

Hydrochloric acid pretreated agro wastes as carbon source on CM-cellulases production by *Aspergillus niger*

Abstract

Maximum cell growth 0.936g/100ml of *Aspergillus niger* was observed at pH 4.11 in hydrolyzed rice husk used as carbon source. *Aspergillus niger* was isolated from the soil of Khairpur. The collection and utilization of suitable Agro wastes used as a carbon source for cellulases production by fungi desires optimized fermentation process. Five agricultural wastes were considered for cellulolytic enzyme production using pretreatment methods acid. Acid pretreatment was found to be the most efficient method with higher enzyme production. Using this cheap and renewable residue, for cellulolytic enzyme production by *Aspergillus niger* boosts its economic value which is not comparable with its current use as animal feed. Agro wastes such as sugarcane peeler bagasse, sugarcane bagasse, banana fruit stalk, sorghum husk and rice husk were hydrolyzed with 0.6N HCl. Rice husk was found better substrate in comparison to other Agro wastes for the growth of *Aspergillus niger* and cellulases production. Maximum activity of cellulases was noted 4.811 (units/ml). The Cellobiase and salicinase maximum production 4.717 and 4.742 units per ml obtained at 240 hours respectively.

Keywords: cellulase, cellobiase, salicinase, *Aspergillus niger*, agro wastes, fermentation

Introduction

Cellulase is a multi-component enzyme system that works synergistically in hydrolyzing the cellulosic substrates to glucose. Mostly three enzymes are involved; endo- β -D-glucanase (EC 3.2.1.4) which catalyzes the random hydrolysis of soluble and insoluble cellulose chains. Exo- β -D-glucanase (EC 3.2.1.19) aids in releasing cellobiose from reducing and non-reducing ends of cellulose, and hydrolysis of cellobiose to glucose is carried out by β -glucosidase (EC 3.2.1.37).^{1,2} Cellulases have been used in a number of industrial processes. The most notable applications are in textile, paper and pulp, food and animal feed, fuel and chemical industry, waste management, and pharmaceutical industry.³

Agricultural wastes represent vast raw materials that can be utilized for production of value-added products. The major components of these raw materials, including cellulose (35–50 %), hemicellulose (20–35 %), lignin (15–25 %) and a number of other compounds make up the residues.⁴ Thus, cellulose being the most abundant polysaccharide constituents of agricultural residues consists of β -1,4 linear polymers of 8000–12,000 glucose units. It is mostly found in crystalline, water-insoluble form, and cannot be easily hydrolyzed by most microorganisms.^{5,6} The present study was aimed at determining the best substrate from different agricultural wastes as well as the pretreatment method for cellulolytic enzyme production using *A. niger*. This is because among the cellulase producing microorganisms, *A. niger* has been reported to be efficient in the synthesis of all the three cellulolytic enzymes.² The information obtained in this study would be helpful in developing a cost-effective process for cellulase production. Main objective of this study is to utilize Agro wastes instead of pure sugars for cellulases production.

Sources of cellulases

Cellulases are produced by various sources for instance fungi, bacteria, yeast and plants. Seasonal fluctuation hampered a lot in the production of cellulases from plants. Higher amount of cellulases are actually produced by microorganisms. Microbial cellulases production can be enhanced several times by genetic and environmental manipulation of microorganisms such as bacteria yeast, and fungi and thus market demand of cellulases might be accomplished by indigenous means.

The genus *Trichoderma*, which is a filamentous ascomycetes are widely used in industries since it is the best cellulase producing strain. Biosynthesis of cellulase was achieved by *T. reesei* QM 9414 using cellulose as carbon source. The production was carried out using the culture of *T. reesei* Rut C-30 and *T. reesei* NG-14. The maximum growth of *T. reesei* C5 and the production of cellulase enzyme were obtained using lactose as carbon source. Related studies on the production of cellulase using Agro wastes were done using *Aspergillus niger* and *T. reesei*. This complex converts crystalline, amorphous, and chemically derived celluloses to glucose.

Application of cellulases

Utilization of cellulolytic enzymes is a subject of extreme interest in the global examining for renewable resources. Fundamental information is still required to design effective industrial technique. Industrial process could be one, which indicates to production of fuel, chemicals and feed stocks. Currently growing price of oil demands rising efficiency of cellulase production and utilization. As time will approach when digestion of cellulosic waste material will turn more competitive. These cellulases will be used to increase digestibility

and nutritive value of coconut and carrot by attacking the cell wall. Cellulases could also be incorporated in the preparation for quick digestion in sewage tanks thus solving the pollution problems. Many fungi and bacteria are producing cellulolytic enzymes but cellulolytic enzymes produced by *Aspergillus* sp. have a noble industrial use. Some common application of cellulases are given as under.

Cellulases are used to improve texture and palatability of poor quality vegetables. Cellulases are also used for accelerating drying of vegetables. The potential applications of cellulases are the conversion of cellulosic material to glucose. The cellulases produced by microorganisms have a great significance because of these enzymes can be used in deterioration of wood and textiles. These are also successfully used to hydrolyze cellulosic waste to fermentable sugars and these sugars are preferably utilized for the cultivation of microorganisms and synthesis of enzymes, single cell protein etc.

- a. Cellulases treated wastes are used as feed additives.
- b. Cellulases are also used as an extraction and clarification agent for protein isolation from soybeans and processing of fruit juice.
- c. 1-3- β -D-Glucan has been used clinically as immunodulating anticancer drug.
- d. Alkaline CM-cellulase produced from bacteria are also used to improve the efficiency of laundry detergents.
- e. Cellulase is used for commercial food processing in coffee. It performs hydrolysis of cellulose during drying of beans.
- f. Furthermore, cellulases are widely used in textile industry.
- g. Cellulases are used in the pulp and paper industry for various purposes.
- h. Cellulases are mostly used for pharmaceutical applications.
- i. Moreover Cellulase is used in the fermentation of biomass into biofuels, although this process is relatively successful in few sugarcane industries in Pakistan.
- j. Cellulase is used as a treatment for Phytobezoars, a form of cellulose bezoar found in the human stomach.
- k. Cellulase digest fiber it help remedy digestive such as malabsorption.
- l. Cellulase help in the break down of plant cell walls cellulose to increase over all efficiency of binding excess cholesterol and cell toxins in the intestine for removal.
- m. Cellulase is beneficial for food and environmental allergies.
- n. Cellulase play important role in drug withdrawal, few examples are cell detox, colon, cleaning and pain syndromes candida yeast infection, gas, bloating acute food allergies, fascial pain or paralysis.
- o. Cellulase is used in animal health care as a feed supplement for the better feed conversion ratio FCR and milk yield enhancer in cattle industry.

Aims and objectives of research

To explore new and low cost source of industrial substrate by the use of agricultural and industrial sugarcane wastes in the production of

industrially important enzymes such as cellulases, and the cellulases are getting various applications in different fields. In Pakistan with calculated resources and variegated economical constrain, the import of cellulases and other enzymes from abroad costs formidably higher amount worth million of rupees each year. It is matter of fact that Pakistan is marked by an agro based economy can be ideal place for Production of industrially important enzymes by microorganisms through fermentation process using agricultural wastes as a substrate. By locally isolated fungi as an indigenous microorganisms has been carried out so far and valuable production of cellulases.

The fundamental aim and main purpose of this research work was to utilize low cost medium to reduce the production cost of cellulases for industrial use and reduce the causes of pollution by utilizing the agro wastes and industrial waste material as a source of energy.

The expensive and synthetic medium can be replaced with agricultural or industrial waste. Biosynthesis of cellulases from agricultural waste is under going research in many laboratories of the world.

However, microbial sources are the most preferred source of cellulases production especially from fungi because of their short span of their luxuriant growth period and higher amount of secretion enzyme in the minimum time.

Materials and methods

Microorganisms: The *Aspergillus niger* was isolated from Soil of Khairpur District and it was identified in the High Technology Research Laboratory, Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur. The stock culture was maintained on Czepaks agar. The sterilized slants were inoculated with *Aspergillus niger*. After inoculation the slants were incubated at 27°C to obtain luxuriant growth.

Isolation of microorganisms from soil: The soil is composed with mineral matter, water, air and organic matter. Cellulolytic microorganisms are common in the field soil and forest soils. The isolation and maintenance of pure culture of cellulolytic microbes was done from soil sampling as reported by Alexander.

Cultural methods for soil microorganisms: Soil is an ecosystem that contains a variety of microbial population bacteria and fungi. Fungi are chemoorganotroph and use organic compound as a source of carbon and energy. The microbial community in soil is important because of its relationship to soil fertility and biogeochemical cycling of elements and potential use of specific industrial applications. Enumeration of soil microorganisms may be accomplished by the plate count technique, Most Probable Number MPN technique and spread plate count.⁷

Isolation of fungi from the soil sample: The isolation of fungi from the soil sample was done by the Dilution Plate Technique.⁷ One gram of the soil was added into 9 ml of sterilized distilled water to make the 1:10 dilution and shaked for one hour. Then a series of 1:50, 1:100, 1:1000 dilution were prepared. One ml of each dilution was inoculated on the surface of three replicates of Czepaks Dox agar in petri dishes. Inoculated petri dishes were incubated at 29°C for seven days. After incubation the grown colonies were counted and separated. Identification was made as reported by James. All fungal cultures isolated during investigation were maintained on Czepaks Dox agar medium at 25°C.

Chemicals: Carboxymethyl cellulose CMC Salicin and cellobiose were purchased from BDH, Sodium Potassium tartrate from E Merck and 3, 5- dinitrosalicylic acid was supplied by Sigma Chemicals. Other reagents used were of analytical grade.

Culture medium: The following ingredients were used for the preparation of culture medium as reported by (Burrel, 1966) without changing the chemical composition using G/L of $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ 2 .5 g/L; fumaric acid 2 .0 g/L; KH_2PO_4 1.0 g/L; $\text{Mg SO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$; 0 .5 g/L; $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{Fe}(\text{SO}_4)_2$; 12 H_2O ; 0.2mg/L; $\text{ZnSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 0.2 mg/L; $\text{MnSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 0.1mg/L and thiamine hydrochloride 0.1 mg/L. The pH of the culture medium was adjusted to 6.0.⁸

Preparation of spore suspension: To stock culture *Aspergillus niger*, 10.0 ml of sterilized water was added and the surface was gently rubbed with sterilized wire loop. The spore suspension was further diluted to 100 ml with sterilized water.⁹

Hydrolysis of agriculture wastes: 10.0 g of each agricultural wastes such as sugarcane peeler bagasse, sugarcane bagasse, banana fruit stalk, sorghum husk and rice husk were hydrolyzed with 800 ml of 0.6N HCl for two hours on flame, maintaining the level of slurry constant. The digested slurry was autoclaved for 30 minutes at 1.5kg/cm². The slurry was filtered through whatman No.1 filter paper after cooling at room temperature. The filtrate of solubilized agricultural waste was incorporated into mineral medium as a carbon source. The loss in weight of agricultural waste was determined after drying at 105°C to constant weight.¹⁰

Cultivation condition: 50ml of solubilized agricultural waste incorporated with mineral medium was taken in 250 ml conical flasks plugged with cotton wool and autoclaved at 1.5kg/cm² for 20 minute. The sterilized media cooled at room temperature, inoculated with 1.0 ml of *Aspergillus niger* spores. The flasks were incubated in cooled orbital shaking incubator at 28±2°C adjusted at 200 revolutionary per minute. The culture broth was separated from mycelia after an interval of 24 hours incubation period by filtration through whatman No.1 filter paper. The enzyme activities of CM-cellulase, β-glucosidase and salicinase were examined in the culture broth. The mycelium was dried at 105°C in an oven to constant weight.

Assay of CM- cellulase activity: CM-cellulase activity was determined as reported method by Mandels.¹¹ 1.0 ml of enzyme sample (culture broth) was mixed with 1.0 ml of 1% CM – cellulose and 2. 0 ml of sodium acetate buffer pH 4.6. The reaction was carried out at 35°C for one hour. Reducing sugar released was estimated by the dinitrosalicylic acid method CM-cellulase activity is calculated from Glucose standard. One unit of CM-cellulase activity is defined as the amount of the enzyme that liberate one mg/ml of reducing sugar as glucose from CM cellulose under the assay conditions.

Assay of β-glucosidase (cellobiase and salicinase) activity: β-glucosidase and salicinase activities were determined by the method of¹² 1.0 ml of enzyme sample (culture broth) was mixed with 1.0 ml of 1% cellobiose (for cellobioase) or Salicin (for Salicinase) and 2.0ml of Sodium acetate buffer pH 4.6. The reaction was carried out at 35°C for One hour. The reducing sugars produced were estimated by dinitrosalicylic acid method with glucose as a standard. One unit of Cellobiase and Salicinase activities are defined as the amount of the enzyme that liberate one mg/ml of reducing sugar as glucose from cellobiose or salicin under the standard assay condition.

Determination of reducing sugars: The concentration of reducing sugars in the hydrolysate of Agro wastes and culture broth was determined by dinitrosalicylic acid (DNS) method¹³ and results were calculated from glucose as a standard.

Determination of protein: The protein content of culture broth was determined by method and the results were calculated from bovine serum albumin as a standard.

Determination of total carbohydrate: The concentration of carbohydrate in the agricultural wastes hydrolysate and culture broth was measured by phenolsulphuric acid method by Montgomery and the results were calculated from standard curve of glucose.

Statistical analysis

The data is presented as mean±SD. Analysis of the data was done by one- way ANOVA.

Results and discussion

The production of cellulases by fermentation has been thoroughly investigated and it is affected by a variety of physicochemical factors. Collection as well as utilization of suitable Agro wastes as a carbon source for cellulase production *Aspergillus niger* optimized fermentation process. Agro wastes such as sugarcane peeler bagasse, sugarcane bagasse, banana fruit stalk, sorghum husk and rice husk contains variable ingredients. These Agro wastes materials are to a certain extent changeable from source to source not in cellulose, hemicellulose and lignin content, but also in other ingredients such as mineral matter ash, nitrogen and lipid. By way of a result each natural substrate would be predicted to have unique set up of procedure conditions optimized for glucose production as well as minimized secondary product contamination. So as to minimize, lignocellulosic waste commonly has to be hydrolyzed before utilized as a substrate or commonly called as media for the growth of microorganism for desired product. Many techniques are available for hydrolysis for example physical grinding to fine powder by ball milling, attritor milling and two roll compression milling, chemical acid and base and enzymatic cellulase, cellobiase and salicinase. It is proposed by various workers that hydrolysis of cellulosic wastes by enzymatic treatment possess several advantages however major hindrance is its high rate for application by Wika. By using acid treatment technique hemicellulose and cellulose are hydrolyzed to certain level increasing pentose and hexoses.

Furthermore, dilute acids are utilized to degrade hemicellulose, cellulose and other non-crystalline polymer to simple sugars such as glucose. Chemical pretreatment technique is less expensive and highly effective. Attempts were made in this study to hydrolyze Agro waste to fermentable sugars by chemical acid technique and findings are presented in Table 1. It is quite evident from this table that sugarcane bagasse solubilized more with 0.6N HCL. Total sugar mentions to all sugars dissolved in liquid and it is determined through converting all sugars to monomers. Reducing sugar refers for all sugar moieties with a free reducing end group. Ratio of total sugar or reducing sugar reveals average degree of polymerization DP of sugar moieties in solution. An acid hydrolysates of Agro-wastes were supplemented with mineral medium for the growth of *Aspergillus niger* and cellulolytic enzymes production

Tables 2 & 3 showed the growth pattern and cellulolytic enzyme synthesis by *Aspergillus niger*, grown on 0.6N HCl pretreated sugarcane peeler bagasse and industrial sugarcane bagasse. It is observed from the Tables 2 & 3 that the greater amount of CM-Cellulase, cellobiase and salicinase were produced by *Aspergillus niger* in case of sugarcane peeler bagasse at 240 hours respectively. It was 0.943, 1.488 and 1.906 units/ml. while in case of sugarcane bagasse, the time period was noted at 240 hours respectively. It was noted maximum yield of cellulases was 240 hours it was 0.219, 1.922 and 0.498 units/ml.

Final pH of the medium increased during fermentation in both cases. The maximum amount of fungal biomass was obtained at 240 hours, when *Aspergillus niger* grown in acid pretreated sugarcane peeler bagasse and sugarcane bagasse. The concentration of total sugar, reducing sugar and total protein decreases with the increase of growth period of *Aspergillus niger* as shown in Tables 2 & 3 *Aspergillus niger* was grown on 0.6N HCl pretreated banana fruit stalk and sorghum husk mineral medium for the production of cellulases.

It is observed from the Tables 4 & 5 that the maximum production

of CM-Cellulase, cellobiase and salicinase was achieved at 240 and 240 hours respectively 2.076, 2.14, 2.093 and 0.871, 1.49, 0.319 units/ml when 0.6N HCl pretreated banana fruit stalk and sorghum husk were used as carbon source. The final pH of the culture broth was found in acidic medium and remained less than initial pH values throughout incubation time, but in case of sorghum husk final pH values increasing in order. The biomass was found maximum at 240 hours, when *Aspergillus niger* was grown on 0.6N HCl pretreated rice husk and sugarcane peeler bagasse. It was noted that the concentration of total sugar, reducing sugar and total protein were found decreasing in order.

It was observed in Table 6 that cellulases secretion increases till 240 hours. Total sugar, reducing sugar and total protein continuously decreasing in order because of growth was increasing and an organism was utilizing reducing sugar as a carbon source of energy. Whereas change in pH towards acidic was detected with increase in time of incubation may be due to some organic acids production. Fungal biomass was increasing in order throughout fermentation. The maximum cellulases production was noted 4.811, 4.717 and 4.742 units/ml from rice husk.

Table 1 Effect of 0.6N HCl on hydrolysis of agricultural wastes and the yield of percentage of hydrolysis total protein, total Carbohydrate and reducing sugar

Parameters	Sugarcane peeler bagasse	Sugarcane bagasse	Banana fruit stalk	Sorghum husk	Rice husk
Initial weight of sample grams	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Final weight of sample grams after hydrolysis	7.12	6.34	8.61	7.80	8.55
Loss of weight grams	2.88	3.66	1.39	2.20	1.45
% of hydrolysis	28.8	36.6	13.9	22.0	14.5
Total protein mg/ml soluble filtrate	2.41	2.31	2.22	2.14	2.17
Total carbohydrate mg/ml soluble filtrate	3.22	3.31	3.16	3.11	3.12
Reducing sugar mg/ml soluble filtrate	2.11	2.55	2.12	2.14	2.91

Table 2 Effect of 1% sugarcane peeler bagasse waste hydrolyzed with 0.6N HCl on cellulases production by *Aspergillus niger* when incubated in cooled orbital shaking incubator adjusted at 200 rev/min with initial pH 6.0 at 28±2°C

Time Period Hours	Final pH	Weight of mycelia g/100ml	Total sugar mg/ml	Reducing Sugar mg/ml	Total Protein mg/ml	C1	C2	C3
24	5.22	0.056	490	426	628	0.159	1.045	0.317
			±1.455	±0.883	±0.578	±0.001	±0.001	±0.001
48	5.41	0.081	462	374	566	0.325	1.082	0.817
			±1.734	±1.156	±0.883	±0.002	±0.002	±0.002
72	5.55	0.097	385	341	535	0.476	1.222	1.053
			±1.203	±1.456	±1.203	±0.003	±0.003	±0.004
96	6.31	0.108	378	314	473	0.823	1.253	1.669
			±1.766	±1.766	±1.529	±0.004	±0.007	±0.001

Table Continued

Parameters	Sugarcanepeelar bagasse	Sugarcane bagasse	Banana fruit stalk	Sorghum husk	Rice husk	C1	C2	C3
120	6.48	0.121	372 ±2.030	270 ±2.030	418 ±1.858	0.872 ±0.005	1.284 ±0.004	1.707 ±0.002
144	6.87	0.125	347 ±2.336	242 ±2.084	392 ±2.188	0.901 ±0.006	1.299 ±0.006	1.765 ±0.003
168	7.11	0.133	311 ±2.607	230 ±1.203	360 ±2.520	0.915 ±0.008	1.318 ±0.009	1.802 ±0.004
192	7.14	0.145	300 ±0.883	195 ±1.734	345 ±2.851	0.918 ±0.007	1.367 ±0.008	1.871 ±0.005
216	7.21	0.152	296 ±1.156	163 ±2.407	327 ±2.966	0.924 ±0.009	1.467 ±0.010	1.882 ±0.006
240	7.41	0.162	284 ±2.649	138 ±2.336	307 ±2.655	0.943 ±0.010	1.488 ±0.011	1.906 ±0.007

C1, CM-cellulase; C2, Cellobiase; C3, Salicinase; ±, error of standard deviation.

Table 3 Effect of 1% sugarcane bagasse waste hydrolyzed with 0.6N HCl on cellulases production by *Aspergillus niger* when incubated in cooled orbital shaking incubator adjusted at 200 rev/min with initial pH 6.0 at 28±2C

Time Period Hours	Final pH	Weight of mycelia g/100ml	Total sugar mg/ml	Reducing Sugar mg/ml	Total Protein mg/ml	Enzyme activity units/ml		
						C1	C2	C3
24	4.21	0.22	486	433	490	0.162	0.42	0.151
			±0.578	±0.883	±1.455	±0.001	±0.002	±0.152
48	4.22	0.35	456	414	462	0.185	0.317	0.153
			±1.156	±1.455	±1.734	±0.002	±0.001	±0.002
72	4.23	0.42	450	371	385	0.194	0.394	0.161
			±0.883	±2.084	±1.203	±0.003	±0.011	±0.004
96	4.24	0.48	416	370	378	0.197	0.749	0.292
			±1.455	±1.156	±1.766	±0.004	±0.003	±0.010
120	4.28	0.55	378	330	372	0.201	0.817	0.412
			±1.203	±2.336	±2.030	±0.005	±0.012	±0.008
144	4.33	0.63	342	324	347	0.202	1.053	0.483
			±1.529	±1.766	±2.336	±0.006	±0.004	±0.006
168	4.35	0.68	294	304	325	0.211	1.122	0.485
			±1.766	±2.909	±2.607	±0.007	±0.004	±0.007
192	4.38	0.75	252	296	300	0.213	1.517	0.489
			±2.030	±1.156	±0.883	±0.008	±0.021	±0.008
216	4.42	0.79	112	284	296	0.216	1.775	0.491
			±2.407	±2.649	±1.156	±0.009	±0.003	±0.009
240	4.48	0.82	109	230	284	0.219	1.922	0.498
			±1.073		±2.649	±0.010	±0.005	±0.022

C1, CM-cellulase; C2, Cellobiase; C3, Salicinase; ±, Error of standard deviation.

Table 4 Effect of 1% banana fruit stalk waste hydrolyzed with 0.6N HCl on cellulases production by *Aspergillus niger* when incubated in cooled orbital shaking incubator adjusted at 200 rev/min with initial pH 6.0 at 28 ± 2°C

Time Period Hours	Final pH	Weight of mycelia g/100ml	Total sugar mg/ml	Reducing Sugar mg/ml	Total Protein mg/ml	Enzyme activity units/ml		
						C1	C2	C3
24	5.76	0.068	426	379	418	0.212	0.763	0.286
			±0.883	±1.058	±1.858	±0.001	±0.007	±0.003
48	5.84	0.079	473	367	392	0.285	0.807	0.291
			±1.529	±2.084	±2.188	±0.002	±0.009	±0.004
72	6.15	0.112	487	353	360	0.286	0.928	0.298
			±1.529	±1.455	±2.520	±0.003	±0.008	±0.006
96	6.41	0.148	490	352	345	0.291	1.143	1.321
			±1.455	±1.766	±2.851	±0.004	±0.024	±0.010
120	6.88	0.197	527	295	327	0.298	1.221	1.473
			±1.203	±0.883	±2.966	±0.006	±0.010	±0.009
144	7.28	0.204	529	278	307	1.321	1.771	1.802
			±1.205	±1.734	±2.655	±0.010	±0.005	±0.004
168	7.71	0.208	532	270	242	1.473	1.785	1.871
			±0.205	±2.030	±2.084	±0.009	±0.008	±0.005
192	7.81	0.211	542	195	230	1.786	1.923	1.883
			±0.882	±1.734	±1.203	±0.008	±0.004	±0.006
216	7.92	0.215	549	163	195	1.918	1.932	1.906
			±0.880	±2.407	±1.734	±0.007	±0.014	±0.007
240	7.96	0.219	562	138	163	2.076	2.14	2.093
			±1.888	±2.336	±2.407	±0.011	±0.097	±0.008

C1, CM-cellulase; C2, Cellobiase; C3, Salicinase; ±, Error of standard deviation.

Table 5 Effect of 1% sorghum husk hydrolyzed with 0.6N HCl on cellulases production by *Aspergillus niger* when incubated in cooled orbital shaking incubator adjusted at 200 rev/min with initial pH 6.0 at 28 ± 2°C

Time Period Hours	Final pH	Weight of mycelia g/100ml	Total sugar mg/ml	Reducing Sugar mg/ml	Total Protein mg/ml	Enzyme activity units/ml		
						C1	C2	C3
24	4.88	0.081	575	341	580	0.127	1.23	0.102
			±0.578	±1.456	±0.883	±0.017	±0.001	±0.003
48	4.92	0.096	545	314	566	0.201	1.41	0.108
			±0.883	±1.766	±1.203	±0.005	±0.002	±0.001
72	4.98	0.123	473	270	464	0.234	1.42	0.157
			±1.455	±2.030	±1.529	±0.038	±0.003	±0.002
96	5.22	0.169	462	242	428	0.384	1.43	0.169
			±1.734	±2.084	±1.766	±0.007	±0.004	±0.001
120	5.31	0.172	406	230	390	0.455	1.44	0.185
			±1.766	±1.203	±2.407	±0.009	±0.005	±0.004

Table Continued

Time Period Hours	Final pH	Weight of mycelia g/100ml	Total sugar mg/ml	Reducing Sugar mg/ml	Total Protein mg/ml	Enzyme activity units/ml		
144	6.32	0.175	379	195	362	0.477	1.45	0.201
			±1.058	±1.734	±1.858	±0.035	±0.006	±0.006
168	6.41	0.178	367	182	354	0.531	1.46	0.212
			±2.084	±0.578	±2.084	±0.012	±0.007	±0.005
192	7.28	0.176	353	163	317	0.665	1.47	0.264
			±1.455	±2.407	±1.156	±0.016	±0.008	±0.010
216	7.31	0.174	351	153	296	0.718	1.48	0.308
			±1.762	±2.007	±2.407	±0.027	±0.009	±0.001
240	7.61	0.171	295	138	289	0.871	1.49	0.319
			±0.880	±2.336	±2.851	±0.0066	±0.010	±0.009

C1, CM-cellulase; C2, Cellobiase; C3, Salicinase; ±, Error of standard deviation.

Table 6 Effect of 1% rice husk hydrolyzed with 0.6N HCl on cellulases production by *Aspergillus niger* when incubated in cooled orbital shaking incubator adjusted at 200 rev/min with initial pH 6.0 at 28 ±2°C

Time Period Hours	Final pH	Weight of mycelia g/100ml	Total sugar mg/ml	Reducing Sugar mg/ml	Total Protein mg/ml	Enzyme activity units/ml		
						C1	C2	C3
24	4.11	0.936	561	304	535	0.811	0.246	0.136
			±0.707	±0.001	±0.707	±0.040	±0.003	±0.008
48	4.19	0.914	526	260	497	0.847	0.807	0.413
			±0.707	±1.414	±1.414	±0.024	±0.009	±0.004
72	4.25	0.841	520	252	455	0.921	0.817	0.485
			±3.536	±0.001	±1.414	±0.058	±0.002	±0.003
96	5.22	0.661	472	242	388	1.097	0.872	0.49
			±2.121	±2.121	±1.414	±0.009	±0.005	±1.156
120	5.32	0.561	453	236	343	1.984	0.901	0.551
			±2.121	±0.707	±1.414	±0.003	±0.006	±0.005
144	6.38	0.522	448	227	332	2.871	0.915	0.677
			±1.414	±2.121	±5.657	±0.006	±0.008	±0.002
168	6.41	0.441	405	221	327	3.381	0.928	0.735
			±3.536	±0.707	±2.121	±0.036	±0.007	±0.002
192	6.44	0.438	388	214	293	3.391	1.045	0.758
			±1.414	±2.828	±4.950	±0.333	±0.024	±0.001
216	6.51	0.391	371	200	278	4.141	1.053	0.902
			±0.707	±3.536	±5.657	±0.097	±0.004	±0.019
240	6.55	0.367	353	189	243	4.811	4.717	4.742
			±1.414	±0.707	±1.414	±0.004	±0.010	±0.077

C1, CM-cellulase; C2, Cellobiase; C3, Salicinase; ±, Error of standard deviation.

Discussion

Agricultural wastes are generated in large quantities in many countries and most of which are underutilized and considered as waste especially in developing countries. Significant efforts have been made by several researchers in converting these agricultural wastes to valuable products including biofuels, animal feed, biofertilizer, and enzymes.^{14,15} These processes help in controlling some of the environmental challenges associated with their disposal. The polymeric constituents of agricultural wastes used in this study in terms of cellulose, hemicellulose and lignin. This is important for the support of the growth of microorganisms for valuable product formation.

Commonly dilute acids are utilized to degrade hemicellulose, cellulose and other non-crystalline polymer to simple sugars (glucose). Acid hydrolysis produces minimal decomposition of monosaccharide and conventional neutralization is not necessary. The chemical pretreatment method is less expensive and more effective. The ratio of total sugar or reducing sugar reflects the average degree of polymerization (DP) of sugar moieties in solution. It is important that this ratio is close to 1.0. Han have reported the effectiveness of acid treatment depends on the substrate and other optimal conditions. Lyayi¹⁶ reported that higher amount of cellulase production achieved by indigenous strains. In present study confirm that the maximum production (4.811units/ml) of CM-cellulase was obtained at 240 hours of incubation when rice husk hydrolysate was used as a carbon source. Whereas, cellobiase and salicinase maximum production 4.717 and 4.742 units/ml were obtained at 240 hours respectively when rice husk hydrolysate used as a carbon source by indigenous strain *Aspergillus niger*.¹⁷⁻²⁶

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None.

Conflicts of interest

The author declares there are no conflicts of interest.

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