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EFFECT OF DOLOMITE AND CHICKEN MANURE APPLICATION ON PAK CHOI (*Brassica rapa chinensis*) PRODUCTION AND CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS IN TROPICAL PEATLANDS

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Ameliorant

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ABSTRACT

The current study was aimed to determine the effect of ameliorant on Pak choi (*Brassica rapa chinensis*) productivity, CO₂ emissions, and factors affecting the rate of CO₂ emission. The study was carried out using a non-factorial completely randomized design with seven treatments. The imposed treatment are without ameliorant (control), 10, 20, 30 ton ha⁻¹ chicken manure, 4 ton ha⁻¹ Dolomite + Chicken Manure @ 10 ton ha⁻¹, Dolomite 4 ton ha⁻¹ + Chicken Manure @ 20 ton ha⁻¹ and Dolomite 4 ton ha⁻¹ + Chicken Manure @ 30 ton ha⁻¹. The variables observed are the chemical properties of peat soil, fresh and dry weight of pak choi, CO₂ emissions, and factors that affect CO₂ emissions. The results of the study revealed that the combination of Dolomite and chicken manure has a significant effect on the studied parameters and the combination of 4 ton ha⁻¹ dolomite + 30 ton ha⁻¹ chicken manure had the highest pH change (average of 6.36), highest productivity, and CO₂ emission (344.42 mg cm⁻²hr⁻¹). Results of the study can be concluded that Dolomite and chicken manure has a significant effect on the various growth parameters of *B. rapa chinensis* and the properties of the peat soil.

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1 Introduction

Indonesian peatland is still unexploited for agricultural purposes but it has enough potential and it can be used for agricultural extension (Agus & Subiksa, 2008). According to Anda et al. (2021), Indonesian peatland covered 14.1 Mha of the land area. Agricultural development in peatlands have been promoted for a long time but could not be reached to its maximum potential due to poor soil physical and chemical constraints including water dynamics, soil acidity, fertility, and low N, P, and K content. Alwi & Hairani (2007) reported that the elements K, Ca, and Mg are the main limiting factors for plant growth and production on peatlands. Further, peatlands is also marginal because it is acidic in nature and poor in important nutrients and minerals that are needed to support plant growth. Along with this, the cation exchange capacity (CEC) of the peatland soil is also very high, and but base saturation is very low (Salampak, 1999).

Peat amelioration is one of the most important ways of peat quality improvement and controlling greenhouse gases emissions (Setyanto et al., 2014; Susilawati et al., 2016). Dolomite can be used as an ameliorant because it can easily absorb water and decompose, effectively improves the granulation for soil aeration, reduces H, Fe, Al, and Mn ions, and increases the availability of Ca, Mg, and P, and microbial activity (Utami, 2012). The dolomite application affects the soil properties and plant growth by increasing soil pH, soil CEC, soil retention capacity against heavy metals, P storage capacity (up to 45%), and decrease in the solubility of heavy metals (Maftu'ah et al., 2013; Maftu'ah et al., 2014).

Koesrini et al. (2015) also suggested that lime application has a significant effect on the peatland soil pH, Al-exch, and availability of nutrient elements (Siringoringo & Siregar, 2011). Conversely, the lime application is less beneficial for nutrient balance in the soil. The use of lime will also reduce micro-elements availability, organic matter content, accelerate decomposition and lead to peat degradation. Besides, a better soil condition with the lime application will cause decomposing microorganisms (Maftu'ah et al., 2014).

Further, organic manure also has a significant effect on the management of peat soil and it is well reported that the application of chicken manure to peat soil not only increased nutrient availability but also improves soil properties. Abou El-Magd et al. (2006) and Najm et al. (2010), explained that manure can provide macro and micronutrients and improve peat soil physical and chemical properties. Elumalai & Rengasamy (2012) suggested that the chicken manure contains higher N, P, and K nutrients than the other types of organic fertilizers and also found a small concentration of various plant growth regulators such as auxin, gibberellin, and cytokinins. Waseem et al. (2013) also suggested

that the application of chicken manure increases the solubility of some nutrients. In general, organic fertilizers increase infiltration rate, nutrient availability, improve soil structure, water-holding capacity, bulk density, cation exchange capacity, soil pH, and the number and activity of microorganisms (Suge et al., 2011; Taguiling, 2013). Application of chicken manure to the peatland enhance the physical properties is through a decrease in total porosity and an increase in lump density of peatlands, which increases the soil fertility, especially the level of pH, Ca, K, Mg, C, and P, compared to other organic materials. Manure also contains macroelements that are higher than other organic fertilizers (Mugwe et al., 2009). Taguiling (2013) suggested that the application of organic fertilizers have various limitations such as slow-released of nutrient and large quantity requirement. The weakness of manure is its ability to raise pH and bases content which suggested that these are required in large quantities from 2.5 - 10 ton ha⁻¹ (Maftu'ah et al., 2014).

Organic fertilizers also affect soil biological properties, especially soil microorganisms (fungi and bacteria) that affect nutrient availability for plant growth by breaking down soil organic matter and releasing nutrients for plants. This biological activity increases soil aggregation through the secretion of a liquid adhesive that binds the soil (Taguiling, 2013). Kresnatita et al., (2013) suggested that a combination of chicken manure with fertilizers (20 ton ha⁻¹ + urea 200 kg N⁻¹ha⁻¹) can increase the length of corn cobs by 20.42%. While the incorporation of the half-dose organic fertilizer (10 ton ha⁻¹ + urea 200 kg N⁻¹ha⁻¹) increase the yield by 17.26% as compared to the recommended dosage of inorganic and organic fertilizer treatment.

The utilization of peatland for agricultural purposes is also associated with the increase the greenhouse gas emissions which cause serious environmental pollution (Maskun et al., 2021). This enhances the soil temperature and emission of CO₂ by root respiration (Reddy & Delaune, 2008). This increased temperature is associated with the reduction in groundwater and humidity, which will increase the activity of microorganisms which enhance the release of greenhouse gases such as CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O (Sulistiyanto, 2004). Peatland soil has a higher moisture content, this excess humid condition enhances the activities of aerobic microorganisms level that remodel the organic matter (Unger et al., 1991; Adriany et al., 2016). Production of CO₂ usually increases as the pH increases to pH 7 or more than this (Luo & Zhuo, 2010). In peat soil, the level of fungi also plays an important role in the mineralization of soil organic matter under aerobic conditions (Reddy & Delaune, 2008).

According to Syahminar et al. (2015) adding cow manure application to peat soil has a significant effect on the increases of plant height, number of leaves, fresh weight, and dry weight of Pak Choy. The combined application of 3 tons of dolomite ha⁻¹ and

chicken manure 30 ton ha⁻¹ can increase the yield of flower cabbage in peatlands (Susilawati et al., 2008; Kresnatita, 2018). This research aims to study the effect of chicken manure and its combination with dolomite ameliorant on the acidity of peat soil, the productivity of Pak Choi, CO₂ emission, and the influence of environmental factors on the CO₂ emission.

2 Materials and Methods

This study was conducted at Palangka Raya University, Indonesia. For this, hemic peat soil was collected from Palangka Raya, Central Kalimantan, Indonesia regions. Required materials such as Pak choi (*Brassica rapa chinensis*) Nauli F1 Seeds, Dolomite, Chicken Manure, and NPK fertilizers were collected from the local markets. For estimation of CO₂ emission, we need to use standard CO₂, Horiba pH meter, 25 cm high chamber, and different diameters (namely 18.5, 19, 19.5, 20, 20.5, and 21 cm) infrared analyzer (Fuji ZFP9GC11), FDR ML 2 Theta Probe Delta Y Device Co.

The research design used was a non-factorial Completely Random Design with 7 treatment levels and 5 replications. The imposed treatments are as follows: G₀P₀ = Without Ameliorant, G₀P₁ = Chicken Manure @ 10 ton ha⁻¹, G₀P₂ = Chicken Manure 20 ton ha⁻¹, G₀P₃ = Chicken Manure 30 ton ha⁻¹, G₁P₁ = Dolomite 4 ton ha⁻¹+Chicken Manure 10 ton ha⁻¹, G₁P₂ = Dolomite 4 ton ha⁻¹+Chicken Manure 20 ton ha⁻¹, G₁P₃ = Dolomite 4 ton ha⁻¹+Chicken Manure 30 ton ha⁻¹.

2.1 Observable Variables

The observable variables include (i) soil pH was measured before and after the application of treatment and Pak Choi plant harvesting, (ii) CO₂ emission was estimated at 2 times every week after planting, (iii) soil temperature in each plot of treatment was carried out twice in a week together with CO₂ emission sampling, (iv) soil moisture was carried out 2 times in a week together with CO₂ emission sampling, (v) fresh weight of Pak Choi was recorded after harvesting plants at 56 days, and (vi) dry weight of Pak Choi was recorded after drying in an oven at 60°C for 48 hours.

2.2 Plant Cultivation

2.2.1 Preparation of Planting Media

The peat soil was collected from the Palangka Raya, Central Kalimantan, Indonesia, and dried for 1 week, sieved and 5 kg soil filled in polybags with a size of 35 x 40 cm. Furthermore, prepared 35 polybags were supplemented by the predicated 7 combinations of chicken manure and dolomite.

2.2.2 Seedlings and planting

Healthy Pak choi seeds are sown in a 8 x 9 cm polybag having peat soil media, after 14 days when plantlets were 3-4 leaves, these

were transferred to poly bags that have various treatments of manure and dolomite. Standard horticultural practices such as watering, weeding, and pesticide management were carried out as required during the complete study period. Each polybag was fertilized by 2.3 g polybag⁻¹ of NPK fertilizer (16:16:16), this was carried out when the pak choi plants are 10 days old. Pak choi plants were harvested when the plants were 56 days old from seeding.

2.3 Soil and Carbon Dioxide Sampling

Peat soil samples were taken from each polybags treatment combination before planting and analyzed for N (Kjeldahl), P (P Bray I), K, Na, Ca, Mg, CEC, and Base Saturation (NH₄OAc 0.1 N). CO₂ emission was measured by using the static closed chamber method. Chambers used were made of stainless steel and were 20 cm in diameter and 25 cm in height. The cover of the chamber was made up of acryl and was equipped with a sample collector and pressure-regulating bag as described by Toma & Hatano (2007). Gas measurements were carried out twice a week, for this all planted polybags were placed in the chamber on the top of the polybag of each plant. The procedure to measure CO₂ emissions is as follows: Gas sample was taken using a vacuum hose of ± 200 ml per plastic bag to store the gas, as a control for time zero with the chamber open. After that, the second syringe and vacuum plastic are prepared to take the gas CO₂ after 6 minutes of closing the chamber. A second gas sample was collected 6 minutes after closing the chamber through the vacuum hose. Furthermore, the chamber is closed for 6 minutes, then CO₂ gas is taken through the vacuum hose as much as ± 200 ml per plastic bag.

The CO₂ concentration of the gas samples was analyzed using a portable infrared gas analyzer (ZFP9GC11, Fuji Electric, Tokyo, Japan). First, a standard gas sample of CO₂ was analyzed to calibrate the analyzer. The measurement results from the chamber are converted by calculations, which are calculated using the formula given by Katayanagi & Ryusuke (2012):

$$F = \rho \times V/A \times \Delta c/\Delta t \times 273/(273 + T) \times \alpha$$

where: F = value of CO₂ flux (mg Cm⁻¹hr⁻¹); V = volume of chamber (m³); A = area of the base in the chamber (m²); ρ = density of gas (CO₂) (1.977x106 mgm⁻¹); Δc/Δt = ratio between per material the concentration of gas in the hood over the time of extraction (m³m⁻³hr⁻¹); T = absolute temperature in the chamber (°C); α = conversion factor for CO₂ to C (12/44)

2.4 Data analysis

In this study, collected data were analyzed using normality test, homogeneity test, linearity test, heteroscedasticity test, and multicollinearity test. For One way ANOVA and orthogonal contrast test, the obtained data were analyzed for variance with the

F test or ANOVA level of $\alpha = 5\%$. A simple linear regression analysis will follow the result of the measurement of CO_2 emissions from root respiration in pak choi cultivation. The simple regression equation is obtained by the form: $Y = a + bX$, where: $Y = \text{CO}_2$ emissions $X = \text{Dry Weight of Root}$. Furthermore for the multiple linear regression equation is as follows: $Y = a + b_1X_1 + b_2X_2 + b_3X_3$; where $Y = \text{dependent variable (CO}_2 \text{ emissions)}$ and $X_1, X_2, X_3 = \text{Independent variables (Soil pH, Soil Temperature, Soil Moisture)}$.

3 Results

3.1 Chemical Properties of Peat Soil

The results of soil chemical analysis before ameliorant application are shown in Table 1. The peat used as a growing medium for pak choi cultivation shows that the soil has acidic nature whilst the levels K, Ca, Mg, Na elements and base saturation are classified as low. Meanwhile, the elements of Total N, P, Bray I, and CEC were classified as very high.

3.1.1 Soil pH

The application of ameliorant has a significant effect on the pH of the peat soil in all treatments used in the study. Results given in Table 2 revealed that the peat soils treated with ameliorant have higher pH and are significantly different than the untreated soil, while soil treated with chicken manure resulted in lower pH and are significantly different from the treatment of various combinations of ameliorant. The treatment having chicken manure @ 10 ton ha^{-1} has lower pH and is significantly different than treatment containing 20 and 30 ton ha^{-1} of chicken manure. While no significant difference was reported between the treatments having chicken manure @ 20 ton ha^{-1} and 30 ton ha^{-1} . Similar trends have been reported in the combined application of dolomite and chicken manure and the treatment having combination 4 ton ha^{-1} dolomite and 10 ton ha^{-1} chicken manure have significantly lower than the other two combinations i.e. 4 ton ha^{-1} dolomite with 20 ton ha^{-1} chicken manure and 4 ton ha^{-1} dolomite with 30 ton ha^{-1} of chicken manure. While the higher combinations of dolomite and

Table 1 Chemical Properties of Peat Soil Before Ameliorant Application

Chemical Properties	Value	Criteria
pH	3.31	Very acid
N-Total (%)	0.74	Very high
P Bray I (ppm)	266.27	Very high
K (meq100g ⁻¹)	0.20	Low
Ca (meq100g ⁻¹)	3.12	Low
Mg (meq100g ⁻¹)	1.26	Fair
Na (meq100g ⁻¹)	0.19	Low
Base Saturation (%)	5.57	Very Low
CEC (meq100g ⁻¹)	85.62	Very high

Chemical Properties of peat soils as a result of Laboratory Analysis which is compared with the soil properties criteria described by Hardjowigeno (1986)

Table 2 Contrast Orthogonal Test of Peat Soil pH, plant fresh weight, plant dry weight and CO_2 emission

Coefficient	Treatment Comparison	Treatment	Average Peat Soil pH	Average fresh weight (g)	Average Dry weight (g)	Average CO_2 Emission (mg cm ⁻² hr ⁻¹)
C ₁	G ₀ P ₀ vs (G ₀ P ₁ , G ₀ P ₂ , G ₀ P ₃ , G ₁ P ₁ , G ₁ P ₂ , G ₁ P ₃)	G ₀ P ₀	3.4±0.07 ^{a***}	37.28±3.32 ^{a***}	1.88±0.73 ^{a***}	134.47±7.25 ^{a***}
C ₂	(G ₀ P ₁ , G ₀ P ₂ , G ₀ P ₃) vs (G ₁ P ₁ , G ₁ P ₂ , G ₁ P ₃)	G ₀ P ₁	4.4±0.19 ^{b***}	42.20±3.90 ^{b***}	2.80±0.17 ^{b***}	169.67±10.61 ^{b***}
C ₃	G ₀ P ₁ vs (G ₀ P ₂ , G ₀ P ₃)	G ₀ P ₂	5.5±0.77 ^{c***}	45.26±2.09 ^{c***}	3.86±0.63 ^{c***}	213.82±9.52 ^{c***}
C ₄	G ₀ P ₂ vs G ₀ P ₃	G ₀ P ₃	5.7±0.91 ^{c*}	54.24±6.07 ^{d***}	4.84±0.72 ^{d***}	241.98±12.50 ^{d***}
C ₅	G ₁ P ₁ vs (G ₁ P ₂ , G ₁ P ₃)	G ₁ P ₁	6.0±0.87 ^{d*}	66.24±6.32 ^{e***}	5.84±0.91 ^{e***}	274.21±8.73 ^{e***}
C ₆	G ₁ P ₂ vs G ₁ P ₃	G ₁ P ₂	6.2±0.26 ^{d*}	75.28±4.35 ^{f***}	6.88±1.27 ^{f***}	309.99±16.32 ^{f***}
C ₇		G ₁ P ₃	6.3±0.19 ^d	78.16±4.19 ^{g***}	7.76±1.86 ^{g***}	344.42±14.63 ^{g***}

Values are average of five replicates; Mean ± SE value followed by the different letters in a same vertical column are significantly different according to the 5% Orthogonal Contrast test, ** significantly different, * nonsignificant.

chicken manure are not significantly different from each other but are superior to untreated control.

3.1.2 Fresh Weight of Pak choi

The results related to the analysis of variance showed a significant difference in fresh weight in the Pak choi plants and the result of the Contrast Orthogonal Test are presented in Table 2. Table 2 shows that plants with ameliorants have a higher fresh weight and are significantly different than those without ameliorants. Although plants treated with only chicken manure produced significantly higher fresh weight as compared to the untreated treatments but they produced lower fresh weight which is not significantly different compared to the combination treatment of ameliorants. The fresh weight of pak choi increased with the increasing dose of chicken manure and this was reported lower in the plant treated with 10 ton ha⁻¹ (37.28 grams) and this was significantly different than the plant treated with 20 ton ha⁻¹ and 30 ton ha⁻¹ of chicken manure. Similar trends have been reported in the combined application of dolomite and plants treated by 4 ton ha⁻¹ dolomite and 10 ton ha⁻¹ chicken manure have a lower fresh weight and it was increased with the increasing concentration of chicken manure and it was reported highest in the plant treated by the combination of 4 ton ha⁻¹ dolomite with 30 ton ha⁻¹ of chicken manure (78.16 grams).

3.1.3 Dry Weight

Table 2 suggested that results related to the pak choi plant dry weight are similar to the fresh weight and the plants treated with ameliorants have significantly higher dry weight as compared to

the untreated plants (1.88 grams). Plants treated with only chicken manure produced significantly lower dry weight as compared to the plant treated with various ameliorant combinations and in treated plants, the plant treated by 10 ton ha⁻¹ had the lowest dry weight, while it was reported highest in the plant treated by the combined application of 4 ton ha⁻¹ dolomite and 30 ton ha⁻¹ chicken manure (7.76 grams).

3.1.4 Carbon Dioxide Emissions

The results of CO₂ emission by the plant grown in peat soil and treated by ameliorant treatments were significantly different in all the applied doses (Table 2). Results of the study revealed a significant effect of ameliorant application on CO₂ emissions and it was significantly different than the untreated plants. The application of chicken manure resulted in lower CO₂ emissions and is very significantly different than the treatment of various ameliorant combinations. Among the various tested treatments highest CO₂ emission (344.42 mg Cm⁻¹ hr⁻¹) was reported from the plants treated by G₁P₃ combinations (4 ton ha⁻¹ dolomite and 30 ton ha⁻¹ chicken manure) while the lowest CO₂ emission (134.47 mg Cm-2hr-1) was reported by the untreated plants (G₀P₀).

3.2 Root Simple Linear Regression Test on Carbon Dioxide Emissions

To determine the relationship between root respiration and the amount of CO₂ emission in Pak choi cultivation a simple regression test was carried out. The effect of root respiration on the amount of CO₂ emissions at the study location is summarized in Table 3.

Table 3 Root Simple Linear Regression Test on Carbon Dioxide Emissions

Variable (Y)	Variable (X)	Regression Coefficient	Significance	Note
CO ₂ Emission	Constanta	102.27	0.00	s
	Dry root weight	53.038	0.00	s
	R = 0.97			Very strong and Positive

Note: s: significant

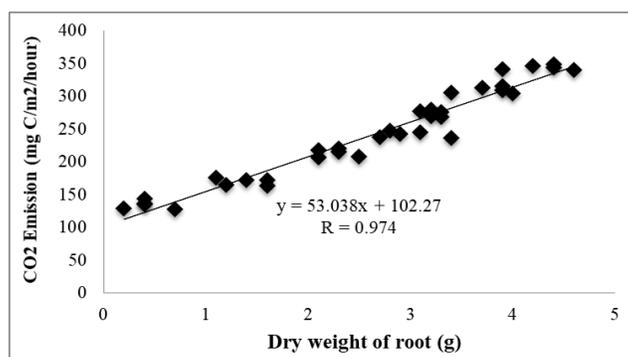


Figure 1 Scatter plot representation of the effect of Pak choi's root respiration on the CO₂ Emissions

In current study, the developed simple linear regression equation is as follows: $Y = 53.038X + 102.267$. The regression coefficient value (constant) is 102.27 and the significance value is smaller than alpha 0.05, thus it can be interpreted that the constant value (Y) is significantly affected by root respiration (X). The root respiration regression coefficient (X) value is 53.038 with a smaller significance level value than alpha 0.05, thus it can be interpreted that the root variable (X) has a significant effect on carbon dioxide emissions (Y) while the R-value is 0.97 and this value suggested that the root respiration variable has a very strong correlation with carbon dioxide gas emissions. Results of the root simple linear regression test suggested that there is a strong and positive relationship between the two variables with the intention that if respiration increases, carbon dioxide emissions also increase (Figure 1).

3.3 Influence of Various Factors on the Pattern of CO₂ Emission

The pattern of the CO₂ emissions during the pak choy cultivation was also influenced by various environmental factors such as soil pH, soil temperature, soil moisture (Figure 2; Table 4).

From the results given in figure 2, it can be concluded that the highest CO₂ emission occurred on August 30, 2020, at 431.68 mg Cm⁻¹ hr⁻¹ while the lowest was on July 31, 2020, at 56.72 mg Cm⁻¹ hr⁻¹. The multiple linear regression test was carried out to

determine the magnitude of the influence and the form of environmental factors relationship (such as soil pH, soil temperature, and soil moisture) against the dependent variable (CO₂ emissions). The effects of soil pH, soil temperature, and soil moisture on CO₂ emissions have been summarized in Table 4.

From the results of multiple linear regression analysis, the obtained multiple linear regression equation is as follows: $Y = 85.04 + 5.46 (X1) + 19.31 (X2) - 13.08 (X3)$. From the multiple linear regression equation, it can be interpreted that the coefficient value for the independent variable soil pH (X1) is positive at 5.46 (X1), it also indicates by assuming the neglect of other independent variables, and suggested that if the soil pH variable increases by 1 then it can increase the CO₂ emissions by 5.46 mg Cm⁻¹ hr⁻¹. Furthermore, the coefficient value for the soil temperature (X2) is positive at 19.31, which also assumes the neglect of other independent variables, and suggested that if the soil temperature variable increases by 1°C, it can increase in CO₂ emissions by 19.31 mg Cm⁻¹ hr⁻¹. The coefficient value for soil moisture (X3) has a negative value of -13.08, which indicates that assuming the neglect of other independent variables, and if the soil moisture variable increases by 1%, it will affect the reduction in CO₂ emissions by 13.08 mg Cm⁻¹ hr⁻¹. The R² value is 0.99 which means that soil pH, soil temperature, and soil moisture partially affected the CO₂ emission variable by 99%, while the remaining 1% is influenced by other factors which were not examined in this

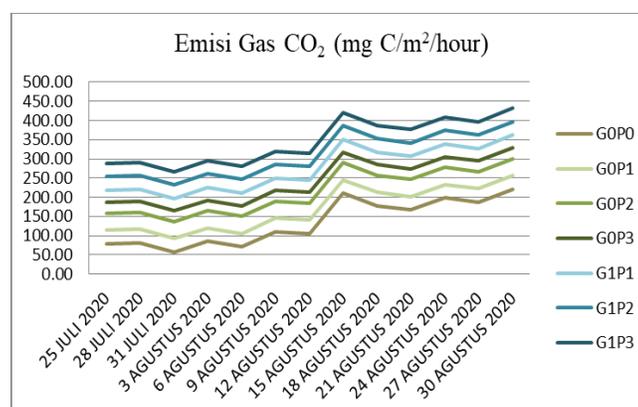
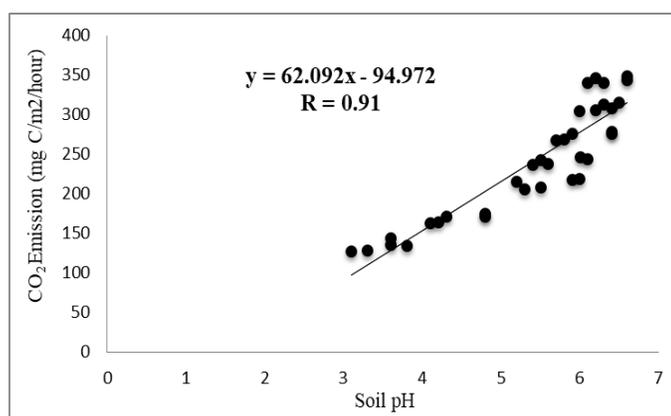
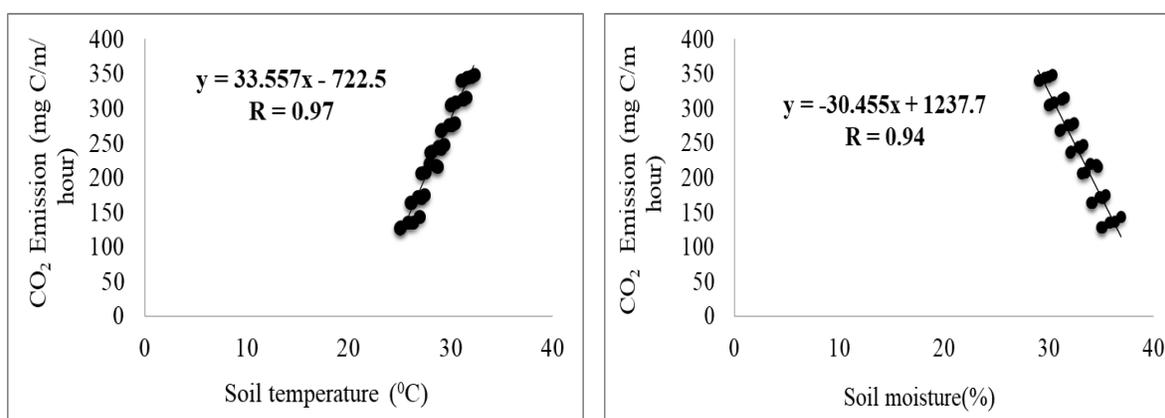


Figure 2 Pattern of CO₂ Emission during Pak choy Cultivation

Table 4 Multiple Linear Regression Test for the influence of Soil pH, soil temperature and soil moisture against CO₂ emissions

Variable (Y)	Variable (X)	Regression Coefficient	R ² Step Wise	R	Sign	Note
CO ₂ Emission	Constanta	85.042			0.00	
	Soil pH (X1)	5.46	0.001	0.91	0.00	s / Positive
	Soil Temperature (X2)	19.31	0.947	0.97	0.00	s / Positive
	Soil Moisture (X3)	-13.08	0.051	0.94	0.00	s / Negative
	R ² Simultant		= 0.99			Very strong and Positive

Note: s : significant, ns : non significant

Figure 3 Effect of Soil pH on CO₂ EmissionsFigure 4 Effect of Soil Temperature and Humidity on CO₂ Emissions

research environment. Results presented in table 4, suggested a relationship between the soil pH, soil temperature, and soil moisture (X) and on the CO₂ emission (Y) and this can be summarized in figure 3. The variable soil pH shows a significance value less than alpha 0.05, thus it can be interpreted that there is a relationship between these two variables. With the R-value of 0.91, the soil pH variable showed a very strong correlation with carbon dioxide gas emissions (Figure 3).

The soil temperature also shows a significance value less than alpha 0.05, thus it can be interpreted that there is a relationship between these two variables. To see the level of relationship R-value was estimated and it was reported 0.97, which means that the soil temperature variable has a strong positive correlation with carbon dioxide gas emissions (Figure 4, left). Soil moisture showed a significance value less than alpha 0.05, thus it can be interpreted that there is a relationship between these two variables. The R-value of this relationship was reported as 0.94, which represents a strong negative correlation between carbon dioxide gas emissions and soil moisture (Figure 4, right).

4 Discussion

4.1 Chemical Properties of Peat Soil

The peat soil used as a growing medium for the cultivation of Pak choi plants has acidic nature (pH 3.13), low level of K (0.20 meq100g⁻¹of soil), Ca (3.32 meq100g⁻¹of soil), Mg (1.26 meq100g⁻¹of soil), Na (0.19 meq100g⁻¹of soil) and base saturation (5.57%) were reported. While the level of N (0.74%), P Bray I (266.67ppm), and CEC (85.62 meq100g⁻¹of soil) in peat soil were classified as very high (Table 1). According to Sutedjo et al. (1991), the acidity of peat soil might be associated with the higher content of organic acids, slow decomposition of organic matter under anaerobic conditions, and the formation of phenolic and carboxylate compounds. Results of the current study are also in line with Limin (1998) which states that although organic matter's weathering produces nutrients for plants but it also produces organic acids which enhance the soil acidity and negatively affect plant growth. The high CEC in peat soils is associated with the high content of organic matter composed of lignin fractions and humic compounds. This is

similar to Setiawan (1991), those who proposed that the higher lignin fraction and humic compounds in peat soils have the higher the CEC value. Peat soil has a very low content of alkaline cations such as Ca, Mg, K, and Na, especially in thick peat. The low content of bases is accompanied by a high value of cation exchange capacity (CEC) which causes the low availability of the bases. Similar results were reported by Leiwakabessy (1978) and suggested that the low content of bases in peat is closely related to its formation process and is highly influenced by rainwater. Peat soil has a high content of N elements, which is associated with the presence of higher organic material. Similarly, Sajarwan (1998) reported a higher concentration of the total N content in peat soils and it is relatively very higher (0.3 - 2.1%) in some areas of Indonesia. Similarly higher P Bray concentration was reported from the collected peat soil samples. Although results of soil analysis suggested the higher content of total N and P Bray but these are available in organic (N) and metal cations (P) form the availability of these two for plants nutrition is generally low. So the higher concentration N and P elements are not a guarantee of the availability of these macronutrients for plants. Similarly, Salampak (1999) stated that the CEC of peat soil is high, but low base saturation (BS) reduces the peat soil pH and it becomes acidic and the amount of fertilizer applied in this soil is relatively difficult to absorb by plants.

4.2 Effect of Ameliorants on Peat Soil pH

Data from orthogonal contrast test at a confidence level of 5% revealed that increasing doses of chicken manure (10, 20, and 30 ton ha⁻¹) and its combination with dolomite (@ 4 ton ha⁻¹) have a significant effect on increasing the pH of peat soil (Table 2). These results are in agreement with the findings of Maryati et al. (2014) those who suggested that the application of organic material from oil palm empty bunch results in the increase of pH. Although chicken manure has neutral pH but during decomposition of chicken manure various organic compounds such as carboxyl and phenolic groups are released, these organic compounds bind with Al and Fe, in this manner these could not contribute H⁺ into the soil and reduce the acidity of peat soil. Dolomite also contributed to the increase of soil pH because it contains high Ca and Mg elements which can shift the position of H⁺ on the surface of the colloid and help in the neutralizing of soil acidity (Nurhayati et al., 2014). Apart from the hydrolysis reaction dolomite can also release OH⁻ ions, which help in the increasing peat soil pH. These results are in agreement with the findings of Maftu'ah et al., (2013), that lime supplies OH⁻ into the soil solution which reacts with H⁺ and increases the soil pH. The combination of chicken manure and dolomite is found more effective in increasing the peat soil's pH and these results are in agreement with the findings of Brown et al. (2007).

4.3 Effect of Ameliorants on CO₂ Emissions in Peat Soils

Contrast orthogonal test data at the 5% confidence level showed very significant effect ameliorants on CO₂ emissions, while the control treatment produced the lowest emissions (Table 2). CO₂ emission in the presence of ameliorants is dose-dependent and the highest doses of ameliorant produced the highest CO₂ gas. This shows that the application of ameliorant contributes to CO₂ gas emissions produced by pak choi cultivation. The chicken manure application provides additional organic matter into the soil and increases the soil microbial activity resulting in the highest CO₂ emissions in all treatments. These results are in agreement with the findings of Nurhayati (2013) which suggested that dolomite lime contains Ca and Mg elements which increases the release of OH⁻ ions, soil pH, and microbial community which enhance the CO₂ emissions (Nugroho et al., 2013). Reddy & Delaune (2008) suggested that root respiration, soil temperature, soil moisture, oxygen availability, nitrogen, soil pH, and interactions among these are some important factors that influence the amount of CO₂ emissions are.

In this study, the highest CO₂ emission was reported from the combination of dolomite and chicken manure. This might be associated with the higher organic matter releases of chicken manure and increase of soil pH by dolomite, these two causing the decomposition of the organic matter faster which enhance the microorganism activity in remodeling organic matter and enhance the higher CO₂ emissions. Availability of good nutrients supports the better development of plant roots and has good respiration. This is in line with Darung (2019) that the age difference of oil palm plants has an important role in the value of CO₂ emissions on peatlands, mature oil palm plants have more plant roots and microbial community compared to young plants which contribute higher CO₂ emissions around the plant roots. Similar results have been reported in the case of pak choi plants and the plants treated with higher concentrations of dolomite and chicken manure have good root growth as compared to the plant treated with a lower concentration of dolomite and chicken manure. The amount of CO₂ emission by pak choi plants is dependent on the respiration process and microbes' decomposition process in peat soil. These results are in agreement with the findings of Ekberg et al. (2007) which suggested that plants' respiration process is one of the contributors to carbon emissions in the oil palm agroecosystems. Soil respiration is a combined process between autotrophic respiration (root respiration) and heterotrophic respiration (peat decomposition). Root respiration activity is one of the components that play an important role in determining the value of CO₂ emissions released into the atmosphere (Tian et al., 2011). This study suggested that the effect of ameliorant on CO₂ emissions is inconsistent because environmental factors also play an important role in releasing CO₂ emissions into the atmosphere.

4.4 The Effect of Environmental Factors on CO₂ Emission Patterns

Based on the multiple linear regression test, it is known that the variation of CO₂ emission patterns is influenced by soil pH, soil temperature, and soil moisture simultaneously and all variables have a very strong relationship. Increased in the soil pH is positively correlated to the CO₂ emission and the highest CO₂ flux was reported from the highest pH soil. Similarly, the soil temperature is also positively related to CO₂ emission. While the high moisture conditions hampered the CO₂ emission because higher moisture creates an aerobic environment which activates the aerobic bacteria which remodels the organic matter and reduced the CO₂ emission. This is similar to Reddy & Delaune (2008) which states the factors that influence CO₂ emission, namely root respiration, soil temperature, soil moisture, oxygen availability, nitrogen, soil pH, and the interactions between these factors. Further, the results of the current study are in agreement with the findings of Rumbang et al. (2009) and Jauhainen et al. (2012) those who suggested a positive effect of various environmental factors including air temperature, soil temperature, peat characteristics such as peat pH, CEC, and microorganism activity on the average value of CO₂ emissions by peatlands.

Conclusion

The result of the current study can be concluded that the application of ameliorant has a dose-dependent effect and the combined application of 4 ton ha⁻¹ dolomite and 30 ton ha⁻¹ chicken manure have the highest pH, fresh weight, dry weight, and CO₂ emission. Further, various environmental factors like soil pH, soil temperature, and soil moisture also affect CO₂ emissions.

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