











# Nitrogen-enriched liquid organic fertilizers (LOFs) production for sustainable agriculture: A review

Sajani H. Kolambage<sup>1</sup> , Pradeep Gajanayake<sup>1,\*</sup> , Udayagee Kumarasingha<sup>1</sup> ,  
Danushika Manathunga<sup>1</sup> , Rohan S. Dassanayake<sup>1</sup> , Randika Jayasinghe<sup>2</sup> ,  
Nishanka Jayasiri<sup>3</sup> , Anushi Wijethunga<sup>4</sup> 

<sup>1</sup>Department of Biosystems Technology, Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Pitipana, Homagama, Sri Lanka.

<sup>2</sup>Department of Civil and Environmental Technology, Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Pitipana, Homagama, Sri Lanka.

<sup>3</sup>Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Galaha Road, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

<sup>4</sup>Department of Plant, Food and Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, Dalhousie University, Truro, Nova Scotia, B2N 5E3, Canada.

\*Corresponding author: [pradeepgajanayake@sjp.ac.lk](mailto:pradeepgajanayake@sjp.ac.lk)

## REVIEW PAPER

### Abstract:

Received:  
26 July 2023  
Revised:  
17 October 2023  
Accepted:  
17 January 2024  
Published online:  
4 April 2024

© The Author(s) 2024

**Purpose:** Although the popularity of liquid organic fertilizers (LOFs) has considerably increased recently, there have been concerns over their usage due to low nitrogen content. This study aims to discuss the current developments in nitrogen-enriched LOFs that address the above limitation, subsequently promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

**Method:** A thorough review of existing literature on nitrogen-enriched LOFs based on their chemical attributes and methodologies to increase the nitrogen content.

**Results:** The research highlights several promising methods for nitrogen enrichment, such as using high-nitrogen raw materials like cottonseed meal, bone meal, and blood meal, which also provide phosphorus and potassium benefits. Also, techniques like thermal hydrolysis, plasma activation, and inoculation of microorganisms can release and fix nitrogen in LOFs. Membrane technologies promise sustainably by recycling organic waste. Combining these materials and processes results in well-balanced nutrient profiles and improve the agricultural value of LOFs. However, formulating nitrogen-enriched LOFs requires considering critical factors like organic carbon content, pH values, raw material availability, cost implications, and overall sustainability. Optimizing these factors potentially lead to eco-friendly solutions for sustainable agriculture.

**Conclusion:** Cost-effective nitrogen enrichment in LOFs can be achieved through diverse methods and raw materials. Future investigations should focus on discovering raw materials with high nitrogen content, devising innovative enrichment techniques, and rigorously evaluating the efficacy of fertilizers. Investments in research, development, distribution, storage, packaging, and value-addition processes are essential to bolster LOF production and enhance affordability and accessibility, thus fostering sustainable agricultural practices.

**Keywords:** Nitrogen-enrichment, Liquid organic fertilizers (LOFs), Plasma activation, Nitrogen-fixing microorganisms, Membrane techniques, Sustainable agriculture

## 1. Introduction

The rapid growth in global population and mounting climate pressures has necessitated agricultural intensification as a crucial measure to ensure food security. Among the

various methods employed, the application of fertilizers has notably augmented crop productivity and bolstered soil fertility (Meers, 2016). Nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K) constitute the fundamental nutrients in fertilizers, indispensable for enriching soils and nurturing crops

(Soler-Cabezas et al., 2018). In the period spanning 1990 to 2020, there was a remarkable 46% surge in inorganic fertilizer utilization in agriculture. N-based fertilizers comprised 56% of the total, followed by P-based fertilizers at 24% and K-based fertilizers at 20% (FAOSTAT, 2022). However, while farmers heavily rely on inorganic fertilizers to attain high yields and superior crop quality, it's imperative to consider the environmental and economic ramifications of such strategies (Herawati et al., 2020).

In contemporary agriculture, synthetic fertilizers are extensively utilized to bolster crop yields. Yet, they also inflict detrimental consequences on the environment and public health. Excessive use of synthetic fertilizers leads to runoff and leaching, contaminating water bodies. Research indicates that the N and P chemicals in these fertilizers can pollute rivers, lakes, and groundwater, sparking eutrophication and toxic algal blooms (Guan et al., 2023; Margalef-Marti et al., 2021). Furthermore, the production and application of N-based fertilizers generate nitrous oxide, a potent greenhouse gas, contributing to increased greenhouse gas emissions (Tian et al., 2023; Astals et al., 2021). The long-term use of synthetic fertilizers also depletes organic matter and beneficial soil microbes, causing erosion and fertility loss (Bisht and Chauhan, 2020). From an economic perspective, the escalating cost of chemical fertilizers burdens small-scale farmers in developing nations (Abebe et al., 2022). Additionally, the energy-intensive production of N-based fertilizers makes them susceptible to rising energy costs, jeopardizing both energy security and food production, especially in low-income countries (Taghizadeh-Hesary et al., 2021; Mousavi et al., 2023).

In light of these challenges, it is crucial to explore viable alternatives to chemical fertilizers that are both economically viable and environmentally sustainable (Assefa and Tadesse, 2019). Several such alternatives exist, including organic fertilizers, nano fertilizers, slow-release fertilizers, and bio-fertilizers, all of which aim to enhance and sustain production while safeguarding the environment. For instance, organic fertilizers, derived from natural sources like plant and animal matter, offer numerous advantages over urea fertilizers, promoting sustainable and eco-friendly agriculture. Organic fertilizers improve soil structure, water retention, and microbial activity, thereby enhancing nutrient availability and reducing soil erosion risk (Hazra, 2016). They also release nutrients gradually, mitigating the risk of leaching and runoff that can pollute water bodies (Karami et al., 2016). Moreover, organic fertilizers foster soil biodiversity and contribute to long-term soil fertility, diminishing the dependence on synthetic inputs. Their adoption aligns with agro ecological principles, supporting sustainable food production while minimizing ecological harm.

Organic fertilizers come in two forms: solid organic fertilizers (SOF) and liquid organic fertilizers (LOFs) (Herawati et al., 2020). SOF provides nutrients to the soil gradually, necessitating more time for soil enrichment (Muktamar et al., 2017). Conversely, LOFs offer numerous advantages in commercial agriculture. Notably, LOFs provide all three essential plant nutrients (NPK) along with micronutrients, ensuring comprehensive plant nourishment (Phibun-

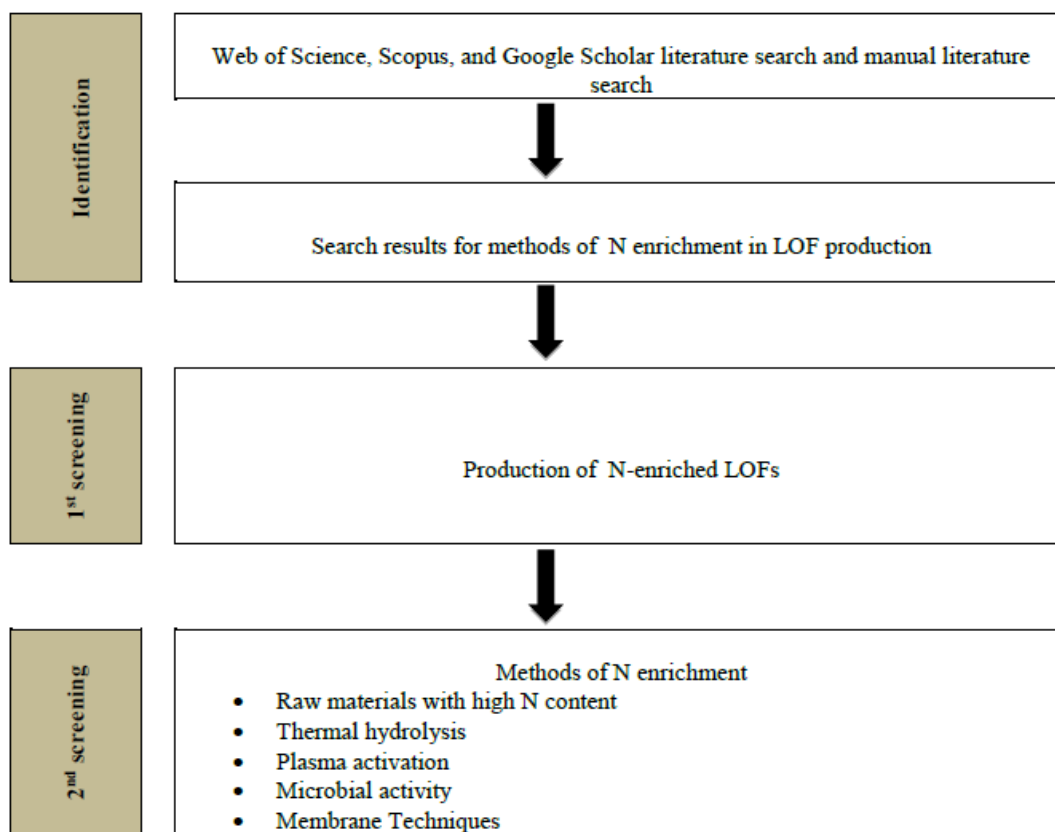
watthanawong and Riddech, 2019). Furthermore, LOFs excel in nutrient distribution and plant-specific application. They ensure uniform nutrient availability throughout the growing area, allowing growers to tailor nutrient application to different plant requirements (Ginandjar et al., 2019). Additionally, LOFs support beneficial microorganisms, enhancing soil fertility, nutrient availability, and overall plant health. By integrating LOFs with modern irrigation and fertilizing practices, nutrient utilization efficiency is improved, minimizing environmental impacts and maximizing nutrient application effectiveness. In sum, the advantages of LOFs in comprehensive nutrient supply, efficient absorption, even distribution, support for beneficial microorganisms, and improved nutrient utilization render them valuable tools for sustainable agriculture and enhanced crop productivity.

Despite these benefits, LOFs often have lower N content compared to synthetic fertilizers. The N content of LOFs varies based on source material, production process, concentration, and target plant, all of which play a pivotal role in determining their effectiveness in enhancing nutrient content and agricultural productivity (Pujiwati et al., 2021). Developing cost-effective, nutrient-rich LOFs is essential for achieving sustainable agricultural intensification, making it imperative to explore strategies for N enrichment in LOFs.

The current review aims at 1) studying the characteristic features essential for the development of effective LOF; 2) exploring the available methods for N enrichment in LOF production, and 3) proposing the most effective LOF production method(s) with high N content that can be easily implemented.

## 2. Materials and methods

The research conducted in this study involved a comprehensive literature survey using various keywords such as LOFs, N enrichment, plasma activation, N-fixing microorganisms, thermal hydrolysis, membrane techniques and sustainable agriculture. The gathered data were then categorized based on the N enrichment methods employed in producing liquid fertilizers. The literature search was conducted from 2012 to 2023, accounting for recent developments and innovations in N-enriched LOF productions. The selection criteria outlined in Table 1 were used to narrow the search results further. To delineate the scope of the study more precisely, we categorized the selected papers based on the specific N enrichment methods employed in the production of liquid fertilizer. These categories include raw materials with high N content, thermal hydrolysis, plasma activation, microbial activity, and N enrichment through membrane techniques. The majority of the selected papers were peer-reviewed journal articles published in internationally recognized agriculture-related journals. Following the initial screening, papers that met the selection criteria were subjected to a second round of filtration. Each paper was scrutinized meticulously during this phase, focusing on experimental conditions and chemical analytical data. This rigorous literature search also targets to identify research gaps, assess the advantages and drawbacks of different N enrichment approaches, and propose potential directions for

**Table 1.** The selection criteria for conducting the literature survey from 2012 to 2023.

future research and industrial applications.

### 3. Results and discussion

#### Production of liquid organic fertilizers (LOFs)

LOFs can be produced from organic materials such as plant wastes, animal waste, seaweeds and other types of organic wastes after undergoing different production and fermentation processes either aerobically (Tsaniya et al., 2021) or by anaerobically (Rafiuddin and Iswoyo, 2018; Yerizam et al., 2022; Fahrurrozi et al., 2020). Increasing N content in LOFs is critical for supplying optimal plant nutrition and identifying and implementing the best approaches to enhance N levels to improve the effectiveness of these fertilizers. Based on the literature survey, numerous methods have been employed to enhance N content in LOFs. The selection of raw materials with high N content, thermal hydrolysis (TH) in N enrichment Gao et al. (2021), N fixation by plasma activation Graves et al. (2019), use of microorganisms for N enrichment Sarbani and Yahaya (2022), and the use of membrane techniques Aquino et al. (2023) are the most common five (05) methods that have been investigated for the N enrichment, according to many researchers.

#### Use of raw materials with high nitrogen content

Production of LOFs involves using various raw materials, including plant-based and animal waste and seaweeds. When reviewing the data (see Table 2) on the highest N, P, and K contents from the given sources, it is evident that certain raw materials stand out regarding nutrient concentration.

As illustrated in Fig. 1, it is evident that out of all the reviewed raw materials, 40% of the raw materials were based on animal waste and 37% were based on plant materials. For N content, cottonseed meal (see Fig. 2a) has the highest value of 7.38% (Green, 2022). This makes it a potentially valuable raw material for producing N-rich LOF.

Regarding P content, bone and blood meal exhibit the highest concentration at 0.12% (Guajardo-Ríos et al., 2018). Although this value is relatively low compared to other raw materials, it should be noted that as in Fig. 2b, bone and blood meal are primarily used as a source of other nutrients, such as calcium and iron, rather than as a P source.

Only 23% of used raw materials were based on seaweeds where the N content (see Fig. 2c) found to be notably lesser than that of animal and plant-based raw materials. But it is noteworthy that P content is 9% in *Sargassum crassifolium* for the considerations of NPK formulation. In terms of K content, molasses, sugarcane leaves, and alfalfa meal demonstrate relatively high concentrations (5.25, 2.45, and 2.46%). These raw materials could be advantageous for formulating LOFs focusing on K enrichment.

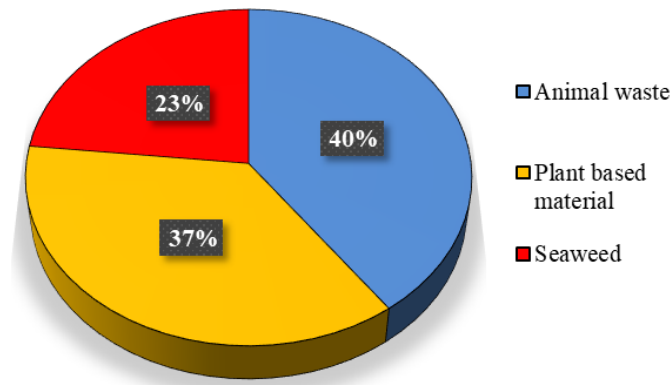
Table 3 reveals that among the available data for raw material combinations, the N content consistently falls below 2%. However, organic waste from banana peels, moringa leaves, onion peels, bean sprouts, and banana hump demonstrates potential as a LOF due to their N content exceeding the SLS 1702-2021 quality standards for LOFs (4.07, 3.93, 3.76, 3.75, 3.97%). To create a balanced and effective LOF formulation, a careful examination of potential combinations of these nutrient-rich raw materials is essential. One promis-

Table 2. Commonly used raw materials to produce LOFs.

Source	Raw material	N%	P%	K%	Organic-C %	pH	Reference
Plant-based material	Molasses	0.92	0.04	5.25	75.5	6.69	Ginandjar et al. (2019)
	Distillery slop	0.15	0.08	1.1	2	7.14	
	Sugarcane leaves	1.12	0.08	2.45	51	-	
	Banana pseudostem extract	0.36	0.05	0.97	-	-	Kalaivani and Gnanavelrajah (2021)
	Kersen Leaves	<0.01	0.17	0.04	-	-	Yerizam et al. (2022)
	Cottonseed meal	7.38	1.16	1.65	-	-	Green (2022)
	Rice bran	2.30	1.73	1.89	-	-	
	Herbal plants residues	1.35	0.36	0.42	9.4	4.3	Khater (2015)
	Sugar cane plants residues	1.62	1.12	1.36	20	7.1	
	Alfalfa meal	2.77	0.25	2.46	-	-	Green (2022)
Animal waste	Panchagavya	0.75	0.3	0.76	-	-	Kalaivani and Gnanavelrajah (2021)
	Cattle manure	0.27	0.24	0.49	-	-	
	Chicken manure	2.44	0.67	1.24	16.1	-	Lubis et al. (2021)
	Horn and hoof, bone and blood meal	0.46	0.12	0.05	-	-	Guajardo-Ríos et al. (2018)
	Egg shells	<0.01	0.05	0.02	-	-	Yerizam et al. (2022)
	Beef cattle manure	0.57	0.14	0.41	-	-	
	Dairy cow manure	0.52	0.12	0.36	-	-	Green (2022)
	Poultry- broilers manure	3.08	1.28	1.82	-	-	
	Poultry-Layers manure	1.68	1.06	1.20	-	-	
	Swine manure	0.93	0.31	0.48	-	-	
Seaweed	<i>Codium</i> sp.	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	-	-	
	<i>Ulva</i> sp.	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	-	-	Nasmia et al. (2020)
	<i>Padina</i> sp.	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	-	-	
	<i>Amphiroa</i> sp.	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	-	-	
	<i>sargassum crassifolium</i>	0.04	9	0.15	-	9	Sutharsan et al. (2014)
	<i>Ulva rigida</i> extract	1.28	-	0.05	-	-	Latiq et al. (2013)
	<i>Fucus spiralis</i> extract	0.56	-	0.01	-	-	

Table 3. Potential characteristics of LOFs produced after fermentation.

No	Liquid fertilizer	Days after fermentation	Nitrogen content %	Phosphorus %	Potassium %	Organic carbon %	pH	Source	Plant used to test	Fermentation method	Reference
01	Eggshells 0.5 kg; molasses 50 ml; water up to 4 L	10	0.02	<0.01	0.08	-	-	Plant based	-	Anaerobic	Siahaan et al. (2023)
02	Banana peels 0.5 kg; molasses 50 ml; water up to 4 L	10	4.07	<0.01	0.14	0.56	4.07	Plant based	-	Anaerobic	
03	Moringa Leaves 0.5 kg; molasses 50 ml; water up to 4 L	10	3.93	<0.01	0.10	0.53	3.93	Plant based	-	Anaerobic	
04	Onion leels 0.5 kg; molasses 50 ml; water up to 4 L	10	3.76	0.01	0.10	0.53	3.76	Plant based	-	Anaerobic	
05	Bean sprouts 0.5 kg; Molasses 50 ml; water up to 4 L	10	3.750	0.01	0.11	0.54	3.75	Plant based	-	Anaerobic	
06	Banana hump 0.5 kg; molasses 50 ml; water up to 4 L	10	3.97	<0.01	0.10	0.51	3.97	Plant based	-	Anaerobic	
07	Distillery slop; sugarcane leaves: filtrate water 1:0.1:0.25 v:w:v	30	0.16	<0.01	0.82	2.93	-	Agro-industry factories	Green Cos Lettuce	Aerobic	Ginandjar et al. (2019)
08	Distillery slop; sugarcane leaves: filtrate water 1:0.25:0.25 v:w:v	30	0.14	<0.01	0.96	0.26	-	Aerobic	-	-	
09	Maize residues (vegetal-based) and faeces sheep manure (animal-based) p	-	-	-	-	-	-	Agro-industrial waste	Citrus	Hydrolysis	Martínez-Alcantara et al. (2016)
10	Moringa	-	-	-	-	-	-	Plant-based	Upland red rice	-	Nasira et al. (2021)
11	<i>Gracilaria</i> sp.	14	0.56	0.05	0.33	0.67	6.49	Seaweeds-macroalgae	-	Aerobic	Tsaniya et al. (2021)
12	<i>Sargassum</i> sp.	14	0.45	<0.01	0.68	0.06	7.03	-	-	-	
13	Siam weed	-	0.36	6.80	0.96	-	6.76	Weed plants	Black soy-bean.	Aerobic	Pujiwati et al. (2021)
14	Yellow creeping daisy	-	0.22	6.61	0.75	-	7.44	-	-	-	
15	Goat weed	-	0.44	6.94	0.61	-	6.14	-	-	-	
16	5 Kg Tithonia weed (Tithonia diversifolia) 2.5 kg of topsoil, 5 kg of cow dung, 10 L of EM-4 starter solution, 10 L of coconut water	28	1.04	0.58	0.60	-	6.12	Weed plant	Sweet corn	Aerobic	Puteri et al. (2021)
17	10 kg animal's feces (cattle), 20 L cattle's urine, 5 kg of topsoil, 10 kg of Tithonia diversifolia (Hamsley) A. Gray), 20 L solution of 24-hour incubated 20 ml EM 4 + 0.25 kg white sugar	35	1.09	2.16	0.58	1.02	6.66	Animal waste	Lettuce	Anaerobic	Fahrrozzi et al. (2020)
18	10 kg animal's feces (chicken), 20 L cattle's urine, 5 kg of topsoil, 10 kg of Tithonia diversifolia (Hamsley) A. Gray), 20 L solution of 24-hour incubated 20 ml EM 4 + 0.25 kg white sugar	35	1.26	2.48	0.61	0.75	6.88	Animal waste	Lettuce	Anaerobic	
19	10 kg animal's feces (goat), 20 L cattle's urine, 5 kg of topsoil, 10 kg of Tithonia diversifolia (Hamsley) A. Gray), 20 L solution of 24-hour incubated 20 ml EM 4 + 0.25 kg white sugar	35	1.16	1.92	0.57	0.96	6.66	Animal waste	Lettuce	Anaerobic	
20	10 kg animal's feces (buffalo), 20 L cattle's urine, 5 kg of topsoil, 10 kg of Tithonia diversifolia (Hamsley) A. Gray), 20 L solution of 24-hour incubated 20 ml EM 4 + 0.25 kg white sugar	35	1.17	1.84	0.56	0.70	6.97	Animal waste	Lettuce	Anaerobic	
21	Gamal Leaves (Gliricidia sepium)	25	0.11	0.03	8.02	-	5.05	Plant waste	Lettuce (Lactucacasativa L.)	Anaerobic	Qoniiah et al. (2020)



**Figure 1.** Major sources of raw materials used for LOF production.

ing approach in-volves blending cottonseed meal (rich in N), bone and blood meal (a source of P), and either sugarcane leaves or alfalfa meal (abundant in K), which could yield a well-rounded nutrient profile. Nevertheless, it's crucial to emphasize the significant influence of aerobic and anaerobic fermentation methods on the final nutrient content of LOFs, with anaerobic fermentation resulting in higher nutrient content (Fahrurrozi et al., 2020). However, it's worth noting that specific details, such as fermentation duration, organic carbon content, and pH values of the raw materials, are absent for certain data entries. These parameters are vital for evaluating the overall quality and stability of the LOF. Additionally, when formulating nutrient-enriched LOFs, one must also consider factors like raw material availability, cost, and sustainability.

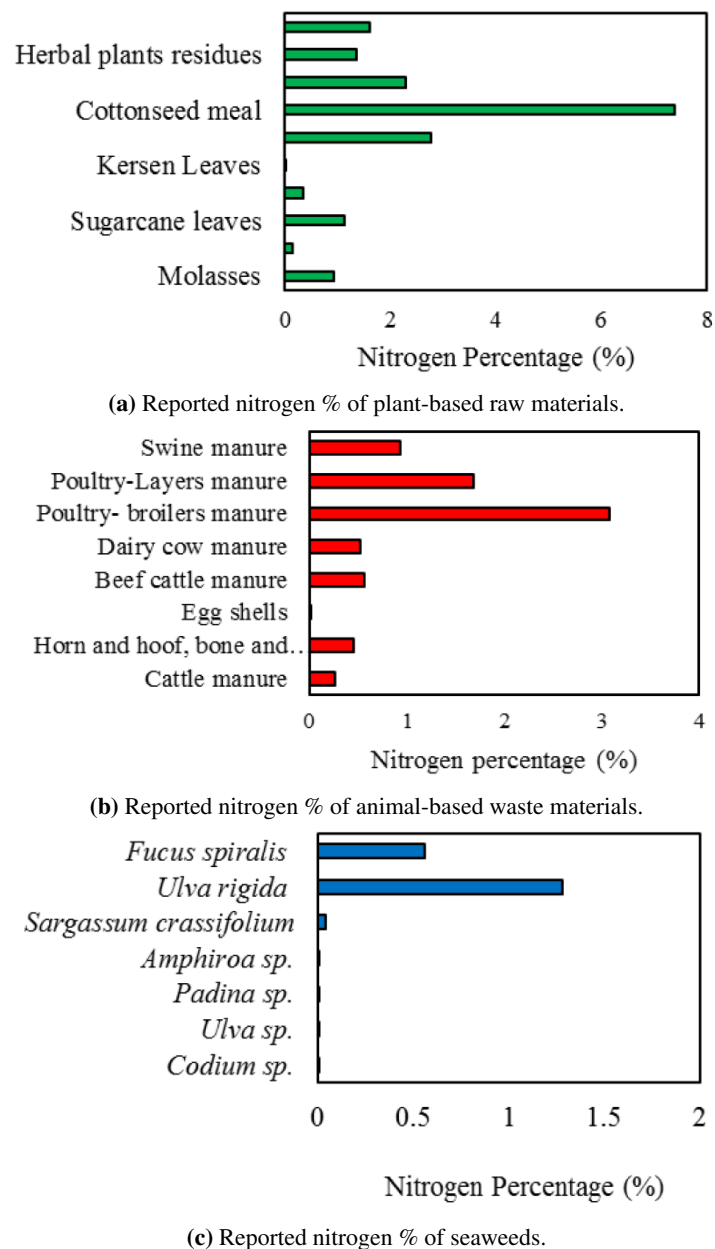
#### **Thermal hydrolysis (TH) for nitrogen enrichment process**

TH is a treatment method involving heat, pressure, and water applied to organic waste materials, like sewage sludge or food waste. It facilitates the breakdown of complex organic compounds into simpler molecules via hydrolysis reactions, releasing nutrients, including N, in a plant-accessible form. TH has proven effective in boosting the nutrient content of organic waste, particularly in terms of N enrichment. Research indicates that it significantly enhances N availability by breaking down proteins and other N-containing compounds in the waste, making the recovered N a valuable resource for organic fertilizer production (Gao et al., 2021). Despite its potential, TH faces challenges. High energy requirements and associated costs are primary concerns (Xie et al., 2022). Contaminants like heavy metals and pathogens

**Table 4.** Characteristics of thermally hydrolyzed LOFs.

Raw materials	Temperature (°C)	N%	P%	K%	pH	Reference
Food waste	180	0.17	0.02	0.03	-	Gao et al. (2021)
Broiler chicken manure	180	0.45	0.03	0.41	7	
Broiler chicken manure	200	0.38	0.02	0.41	5.5	Perera et al. (2015)
Layer hen manure	180	0.29	0.02	0.43	7.5	
Layer hen manure	200	0.28	0.01	0.47	6.7	
Infected pig carcasses	100	2.26	-	6.12	11.9	Kang et al. (2019)
Chicken feathers	160	0.71	0.01	0.05	-	
Chicken feathers	180	1.57	0.01	0.04	-	Nurdiawati et al. (2019)
Poultry litter	160	0.2	0.01	0.01	-	





**Figure 2.** Reported nitrogen percentages of major sources of raw materials used for LOF production.

in the organic waste may necessitate additional treatment steps to ensure fertilizer safety and quality.

Numerous studies have explored TH for N enrichment. For example, Kang et al. (2019) investigated alkaline hydrolysis using infected pig carcasses. They achieved an N% of 2.26% and K of 6.12% at 100° C, though P% values weren't reported. The resulting LOF had a pH of 6.12, indicating slight acidity. These findings underscore TH's efficacy in N enrichment for LOF production. Different raw materials and temperatures influence fertilizer nutrient composition, and pH values suggest the process can be adjusted for optimal plant nutrient uptake. Table 4 summarizes TH waste material nutritional content and pH.

Further research should explore parameters like reaction time and pressure to optimize TH for N enrichment in LOF production. Understanding these factors will enhance sustainable agricultural practices and efficient use of organic

waste.

### Nitrogen fixation by plasma activation

Plasma, the fourth fundamental state of matter after solid, liquid, and gas, is an electrically conducting medium containing unbound ions, radicals, electromagnetic radiation, and strong electric fields (Wang et al., 2020). While plasma processes naturally occur on Earth, they can also be generated artificially by passing an electric current through gas. Plasma technology has diverse applications in industries like food, agriculture, and medicine. It's widely explored for NO<sub>x</sub> production and direct conversion of N<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub> into NH<sub>3</sub> using plasma reactors (Li et al., 2018).

Recent research reveals that plasmas containing N<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, and H<sub>2</sub>O can produce nitrate, nitrite, and hydrogen peroxide in nearby water surfaces. Air plasma-treated organic fertilizer liquids decrease atmospheric NH<sub>3</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> release while

**Table 5.** Key findings from recent studies on the production of organic fertilizers using plasma activation.

Plasma setup type	Plant used for the experiment	Other treatments used for the experiment	Major finding	Reference
Atmospheric pressure plasma jet (APPJ)	Lentil	Tap water, demineralized water, and liquid fertilizer	By plasma-activating tap water, obtained high germination rates, higher stem elongation rates and final stem lengths.	Zhang et al. (2017)
Transient spark discharge	Wheat	Plasma-activated tap water, plasma-activated distilled water	The plasma-activated tap water (PAW) improves germination, early development of the seedlings, the content of photosynthetic pigments in the leaves and soluble protein content in the roots, and suppresses the activity of antioxidant enzymes.	Kucerova et al. (2019)
Pinhole plasma jet technique	Green oak lettuce	No nitrate in the nutrient solution and use of nitrate sourced from a commercial chemical fertilizer	Plasma nitrate could be an alternative source of nitrate N which provides a safer way for the environment and human health in terms of nitrate accumulation.	Ruamrungsri et al. (2023)

potentially increasing nitrous oxide-N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from fertilized soil. Nonetheless, plasma-assisted organic fertilizers (PAOF) reduce reactive N loss from agro ecosystems and enhance the commercial value of organic waste-based fertilizers by altering N quantity and form, while also reducing odors (Graves et al., 2019). Table 5 summarizes recent findings on organic fertilizer production via plasma activation, considering plasma setup types and experimental conditions. The commercial feasibility of PAOF depends on plasma process energy efficiency, equipment capital costs, and power expenses. These factors, especially crucial for developing countries, must be considered when evaluating PAOF technology viability.

#### Use of microorganisms in nitrogen enrichment

Plant probiotics, or bio-fertilizers, offer an eco-friendly alternative to chemical synthetic fertilizers, mitigating their adverse effects. These bio-fertilizers comprise beneficial microorganisms like bacteria, fungi, and algae, which support crop growth while suppressing plant pathogens. These microorganisms enhance nutrient breakdown and up-take rates and are integrated into both liquid and solid organic fertilizers to boost efficiency. This approach is cost-effective and user-friendly, making it highly sought after in sustainable agriculture.

Bio-fertilizers interact with crop plants, facilitating the absorption of essential nutrients such as N, P and K. For instance, N-fixing bacteria convert atmospheric N into ammonia (Sarhani and Yahaya, 2022), and similar processes apply to other major nutrients. Furthermore, they increase crop yield and profitability while mitigating the down-sides of chemical fertilizers. They detoxify pollutants, produce

bioactive compounds like hormones and enzymes, and induce systemic resistance, enabling plants to combat multiple pathogens (Nowruzi et al., 2021; Santoyo, 2021; Xue et al., 2021).

The genus *Bacillus*, found in the plant rhizosphere, promotes tomato plant growth (Kalam et al., 2020). Naturally occurring N fixers, including *Azotobacter* sp., *Rhizobium* sp., Cyanobacteria, and others, reside in the soil and convert atmospheric N into ammonium ions by releasing nitrogenase enzymes (Kumar et al., 2017). Inoculating these N-fixing strains into fertilizers can supply plants with sufficient N. *Azotobacter tropicalis* strains have shown significant positive effects on maize growth, stimulating a fourfold increase in crop yield (Su et al., 2023).

Moreover, there is substantial potential to discover more efficient N-fixing strains for incorporation into LOFs to further enhance productivity. Table 6 summarizes common microorganisms involved in producing N-enriched LOFs.

#### Nitrogen enrichment by membrane techniques

The use of membrane techniques for ammonia recovery in the production of LOFs is noteworthy. These membranes efficiently capture ammonia ions from various waste sources, such as livestock manure, industrial effluents, or sewage, curbing ammonia emissions and turning waste streams into valuable resources (Aquino et al., 2023; Vecino et al., 2019; Rodríguez-Alegre et al., 2023; Mayor et al., 2023).

In recent years, membrane techniques have gained attention for enhancing N content in LOFs while preserving organic integrity (Vecino et al., 2019). They offer an environmentally responsible solution for addressing plant N needs. Two membrane-based methods, membrane distillation (MD) and



**Table 6.** Microorganisms involved in the production of nitrogen-enriched LOFs.

Microorganism	Mechanism	Nitrogen Enhancement Outcome	Reference
Rhizobium spp.	Biological N fixation	Increased N content	Bamdad et al. (2022)
Azotobacter spp.	Solubilization of mineral-bound N	Enhanced N availability	Dahham et al. (2021)
Frankia spp.	Actinorhizal N convert atmospheric N into ammonia, which can be utilized by plants fixation	Improved plant growth	Santi et al. (2013)
Cyanobacteria	N fixation and biofertilization	Enhanced fertilizer efficacy	Chittora et al. (2020)
Archaea	Ammonia production via archaeal nitrification	Increased N uptake	Zou et al. (2022)

membrane contactor (MC), are well-recognized for ammonia removal and recovery due to the use of hydrophobic membranes that allow volatile ammonia gas to pass through (Zhu et al., 2023). Additionally, forward osmosis (FO) and reverse osmosis (RO) show promise in N enrichment. FO relies on an osmotic potential gradient to concentrate N compounds, while RO uses pressure to achieve the same goal (Rodríguez-Alegre et al., 2023; Courtney and Randall, 2023).

Recent research highlights the effectiveness of these membrane techniques in increasing N concentration in LOFs, as shown in Table 7. These methods consistently elevate N content, demonstrating their potential to enhance agricultural sustainability. Considering the available data, liquid-liquid

membrane techniques offer a sustainable way to produce N-rich LOFs by efficiently extracting and concentrating N compounds, aligning with organic farming principles. However, specific challenges exist with these technologies. For instance, hollow fiber membrane contactor (HFMC) technology may encounter membrane wetting issues that disrupt the process (Atspha et al., 2023). On a positive note, FO boasts advantages like minimal fouling and low energy requirements, prolonging its operational lifespan, particularly with certain feed solutions (Yi et al., 2022).

#### 4. Conclusion

This review concentrates on various methods and approaches to enhance the N content in LOFs. Among

**Table 7.** Impact of membrane techniques on nitrogen concentration.

Contractor	Membrane technique	Type of raw material	Recovered N %	Recovered P %	Recovered K %	Reference
Direct Contact Membrane Distillation (DCMD)	Membrane Distillation (MD)	Digestate is produced by a digester that treats cattle manure and agricultural residues	-	-	-	Aquino et al. (2023)
Hollow fibers liquid-liquid membrane contactors (HF-LLMC)	-	Urban wastewater	7.8	21.6	-	Vecino et al. (2019)
HFMC	FO	Pig slurry	28.3	43.5	46.6	Rodríguez-Alegre et al. (2023)
HFMC	-	Treated urban wastewater	10-15	-	-	Mayor et al. (2023)

numerous methods, the selection of raw materials with high N content, thermal hydrolysis for N enrichment, N fixation through plasma activation, the utilization of microorganisms for N enrichment, and membrane techniques have emerged as prominent strategies for LOF production. The analysis of raw materials has revealed that certain sources, such as animal waste and plant materials, exhibit higher nutrient profiles than seaweeds. Materials like cottonseed meal, bone and blood meal, sugarcane leaves, and alfalfa meal have demonstrated high N, P, and K contents, making them promising candidates for N-rich LOF production. Thermal hydrolysis has proven to be an effective process for N enrichment, breaking down organic waste into simpler molecules and releasing nutrients, including N, in a readily available form for plant uptake. However, challenges related to energy requirements, costs, and the presence of contaminants needs to be addressed for practical implementation. N fixation through plasma activation reduces N loss from agro ecosystems and modifies N quantity and chemical form in organic waste-based fertilizers. While commercial viability depends on factors such as energy efficiency and capital expenditures, the potential benefits of reducing odor and reactive N loss are substantial. The use of microorganisms, including N-fixing bacteria and plant probiotics, offers a biofertilizer approach to increase N availability in LOFs. These microorganisms can promote nutrient breakdown and uptake, improve crop yield, and mitigate the adverse effects of synthetic fertilizers. Future research in this area should focus on identifying more efficient N-fixing strains and exploring their incorporation into LOFs. Additionally, membrane techniques such as HFMC hold promise for sustainable LOF production by upcycling waste into valuable products, providing valuable research direction. However, to further advance LOF production, it is essential to identify new raw materials with high N content, develop efficient N enrichment methods, and assess the effectiveness of the produced fertilizers for sustainable agriculture. In conclusion, as the demand for sustainable and N-rich organic fertilizers continues to rise globally, the current review provides intriguing information about the recent developments in N-enriched LOFs, including crop yield improvements and sustainable farming practices worldwide.

#### Acknowledgment

This work is supported by the university research grant [Grant Number ASP/01/RE/TEC/2022/70], University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.

#### Authors Contributions

The authors confirm the study conception and design: Sajani H. Kolambage, Pradeep Gajanayake; data collection: Sajani H. Kolambage, Anushi Wijethunga; analysis and interpretation of results: Sajani H. Kolambage, Pradeep Gajanayake, Udayagee Kumarasingha, Danushika Manathunga,

Rohan S. Dassanayake, Randika Jayasinghe, Anushi Wijethunga, M.M.J.G.C.N. Jayasiri; draft manuscript preparation: Sajani H. Kolambage. The results were evaluated by all authors, and the final version of the manuscript was approved.

#### Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

#### Open Access

This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article's Creative Commons license and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the OICC Press publisher. To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>.

#### References

- Abebe TG, Tamtam MR, Abebe AA, Abtemariam KA, Shigut TG, Dejen YA, Haile EG (2022) Growing use and impacts of chemical fertilizers and assessing alternative organic fertilizer sources in Ethiopia. *Appl Environ Soil Sci*, 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2022/4738416>
- Aquino M, Santoro S, Profio G Di, Russa MF La, Limonti C, Straface S, D'Andrea G, Curcio E, Siciliano A (2023) Membrane distillation for separation and recovery of valuable compounds from anaerobic digestates. *Sep Purif Technol* 315:123687. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.seppur.2023.123687>
- Assefa S, Tadesse S (2019) The principal role of organic fertilizer on soil properties and agricultural productivity-a review. *Agri Res Tech: Open Access J* 22 (2): 556192. <https://doi.org/10.19080/artoaj.2019.22.556192>
- Astals S, Martínez-Martorell M, Huete-Hernández S, Aguilar-Pozo VB, Dosta J, Chimenos JM (2021) Nitrogen recovery from pig slurry by struvite precipitation using a low-cost magnesium oxide. *Sci Total Environ* 768:144284. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.144284>

- Atsbha MW, Farkash L, Bartal G, Nir O (2023) Extracting liquid fertilizer from ammoniacal pharmaceutical wastewater using Hollow fiber membrane contactors. *J Clean Prod* 418:138183. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2023.138183>
- Bamdad H, Papari S, Lazarovits G, Berruti F (2022) Soil amendments for sustainable agriculture: microbial organic fertilizers. *Soil Use Manag* 38 (1): 94–120. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2023.138183>
- Bisht N, Chauhan PS (2020) Excessive and disproportionate use of chemicals cause soil contamination and nutritional stress. *Soil Contamination-Threats and Sustainable Solutions*, 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.5772/intechopen.94593>
- Chittora D, Meena M, Barupal T, Swapnil P, Sharma K (2020) Cyanobacteria as a source of biofertilizers for sustainable agriculture. *Biochem Biophys Rep* 22:100737. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbrep.2020.100737>
- Courtney C, Randall DG (2023) Concentrating stabilized human urine using eutectic freeze crystallization for liquid fertilizer production. *Water Res* 233:119760. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.watres.2023.119760>
- Dahham AA, Arbi HN, Mohamed MJ, Kamal JAK (2021) Effect of chemical and organic fertilization and azotobacter chroococ-cum inoculation on the bacterial biomass and yield of tomato plant (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill). *IOP Conf Ser Earth Environ Sci* 735 (1): 012058. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/735/1/012058>
- Fahrurrozi F, Muktamar Z, Setyowati N, Chozin M, Sudjati-miko S (2020) Nutrient properties of tithonia-enriched liquid organic fertilizer as affected by different types of animal feces and its effects on fresh weight of loose-leaf Lettuce (*Lactuca sativa* L.). *Int J Adv Sci Eng Info Technol* 10 (2): 730–735. <https://doi.org/10.18517/ijaseit.10.2.4748>
- FAOSTAT (2022) Inorganic fertilizers 1990–2020. *FAO-STAT Analytical Briefs* 47 <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0947en>
- Gao S, Lu D, Qian T, Zhou Y (2021) Thermal hydrolyzed food waste liquor as liquid organic fertilizer. *Sci Total Environ* 775:145786. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2021.145786>
- Ginandjar S, Frasetya B, Nugraha W, Subandi M (2019) The effect of liquid organic fertilizer of vegetable waste and planting media on growth and yield of strawberry (*Fragaria spp.*) Earlibrite cultivar. *IOP Conf Ser Earth Environ Sci* 334 (1): 012033. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/334/1/012033>
- Graves DB, Bakken LB, Jensen MB, Ingels R (2019) Plasma activated organic fertilizer. *Plasma Chem Plasma Process* 39 (1): 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11090-018-9944-9>
- Green BW (2022) Fertilizer use in aquaculture. In: *Feed and Feeding Practices in Aquaculture*. Woodhead Publishing, 29–63. <https://doi.org/10.1016/b978-0-12-821598-2.00012-6>
- Guajardo-Ríos O, Lozano-Cavazos CJ, Valdez-Aguilar LA, Benavides-Mendoza A, Ibarra-Jiménez L, Ascacio-Valdés JA, González CN Agui lar (2018) Animal-based organic nutrition can substitute inorganic fertigation in soilless-grown grape tomato. *Acta Agric Scand B Soil Plant Sci* 68 (1): 77–85. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09064710.2017.1367030>
- Guan Q, Tang J, Feng L, Olin S, Schurgers G (2023) Long-term changes of nitrogen leaching and the contributions of terrestrial nutrient sources to lake eutrophication dynamics on the yangtze plain of China. *Biogeosciences* 20 (8): 1635–1648. <https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-20-1635-2023>
- Hazra G (2016) Different types of eco-friendly fertilizers. an overview. *SE* 1 (1): 54. <https://doi.org/10.22158/se.v1n1p54>
- Herawati J, Indarwati, Ernawati (2020) Test formulation of liquid organic fertilizer on growth and result of the soybean plants. *J Phys Conf Ser* 1469:012015. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1742-6596/1469/1/012015>
- Kalaivani S, Gnanavelrajah N (2021) Formulation of organic liquid fertilizers and their effects on germination of selected seeds and growth and yield of chilli (*Cap-sicum frutescens* L.). *J Dry Zone Agric* 7 (2): 77. <https://doi.org/10.4038/jdza.v7i2.29>
- Kalam S, Basu A, Podile AR (2020) Functional and molecular characterization of plant growth promoting bacillus isolates from tomato rhizosphere. *Heliyon* 6 (8): e04734. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2020.e04734>
- Kang SW, Jeong C, Seo DC, Kim SY, Cho JS (2019) Liquid fertilizer production by alkaline hydrolysis of carcasses and the evaluation of developed fertilizer in hot pepper cultivation. *Process Saf Environ Protm* 122:307–312. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psep.2018.12.017>
- Karami A, Homae M, Afzalnia S, Ruhipour H, Basirat S (2016) Organic resource management: impacts on soil aggregate stability and other soil physico-chemical properties. *Geoderma* 265:70–78. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agee.2011.10.021>
- Khater ESG (2015) Some physical and chemical properties of compost. *Int J Waste Resour* 5 (1): 72–79. <https://doi.org/10.4172/2252-5211.1000172>
- Kucerova K, Henselová M, Slovákova Ľ, Hensel K (2019) Effects of plasma activated water on wheat: germination, growth parameters, photosynthetic pigments, soluble protein content, and antioxidant enzymes activity. *Plasma Processes Polym* 16 (3): 1800131. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ppap.201800131>

- Kumar R, Kumawat N, Sahu YK (2017) Role of biofertilizers in agriculture. *Pop Kheti* 5 (4): 63–66. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-10-5343-6\\_2](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-10-5343-6_2)
- Latique S, Chernane H, Mansori M, Kaoua M El (2013) Seaweed liquid fertilizer effect on physiological and biochemical parameters of bean plant (*Phaesus vulgaris* variety Paulista) under hydroponic system. *Eur Sci J* 9 (30) <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10811-014-0455-7>
- Li S, Jimenez J Medrano, Hessel V, Gallucci F (2018) Recent progress of plasma-assisted nitrogen fixation research: a review. *Processes* 6 (12): 248–272. <https://doi.org/10.3390/pr6120248>
- Lubis E, Rini S, Syofia I, Pradana GY (2021) Use of liquid organic fertilizer fish waste and chicken manure fertilizer on the production of pumpkin (*Cucurbita Moschata*). *Int J Sci Technol Manage* 2 (5): 1775–1779. <https://doi.org/10.46729/ijstm.v2i5.348>
- Margalef-Martí R, Llovet A, Carrey R, Ribas A, Domene X, Mattana S, Chin-Pampillo J, et al. (2021) Impact of fertilization with pig slurry on the isotopic composition of nitrate retained in soil and leached to groundwater in agricultural areas. *Appl Geochem* 125:104832. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeochem.2020.104832>
- Martínez-Alcantara B, Martínez-Cuenca MR, Bermejo A, Legaz F, Quiñones A (2016) Liquid organic fertilizers for sustainable agriculture: nutrient uptake of organic versus mineral fertilizers in citrus trees. *PLoS ONE* 11 (10): e0161619. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0161619>
- Mayor Á, Reig M, Vecino X, Cortina JL, Valderrama C (2023) Advanced hybrid system for ammonium valorization as liquid fertilizer from treated urban wastewaters: validation of natural zeolites pretreatment and liquid-liquid membrane contactors at pilot plant scale. *Membranes* 13 (6): 580. <https://doi.org/10.3390/membranes13060580>
- Meers E (2016) EIP-AGRI focus group: how to improve the agronomic use of recycled nutrients (N and P) from livestock manure and other organic sources? *Starting Paper*, 0192–521. [https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004322714\\_cclc.2019-0192-521](https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004322714_cclc.2019-0192-521)
- Mousavi H, Solberg SØ, Cottis T, Dörsch P (2023) Nitrogen-enriched organic fertilizer (NEO) elevates nitrification rates shortly after application but has no lasting effect on nitrification in agricultural soils. *AFSci*, 131722. <https://doi.org/10.23986/afsci.131722>
- Muktamar Z, Fahrurrozi F, Dwatmadji D, Setyowati N, Sudjatmiko S, Chozin M (2017) Selected macronutrients uptake by sweet corn under different rates liquid organic fertilizer in closed agriculture system. *Int J Adv Sci Eng Inf Technol* 7:258–261. <https://doi.org/10.31227/osf.io/5rgsb>
- Nasira W, Adawiyah R, Sadimantara GR, Yusuf DN (2021) Effect of liquid organic fertilizer derived from moringa on growth of upland red rice lines crosses from SE Sulawesi. In *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Envi Sci* 807 (4): 042037. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/807/4/042037>
- Nasmia E, Rosyida A, Masyahoro A, Putera FHA, SN (2020) The utilization of seaweed-based liquid organic fertilizer to stimulate gracilaria verrucosa growth and quality. *Int J Environ Sci Technol* 18:1637–1644. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13762-020-02921-8>
- Nowruzi B, Bouaïcha N, Metcalf JS, Porzani SJ, Konur O (2021) Plant-cyanobacteria interactions: beneficial and harmful effects of cyanobacterial bioactive compounds on soil-plant systems and subsequent risk to animal and human health. *Phytochem* 192:112959. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.phytochem.2021.112959>
- Nurdiawati A, Suherman C, Maxiselly Y, Akbar MA, Purwoko BA, Prawisudha P, Yoshikawa K (2019) Liquid feather protein hydrolysate as a potential fertilizer to increase growth and yield of patchouli (*Pogostemon cablin* Benth) and mung bean (*Vigna radiata*). *Int J Recycl Org Waste Agric* 8 (3): 221–232. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40093-019-0245-y>
- Perera JACB, Nakhshiniev B, Gonzales HB, Yoshikawa K (2015) Effect of hydrothermal treatment on macro/micro nutrients extraction from chicken manure for liquid organic fertilizer production. *Br J Environ Clim Chang* 5:64–75. <https://doi.org/10.9734/bjcecc/2015/15434>
- Phibunwatthanawong T, Riddech N (2019) Liquid organic fertilizer production for growing vegetables under hydroponic condition. *Int J Recycl Org Waste Agric* 8:369–380. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40093-019-0257-7>
- Pujiwati H, Setyowati N, Wahyuni DD, Muktamar Z (2021) Growth and yield of soybean on various types and concentrations of liquid organic fertilizer in ultisols. *J Appl Agric Sci Technol* 5 (2): 74–83. <https://doi.org/10.32530/jaast.v5i2.28>
- Puteri AR, Setyowati N, Muktamar Z (2021) Growth and yield of sweet corn (*Zea mays* L. Saccharata) as affected by incubation time of preparation for tithonia (*Tithonia diversifolia*) enriched liquid organic fertilizer. In: *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Envi Sci* 637 (1): 012090. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/637/1/012090>
- Qoniah U, Ulmillah A, Maretta G, Sugiharta I (2020) Gamal leaves (*Gliricidia sepium*) as hydroponic nutrition for lettuce (*Lactuca sativa* L.). *J Phys Conf Ser* 1467 (1): 012019. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1742-6596/1467/1/012019>



- Rafiuddin AM, Iswoyo H (2018) Effectiveness of bio-slurry on the growth and production of soybean (*Glycine max* (L.) merrill). *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Sci* 1157:1–5. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/157/1/012019>
- Rodríguez-Alegre R, Zapata-Jiménez J, You X, Pérez-Moya M, Sanchis S, García-Montaño J (2023) Nutrient recovery and valorisation from pig slurry liquid fraction with membrane technologies. *Sci Total Environ* 874:162548. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.162548>
- Ruamrungsri S, Sawangrat C, Panjama K, Sojithamporn P, Jaipinta S, Srisuwan W, Intanoo M, Inkham C, Thanapornpoonpong SN (2023) Effects of using plasma-activated water as a nitrate source on the growth and nutritional quality of hydroponically grown green oak lettuces. *Horticulturae* 9 (2): 248. <https://doi.org/10.3390/horticulturae9020248>
- Santi C, Bogusz D, Franche C (2013) Biological nitrogen fixation in non-legume plants. *Ann Bot* 111 (5): 743–67. <https://doi.org/10.1093/aob/mct048>
- Santoyo G (2021) How plants recruit their microbiome? new insights into beneficial interactions. *J Adv Res* 40:45–58. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jare.2021.11.020>
- Sarhani NMM, Yahaya N (2022) Advanced development of bio-fertilizer formulations using microorganisms as inoculant for sus-tainable agriculture and environment—a review. *Malays J Sci Health Technol* 8 (1): 92–101. <https://doi.org/10.33102/mjosht.v8i1.228>
- Siahaan FR, Sembiring M, Hasanah Y, Sabrina T (2023) Chemical characteristics and plant growth regulators of organic waste as liquid organic fertilizer. *Earth Environ Sci* 1188 (1): 012001. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/1188/1/012001>
- Soler-Cabezas JL, Mendoza-Roca JA, Vincent-Vela MC, Luján-Facundo MJ, Pastor-Alcañiz L (2018) Simultaneous concentration of nutrients from anaerobically digested sludge centrate and pre-treatment of industrial effluents by forward osmosis. *Sep Purif Technol* 193:289–296. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.seppur.2017.10.058>
- Su Y, Wang J, Gao W, Wang R, Yang W, Zhang H, Huang L, Guo L (2023) Dynamic metabolites: a bridge between plants and microbes. *Sci Total Environ*, 165612. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.165612>
- Sutharsan S, Nishanthi S, Srikrishnah S (2014) Effects of foliar application of seaweed (*Sargassum crassifolium*) liquid extract on the performance of *Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill. in sandy regosol of batticaloa district sri lanka. *Am-Euras J Agric En-viron Sci* 14 (12): 1386–1396. <https://doi.org/10.12944/carj.7.2.11>
- Taghizadeh-Hesary F, Rasoulinezhad E, Yoshino N, Youngho C, Taghizadeh-Hesary F, Morgan PJ (2021) The energy-pollution-health nexus: a panel data analysis of low-and middle-income asian nations (No. 1086). *ADB Working Paper Serie* 66 (2): 435–455. <https://doi.org/10.1142/s0217590820430043>
- Tian S, Xu Y, Wang Q, Zhang Y, Yuan X, Ma Q, Feng X, et al. (2023) The effect of optimizing chemical fertilizers consumption structure to promote environmental protection, crop yield and reduce greenhouse gases emission in China. *Sci Total Environ* 857:159349. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2022.159349>
- Tsaniya AR, Dewi EN, Anggo AD (2021) Characteristics of liquid organic fertilizer from different composition types of seaweed between Gracilaria sp. and Sargassum sp. *J Phys Conf Ser* 1943 (1): 012071. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1742-6596/1943/1/012071>
- Vecino X, Reig M, Bhushan B, Gibert O, Valderrama C, Cortina JL (2019) Liquid fertilizer production by ammonia recovery from treated ammonia-rich regenerated streams using liquid-liquid membrane contactors. *Chem Eng J* 360:890–899. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cej.2018.12.004>
- Wang P, Xian Y, Mai-prochnow A (2020) Plasma activated water (PAW): generation , origin of reactive species and biological applications. *J Phys D Appl Phys*, 1–28. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1361-6463/ab81cf>
- Xie S, Zhang T, Mishra A, Tiwari A, Bolan NS (2022) Assessment of catalytic thermal hydrolysis of swine manure slurry as liquid fertilizer: insights into nutrients and metals. *Front Environ Sci* 10:1005290. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fenvs.2022.1005290>
- Xue L, Sun B, Yang Y, Jin B, Zhuang G, Bai Z, Zhuang X (2021) Efficiency and mechanism of reducing ammonia volatilization in alkaline farmland soil using bacillus amyloliquefaciens biofertilizer. *Environ Res* 202:111672. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2021.111672>
- Yerizam M, Norfhairna N, Margaretty E, Hajar I, Meilanti M, Supraptiah E, Silviyati I, Salsabila J (2022) Liquid organic fertilizer production from kersen leaves (*Muntingia Calabura* L.) and eggshells with addition of spoiled rice local microorganism (Mol) bioactivator. *5th FIRST T1 T2 2021 International Conference (FIRST-T1-T2 2021)*, 426–430 (Atlantis Press). <https://doi.org/10.2991/ahe.k.220205.075>
- Yi X, Zhong H, Xie M, Zhao P, Song W, Wang X (2022) Novel insights on fouling mechanism of forward osmosis membrane during deep thickening waste activated sludge. *J Membrane Sci* 660:120894. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.memsci.2022.120894>



- Zhang S, Rousseau A, Dufour T (2017) Promoting lentil germination and stem growth by plasma activated tap water, demineralized water and liquid fertilizer. *RSC Advances* 7 (50): 31244–31251. <https://doi.org/10.1039/c7ra04663d>
- Zhu Y, Chang H, Yan Z, Liu C, Liang Y, Qu F, Liang H, Vidic RD (2023) Review of ammonia recovery and removal from wastewater using hydrophobic membrane distillation and membrane contactor. *Sep Purif Technol*, 125094. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.seppur.2023.125094>
- Zou W, Lang M, Zhang L, Liu B, Chen X (2022) Ammonia-oxidizing bacteria rather than ammonia-oxidizing archaea dominate nitrification in a nitrogen-fertilized calcareous soil. *Sci Total Environ* 811:151402. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2021.151402>