

---

# Anaerobic Fermentation Technology for Bioenergy Generation from Organic Waste: An Overview

Md. Nurul Islam Siddique<sup>1,\*</sup>, Zaid Bin Khalid<sup>2</sup>, Nazaitul Shila Rasit<sup>1</sup>, Noraaini Binti Ali<sup>1,3</sup>, Wan Sani Wan Nik<sup>1</sup>, Md. Rezaul Karim Chowdhry<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Ocean Engineering Technology & Informatics, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), Kuala Nerus, Malaysia

<sup>2</sup>Faculty of Engineering Technology, University Malaysia Pahang (UMP), Kuantan, Malaysia

<sup>3</sup>Institute of Tropical Aquaculture & Fisheries, University Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), Kuala Nerus, Malaysia

<sup>4</sup>Faculty Maritime Studies, University Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), Kuala Nerus, Malaysia

## Email address:

m.nurul@umt.edu.my (Md. N. I. Siddique)

\*Corresponding author

## To cite this article:

Md. Nurul Islam Siddique, Zaid Bin Khalid, Nazaitul Shila Rasit, Noraaini Binti Ali, Wan Sani Wan Nik, Md. Rezaul Karim Chowdhry. Anaerobic Fermentation Technology for Bioenergy Generation from Organic Waste: An Overview. *Science Journal of Energy Engineering*. Vol. 10, No. 1, 2022, pp. 8-11. doi: 10.11648/j.sjee.20221001.12

**Received:** April 13, 2022; **Accepted:** April 28, 2022; **Published:** May 10, 2022

---

**Abstract:** Anaerobic fermentation of organic waste has received widespread attention due to the enormous ecological and financial benefit it provides. It reduces wastes via reprocessing, saving capitals, lowering CFC gas emissions, and increasing financial flexibility in an indefinite future towards energy generation and garbage dumping. By minimizing landfill area, the influences of landfilling, and landfill preservation, the productive use of local garbage through recycling conserves resources. By lowering harmful emissions and pollutants, converting garbage as a sustainable energy resource can help the economic growth. As a result, the goal of this mini-review is to summaries critical criteria and provide useful data for an effective anaerobic process. It also discusses the advantages and disadvantages of various anaerobic processes for converting organic waste, as well as reactor technologies. Furthermore, this research emphasizes the difficulties and future prospects of the anaerobic system. Suitable heat, pH, inoculum to waste proportion, proper blending, and tiny particle size were all key components in an effective and efficient anaerobic process. As not all kinds of methods and digesters were successful to process the organic wastes, choosing the right anaerobic method and reactor is critical. This research is critical for continued work on waste-to-energy generation and gives crucial information on novel waste handling. Therefore, it can be suggested that the administration expand its funding for anaerobic process and support the vast untapped latent of bioenergy generation.

**Keywords:** Anaerobic Fermentation, Bioenergy, Organic Waste, Microbes

---

## 1. Introduction

Direct combustion, anaerobic digestion, dissolution, pyrolysis, and gasification are some of the technical ways for producing renewable energy [1]. The most prevalent method of transforming trash into power is direct combustion. The resultant fuel from wastes are burned in the presence of surplus O<sub>2</sub> to generate energy throughout this process. Under higher temperature and aerobic condition, waste gasification transforms organic materials into syngas containing CO, H<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and other compounds [2]. Anaerobic

fermentation is the system of breaking down organic wastes to produce biogas and biofertilizers. Microbes degrade the organic materials without the presence of O<sub>2</sub>, which is required for AF. This can be used to manage commercial, agricultural, or home trash, as well as provide energy. The combustion of Landfill gas is widely acknowledged as a waste to energy system that generates electric power [3]. Landfill reactors are designed to aid rapid waste fermentation through the use of fluid and wind injection, leachate

processing, and circulation, produced increased landfill biogas [4]. Gas generation via anaerobic allows for a wider range of feedstocks to be utilized. Biogas can be used to generate both energy and heat. That might also be converted into methane, which has nearly identical chemical properties to natural biogas [5, 6]. It has the ability to deliver critical sources to big population. That promotes civilizations and aids in the fight against the current environmental concerns. A biogas digester, if successfully implemented, will use organic waste to power a whole city. As a result, the goal of this research is to deliberate the development, obstacles, and prospects of energy generation from wastes via anaerobic fermentation, which will deliver insights into a cost-effective and efficient waste-to-energy technique. In general, this research is important for current works on renewable energy generation from wastes, and it provides essential knowledge for scientists, industrial specialists, and managers.

## 2. The Anaerobic Fermentation's Principal Organic Waste Processing

Anaerobic fermentation is one of the most competent and reliable waste minimization strategies for dealing with garbage that has a high moisture content. Anaerobic fermentation can be defined as a set of microbial systems during which microbes degrade organic material without  $O_2$ . Figure 1 shows the process of Biogas Production from Organic wastes via Anaerobic system. Hydrolysis, acidogenesis, acetogenesis, and methanogenesis are examples of biological processes [7, 8]. The initial phase is hydrolysis, which involves converting wastes into soluble ones. Hydrolysis reactions are carried out by extracellular enzymes known as hydrolase. Esterase, glycosidase, and peptidases are examples of hydrolases [9, 10].

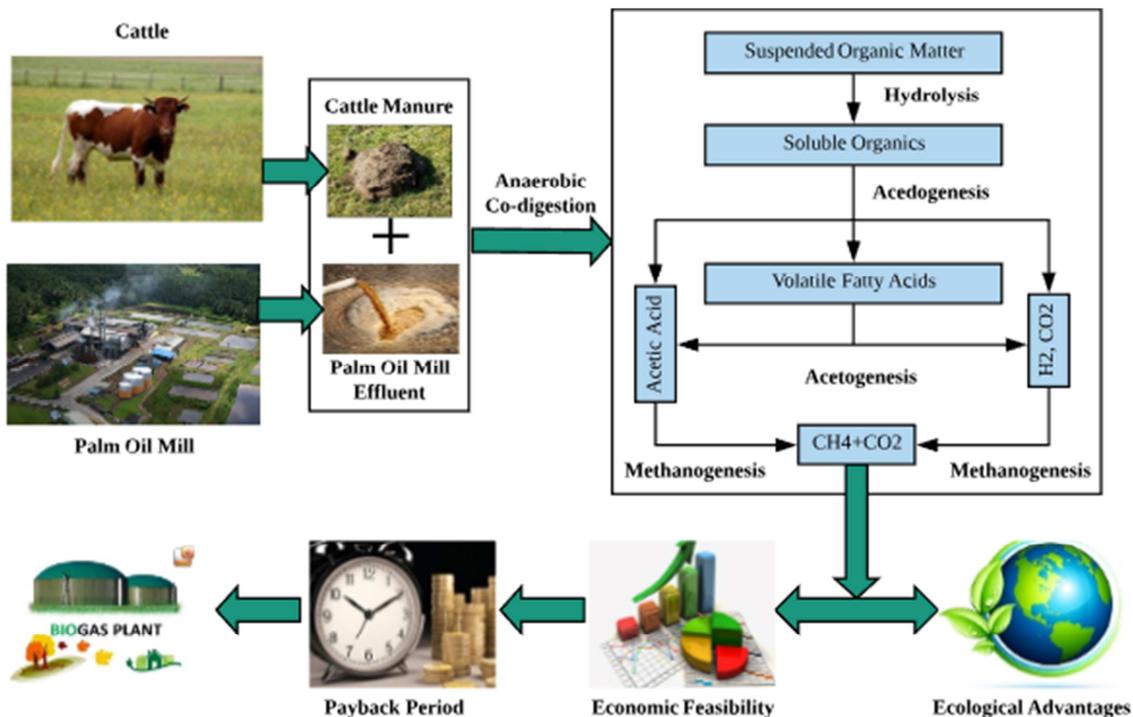


Figure 1. Process of Biogas Production from Organic wastes via Anaerobic system.

## 3. Classification of the Organic Waste Anaerobic Fermentation Process

The biological, technological, dependability, and overall performance of the anaerobic fermentation (AF) process are commonly classified [11, 12]. The AF system can be classified as a dry or wet system depending upon the general solid contents; it can be classified as a batch or continuous system based on the feeding modes; it can be classified as a mesophilic or thermophilic system based on the running temperatures [13, 14]; it can be classified as a single-stage or multi-stage AF process based on the number of stages; and it can be identified as a constant and variable dome AF system

based on the digester. A dry AF system has a solid content of 20 to 40%, whereas a wet AF system has a solid content of 20 to 40%.

## 4. AF's Challenges Organic Waste Processing

The processing of bioenergy from trash using AF offers various advantages, but it also has a number of serious drawbacks. Environmental and health issues have an impact on social acceptance.  $H_2S$ , Si, VOCs, CO, and  $NH_3$  are among the undesired and harmful compounds found in biogas [15, 16]. Hydrogen sulphide and Ammonia are toxic and abrasive, initiating damage to joint heating and power

components [17, 18]. H<sub>2</sub>S impairs the amount and purity of biogas produced. Besides, it helps emitting hazardous gases and corroding the gas refinement process [19]. Because AF gas comprises contaminants, it often requires treatment to increase methane production and to remove Hydrogen sulphide. Those systems are both energy-consuming and costly [20]. Furthermore, the climate impacts on gas generation are similar to those of other sustainable energy resources.

## 5. Conclusions and Perspectives on the Future

The success and problems of the AF process for organic waste were discussed in this study. AF is a viable option for treating organic waste, meeting local energy demands, reducing trash, and improving energy security and air pollution. The AF technology produces products which can be reused in an alternative way. Biogas can be a versatile sustainable energy resource which can be used as a heating and electricity generating option and a vehicle fuel. Analysing and categorising organics, biodigestibility, including a range of biological processes, and determining the specific limiting elements and stages are all motivating concepts in the AF technique of organic wastes.

Biogas provides a number of advantages over other renewable energy options. It may be readily generated and kept when needed. It can be delivered through existing gas pipelines and used in the same ways as natural gas can. Biogas will replace fossil fuels in the transportation industry, in addition to employing renewable electricity and heat. Proper process control with critical parameter readings, on the other hand, can improve the process and boost biogas output. Furthermore, the potential production of biogas systems should be geared toward lowering capital and management costs.

---

## References

- [1] Abdelsalam, E., et al., Life cycle assessment of the use of laser radiation in biogas production from anaerobic digestion of manure. *Renewable Energy*, 2019. 142: p. 130-136.
- [2] Jehlee, A., et al., Improvement of biohythane production from *Chlorella* sp. TISTR 8411 biomass by co-digestion with organic wastes in a two-stage fermentation. *International Journal of Hydrogen Energy*, 2019.
- [3] Islam Siddique, M. N., Z. B. Khalid, and M. Z. B. Ibrahim, Effect of additional nutrients on bio-methane production from anaerobic digestion of farming waste: Feasibility & Fertilizer recovery. *Journal of Environmental Chemical Engineering*, 2020. 8 (1): p. 103569.
- [4] Khalid, Z. B., et al., Application of solar assisted bioreactor for biogas production from palm oil mill effluent co-digested with cattle manure. *Environmental Technology & Innovation*, 2019. 16: p. 100446.
- [5] Md Nurul Islam Siddique, Z. B. K., Muhammad Nomani Kabir, Progressive Two-Stage Efficient Co- Digestion of Food Waste and Petrochemical Wastewater for Higher Methane and Hydrogen Production. *Asian Journal of Chemistry* 2019. 31 (11): p. 2575-2578.
- [6] Md Siddique, N. I., Zularisam Bin Abdul Wahid, Enhanced Methane Yield by Codigestion of Sewage Sludge with Microalgae and Catering Waste Leachate. *Water Environment Research*, 2018. 90 (9): p. 835-839.
- [7] Mimi Sakinah Lakhveer Singh, M. N. I. S., Zularisam A. W., Mohd. Hasbi Ab. Rahim, Optimization of sustained hydrogen production from palm oil mill effluent using immobilized mixed culture. *International Journal of Civil Engineering and Geo-Environment.*, 2012. 1 (1): p. 5 - 9.
- [8] Miyaoka, H., et al., Highly purified hydrogen production from ammonia for PEM fuel cell. *International Journal of Hydrogen Energy*, 2018. 43 (31): p. 14486-14492.
- [9] MNI Siddique, A. Z., Role of ammonium bicarbonates in methanogenesis while co-digesting petrochemical wastewater with acti10. MNI Siddique, M. M., AW Zularisam, Bioenergy production from codigestion of chemically-treated petrochemical wastewater and activated manure sludge. *Ener. Edu. Sci. Technol*, 2013. 31: p. 59-70.
- [10] Md. Nurul Islam Siddique, M. S., A. W. Zularisam, Sustainable bio-methane generation from petrochemical wastewater using CSTR. *International Journal of Engineering Technology and Science.*, 2014. 1 (1): p. 1-4.
- [11] Silva, F. M. S., et al., Hydrogen and methane production in a two-stage anaerobic digestion system by co-digestion of food waste, sewage sludge and glycerol. *Waste Management*, 2018. 76: p. 339-349.
- [12] M. N. I. Siddique, M. F. I. a. A. W. Z., Enriched Renewable Methane from the Anaerobic Digestion of Petrochemical Wastewater: A Bio-Remediation Structure. *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCES*, 2016. 7: p. 1-8.
- [13] Md. Nurul Islam Siddique, Mimi Sakinah Abd. Munaim, Zularisam, A. W. 2014. Feasibility analysis of anaerobic co-digestion of activated manure and petrochemical wastewater in Kuantan (Malaysia). *Journal of Cleaner Production* (Elsevier), 106, 380-388.
- [14] Md. Nurul Islam Siddique, Mimi Sakinah Abdul Munaim, A. W. Zularisam, 2017. The combined effect of ultrasonic and microwave pre-treatment on bio-methane generation from co-digestion of petrochemical wastewater, *Journal of Cleaner Production*, (Elsevier) 145, 303-309.
- [15] Md. Nurul Islam Siddique, Mimi Sakinah Abd. Munaim, Zularisam, A. W. 2016. Role of biogas recirculation in enhancing petrochemical wastewater treatment efficiency of continuous stirred tank reactor, *Journal of Cleaner Production* (Elsevier), 91, 229-234.
- [16] Md. Nurul Islam Siddique, A. W. Zularisam, 2018. Achievements and perspectives of anaerobic co-digestion- a review, *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 194, 359-371.
- [17] Santhana Krishnan, Lakhveer Singh, Puranjan Mishra, Mohd Nasrullah, Mimi Sakinah, Sveta Thakur, Md. Nurul Islam Siddique, Zularisam Ab. Wahid. 2017. Comparison of process stability in methane generation from palm oil mill effluent using dairy manure as inoculum. *Environmental Technology & Innovation*, 8, 360-365.

- [18] Md. Nurul Islam Siddique, Mimi Sakinah Abd. Munaim, Zularisam, A. W. 2015. Influence of flow rate variation on bio-energy generation during anaerobic co-digestion. *Journal of Industrial & Engineering Chemistry (Elsevier)*, 27, 44-49.
- [19] Md. Nurul Islam Siddique, Mimi Sakinah Abdul Munaim, A. W. Zularisam, 2016. Influence of food to microbe ratio variation on bio-energy production during anaerobic co-digestion. *Journal of Taiwan Institute of Chemical Engineers* 58, 451-457.
- [20] A. R. Abdul Syukor, S. Sulaiman, Md. Nurul Islam Siddique, A. W. Zularisam, M. I. M. Said, 2015. Integration of Phytogreen in Heavy Metal removal from wastewater. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 112, 3124-3131.