process. Sugarcane press mud compost is also thought to improve the soil colloid complex so that positively charged nutrient ions of potassium can be bound in it, and the leaching process of potassium nutrients can be reduced. The application of sugarcane press mud compost can also provide potassium nutrients from the decomposition of sugarcane press mud. The use of organic matter in sandy soil has been shown to improve the quality of plant growth (Hou *et al.*, 2013). Applying organic fertilizers in sandy soil can significantly increase all growth parameters of plants growing in sandy soil. Experiments conducted by Zeid *et al.* (2015) proved that the use of various kinds of organic fertilizers could increase plant height, shoot weight, tuber weight, and leaf tissue nutrient content when compared to control treatments. While the research results of Darini *et al.* (2016) proved that organic matter affects the chemical properties of coastal sandy soil.

The effect of applying sugarcane press mud treatment and potassium fertilizer on potassium's nutrient status in the soil is essential to study. Table 4 presents the analysis of some of the characteristics of the used planting media.

Table 4 shows that the treatment of sugarcane press mud and potassium fertilizer did not affect the C/N ratio of sandy soil, but separately, each treatment affected the C/N ratio. Duncan's multiple range test of 5% showed that the application of sugarcane press mud compost could reduce the C/N ratio. There are assumptions that the C/N ratio of sugarcane press mud can affect the C/N ratio of sandy soil. Meanwhile, increasing the dose of potassium fertilizer tends to increase the C/N ratio. Analysis of variants of the total potassium content in the soil used for planting media showed an interaction between the sugarcane press mud treatment and potassium fertilizer. Duncan's multiple distance test of 5% shows that the combined treatment of 30 tons of sugarcane press mud per hectare and 120 kg K₂O per hectare (B4P3) leaves the highest total potassium content in the soil used for planting media (160.28 ppm). The remaining total potassium in the soil used for planting media was not significantly different from the treatment combination of B3P3, B4P1, and B4P2. This B4P3 treatment combination is a treatment that can supply the total potassium. In nutrient uptake, potassium is always balanced with nitrogen and phosphorus uptake provided

by basal fertilization. After the entire potassium needs by plants can be fulfilled, this combination of treatments still leaves the total potassium.

Table 4. The characteristics of used planting media

Treatments	C/N ratio	Total-K (ppm)	Available-K (me/100 g)	pH
B0	40.44 ^a	85.44	0.06 ^c	5.80
B1	21.12 ^b	94.20	0.09 ^{bc}	6.78
B2	21.40 ^b	89.34	0.12 ^b	6.97
B3	22.20 ^b	114.96	0.10 ^b	7.20
B4	19.54 ^b	138.46	0.24 ^a	7.04
P0	21.15 ^q	94.90	0.06 ^f	6.70
P1	25.83 ^{pq}	97.70	0.12 ^q	6.64
P2	23.80 ^{pq}	110.34	0.14 ^{pq}	6.74
P3	29.68 ^p	124.80	0.16 ^p	6.78
B0P0	27.12	108.78 ^{cdef}	0.04	5.98 ^d
B0P1	31.55	79.80 ^{fg}	0.03	5.54 ^e
B0P2	42.05	72.2 ^g	0.05	5.68 ^e
B0P3	59.16	81.28 ^{efg}	0.06	5.68 ^e
B1P0	22.15	70.98 ^g	0.05	6.72 ^c
B1P1	21.45	89.36 ^{efg}	0.08	6.72 ^c
B1P2	20.38	88.10 ^{efg}	0.12	6.75 ^{bc}
B1P3	20.68	128.38 ^{bc}	0.12	6.95 ^{bc}
B2P0	19.78	78.60 ^{fg}	0.06	6.90 ^{abc}
B2P1	28.98	78.50 ^{fg}	0.12	6.88 ^{abc}
B2P2	14.40	95.60 ^{cdefg}	0.11	7.05 ^a
B2P3	22.82	102.70 ^{cdefg}	0.14	7.04 ^a
B3P0	18.42	92.28 ^{defg}	0.06	6.98 ^a
B3P1	26.82	97.18 ^{cdefg}	0.10	7.02 ^a
B3P2	21.38	124.12 ^{bcd}	0.12	7.10 ^a
B3P3	21.88	144.38 ^{ab}	0.16	7.10 ^a
B4P0	18.50	113.90 ^{bcd}	0.09	6.92 ^{abc}
B4P1	18.95	143.80 ^{ab}	0.22	7.10 ^a
B4P2	21.10	142.94 ^{ab}	0.26	7.12 ^a
B4P3	19.40	160.28 ^a	0.34	7.10 ^a

Values are expressed as mean. Values with the same superscript within the column are not significantly different based on Duncan's multiple range test at 5%.

Analysis of variants on the available potassium content in the used planting media showed no interaction between sugarcane press mud treatment and potassium fertilizer. Sugarcane press mud compost is an organic fertilizer that is a slow-release nutrient, while potassium fertilizer is a fast nutrient provider. The difference in the speed of release of potassium ions causes these two treatments not to interact. Table 4 shows that sugarcane press mud compost produces the most potassium availability. The releasing potassium ions from the sugarcane press mud compost to be the highest in leaving the most available potassium in the soil used for planting media. The application of organic amendments to the sandy soil can significantly increase the available-K and exchangeable-K. Organic amendments are suitable materials to improve soil chemical properties'

quality and increase potassium status in sandy soils (Hamed *et al.*, 2011). Soil fertilized with sugarcane press mud compost has higher organic content-C, N, P, K, and S than the soil that is not fertilized with compost (Bokhtiar *et al.*, 2015).

The results of Duncan's 5% multiple range test on the pH of the used planting media showed that the two treatments interacted. Compared with the pH of untreated sandy soil, the application of sugarcane press mud compost and potassium fertilizer tended to increase the soil pH of the used planting media.

The analysis of variance on the potassium content in the corn leaf tissue showed that the treatment of sugarcane press mud and potassium fertilizer did not interact in giving effect (Table 5).

Table 5. The potassium content of leaf tissue of corn (%)

Treatments	P0	P1	P2	P3	Average
B0	0.92	1.12	1.26	1.54	1.210 ^d
B1	1.27	2.14	2.12	2.16	1.922 ^c
B2	1.20	1.94	2.10	2.26	1.875 ^c
B3	1.68	2.10	2.24	2.34	2.090 ^b
B4	1.88	2.38	2.42	2.71	2.347 ^a
Average	1.374 ^s	1.936 ^t	2.028 ^q	2.202 ^p	-

Values are expressed as mean. Values with the same superscript within the column are not significantly different based on Duncan's multiple range test at 5%.

Duncan's multiple range test of 5% showed that the treatment of sugarcane press mud compost affected the increase in the potassium content of corn leaf tissue. The application of sugarcane press mud compost gave different effects to the potassium content in corn plants' leaf tissue. On the other hand, increasing the dose of potassium fertilizer can significantly increase the potassium content in the corn plant's leaf tissue. The content of potassium ions in the leaf tissue of this corn plant indicates that sugarcane press mud compost can be used to increase the fertility of coastal sandy soil. The utilization of sugarcane by-products in press mud and bagasse can improve the physical, biological, and soil properties and increase soil organic matter during plant growth (Dotaniya *et al.*, 2016). Municipal solid waste compost and sugarcane press mud compost can increase and maintain soil organic matter and plant productivity (Choudhary *et al.*, 2017). In supplying potassium nutrients during the vegetative growth of corn plants, the two treatments did not interact due to differences between them. Sugarcane press mud compost is an organic fertilizer that provides potassium nutrients slowly, while potassium fertilizer is an in-organic fertilizer that can release its nutrient content faster. However, during vegetative growth, both treatments can

provide potassium nutrients for the plant.

4. Conclusion

Sugarcane press mud compost can be used as an organic fertilizer in coastal sandy soil. Sugarcane press mud compost and potassium fertilizer interact to affect fresh weight and dry weight of shoots, fresh weight and dry weight of roots. The combination treatment of 25 tons of sugarcane press mud compost per hectare and 90 kg K₂O per hectare (B2P2) resulted in the highest fresh weight and dry weight of shoots. Meanwhile, the combination of 0 tons of sugarcane press mud compost per hectare and 120 kg K₂O per hectare (B0P3) produced the highest fresh weight and plant roots' dry weight. The two treatments did not interact in influencing plant height and potassium content in the corn leaf tissue. Both the sugarcane press mud treatment (20, 25, 30 and 35 tons per hectare), and the application of potassium fertilizer (60 and 90 kg K₂O per hectare) significantly increased plant height growth. The highest dosage of sugarcane press mud compost (35 tons per hectare) and potassium fertilizer (120 kg K₂O per hectare) produces potassium content in plant leaf tissue.

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