

RESEARCH PAPER

# Production and optimization of cellulase enzyme using cheap substrates by *Aspergillus niger* isolated from soil

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Studies were conducted on the production and optimization of cellulase enzyme using cheap substrates namely saw dust, sugarcane waste, coconut coir waste and newspaper waste by *Aspergillus niger*. *A. niger* was isolated from soil, cultured and sub-cultured in the laboratory to obtain pure culture. Cellulase production was done by solid state fermentation using four substrates separately. The isolate *Aspergillus niger* was studied for its growth kinetics, cellulose enzyme production, optimum pH and temperature, and time profile. Growth kinetics of *Aspergillus niger* showed that the stationary phase reached between day 4 and 6. *A. niger* reported growth and enzyme production in all the four substrates but among the four, coconut coir showed maximum cellulase enzyme activity ( $3.0 \pm 0.10$  U/g) followed by sugarcane waste ( $2.8 \pm 0.12$  U/g), newspaper waste ( $2.4 \pm 0.15$  U/g) and saw dust ( $2.0 \pm 0.12$  U/g). The optimal pH and temperature for the maximum biosynthesis of cellulase by *A. niger* were reported as  $6.2 \pm 0.15$  and  $28 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$ , respectively. The production of cellulase was noticed after 96 h of incubation but maximum production of cellulase enzyme was reported in 120 hours.

**Key words** : Cellulase, *Aspergillus niger*, Saw dust, Sugarcane waste, Coconut coir waste, Newspaper waste

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