

# Efficacy of Solid and Liquid Biolistics in Improving the Nutrients in Latosol Soil from Bali, Indonesia

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# 8 1 **Efficacy of Solid and Liquid *Biolistics* in Improving the Nutrients in Latosol** 2 **Soil from Bali, Indonesia**

## 3 4 **Abstract**

5 The increase in household organic waste during the COVID-19 pandemic was a source of  
6 pollution, especially in soil. The high pollution intensity in various sectors causes the soil to  
7 degrade and lose nutrients. This study aimed to analyze the efficacy of solid and liquid  
8 *biolistics* for improving the nutritional status of latosol soil collected from Bali, Indonesia.  
9 The experimental design was a completely randomized design. Efficacy testing by providing  
10 solid and liquid *biolistics* to latosol soils in polybags at different concentrations was  
11 performed five times. Macro- and micronutrient testing was carried out three months after the  
12 application of the treatments. One-way ANOVA and the LSD test ( $p < 0.05$ ) were used to  
13 assess the results. The results revealed significant differences between the treatment groups in  
14 terms of N, P, K, the C/N ratio, water content, and pH, with a probability value of 0.000  
15 ( $p < 0.05$ ). Thus, solid and liquid bioplastics are efficacious at increasing the fertility of latosol  
16 soils. The contents of N, P, K, moisture content, pH, macronutrients ( $P_2O_5$ ,  $K_2O$ , C-Organic, N-  
17 Total, and C/N ratio) and micronutrients (Fe, Mg, Mn, Na, Zn) contribute significantly to  
18 improving soil aggregates and structures; improving the physical, chemical, and biological  
19 properties of the soil; and improving the bioavailability of nutrients and soil quality. The  
20 presence of microorganisms is involved in accelerating the process of biodegradation and  
21 decomposition in soil. Thus, solid and liquid bioplastics deserve to be developed as natural  
22 soil repairers.

23 **Keywords:** Biofertilizer, *Biolistics*, soil repairer, local microorganisms, domestic waste.  
24

## 25 **Introductions**

26 The COVID-19 pandemic has harmed the environment, especially through the increase in  
27 household domestic waste quality caused by large-scale social restrictions throughout  
28 Indonesia, including the Province of Bali (Putro, 2020). The work-from-home policy  
29 contributes to an increase in organic waste and food every day (Arumugam et al., 2021;  
30 Pappalardo et al., 2020). In addition, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic reportedly  
31 resulted in a decrease in waste management and management by relevant agencies (Roy et al.,  
32 2021). According to data from the National Waste Management Information System in 2020,  
33 waste generation in 9 districts/cities in Bali reached 904,924.34 tons/year, with an average of

1 2,479.24 tons/day. Waste generation increased in 2021, reaching 915,482.46 tons/year, with  
2 an average of 2,508.17 tons/day (Ministry of Environment and Forestry, 2022, 2020).  
3 Household organic waste accounted for 40.91%, the market accounted for 16.04%, and other  
4 waste accounted for 43.05%, with 1,178.13 tons/day left untreated (Waste for Change, 2021),  
5 resulting in environmental pollution, including a decrease in soil fertility rates (Adnan et al.,  
6 2022; El-Ramady et al., 2020; Yang et al., 2022).

7 Every day, an increase in waste generation negatively impacts soil quality (Putro, 2020). This  
8 is because poorly handled domestic organic wastewater enters and permeates the soil,  
9 worsens soil conditions, threatens the survival of soil microbiota, and has implications for  
10 decreasing soil nutrients and causing environmental degradation (Tsukiji et al., 2020; Waste  
11 for Change, 2021). Recent research reveals that the pollution intensity from various sectors  
12 results in soil degradation and nutrient loss (Dehghani et al., 2021; Suriyaprakash et al.,  
13 2021). Furthermore, inorganic fertilizers containing nitrogen and phosphorus significantly  
14 contribute to soil pollutants, lowering physical, chemical, biological, and soil permeability  
15 (El-Ramady et al., 2020; Eugenio et al., 2018). Continuous degradation of soil results in a low  
16 number of remodeled microorganisms in the soil, resulting in a decrease in agricultural land  
17 productivity (Geisseler and Scow, 2014; Kashyap et al., 2017; Pappalardo et al., 2020).

18 In light of these concerns, it is crucial to implement integrated waste management, including  
19 agricultural land, to minimize land degradation in Bali. The use of synthetic fertilizers in the  
20 community harms the environment, so new efforts have been made to use household and  
21 market organic waste (leaves, fruits, and vegetables) enriched with local microorganisms and  
22 fungi (*Trichoderma* sp.) as soil repellents and soil fertility enhancers called *biolistics*. Solid  
23 and liquid *biolistics* products were made to stop the use of inorganic fertilizers, which kill  
24 microorganisms in the soil and cause the nutrients in the soil to run out (Du et al., 2020). Raw  
25 materials are sourced from waste and passed through the fermentation system (Suthar et al.,  
26 2017; Vassileva et al., 2021). They are useful for increasing microbial biomass and  
27 bioconversion of microbial substrates, enzymes, and primary and secondary metabolites  
28 (Vassileva et al., 2021). In addition, bacterial and fungal inoculations of the main ingredients  
29 of biofertilizers reportedly increase the bioavailability of soil nutrients through nitrogen  
30 fixation and mobilization of phosphorus, potassium, and iron nutrients and improve the soil  
31 structure by improving its aggregation and stability (Rashid et al., 2016).

32 This study aimed to evaluate and analyze the efficacy of solid and liquid *biolistics* for  
33 improving the nutritional status of latosol soil in Bali, Indonesia. Type land latosols are spread

1 throughout the Bali region and have a relatively low fertility rate. This research is expected to  
2 contribute to the use of waste as a useful soil remediation agent.

3

## 4 **Materials and Methods**

### 5 **Study design**

6 This study utilized an experimental design with a completely randomized design. There were  
7 six treatment groups, and each group was replicated five times, as determined using the  
8 Federer equation (Darwin et al., 2021). In this study, solid and liquid *biolistics* were applied at  
9 different levels in latosol soils with low fertility rates in large polybags; 20 polybags were  
10 given solid *biolistics* with different levels of P1 (157 g/polybag), P2 (314 g/polybag), P3 (471  
11 g/polybag), and P4 (628 g/polybag); five pure positive controls (PCs) were given 100% NPK;  
12 and five negative controls (NCs) were given without treatment. Moreover, liquid *biolices* that  
13 are ready for use are then applied to the soil utilizing 1 L of liquid *biolases* mixed in 5 L of  
14 clean water and poured into 20 polybags at different concentrations, namely, P1 (208.4  
15 mL/polybag), P2 (417 mL/polybag), P3 (533.8 mL/polybag) and P4 (834 mL/polybag).  
16 Moreover, five pure positive controls (PCs) were given 100% NPK, and five negative  
17 controls (NCs) were not treated. A total of 60 polybags with a total of 30 polybags were given  
18 solid *biolistics*, and 30 polybags were given liquid *biolistics*. The intensity of soil fertilization  
19 was carried out once every two weeks for a duration of three months. The soil fertility rates  
20 were measured using the parameters <sup>5</sup>nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), the C/N  
21 ratio, moisture content, and acidity level (pH) one week after the treatment ended. Macro- and  
22 micronutrients in solid and liquid *biolistics* were measured in integrated testing laboratories.

23

### 24 **Sample**

25 Federer's formula was used to determine the number of samples and tests used (Adnyana,  
26 2021). The formula used was  $(n-1) (t-1) \geq 15$ , and the results were obtained for six treatment  
27 groups with five replicates each; 30 samples were used for solid biochemical testing, and 30  
28 samples were used for liquid biochemical testing.

29

### 30 **Laboratory testing**

31 After solid and liquid *biolistics* were applied, soil nutrient testing was conducted in the  
32 laboratory via several tests. The soil N (%) levels were determined using a spectrophotometer  
33 set to a wavelength of 636 nm and the following standards for testing organic fertilizer. At a

1 wavelength of 651 nm, Walkley and Black used a spectrophotometer to measure the levels of  
2 C-organic (%). The amounts of significant (P and K) and minor (Fe, Mn, Zn, and Na)  
3 nutrients in the soil were measured using Morgan Wolf extract. Spectrometry was used to  
4 measure P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, K<sub>2</sub>O total, and N-total (Kjeldahl), and a pH meter was used to measure the pH.  
5 The Regulation Number 01 of 2019 of the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of  
6 Indonesia on organic fertilizers, biological fertilizers, and soil reformers was used to guide all  
7 tests (Ministry of Agriculture, 2019).

8

### 9 **Time and Location**

10 This research was conducted at Greenhouse Tanam.id, Denpasar, for six months (January–  
11 June 2021) at the Treatment and Technical Implementation Unit of the Biosciences and  
12 Biotechnology Laboratory and the Soil Chemistry and Fertility Laboratory of Udayana  
13 University to test macro, micro, and soil fertility nutrients based on predetermined  
14 parameters.

15

### 16 **Instruments and Materials**

17 The instruments used in this study consisted of personal protective equipment, needles, trays,  
18 hoes, punches, analytical scales, acid chambers, buckets, hammers, hacksaws, paralons,  
19 knives, measuring cups, electric stoves, destilators, spectrophotometers, beker glasses,  
20 Erlenmeyer flasks, ovens, hanging scales, digital scales, large polybags, timba, gadgets, and  
21 stationery. The research materials used were 40 kg of kitchen and market organic waste (fruit,  
22 leaf, and vegetable), 5 kg of bamboo leaf, 5 kg of rice laundry water, coconut water, sack,  
23 trash bag, plastic, *Trichoderma* sp. isolate, methyl red-methyl blue, 40% boric acid,  
24 granulated sugar, 0.1 N NaOH, 0.1 N HCl, H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and latosol soil taken from Suwung  
25 landfill, Denpasar, Bali.

26

### 27 **Research procedures**

- 28 1. In the media preparation, latosol soil was inserted into a large polybag (40 cm) with a  
29 filling of 3/4 of the total polybag weighing 4-6 kg. There were 60 polybags per row of  
30 media provided.
- 31 2. At this stage, the preparation of *the biolistic* materials was performed. It consists of  
32 preparing kitchen organic waste and markets in the form of rotten fruit waste, vegetables,  
33 and leaves obtained from various places, weighing as much as 20 kg. Isolate samples

1 were obtained from the Food and Horticulture Plant Protection Center (BTPPH)  
2 Semarang. A 250 g isolate of *Trichoderma* sp. mushrooms was propagated in rice media.

3 3. At this stage, as much as 5 kg of fruit and vegetable waste was weighed and then refined  
4 using a blender. Subsequently, 1 kg of granulated sugar and one bunch of leaves were  
5 chopped as a source of microbes, 2 L of coconut water, and 15 L of rice laundry water. The  
6 material is a microbial growth medium containing carbohydrates (source C), proteins (source  
7 N), minerals, and vitamins. The media was subsequently added, and the plants were curdled  
8 for 3-5 days until fragrance. The solution was filtered and stored in a bottle, after which the  
9 resulting gas was discharged. If the gas is removed, a solution containing microorganisms  
10 from the area is ready to use.

11 4. At this stage, 20 kg of organic waste is prepared. A large bucket was prepared, and then,  
12 organic waste, *Trichoderma* sp., and MOL were isolated so that the volume was as high as  
13 0.2 L. Dopped organic waste was spread, covered with sacks or other materials, and  
14 fermented for 2-3 weeks. The mixture was opened every ten days, a local microorganism  
15 solution was added, and the mixture was closed again. After three weeks, the fertilizer is  
16 disassembled by paying attention to the black or brown color of the soil, after which the solid  
17 *biolistics* are ready to use.

18 5. At this stage, 15 kg of organic waste was chopped, and as much as 500 mL of *Trichoderma*  
19 sp. isolates and local microorganism solutions were added. The mixture was subsequently  
20 squeezed for one week, after which the fragrant fragrance was filtered, after which the liquid  
21 *biolistics* were ready to use.

22 6. To test the soil and *biolistics* that are ready for use, polybags filled with latosol soil were  
23 added. Twenty polybags were given solid *biolistics* at different concentrations—25% (157  
24 g/polybag), 50% (314 g/polybag), 75% (471 g/polybag), and 100% (628 g/polybag); five  
25 pure positive controls were administered 100% NPK, and five negative controls were  
26 administered without treatment. Moreover, liquid *biolases* that are ready for use are then  
27 applied to the soil utilizing 1 L of liquid *biolases* mixed in 5 L of clean water and poured into  
28 20 polybags at different concentrations, namely, 25% (208.4 mL/polybag), 50% (417  
29 mL/polybag), 75% (533.8 mL/polybag) and 100% (834 mL/polybag). Moreover, five pure  
30 positive controls were given 100 NPK, and 5 negative controls were not treated. Solid and  
31 liquid biologics were added once every two weeks, and the experiments were carried out in  
32 the afternoon. Fertilization rates were based on guidelines for the use of biological fertilizers  
33 and soil repellents. After three months of testing the fertility of the soil, the fertility level was  
34 determined.

1 7. Fertility rate testing was performed by submitting soil samples and solid and liquid *biolistics*  
2 to an integrated testing laboratory, after which the data were further analyzed and test results  
3 obtained; this process ended with statistical analysis and interpretation of the data.  
4

#### 5 **Data analysis**

6 The soil fertility rates in each group were determined using statistical analysis to assess the  
7 efficacy of solid and liquid *biolistics* at different levels. Parameters The following elements  
8 were analyzed using SPSS, Inc., software version 25.0, with one-way ANOVA and LSD tests:  
9 nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), carbon/nitrogen ratio, moisture content, and  
10 acidity level (pH). The macro- and micronutrient contents were analyzed descriptively and are  
11 presented in the graphs and narratives. The interpretation of the laboratory results followed  
12 the standard guidelines of the National Standardization Agency of the Republic of Indonesia  
13 (SNI) 19-7030-2004 on composting from domestic organic waste (National Standardization  
14 Agency of the Republic of Indonesia, 2004) and the Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture  
15 of the Republic of Indonesia No. 01 of 2019 concerning organic fertilizers, biological  
16 fertilizers, and soil repairers (Ministry of Agriculture, 2019).  
17

#### 18 **Results**

##### 19 **Efficacy of solid *biolistics* in increasing the fertility of latosol soils**

20 Based on solid *biolistics* efficacy test findings on the fertility rate of latosol soil collected in  
21 Bali, Indonesia, Table 1 shows five parameters, namely, N, P, K, the C/N ratio, and the  
22 moisture content. The results of the one-way ANOVA test showed that nitrogen content (N)  
23 had an F value of 32,151, with a probability value of  $p= 0.000<0.05$ . Therefore, there was a  
24 significant difference between the treatment groups. The least significant difference (LSD)  
25 was obtained only with the P3 treatment. This was very true for P4, whereas the other  
26 treatments did not significantly differ. An F count of 33.683 was obtained for the phosphorus  
27 content (P), with a probability of  $p= 0.000<0.05$ . Thus, there were significant differences  
28 between the treatment groups. The LSD test results revealed significant differences between  
29 the NC treatment and the PC, P2 treatment and P3, and P3 treatment and P4. K was tested,  
30 and an F count of 28,540 was obtained, with a probability value of  $p= 0.000 <0.05$ . Thus,  
31 there was a significant difference between the treatment groups. The LSD test results showed  
32 a noticeable difference in the PC treatment with P1, P2 with P3, and P3 with P4. Testing the  
33 ratio of carbon to nitrogen (C/N) yielded a calculated F count of 21,844, with a probability

1 value of  $p = 0.000 < 0.05$ . Thus, there was a significant difference between the treatment  
2 groups. The LSD test results revealed significant differences between the NC and PC groups  
3 and between the P3 and P4 groups. Furthermore, the water content test obtained an F value of  
4 168,499 with a probability value of  $p = 0.000 < 0.05$ . Thus, there were significant differences  
5 between the treatment groups. The LSD test revealed significant differences among the  
6 NC+PC treatment, PC+P1 treatment, PC+P2 treatment, and PC+P3 treatment groups.

7

### 8 **Efficacy of liquid *biolistics* in increasing the fertility of latosol soils**

9 The efficacy of liquid *biolistics* on the fertility rate of latosol soil collected from Bali,  
10 Indonesia, was evaluated using five criteria, namely, the concentration of N, P, and K; the  
11 C/N ratio; and the acidity level (pH), as shown in Table 2. The statistical test results showed  
12 that the nitrogen content (N) obtained from the F count was 140,511 ( $p = 0.000 < 0.05$ ). Thus,  
13 there was a significant difference between the treatment groups. The LSD test results showed  
14 a very noticeable difference in all treatment groups, NC, PC, P1, P2, P3, and P4, with values  
15 of  $p < 0.05$ . The phosphorus content (P) was tested, and a calculated F count value of 35,380  
16 was obtained, with a probability of  $p = 0.000 < 0.05$ . Thus, there was a significant difference  
17 between the treatment groups. The LSD test results revealed noticeable differences between  
18 P2 and P3 and between P3 and P4. K was obtained from an F count of 111,935, with a  
19 probability value of  $p = 0.000 < 0.05$ . Thus, there was a significant difference between the  
20 treatment groups. According to the LSD tests, there were clear differences between the  
21 negative control (NC) and positive control (PC) groups and between the PC treatment and P1,  
22 P1 treatment and P2, and P3 treatment and P4. Testing the ratio of carbon to nitrogen (C/N)  
23 yielded an F count of 188,959 with a probability value of  $p = 0.000 < 0.05$ . Thus, there was a  
24 significant difference between the treatment groups. The LSD test results showed very  
25 noticeable differences in the negative control treatment (NC) compared to the positive control  
26 (PC), P1 treatment with P2, P2 treatment with P3, and P3 treatment with P4. Furthermore,  
27 acidity level (pH) testing yielded a calculated F value of 11,555, with a probability value of  $p$   
28  $= 0.000 < 0.05$ . Thus, there was a significant difference between the treatment groups. The  
29 LSD test results showed a noticeable difference between the negative control treatment (NC)  
30 and the positive control (PC).

31

### 32 **Macro and micronutrient contents in solid and liquid *biolistic***

33 The results of laboratory tests on the content of solid and liquid *biolistic* macro- and  
34 micronutrients are presented in Figures 1 and 2. The macronutrients contained in solid and



1 liquid biologics include C-organic substances; total N, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, and K<sub>2</sub>O; the C/N ratio; and  
2 hydrogen. The micronutrients contained in solid and liquid *bioplastics* include iron (Fe),  
3 magnesium (Mg), mangan (Mn), sodium (Na), and zinc (Zn). The results indicate that all the  
4 parameters tested related to the contents of macro- and micronutrients contained in solid and  
5 liquid *biolistics* meet the minimum standards required for biological fertilizers, soil repairers,  
6 and solid organic fertilizers; the raw materials used are from domestic organic waste  
7 according to the Indonesian National Standard 19-7030-2004 and the Regulation of the  
8 Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia number 01 of 2019. The content is very  
9 useful for increasing soil fertility; improving the microbiological, physical, and chemical  
10 structure of the soil; and accelerating the growth of organisms to help improve the process of  
11 biodegradation and the availability of nutrients in the soil.

12

### 13 Discussion

14 Research on the efficacy of solid and liquid *biolistics* in latosol soils showed that nitrogen  
15 (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), the C/N ratio, moisture content, and acidity level (pH) in  
16 all treatment groups significantly improved the aggregation and biological structure of the  
17 soil, increasing the capacity and number of microorganisms for organic matter biodegradation  
18 and opening up the soil. These results are in line with the findings of Lazcano et al. (2021)  
19 and Rashid et al. (2016), who revealed that the inoculation of bacteria and microorganisms in  
20 organic fertilizers can improve physical, chemical, and microbiological properties and  
21 improve soil aggregates so that they can be applied.

22 Tables 1 and 2 show that there is a significant difference between soils given solid and liquid  
23 *biolistics* treatments at different concentrations and those given a negative control (NC) or  
24 positive control (PC). The N, P, K, C/N ratio, water content, and pH positively affected the  
25 fertility of the latosol soil. This occurs because of the enrichment of local microorganisms and  
26 fungi by *Trichoderma* sp., which can increase nutrients from solid and liquid *biolistics*. When  
27 applied to the soil, biochar can increase the availability of nutrients and increase aggregation  
28 (Mahanty et al., 2016; Mitter et al., 2021). Enrichment by adding *Trichoderma* sp. isolates  
29 were enriched by the addition of biological fertilizer products, organic fertilizers, and soil  
30 repellents because this fungus has many advantages and positive impacts on soil improvement  
31 (Fasusi et al., 2021; Maçik et al., 2020; Pandey and Chandra, 2016).

32 *Trichoderma* spp. can produce antibiotics that are used naturally to kill parasites found in the  
33 soil (Al-Suhaibani et al., 2020; Bhandari et al., 2021). This fungus produces several secondary

1 metabolites in the form of nonribosomal peptides, terpenoids, pyrones, and indolic derivatives  
2 with toxic effects on breeding soil parasites (Kashyap et al., 2017). In addition, *Trichoderma*  
3 sp. can produce indole-3-acetate acid, which contributes to plant acceleration and increased  
4 growth time (Asghar and Kataoka, 2021). *The organic matter of Trichoderma can accelerate*  
5 *the process of nitrogen mineralization by increasing the effectiveness of soil phosphatase (Al-*  
6 *Suhaibani et al., 2020; Asghar and Kataoka, 2021; Mayo-Prieto et al., 2021), increasing*  
7 *nutrient absorption, and increasing soil tolerance to abiotic and biotic acidity (Bhardwaj et al.,*  
8 *2014; Fasusi et al., 2021).*

9 In solid and liquid *biolistics*, pollination with local microorganisms and *Trichoderma* sp.  
10 increases the activity of microbial exoenzymes that help to breakdown carbon, nitrogen, and  
11 phosphorus (Abbasi and Yousra, 2012; Francioli et al., 2016). Scientists are attempting to  
12 accelerate the breakdown of nutrients, biomass growth, and absorption of organic and  
13 inorganic substances (Bononi et al., 2020; Mehetre and Mukherjee, 2015). This efficiency in  
14 the use of microand macronutrients culminates in increased soil productivity (Szczalba et al.,  
15 2019; Vassileva et al., 2021; Zhao et al., 2018), transforming the soil environment of the  
16 rhizosphere, plant growth-boosting agents, natural decomposition agents, and bioremediation  
17 biological agents (Halifu et al., 2019; Zin and Badaluddin, 2020), increasing the provision of  
18 soil nutrients <sup>11</sup> in the form of N, P, and K, and other nutrients such as antibiotics, auxin  
19 hormones, cytokinins, and vitamins that enrich the root rhizosphere (Bhandari et al., 2021;  
20 Contreras-Cornejo et al., 2016; Yadav and Sarkar, 2019), and improving the biological  
21 properties of soils by dissolving phosphate compounds, nitrogen propagation, and phosphate  
22 activity (Fitriatin et al., 2021).

23 The macronutrients in the biolistic solid and liquid contents met the quality standards of  
24 fertilizers and soil reformers required by the <sup>2</sup> Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture of the  
25 Republic of Indonesia number 01 of 2019. Figure 1 shows that the pH in solid *biolistics* is  
26 classified as neutral to alkaline (7.4), while in liquid *biolistics*, it is classified as neutral (7.1).  
27 The C-organic content was very high at 19.78% in solid *biolistics* and 15.22% in liquid  
28 *biolistics*. The N-total value in liquid *biolistics* (16.77%) is higher than that in solid *biolistics*  
29 (4.21%) but is classified as meeting the minimum requirements. Furthermore, for the P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>  
30 content, the same result was obtained, namely, from liquid *biolistics* (10.67%) and a high  
31 length from solid *biolistics* (4.13%). At K<sub>2</sub>O, the content of solid *biolistics* (K) was 3.1%  
32 lower than that of liquid *biolistics* (13.1%), and the C/N ratios in solid *biolistics* (18.59) and  
33 liquid *biolistics* (19.46) were very high.

1 Relatively good results were obtained for improving the soil nutrients in the latosol soils. In <sup>10</sup>  
2 line with the findings of Arthanawa et al. (2022), research on the effects of natural  
3 biofertilizers with a pH of H<sub>2</sub>O (8.19), C-organic material (25.18%), N-total material (1.49%),  
4 P (2.01%), and K (1.99%) was classified as very high, with a field capacity of 29.16%, so that  
5 the use of natural materials can increase soil fertility. Kai and Tamaki (2020) revealed that  
6 obtaining similar higher total cholesterol (TC), total nitrogen (TN), and C/N ratios in soils fed <sup>7</sup>  
7 organic fertilizers seems to increase bacterial biomass, leading to improved nutrient  
8 circulation through N and P circulation.

9 The macro- and micronutrients contained in solid and liquid *biolistics* indicate that *biolistics*,  
10 both solid and liquid, are suitable for use as soil repellents and soil fertility enhancers,  
11 especially in latosol soils that have low fertility rates. Both solid and liquid *biolistics* can add  
12 C-organic matter to soils and plants. Thomas and Singh (2019) revealed that high or low  
13 levels of C-organic matter in the soil are influenced by the amount of organic matter  
14 contained in fertilizers. Soil organic matter can be maintained, which contributes to an  
15 increase in the biological activity of soil, nutrients, and water transportation so that the  
16 decomposition process progresses well (Siddiquee et al., 2017). The total N content also  
17 contributes to the need for nutrients in the soil. Nitrogen is useful for increasing the growth of  
18 roots, stems, and leaves; for increasing chlorophyll production; for increasing protein levels;  
19 and for accelerating the growth of shoots at the roots (Beeby et al., 2020; Bononi et al., 2020;  
20 Yadav and Sarkar, 2019).

21 Elemental N in solid and liquid *biolistics* can improve and control the growth and  
22 development of microorganisms in low-fertility soils (Lazcano et al., 2021; Raimi et al.,  
23 2017). In addition, the P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and phosphorus contents of *biolistics* are important for the  
24 bioconversion of sunlight into chemical energy via photosynthetic absorption of CO<sub>2</sub>, which  
25 has an impact on the availability of carbohydrate sources in soils with an abundance of  
26 organic matter (Fitriatin et al., 2021; Islam et al., 2014). Furthermore, carbohydrates under  
27 abundant conditions are synthesized into proteins with the elements N and S. Thus, the  
28 formation of cells, tissues, and organs in the soil and in prospective shoots will occur faster,  
29 contributing to improved soil quality (Li et al., 2017). An increase in K<sub>2</sub>O in solid and liquid  
30 *biolistics* deregulates the translocation of assimilated K<sub>2</sub>O to all plant roots. This represents  
31 the accumulation of N in the soil, which triggers a decrease in soil quality (Baldi et al., 2016).

32 The micronutrients contained in the solid and liquid *biolistics* met the quality standards of <sup>2</sup>  
33 fertilizers and soil reformers required according to the Regulation of the Minister of  
34 Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia number 01 of 2019. Figure 2 shows that the Fe (iron)

1 content is greater in solid *biolistics* (212 µg/g) than in liquid *biolistics* (198 µg/g). The content  
2 of magnesium (Mg) was greater in liquid *biolistics* (13.49%) than in solid *biolistics* (2.66%).  
3 Furthermore, for manganese (Mn), the same results are obtained for both liquid biolistic (1.23  
4 µg/g) and solid biolistic (0.85 µg/g) sorbents. For Na, the solid biolistic content (118%) was  
5 greater than the liquid biolistic content (97%). Finally, the zinc (Zn) content was greater in  
6 liquid *bioplastics* (185.8 µg/g) than in solid *bioplastics* (169 µg/g).

7 The micronutrients contained in solid and liquid *biolives* have functions and benefits when  
8 their quantities meet normal standards. Iron (Fe) is indispensable for enzymes in the soil  
9 (Mitter et al., 2012; Mitter et al., 2021). Fe functions in soil oxidation, respiration, and  
10 photosynthesis. As an enzyme catalyst, Fe is associated with the formation of chlorophyll and  
11 soil aggregates. In addition, Mn aids in the formation of chloroplasts. Mn is involved in the  
12 activity of enzymes involved in photosynthesis and respiration and in the metabolism of N.  
13 Mn can inhibit the formation of phenolic and lignin materials for the defense of plants from  
14 fungal infections (Contreras-Cornejo et al., 2016; Mączik et al., 2020; Zhao et al., 2018).  
15 Furthermore, magnesium (Mg) plays a role in nitrogen metabolism (Lazcano et al., 2021). Ca  
16 and Zn in solid and liquid *biolistics* are obtained from the market and from household waste  
17 in the form of leaves, vegetables, and fruits that contain many minerals that are good for  
18 increasing soil nucleation. Ca, Zn, and Na synergize and are involved in water (osmosis)  
19 movement and ion balance in the soil (Abbasi and Yousra, 2012; Mayo-Prieto et al., 2021).

20 In this study, we found that all parts of the solid and liquid biosystems improved the quality of  
21 the latosol soils. This finding is new because the development of organic waste alone as a soil  
22 improvement agent has not been able to directly provide good results. Nutrients such as N, P,  
23 and K need to be stable for a long time, so improvements in the quality of *biolistics* need to be  
24 evaluated. In addition, the results of this study are different from those of previous studies in  
25 which substantial amounts of Effective Microorganism-4 (EM-4) were used as a fertilizer  
26 decomposition inoculant; however, these studies obtained less significant results in improving  
27 soil nutrients but focused on the yield of the plant produced (Chantal et al., 2010; Hidalgo et  
28 al., 2022). In this study, the use of macronutrients such as carbon and potassium was  
29 improved by maintaining <sup>13</sup>the quality of the raw materials used in biolistic manufacturing,  
30 while the use of microelements such as manganese and naphthalene was improved by  
31 maintaining the quality of the production materials used. The hope is that the *biolistics*  
32 produced comply with established quality standards and can improve soil nutrients  
33 appropriately and efficiently.

1 The use of solid and liquid *biolistics* to increase soil fertility is better than the use of synthetic  
2 fertilizers. Physically, organic matter improves the structure and increases the capacity of the  
3 soil to store water. Chemically, organic matter increases the resistance of soil to pH changes,  
4 increases the exchange capacity of cations, decreases fixation factors, and acts as a reservoir  
5 of secondary nutrients and microelements. Biologically, as an energy source for soil  
6 microorganisms, nitrogen plays an important role in the decomposition and release of  
7 nutrients in soil ecosystems. The microbial community contained in the *biolistics* was  
8 determined through microbiological examination; these included *Rhizobium* sp., *Azospirillum*  
9 sp., *Bacillus* sp., and *Trichoderma* sp. All the nutrient components met the Indonesian  
10 National Standard (SNI) 19-7030-2004 (National Standardization Agency of the Republic of  
11 Indonesia, 2004) and the Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of  
12 Indonesia Number 01 of 2019 (Ministry of Agriculture, 2019).

13

## 14 **Conclusion**

15 Solid and liquid *bioplastics* are effective at increasing the fertility of latosol soils. The  
16 nitrogen content (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), carbon-to-nitrogen ratio (C/N ratio),  
17 moisture content, and pH contribute significantly to improving soil aggregates and structures;  
18 improving the physical, chemical, and biological properties of soils; and improving the  
19 bioavailability of nutrients in the soil. Macro- and micronutrients are beneficial for  
20 maintaining and improving soil quality, and the presence of *Rhizobium* sp., *Azospirillum* sp.,  
21 *Bacillus* sp., and *Trichoderma* sp. is involved in accelerating the process of biodegradation  
22 and decomposition in soil. However, further research is needed to determine the stability of  
23 macro- and micronutrients in relation to biologics and their impact on the soil. In addition, it  
24 is necessary to compare the length of time needed to store nutrients in biolistic-treated soils  
25 with that needed for other soil reformers on latosol soils or other soils. Moreover, related  
26 research is needed on how well solid and liquid *biolistics* work in soils with different fertility  
27 levels and how they can be used directly in soil and plant care on a larger scale.

28

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32

## 33 **References**

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