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Ali Heidarzadeh Vazifekhoran, Seung Gu Shin, Jin M. Triolo

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Use of tannery wastewater as an alternative substrate and a pre-treatment medium for biogas production

Ali Heidarzadeh Vazifehkhoran¹, Seung Gu Shin², Jin M. Triolo^{1*}

¹Department of Chemical Engineering, Biotechnology and Environmental Technology, Faculty of Engineering, University of Southern Denmark, Campusvej 55, DK-5230 Odense M., Denmark

²Department of Energy Engineering, Future Convergence Technology Research Institute, Gyeongnam National University of Science and Technology, Jinju, Gyeongnam, South Korea

*Corresponding author:

Jin Mi Triolo, University of Southern Denmark, Faculty of Engineering, Institute of Chemical Engineering, Biotechnology and Environmental Technology, Campusvej 55, DK-5230 Odense M, Denmark, Tel: +45 3179 4600; Fax: +45 6550 7354; E-mail: jmt@kbm.sdu.dk

Abstract

This study investigated biogas production as an alternative treatment of tannery wastewater (TWW) and its use as a pre-treatment medium to increase CH₄ yield from anaerobic digestion (AD) of wheat straw. The TWW had high levels of sulfate and chloride, so biochemical CH₄ potential could be estimated only when the TWW was diluted. Untreated straw yielded 255 NL CH₄ (kg VS)⁻¹, whereas straw that had been pre-treated with TWW yielded 314 NL CH₄ (kg VS)⁻¹ (35% increase). Treatment of TWW by AD with a co-substrate might be possible using a controlled feedstock mixing ratio. Use of TWW as a pre-treatment medium by simple co-storage before AD would be beneficial as an inexpensive treatment of lignocellulosic biomass.

Keywords

Tannery wastewater; Sulfide inhibition; Wheat straw; Anaerobic digestion; Lignocellulose.

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