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Improving the methane yield of maize straw: Focus on the effects of pretreatment with fungi and their secreted enzymes combined with sodium hydroxide

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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

- 1 Improving the methane yield of maize straw: Focus on the effects of
- 2 pretreatment with fungi and their secreted enzymes combined with sodium
- 3 hydroxide
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- 10 Abstract: In order to improve the methane yield, the alkaline and biological pretreatments on
- 11 anaerobic digestion (AD) were investigated. Three treatments were tested: NaOH, biological
- 12 (enzyme and fungi), and combined NaOH with biological. The maximum reducing sugar
- 13 concentrations were obtained using Enzyme T (2.20 mg/mL) on the  $6^{th}$  day. The methane
- 14 yield of NaOH + Enzyme A was 300.85 mL/g TS, 20.24% higher than the control. Methane
- 15 yield obtained from Enzyme (T + A) and Enzyme T pretreatments were 277.03 and 273.75
- 16 mL/g TS, respectively, which were as effective as 1% NaOH (276.16 mL/g TS) in boosting
- 17 methane production, and are environmentally friendly and inexpensive biological substitutes.
- 18 Fungal pretreatment inhibited methane fermentation of maize straw, 15.68% was reduced by
- 19 T+ A compared with the control. The simultaneous reduction of DM, cellulose and
- 20 hemicellulose achieved high methane yields. This study provides important guidance for the
- 21 application of enzymes to AD from lignocellulosic agricultural waste.
- 22 Keywords: fungal pretreatment; enzymatic pretreatment; NaOH pretreatment; maize straw;

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