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The topic is essentially a demanding field of agronomy study in this important crop and this article will attract a wide audience in the journal. The authors presented an ambitious attempt to identify the gap in the field. Although there are some similar studies already published using other agents like this, data yielded by the reviewed manuscript has proper length and robustness. Please cite the recent articles published in similar topic. I believe that after revision (mainly adding new references), this article may become more informative and reproducible for readers.

» Reviewer (2)

-Introduction should be more focused on the previous works done on this topic

-Please clearly mention the objectives

-Detailed methodology is not needed, instead, provide standard method references

- Add photographs from the experiments
- Conclusion should be in a separate section
- Provide author contributions as separate section before reference
- References should be exactly as per the journal format, refer a recent article from the current issue of Innovations in Agriculture

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Effectiveness of Compost Application in Reducing Inorganic Fertilizer on Soybean Cultivation

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Abstract

One of the efforts to increase edamame's productivity is to increase soil productivity by using organic fertilizers. This study aimed to determine the effectiveness of compost application with the reduction of inorganic fertilizers on the growth and production of edamame soybeans. The study was conducted at the Experimental Garden of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Muhammadiyah Jakarta, from November 2020 to March 2021. The study used a randomized complete block design (RCBD), with five treatments, namely control (100% Recommendation Dose (RD) of inorganic fertilizer), 50% RD of inorganic fertilizer + compost 25 g plant⁻¹, 50% RD of inorganic fertilizer + compost 37.5 g plant⁻¹, 50% RD of inorganic fertilizer + compost 50 g plant⁻¹, and 50 % RD of inorganic fertilizer + compost 62.5 g plant⁻¹. The results showed that compost reduced the use of inorganic fertilizers by 50% with the recommended amount of compost being 25 g plant⁻¹.

Keywords: Edamame, household waste, organic fertilizer.

INTRODUCTION

Soybean (*Glycine max* (L.) Merrill) is one of the primary food commodities after rice and corn. The use of soybeans as daily food such as tempeh, tofu, soy sauce, and soy milk causes the demand for these commodities to be very high. Soybeans can be used in the form of dry seeds and fresh seeds. The most widely used fresh soybean variety is edamame (vegetable soybean).

41 In Indonesia, soybean is an essential commodity for the community. Therefore, efforts
42 to increase soybean productivity need to be made to meet the needs of soybean
43 commodities in Indonesia. The growth, production, and yield quality of soybeans are
44 affected by two factors, namely genetic factors such as the use of superior varieties, and
45 environmental factors such as soil fertility. Efforts that can increase soil fertility include
46 applying fertilizers, both organic and inorganic fertilizers.

47 Roba (2018) application of organic with inorganic fertilizers increases productivity
48 without a negative effect on yield quality and improves soil fertility than the values
49 obtained by organic or inorganic fertilizers separately [1]. **Srivastava et al (2016) much
50 emphasis has been paid to the composting of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) in recent
51 years. Application of compost from MSW in agricultural land helps in ameliorating the
52 soil's physico-chemical properties. Apart from that it also assists in improving the
53 biological response of cultivated land [2].**

54 Fertilization aims to increase the availability of nutrients in the soil. Soils
55 experience nutrient loss through leaching, evaporation, harvest-time transportation, and
56 improper nutrient management [3](Nainggolan et al., 2016). Fertilizer has a vital role in
57 improving soil fertility and plant growth. Most people in Indonesia still depend on
58 inorganic fertilizers, even though excessive use of inorganic fertilizers causes
59 environmental pollution [1](Roba, 2018). Moreover, continuous use of inorganic
60 fertilizers for a long time can lead to decreased land productivity and reduced soil
61 fertilizing microorganisms [4](Indrajaya and Suhartini, 2018). Organic fertilizers, such as
62 compost from household organic waste, can reduce the use of inorganic fertilizers.

63 Organic waste from household activities continues to be generated every day, and
64 as the population increases, its amount tends to increase. Improper management can lead

65 to several problems, such as water and air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and the
66 emergence of various diseases[5,6] (Wolka and Melaku, 2015; Jarboui et al., 2021).
67 However, if household organic waste is processed suitably and correctly, it can produce
68 organic fertilizer that can improve the soil's physical, chemical, and biological
69 properties[7,8,9] (Rubio et al., 2013; Yang et al., 2014; Eliyani et al., 2018).

70 Household organic waste (food scraps, vegetable wastes, fruit peels, leaves, etc.) is
71 very suitable to be processed into compost. Compost is a fertilizer derived from
72 decomposing organic materials such as leaves, straw, reeds, grass, animal waste, organic
73 waste, and others [10] (Dewi and Treesnowati, 2012). According to [11]Adediran et al.
74 (2003), several composts from different sources of organic matter (corn waste, municipal
75 domestic waste, leaf litter, weeds, and soybean waste) contained high macro and micro-
76 nutrients. [12]Porto et al.(2023) The production of organic compost and its mixture with
77 a commercial substrate proved to be an alternative for lettuce production, giving a better
78 destination to the organic residues and promoting a reduction in the use of industrial
79 inputs. According to [13] Bhadwal et al (2022), the compost from food waste has the
80 potency to increase soil fertility followed by higher onion production. Hence, food waste
81 can be used to prepare compost for higher onion production under sub-tropical.

82 Another study by [14]Choy et al. (2015) also showed that compost from organic
83 wastes (leaves and pruning residues, fruit peels, food waste, and soybean waste) had high
84 macronutrient contents. Compost can be a sustainable, economical, and feasible solution
85 to efficiently utilize the nutrients from leftover food before and after consumption. This
86 study aims to determine the effectiveness of composting from food waste by reducing
87 inorganic fertilizers on the growth and production of edamame soybeans.

88

89 MATERIALS AND METHODS

90 The research was carried out from November 2020 to March 2021 at the
91 Experimental Field of Agricultural Faculty, University of Muhammadiyah Jakarta. The
92 research location was at an altitude of ± 25 m above sea level with Latosol soil type. The
93 materials used in this research were edamame Ryokkoh 75 (R75) soybean seeds,
94 household waste compost, chemical pesticide Decis®, Furadan 3G, 100 kg Urea ha⁻¹, 150
95 kg SP-36 ha⁻¹, and 125 kg KCl ha⁻¹ (Asadi, 2009) [15].

96

97 **Table 1.** Composition of wastes used for compost

Waste Type	Amount (kg)	Proportion (%)
Mango peel	2.00	13.33
Kangkong waste	2.00	13.33
Banana leaves	0.50	3.33
Amaranth waste	2.00	13.33
Banana peel	3.00	20.00
Tea waste	1.00	6.67
Mustard waste	2.00	13.33
Carrot waste	1.00	6.67
Papaya peel	1.00	6.67
Egg shell	0.25	1.67
Shallot peel	0.25	1.67
Total	15	100

98

99 Compost was made using a composter. Household waste used as vegetable, fruit,
100 eggshells, tea dregs, and others (Table 1) as much as 15 kg. Household waste was cut into
101 small pieces to a size of 1-2 cm and then put into a composter. The organic waste that had
102 been cut into pieces was then sprayed with a bio-activator (EM4 solution 20 ml l⁻¹ water).
103 After that, 50 g of wood ash, 100 g of bran, and 200 g of brown sugar were added and
104 stirred until evenly distributed. The composter was tightly closed and opened once every
105 seven days and stirred to remove the gas in the composter. On the 28th day, the compost
106 was removed from the composter and aerated for seven days under the sun until the

107 compost was completely dry. The compost was then sieved until a fine compost was
 108 obtained. The results of the compost content analysis are presented in Table 2.

109 The study was conducted using a Randomized Complete Block Design with five
 110 treatments, namely 50% RD of inorganic fertilizer + 25 g plant⁻¹ of compost, 50% RD of
 111 inorganic fertilizer + 37.5 g plant⁻¹ of compost, 50% RD of inorganic fertilizer + 50 g
 112 plant⁻¹ of compost, 50% RD of inorganic fertilizer + 62.5 g plant⁻¹ of compost, and control
 113 (100% RD of inorganic fertilizer. Each treatment was repeated five times, resulting in 25
 114 experimental units. Each experimental unit consisted of 3 plants. Each planting media in
 115 the form of 10 kg of soil was put into a polybag with a diameter of 40 cm.

116
 117 **Table 2.** Physical and chemical properties of compost

Compost Properties	Unit	Value
Texture	-	Fine and moist
Color	-	Soil black
Odor	-	No odor
Water content	%	30.32
pH	-	9.49
C/N ratio	-	12.29
C-organic	%	28.25
N-Total	%	2.30
Phosphor (PO ₂)	%	0.59
Kalium (K ₂ O)	%	0.19

118
 119 The application of household waste compost on edamame soybean plants was
 120 carried out once when the plants were 10 days after planting (DAP) as much as 5 t ha⁻¹
 121 (25 g plant⁻¹), 7 t ha⁻¹ (37.5 g plant⁻¹), 10 t ha⁻¹ (50 g plant⁻¹) and 12.5 t ha⁻¹ (62.5 g plant⁻¹
 122 ¹). In the control treatment (100% RD of inorganic fertilizer), Urea and KCl were given
 123 twice. The first application of 2/3 of the dose (0.7 g plant⁻¹ of Urea and 0.9 g plant⁻¹ of
 124 KCl), together with the application of SP-36 (2.0 g plant⁻¹) when the plants were 10 DAP.
 125 Furthermore, the remaining 1/3 dose of Urea and KCl were given to soybean plants before
 126 flowering or at the age of 30 DAP as much as 0.3 g plant⁻¹ and 0.4 g plant⁻¹, respectively.

127 In each compost treatment, 50% RD of inorganic fertilizers were applied (0.5 g plant⁻¹ of
128 Urea, 1.0 g plant⁻¹ of SP-36, and 0.7 g plant⁻¹ of KCl) when the soybean plants were about
129 to flower [16](Subandi and Wijarnako, 2013).

130 The observed variables were growth and production variables, including plant
131 height, number of branches, flowering age, number of pods per plant, pod weight per
132 plant, percentage of filled pods per plant, and yield conversion per hectare. Observational
133 data were analyzed using ANOVA, and the significance between treatments was seen
134 using the Honest Significant Difference (HSD) test with a level of 5%.

135

136 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

137 **Plant Growth**

138 The plant growth variables observed were plant height and the number of branches.
139 These growth variables were observed every week from 2 to 7 week after planting (WAP).
140 The analysis of variance showed that the fertilizer application had no significant effect on
141 the plant height of edamame soybeans at 2 WAP but had a significant effect at 3-7 WAP.
142 Based on the HSD test, the control treatment produced the highest plant height and was
143 significantly different from all other treatments (Figure 1).

144

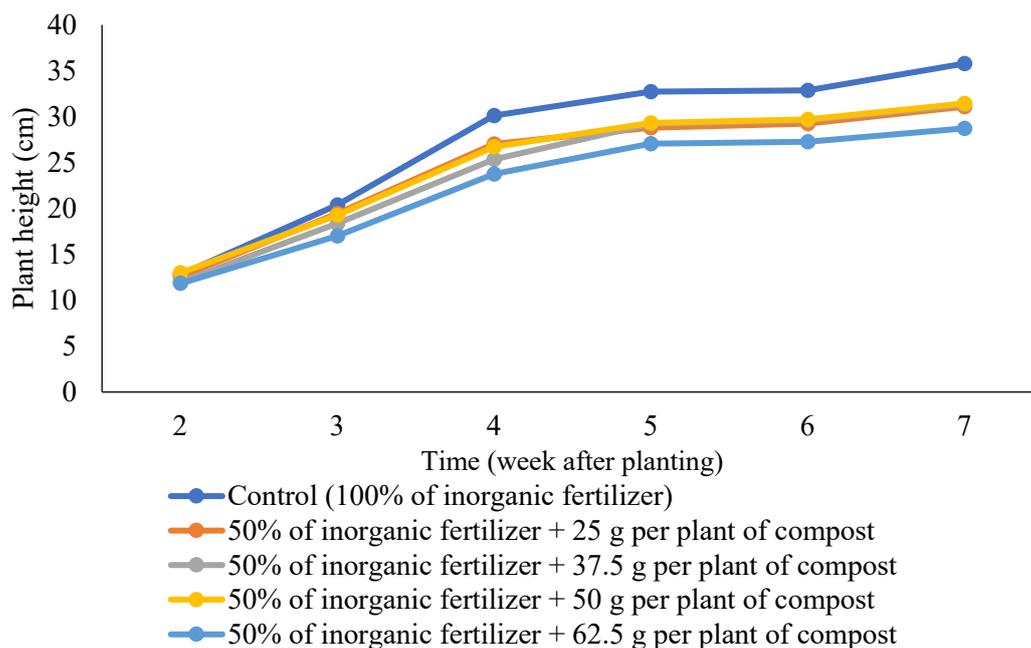
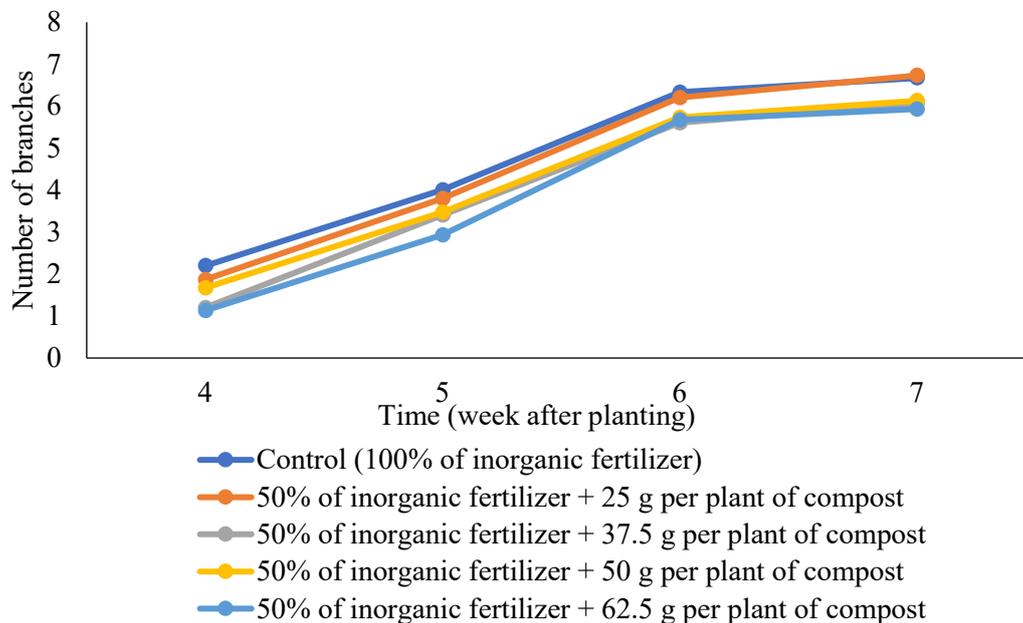


Figure 1. Effectiveness of compost application with reduction of inorganic fertilizer on edamame soybean plant height at 2-7 WAP

Assumedly, nutrient availability, especially N, in control (100% RD of inorganic fertilizer) treatment is superior to compost treatment, resulting in greater plant growth. In this study, soybean plant height was lower than the description of edamame soybean variety R75 (65-80 cm). These results can be influenced by the growing environment affecting plant growth, such as temperature, humidity, and water availability needed by edamame soybean plants [17] (Zhang and Kyei-Boahen, 2007). In addition to external factors, the increase in plant height is also influenced by genetic factors, where the same plant variety will show high growth that tends to be the same [18](Yetti and Adrian, 2010).

Branches on edamame soybean plants appeared in the fourth week. According to the analysis of variance, fertilizer application did not significantly affect the number of edamame soybean branches at 4-7 WAP (Figure 2). It is suspected that the availability of nutrients is sufficient to support branch growth. This result is supported by the statement

162 of [19] Dhani et al. (2014) that the element N is needed by plants to synthesize amino
163 acids and proteins, especially at the growing points of plants, to accelerate plant growth.



164 **Figure 2.** Effectiveness of compost application with reduction of inorganic fertilizer on
165 the number of branches of edamame soybean at 4-7 WAP
166
167

168 Several previous studies also reported the effect of compost on soybean plant
169 growth. [20] Abd El-Hafez et al. (2007) reported that the application of compost with
170 amounts of 1.5 and 2 t ha⁻¹ resulted in plant height and the number of branches of two
171 soybean varieties (Giza 111 and Crawford) which were not significantly different from
172 the inorganic N fertilization treatment in the two growing seasons (2005 and 2006).
173 Meanwhile, the application of compost with a lower amount (0-1 t ha⁻¹) resulted in lower
174 plant height and number of branches compared to inorganic N fertilization.

175 Research by [21] Ruth et al. (2017) showed that the application of compost from
176 cassava peel at amounts of 5 t ha⁻¹, 1.25 t ha⁻¹ + 75% NPK, 2.5 t ha⁻¹ + 50% NPK, and
177 3.75 t ha⁻¹ + 25% NPK gave lower soybean stem height compared to 100% NPK treatment
178 at 8-12 WAP. Meanwhile, the treatments had an inconsistent effect on the number of

179 branches variable. These compost treatments yielded more branches than the 100% NPK
 180 treatment at 4-8 WAP but produced lower branches at 10-12 WAP.

181 The results of this study are also in line with the results of research conducted by
 182 [22] Yusuf et al. (2018). The study reported that the use of 100% compost, 25% compost
 183 + 75% urea, 50% compost + 50% urea, and 75% compost + 25% urea gave the results of
 184 soybean plant growth variables (plant height, number of leaves, root length, dry plant
 185 weight, leaf area, and net assimilation rate) was not significantly different from the control
 186 treatment (100% urea).

187

188 **Flowering Age**

189 First flowers appeared at the age of 26 DAP as much as 10.67% of edamame
 190 soybean plants, then continued the appearance of other flowers at 27 DAP until finished
 191 flowering at 31 DAP. Based on the analysis of variance, the fertilization treatment had a
 192 significant effect on the flowering age of edamame soybeans. The HSD test showed that
 193 the flowering age of edamame soybeans was not significantly different except for the
 194 50% RD of inorganic fertilizer + 37.5 g plant⁻¹ of compost treatment, which had a slower
 195 flowering time than the other treatments (Table 3).

196 **Table 3.** Effectiveness of compost application with reduction of inorganic fertilizer on
 197 the flowering time of edamame soybean

Treatment	Flowering Age (DAP)
Control (100% RD of inorganic fertilizer)	28.73 b
50% RD of inorganic fertilizer + 25 g plant ⁻¹ of compost	27.53 b
50% RD of inorganic fertilizer + 37.5 g plant ⁻¹ of compost	29.93 a
50% RD of inorganic fertilizer + 50 g plant ⁻¹ of compost	27.80 b
50% RD of inorganic fertilizer + 62.5 g plant ⁻¹ of compost	28.67 b

198 Note: The numbers followed by the same letter in the same column are not significantly
 199 different based on the HSD test at the level of 5%

200

201 Edamame soybean R75 varieties used in this study flowered longer than the
 202 variety's description (23 DAP). This result is thought to be due to environmental factors

203 in the study, which were not optimal for the flowering process. Table 4 shows that during
 204 research, the temperature was quite low, and the humidity was high. Meanwhile, to
 205 stimulate flowering, high temperatures, low humidity, and more sunlight are needed [23]
 206 (Arwansyah, 2019). The availability of nutrients also influences the emergence of
 207 flowers. Excessive N can prolong vegetative growth and slow the emergence of flowers.
 208 This study also indicated that the availability of N in all treatments played a role in
 209 slowing the flowering process.

210

211 **Table 4.** Climate data during the study (January-March 2021)

Month	Amount of Rainfall (mm)	Average Daily Temperature (°C)	Average Daily Humidity (%)
January	300.5	26.59	86.58
February	485.7	26.79	86.71
March	113.7	27.59	82.16

212

213

214 Yield Components

215 According to the analysis of variance, fertilizer treatment did not significantly affect
 216 the yield components (number of pods, percentage of pithy pods, and pod weight per
 217 plant) of edamame soybeans (Table 5). These results indicated that edamame plants using
 218 compost and a 50% reduction in inorganic fertilizers could produce the same yields as
 219 soybean plants grown with 100% inorganic fertilizers. This result is presumably because
 220 the addition of nutrients in compost, especially N and other macro elements, can meet the
 221 nutrient needs of plants. In the presence of sufficient nutrients, plant organs will grow at
 222 their maximum potential, increasing photosynthesis and supporting plant production [24]
 223 (Kresnatita et al., 2013).

224 Soybean seeds are wrapped in pods, so the parameter of the number of pods is one
 225 of the parameters of the production component. Therefore, the more pods the soybeans

226 produce, the more seed can be produced. The results of this study are in line with [25]
 227 Adeli et al. (2005) that the application of organic fertilizer can increase the number of
 228 soybean pods by 3% compared to the application of chemical fertilizers. [26]Slaton et al.
 229 (2013) also stated that an increase in pods was positively correlated with the number of
 230 seeds produced. This is indicated by the percentage of filled pods. The percentage of filled
 231 pods that were not significantly different also indicated that the nutrients needed by
 232 edamame soybeans for seed formation were well met.

233
 234
 235

Table 5. Effectiveness of compost application with reduction of inorganic fertilizer on the yield production of edamame soybean

Treatment	Number of Pods (pod)	Percentage of Filled Pods (%)	Weight of Pods (g)
Control (100% RD of inorganic fertilizer)	41.80	88.08	79.09
50% RD of inorganic fertilizer + 25 g plant ⁻¹ of compost	46.73	84.36	94.31
50% RD of inorganic fertilizer + 37.5 g plant ⁻¹ of compost	39.93	85.92	73.78
50% RD of inorganic fertilizer + 50 g plant ⁻¹ of compost	43.00	86.20	84.91
50% RD of inorganic fertilizer + 62.5 g plant ⁻¹ of compost	43.07	80.34	80.18

236
 237

An increasing trend occurred in the compost treatments in the pod weight variable, especially 50% RD of inorganic fertilizer + 25 g plant⁻¹ of compost treatment. The increase in pod weight in this treatment was thought to be due to the addition of nutrients in the compost fertilizer, which could increase the yield of pod weight.

241
 242
 243
 244
 245

The application of organic fertilizers encourages soybean growth and increases soybean yield and quality, equivalent to chemical fertilizers [27] (Barbazan et al., 2009). Abd El-Hafez et al. (2007) [20] reported that the application of compost as much as 1.5 and 2 t ha⁻¹ resulted in the number of pods and weight of 100 grains per plant for two soybean varieties (Giza 111 and Crawford) were not significantly different from the

246 inorganic N fertilization treatment in two growing seasons (2005 and 2006). Meanwhile,
247 the application of compost with a lower dose ($0-1 \text{ t ha}^{-1}$) resulted in lower plant height
248 and number of branches compared to inorganic N fertilization.

249 Similar results were also shown by the study of [28] Smiciklas et al. (2015), that
250 the application of compost from food waste at doses of $11.2-44.8 \text{ t ha}^{-1}$ resulted in soybean
251 yields that were not significantly different from the inorganic fertilizer treatment. Another
252 study conducted by [21] Ruth et al. (2017) showed that the use of compost as much as
253 $2.5 \text{ t ha}^{-1} + 50\%$ of NPK was able to produce higher production per hectare of soybean
254 plants compared to control (100% NPK) and other combination treatments of compost
255 and NPK.

256 Yusuf et al. (2018) [22] also reported that the use of 100% compost, 25% compost
257 + 75% urea, 50% compost + 50% urea, and 75% compost + 25% urea gave the yield of
258 soybean production variables (number of pods per plant, percentage of filled pods per
259 plant, number of seeds per plant, dry weight of pods per plant, weight of seeds per plant
260 and seed production per hectare) were not significantly different from the control
261 treatment (100% urea). In another plant, similar results were also shown by [5] Wolka and
262 Melaku's research (2015). It was reported that the use of compost from food waste was
263 also able to produce the same maize crop production as maize using commercial chemical
264 fertilizers.

265 The use of organic fertilizers significantly improves soil fertility. Elemental K is
266 important in protein, carbohydrate, fat metabolism, and carbohydrate transport from
267 leaves to roots. The availability of potassium can affect pod formation and seed filling in
268 plants [29] (Taufiq and Sundari, 2012). Research by [30,31] Lee et al. (2004) and
269 Chitravadivu et al. (2009) showed that compost from food waste could increase soil

270 nutrient content (Total N, organic matter, C/N, K, Ca, Mg, and Na) better than chemical
271 fertilizers. These studies also add that food waste compost increased the rhizosphere
272 microbial population in the soil significantly compared to chemical fertilizers. In addition,
273 [32] Nunes et al. (2015) reported that organic fertilizers could alter soil fertility by
274 enhancing pH, Ca, Mg, K, and P, thereby enhancing soybean growth and yields.

275 The results of Palupi's research (2015) [33] also stated that liquid fertilizer from
276 vegetable and fruit waste qualifies as fertilizer, both as a source of macro-elements and
277 microelements. Yang et al. (2020)[34] further confirmed that compost application could
278 improve the physical and chemical properties of the soil and increase the population of
279 soil bacteria. These studies support that applying organic fertilizer, in this case, food
280 waste compost can provide nutrients needed by plants to optimize plant growth and
281 production.

282 The results of this study indicate that in the short term, in general, compost could not
283 produce better plant growth and production than inorganic fertilizers. Despite this, the
284 growth and yield from the compost treatment were equivalent to that of inorganic
285 fertilizers, suggesting that compost could potentially replace or at least reduce the use of
286 inorganic fertilizers. Moe et al. (2017)[35] combined application of inorganic fertilizers
287 and organic manures has the potential to reduce chemical fertilizer usage without
288 decreasing the yield of hybrid rice and can enhance the growth, yield, and yield
289 components of Paethwe-1.

290 **Conclusion**

291 Based on this study's results, household waste compost can reduce the use of
292 inorganic fertilizers by 50%. The recommended dose of household waste compost with a
293 50% reduction of inorganic fertilizer is 5 t ha^{-1} or equivalent to 25 g plant^{-1} .

294

295 **Authors Contributions**

296 Elfarisna: concept, writing original draft, final manuscript review, and correction,
297 submission. Sularsih: proposal, field experiments, data collection, and analysis. Ade
298 Sumiahadi: writing English manuscript, revision, finishing manuscript. Mulono
299 Apriyanto: manuscript review and revision; M. Indar Pramudi: manuscript revision; Lovi
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Figure 1. Compost materials



Figure 2. The compost is dried



Figure 3. Edamame soybean plants



Figure 4. Soybean plants ready harvest

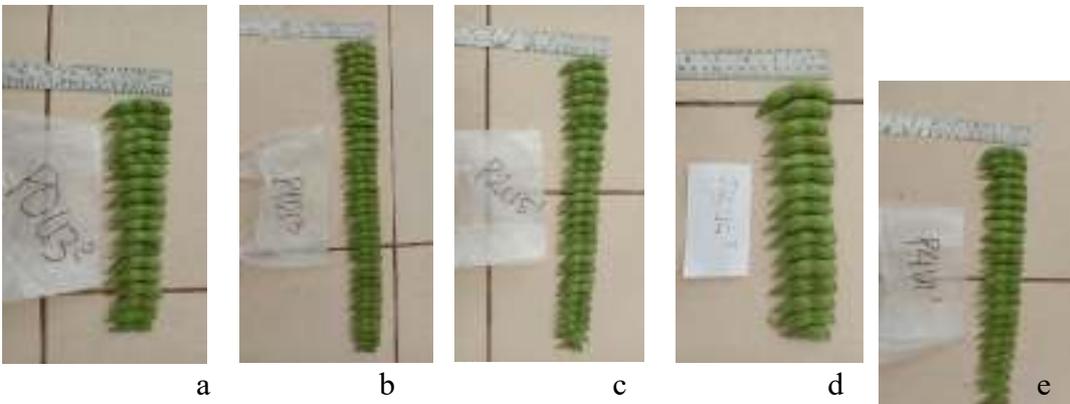


Figure 5. Harvest Yield per sample plant (a) 100% inorganic fertilizer (Control), (b) 50% inorganic fertilizer + 25 g compost (c) 50% inorganic fertilizer + 37.5 g compost, (d) 50% inorganic fertilizer + compost 50 g, and (e) 50% inorganic fertilizer 50% + compost 62.5 g.