

# Biohole Effectiveness Analysis through the Distribution Pattern of Microbes at Each Depth in Real Time on humus Soil Integrated Smartfarming

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Article History:

Submitted: 09.04.2021

Accepted: 16.04.2021

Published: 23.04.2021

## ABSTRACT

This research was conducted on inceptisol soils, especially for plantations, with the aim of not only restoring the health and fertility of the soil due to the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides as well as seeing the pattern of EC distribution at each depth from the center of the biohole based on the time of observation. Through controlled microbial activity, its spread through two types of biohole, namely horizontal and vertical biohole. This research observes in real time through soil parameter sensors connected to the micro controller to changes in soil acidity, infiltration rate, conductivity electrolyte level and porosity level through soil infiltration rate.

Through simulations with 2 types of biohole, it can be seen the increase in EC in each depth to the time of observation in real time. From the observations of graphs and EC standards, it can be seen that the ability of the soil to provide nutrients in the root growth zone to support the schedule and distribution patterns of planting both during vegetative growth and generative growth periods. So that we will know the proper biohole distance and spacing in order to be able to provide vege-

tative and generative mass nutrition based on nutrient values monitored through sensors that change the analogue parameters in the micro processor into digital information transmitted by Wi-Fi in real time.

Inceptisol soils fertility simulation based on the number of microbial populations=108/cfu with variable 1: The effective depth for providing root nutrition to a depth of 30 cm with a soil fertility value or Electrolyte Conductivity/EC 1000 uS/cm to 1900 uS/cm is reached on the 10 to 60th day. Variable 2: The effective depth for providing root nutrition is up to a depth of 24 cm with a soil fertility value or Electrolyte Conductivity/EC 1000 uS/cm to 2350 uS/cm achieved on the 10th to 60th day.

Keywords: Biohole; Microbial; Alluvial; Micro controller; Horizontal biohole; Vertical biohole; Soil acidity; Infiltration; Electrolyte conductivity; Biosoildam

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## INTRODUCTION

The potential of inceptisol land is very large for agricultural business, but the structure of this soil layer is also easily damaged if managed incorrectly. The ability of farmers also needs to be improved, especially in understanding the characteristics of this soil. So that with Biosoildam technology it will save fertilizer use and increase crop production while preserving natural resources through soil and water conservation.

The current decline in carrying land capacity continues to expand (environment degradation). One of the main contributing factors is the decrease in the soil fertility, health and absorption (infiltration rate), triggered by excessive use of inorganic fertilizers (pesticides) [Widiasmadi N]. To restore the land's capacity quickly and measurably and to restore soil productivity as well, infiltration is not enough. Biological agents (biofertilizer) are needed to support soil and water conservation. However, so far, there has not been any periodical and continuous/real-time measurement of the monitoring and assessment system of agricultural cultivation. Thus, accurate information on a soil parameter in achieving a harvest target is needed.

Infiltration is the process of water flowing into the soil which generally comes from rainfall, while the infiltration rate is the amount of water that enters the soil per unit time. This process

is a very important part of the hydrological cycle which can affect the amount of water that is on the surface of the soil. Water on the surface soil will enter the soil and then flow into the river [Sunjoto S]. Not all surface water flows into the soil, but some portion of the water remains in topsoil to be further evaporated back into the atmosphere through the soil surface or soil evaporation [Suripin].

Infiltration capacity is the ability of the soil to absorb large amounts of water into the ground and influenced by the microorganism activities in the soil [Widiasmadi N]. The large infiltration capacity can reduce surface runoff. The reduced soil pores, generally caused by soil compacting, can cause a decreased infiltration. This condition is also affected by the soil contamination [Widiasmadi N] due to excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides which hardens the soil as well.

Smart-Biosoildam is a Biodam technology development that involves microbial activity in increasing the measured and controlled infiltration rate. Biological activities through the role of microbes as agents of biomass decomposition and soil conservation become important information for soil conservation efforts in supporting healthy food security [Widiasmadi N]. Such development has used a microcontroller to effectively monitor the activities of the said agents through the electrolyte conductivity parameter as an analogue input of EC sensors embedded in the soil and further converted to digital informa-

tion by the microcontroller [Widiasmadi N].

To control the activities of biological agents, other variables are needed, such as information on pH, humidity (M) and soil temperature (T) obtained from pH sensors, T sensors, M sensors. These sensors are connected to a microcontroller which can be accessed through a pin that functions as a GPIO (General Port Input Output) in the ESP8266 Module so as to provide the additional capability of a WIFI-enabled microcontroller to send all analogue responses to digital in real-time, every second, minute, hour, day and monthly. Furthermore, we can display this data in info graphics and numeric tables to be stored and processed in the WEB [Wasisto S].

**METHODOLOGY**

To maximize yields, optimal soil nutrient content is required ranging from vegetative growth to generative growth so as to save the use of organic fertilizers and other nutrients. This research is to observe the number of microbes that spread radially through the horizontal and vertical biohole as the center of microbial distribution which is observed in real time using soil parameter sensors. This research will show soil characteristics in its ability to increase natural fertility and the ability to nourish the soil from toxins that come from water and air pollution.

The study was conducted on alluvial land which for decades has been the source of livelihood for the community of Banteng Village Pangakalan Baru District Bangka Tengah Regency. Land management lacks soil and water conservation. People use chemical fertilizers and pes-

ticides excessively which harden the soil texture, acidify the soil and decrease the yields. Hardened agricultural land also triggers floods, since the soil's ability to absorb decreases. This research that took place from January – April 2020, intends to restore the carrying capacity of the land.

Tools and materials used in research are: Mikrokontroler Arduino UNO, Wifi ESP8266, Soil parameter sensor: Temperature (T) DS18B20, humidity (M) V1.2, Electrolit Conductivity (EC) G14 PE, Acidity pH) Tipe SEN0161-V2, LCD module HD44780 controller, Biohole as Injector for Bioisdam, Biofertilizer Mikrobial Alfafaa MA-11, red union straw as microbia nest, Abney level, Double Ring Infiltrometer, Erlemeyer, ruler, Stop watch, plastic bucket, tally sheet, measuremet glass, micro scale, hydrometer dan water [Douglas MG].

**Determining plot and sensor points**

To determine plots and sensors, this study uses purposive sampling at distances 3 metre from the center of Biohole with a diameter of 0.25 and 0.3 meter as the central radial distribution of the biological agent Microbe Alfaafa MA-11 through the water injection process. Infiltration rate and radial biological agent distribution can be controlled in real-time through measurement sensors with parameters: EC/salt ion (macronutrients), pH, humidity and soil temperature. And as a periodical control, the infiltration rate with a Double Ring Infiltrometer on the variable distance from the center of the Biohole are manually measured. Next, soil samples are also taken to analyze their characteristics, such as soil texture, organic material content and bulk density [Douglas MG] (Figures 1-4).



Figure 1: Clinical studies of AI in esophageal diseases.

**Installation of Double Ring Infiltrometer**



Figure 2: Instalation of double ring infiltrometer.

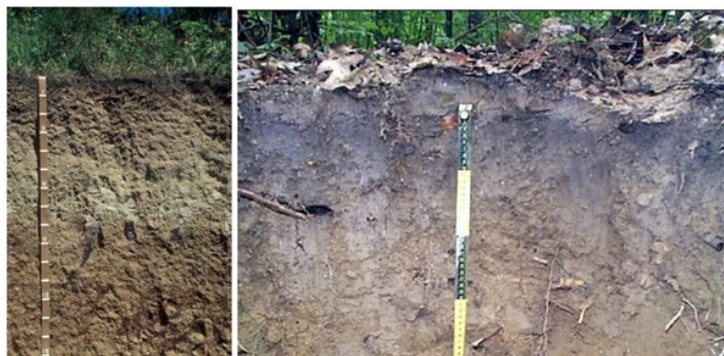


Figure 3: Inseptisol soil layers.

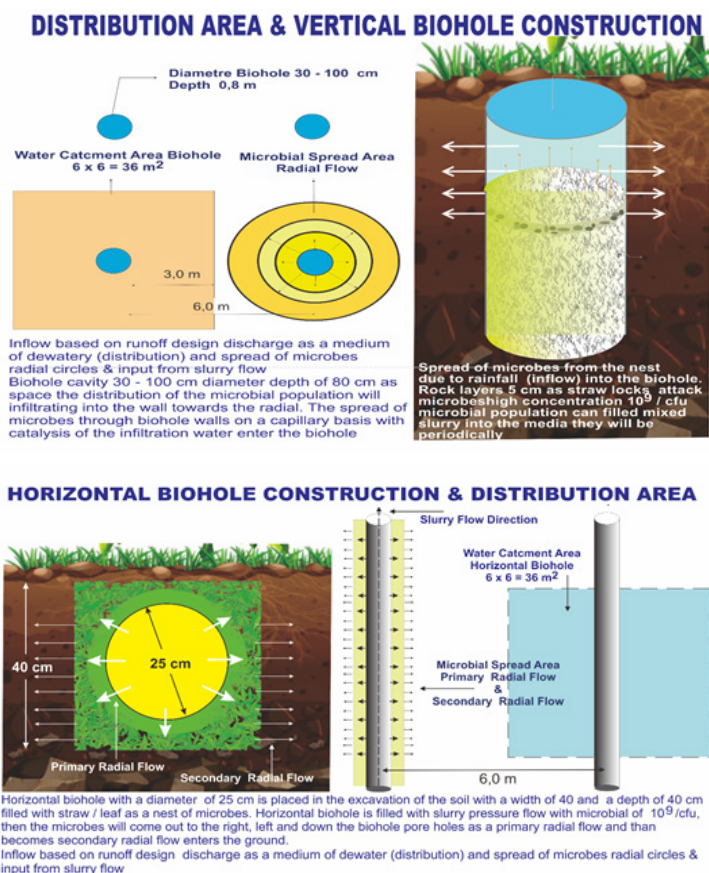


Figure 3: Inseptisol soil layers.

### Data processing

**Catalysis discharge:** Smartbiosoildam innovation uses runoff discharge as a media for biological agent's distribution through the inlet/inflow (Biohole) as a centre for the microbial populations distribution with water. The runoff discharge calculation as a basis for the Inflow Biosoildam formula requires the following stages:

1. Conducting a rainfall analysis,
2. Calculating the catchment area, and
3. Analyzing the soil/rock layers.

Biosoildam structure can be made with holes in the soil layer without or using water pipes/Reinforced Concrete Pipes (RCP) with perforated layer that will let microbes to spread radially. We can calculate the dis-

charge entering Biohole as a function of the catchment characteristic with a rational formula:

$$Q=0,278 \text{ CIA}$$

Where C is the runoff coefficient value, I is the precipitation and A is the area [Sunjoto S]. Based on this formula, the Table presents the results of runoff discharge.

**Infiltration:** Infiltration is the process by which water on the ground surface enters the soil. It is commonly used in both hydrology and soil sciences. The infiltration capacity is defined as the maximum rate of infiltration. It is most often measured in meters per day but can also be measured in other units of distance over time if necessary. The infiltration capacity decreases as the soil moisture content of soils surface layers increases. If the precipitation rate exceeds the infiltration rate,

runoff will usually occur unless there is some physical barrier. Infiltrimeters, permeameters and rainfall simulators are all devices that can be used to measure infiltration rates. Infiltration is caused by multiple factors including; gravity, capillary forces, adsorption and osmosis. Many soil characteristics can also play a role in determining the rate at which infiltration occurs.

The spread of microbes as a biomass decomposing agent can be controlled through the calculation of the infiltration rate at point radius from Biohole as the centre of the spread of microbes. By using the Horton method. Horton observed that infiltration starts from a standard value  $f_0$  and exponentially decreases to a constant condition  $f_c$ . One of the earliest infiltration equations developed by Horton is:

$$f(t) = f_c + (f_0 - f_c)e^{-kt}$$

where :

$k$  is a constant reduction to the dimension  $[T^{-1}]$  or a constant decreasing infiltration rate.

$f_0$  is an infiltration rate capacity at the beginning of the measurement.

$f_c$  is a constant infiltration capacity that depends on the soil type.

The  $f_0$  and  $f_c$  parameters are obtained from the field measurement using a double-ring infiltrimeter. The  $f_0$  and  $f_c$  parameters are the functions of soil type and cover. Sandy or gravel soils have high values, while bare clay soils have little value, and for grassy land surfaces, the value increases [Widiasmadi N].

The infiltration calculation data from the measurement results in the first 15 minutes, the second 15 minutes, the third 15 minutes and the fourth 15 minutes at distance from the centre of Biohole are converted in units of cm/hour with the following formula:

$$\text{Infiltration rate} = (\Delta H/t \times 60)$$

where:

$\Delta H$ =height decrease (cm) within a certain time interval,  $T$ =the time

interval required by water in  $\Delta H$  to enter the ground (minutes) [Zhanbin H, et al.]. This observation takes place every 3 days for one month.

**Soil characteristics:** The porosity of soils is critical in determine the infiltration capacity. Soils that have smaller pore sizes, such as clay, have lower infiltration capacity and slower infiltration rates than soils that have large pore size, such as sands. One exception to this rule is when clay is present in dry conditions. In this case, the soil can develop large cracks which leads to higher infiltration capacity.

Soil compaction is also impacts infiltration capacity. Compaction of soils results in decreased porosity within the soils, which decreases infiltration capacity. Hydrophobic soils can develop after wildfires have happened, which can greatly diminish or completely prevent infiltration from occurring.

**Soil moisture content:** Soil that is already saturated has no more capacity to hold more water, therefore infiltration capacity has been reached and the rate cannot increase past this point. This leads to much more surface runoff. When soil is partially saturated then infiltration can occur at a moderate rate and fully unsaturated soils have the highest infiltration capacity.

**Organic materials in soils:** Organic materials in the soil (including plants and animals) all increase the infiltration capacity. Vegetation contains roots that extent into the soil which create cracks and fissures in the soil, allowing for more rapid infiltration and increased capacity. Vegetation can also reduce surface compaction of the soil which again allows for increased infiltration. When no vegetation is present infiltration rates can be very low, which can lead to excessive runoff and increased erosion levels. Similarly to vegetation, animals that burrow in the soil also create cracks in the soil structure.

**Microbial population:** This analysis uses MA-11 biological agents that have been tested by the Microbiology Laboratorium of Gadjah Mada University based on Ministerial Regulation standards: No 70/Permentan/SR.140/10 2011, includes: (Table 1).

**Table 1: Microbes analysis.**

No	Population Analysis	Result	No	Population Analysis	Result
1	Total of Micobes	$18.48 \times 10^8$ cfu	8	Ure-Amonium-Nitrat Decomposer	Positive
2	Selulotik Micobes	$1.39 \times 10^8$ cfu	9	Patogenity for plants	Negative
3	Proteolitik Micobes	$1.32 \times 10^8$ cfu	10	Contaminant E-Coly and Salmonella	Negative
4	Amilolitik Micobes	$7.72 \times 10^8$ cfu	11	Hg	2.71 ppb
5	N Fixtation Micobes	$2.2 \times 10^8$ cfu	12	Cd	<0.01 mg/l
6	Phosfat Micobes	$1.44 \times 10^8$ cfu	13	Pb	<0.01 mg/l
7	Acidity	3.89	14	As	<0.01 ppm

Its application in Biosoidam is concentrating the microbes into “population media”, as a source of soil conditioner for increasing infiltration rates and restoring natural fertility.

**Microcontroller against Nutrient Content, Acidity, Temperature and Soil Moisture:** Indications of microbial activity on fertility can be controlled through acidity. The number of nutrients contained in the soil is an indicator of the level of soil fertility due to the activity of biological agents in decomposing biomass. Important factors that influence the absorption of nutrients (EC) by plant roots are the degrees of soil acidity (soil pH), temperature (T) and humidity (M). Soil Acidity level (pH) greatly influences the plant’s growth rate and development [Boardman CR, et al.].

Microbial activity as a contributor to soil nutrition from the biomass decomposition results can be controlled through the salinity level of the nutrient solution expressed through conductivity as well as other

parameters as analogue inputs. Conductivity can be measured using EC, Electroconductivity or Electrical (or Electro) Conductivity (EC) is the nutrients density in solution. The more concentrated the solution is, the greater the delivery of electric current from the cation (+) and anion (-) to the anode and cathode of the EC meter. Thus, it results in the higher EC. The measurement unit of EC is mS/cm (millisiemens) [Tian J, et al.].

This study uses an Arduino Uno microcontroller which has 14 digital pins, of which there are 6 pins used as Pulse Width Modulation or PWM outputs, namely the pins D.3, D.5, D.6, D.9, D.10, D.11, and 6 analogue input pins for these soil parameter elements, namely EC, T, pH, M. Analog input on Arduino Uno uses C language and for programming uses a compatible software for all types of Arduino [Green-gard S]. Arduino Uno microcontroller can facilitate communication between Arduino Uno with computers including smartphones. This

microcontroller provides USART (Universal Synchronous and Asynchronous Serial Receiver and Transmitter) facilities located at the D.0 (Rx) pin and the D.1 (Tx) pin.

This research uses the ESP8266 data transmission system with the firmware and the AT Command set that can be programmed with Arduino. The ESP8266 module is an on-chip system that can be connected to a WIFI network. Besides, several pins function as GPIO (General Port Input Output) to access these ground parameter sensors that are connected to Arduino, so that the system can connect to Wi-Fi [Schwab K]. Thus, we can process analogue inputs of various soil parameters into digital information and process them via the web.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### *Rainfall design and Frequency Duration Intensity (FDI)*

The rainfall design intensity was determined using rainfall data from Ngawi Station in 2009-2017. Statistical analysis was performed to determine the distribution type used, which in this study was the Log Pearson III's. Distribution checking on whether rain opportunities can be accepted or not is calculated using the Chi Square test and the Kolmogorov Smirnov test. Next, the design rainfall intensity is calculated using the mononobe formula.

### *Discharge plan*

The discharge plan as a MA-11 microbial catalyst uses the rainfall intensity for 1 hour since it is estimated that the most predominant rainfall duration in the area studied is 1 hour. The runoff coefficient for various surface flow coefficients is 0.70-0.95 [Sutanto], while in this study we use the smallest flow coefficient value, which is 0.70.

The discharge plan has various catchment areas, between 9 m<sup>2</sup> to 110 m<sup>2</sup> with a proportional relationship. The larger the plot, the greater the plan discharge generated as a biohole inflow.

The depth of Biohole in the study area in the 25-year return period ranges from 0.80 m to 1.50 m.

The absorption volume will determine the maximum capacity of water contained in Biohole. The greater the volume of Biohole is, the greater the water container is.

### *Biohole design*

**Vertical biohole:** Walls use natural walls with a 0.3 m diameter and a 0.8 m depth or the storage area of 36 m<sup>2</sup>. Organic material (slurry combined with solid pressed red onion straw waste) is used as a place for microbial populations/microbial sources. The top is installed pipe from ground tank to slurry flow from digester. Thus, when filled with organic material water, it remains stable to maintain the radial spread of microbes. The Biohole volume capacity for that dimension is 0.157 m<sup>3</sup>, with a catchment of 36 m<sup>2</sup> and the 25 year-discharge = 0.0000841 m<sup>3</sup>/sec and will be fully filled in about 15 to 20 minutes. This figure considers natural resources in the form of rainfall intensity of the study area which adjusted to the spread of microbes. Therefore, the water-emptying phase and the microbial population formulation phase can take place optimally.

**Horizontal biohole:** Walls use natural walls with a 0.25 m diameter and a 0.4 m depth or the storage area of 36 m<sup>2</sup>. Organic material (solid pressed padi straw waste) is used as a place for microbial populations/microbial sources. The top is coated with a 5 cm thick rock which acts as an energy-breaking medium. Thus, when filled with organic material water, it remains stable to maintain the radial spread of microbes [Widiasmadi N]. The Biohole volume capacity for that dimension is 0.125

m<sup>3</sup>, with a catchment of 36 m<sup>2</sup> and the 25 year-discharge=0.0000841 m<sup>3</sup>/sec and will be fully filled in about 15 to 20 minutes. This figure considers natural resources in the form of rainfall intensity of the study area which adjusted to the spread of microbes. Therefore, the water-emptying phase and the microbial population formulation phase can take place optimally.

### *Soil coating effect on biohole*

If land is covered by impermeable surfaces, such as pavement, infiltration cannot occur as the water cannot infiltrate through an impermeable surface. This relationship also leads to increased runoff. Areas that are impermeable often have storm drains which drain directly into water bodies, which means no infiltration occurs.

Vegetative cover of the land also impacts the infiltration capacity. Vegetative cover can lead to more interception of precipitation, which can decrease intensity leading to less runoff, and more interception. Increased abundance of vegetation also leads to higher levels of evapotranspiration which can decrease the amount of infiltration rate. Debris from vegetation such as leaf cover can also increase infiltration rate by protecting the soils from intense precipitation events.

Geomorphology of agricultural land and its surroundings is in the form of inceptisol lands. Soil consists of horizons that lie above the source rock formed from the interaction of various soil-forming factors such as climate, organisms, parent material and relief that occurs all the time. Different processes in soil formation will produce different soils that can be observed from soil morphological properties.

Inceptisols are young soil and begin to develop. Its profile has a horizon formation is rather slow as a result of alteration of the parent material. The horizons are not shows the results of intensive weathering. The horizons of accumulation of clays and iron oxides and aluminum are clearly not present in this soil.

Its profile is more developed than that of entisol. The lands that were once classified as brown forest, andosols and brown soil can be incorporated into Inceptisols. Most Inceptisols have cambic.

Inceptisol soil characteristics are:

1. Has a rather thick soil solum, which is 1-2 meters
2. The color is black or gray to dark brown
3. The textures are dust, dusty loam, loam
4. The soil structure is crumb, loose consistency, pH 5.0-0.7
5. Organic material content is quite high, 10%-30%
6. Nutrient content: medium to high
7. Soil productivity: moderate to high.

Inceptisols may be also found on alluvial deposits where temporary flooding alters the soil profile due to the deposition of soil particles on the soil surface and the soil profile become saturated. For example, Inceptisols in the southern Mississippi River Valley are developed on alluvial deposits. Virtually many pedogenic processes are active to some extent in Inceptisol profiles but none predominates. The genesis of Inceptisols includes multiple pathways depending on the processes occurring on a given landscape and geographic area. Environmental factors can slow down weathering (e.g. low temperatures, low precipitation, or resistant parent material) and soil development to form other soil orders is retarded or even inhibited.

Biological properties are still have parent material so there are still many microorganisms decomposition plant residue Soil There are still

many parent materials including plant litter. There are still main ingredients so there are still many microorganisms decompose the rest of the plant.

Chemical properties are pH close to neutral or higher (pH<4 soil problems) Base saturation less than 50% at a depth of 1.8 m COLE between 0.07 and 0.09 BO high (1.64%-7.78%). P content low potential to high and very low potential K to moderate. Potential P content is generally higher than the potential K, both the upper and lower layers. Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC) is medium to high in all layers. Low to high alkaline saturation (KB). In It is generally concluded that the natural fertility of Inceptisol varies from low to high. Physical properties are Most of the inceptisols exhibit texture class clay with fairly high clay content (35-78%) however some include fine clay with a clay content lower (18-35%). This soil type is widely distributed in the Bangka Island (Figure 5).

Inceptisol soil fertility simulation based on biohole type with

- Varibale 1=using vertical type Biohole diameter 30 cm depth 80 cm with microbial population 108/cfu, recording soil parameters is done every 5 days for 60 days at every 10 cm depth.
- Varibale 2=using horizontal type Biohole diameter 25 cm depth 40 cm with Microbial Population 108/cfu, recording soil parameters is done every 5 days for 60 days at every 10 cm depth.

The initial nutrient condition before simulating the soil fertility value with the Electrolyte Conductivity (EC) parameter is 1300 uS/cm, a distance of 3 meters from the center of the Biohole. From one point for every 10 cm depth, the EC value was measured to a depth of 90 cm, which was observed in real time every 5 days.

A. The results of observations and recording on the Vertical Biohole variable are:

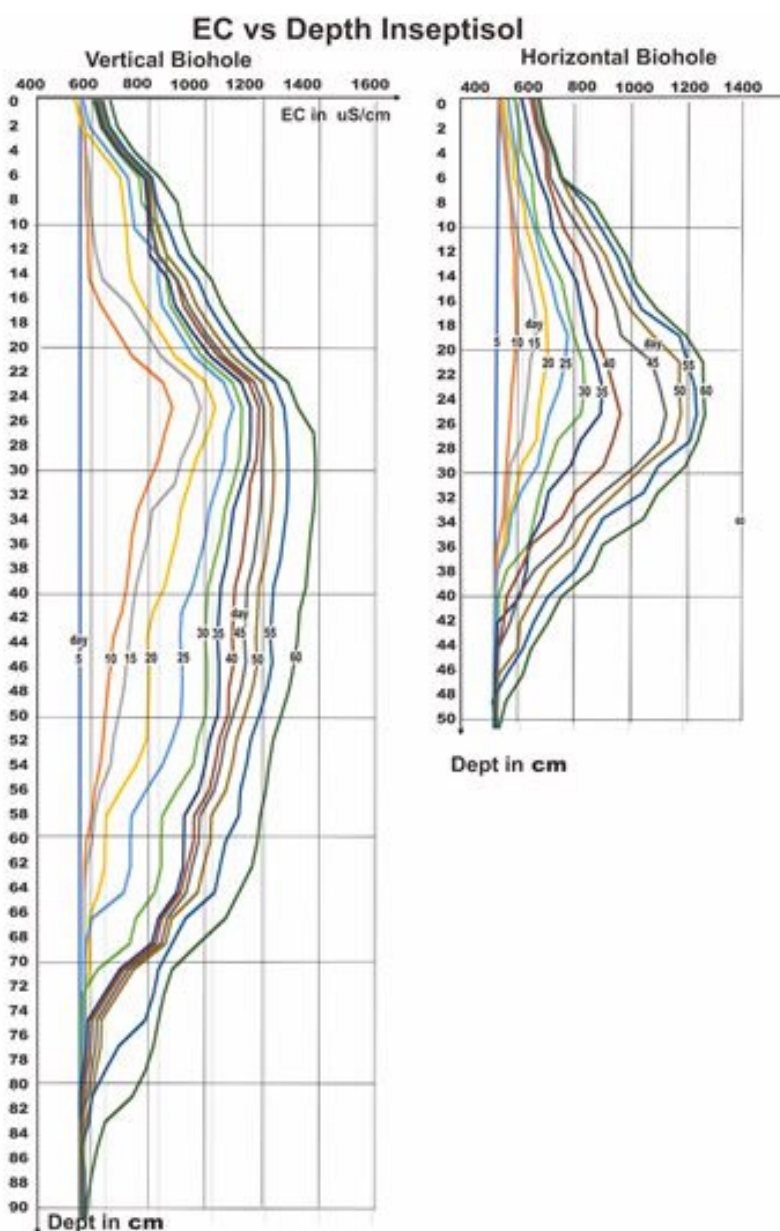


Figure 5: Graph of EC vs depth.

1. Soil Fertility or Electrolyte Conductivity/EC 500 uS/cm to 1000 uS/cm values are achieved at:

- 14 cm depth on the 60<sup>th</sup> day
- Depth of 36 cm on the 25<sup>th</sup> day
- Depth 66 cm on the 55<sup>th</sup> day
- Depth of 70 cm on the 60<sup>th</sup> day

2. Soil fertility or Electrolyte Conductivity/EC 1000 uS/cm to 1200 uS/cm is achieved at:

- 22 cm depth on the 60<sup>th</sup> day
- Depth of 38 cm on 50<sup>th</sup> day
- 58 cm depth on the 60<sup>th</sup> day

3. The effective depth for providing root nutrition to a depth of 30 cm with a soil fertility value or Electrolyte Conductivity/EC 1000 uS/cm to 1400 uS/cm is achieved on the 20<sup>th</sup> to day 60<sup>th</sup> day

B. The results of observation and recording on the Horizontal Biohole variable are:

1. Soil fertility or Electrolyte Conductivity/EC 500 uS/cm to 1000 uS/cm is achieved at:

- 14 cm depth on the 60<sup>th</sup> day
- 24 cm depth on the 30<sup>th</sup> day
- Depth of 30 cm on 40<sup>th</sup> day
- Depth of 35 cm on the 60<sup>th</sup> day

2. Soil fertility or Electrolyte Conductivity/EC 1000 uS/cm to 1400 uS/cm is achieved at:

- 18 cm depth on the 60<sup>th</sup> day
- 30 cm depth on the 45<sup>th</sup> day
- 36 cm depth on the 60<sup>th</sup> day

3. The effective depth for providing root nutrition is up to a depth of 25 cm with a soil fertility value or Electrolyte Conductivity/EC 1000 uS/cm to 1300 uS/cm achieved on 40<sup>th</sup> to day 60<sup>th</sup> day (Figure 6).

C. The soil parameters mentioned above can be controlled against the level of the infiltration rate, where the infiltration rate graph shows a constant value at a level of 70 to 100 cm/hour which is reached after the 30<sup>th</sup> day. While the EC value in stable conditions is achieved on day 30 with a value between 350-100 uS/cm. So that the activity of biological agents on Andosol soil with the infiltration level will be optimal on day 35.

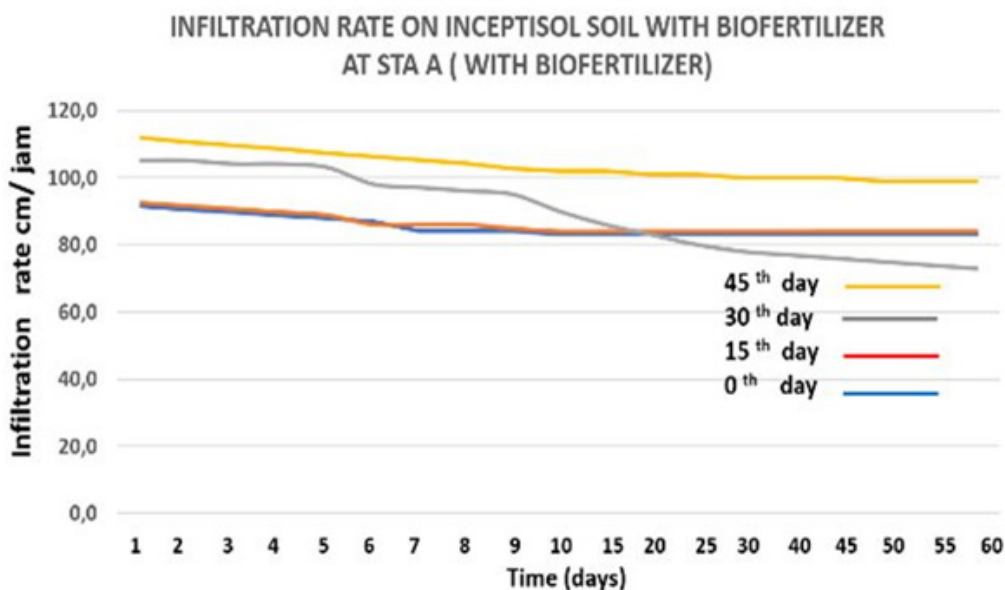


Figure 6: Graph of infiltration rate.

## CONCLUSION

- 1) Vertical use of Biohole in soil Inseptisol is effective for plants with root depths of up to 30 cm but it still takes more than 60<sup>th</sup> days for soil nutrient enhancement to reach above 2000 uS/cm.
- 2) Use of Horizontal Biohole is effective in plants with a root depth of up to 25 cm, but it also takes more than 60<sup>th</sup> days for the increase in soil nutrients to reach above 2000 uS/cm.
- 3) Soil surface Inseptisol is less effective at storing soil nutrients, but it is still quite effective for long-term plants with medium and deep roots, increasing soil nutrient value can be controlled by increasing the length of the depth and diameter of the biohole.

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