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Effect of Different Pre-Treatment Methods on Reducing Sugar of Rice Substrate to Enhance the Ethanol Yield

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ABSTRACT

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Ethanol production is also known as ethanolic fermentation in which sugars of biomaterials are converted into the ethanol and carbon dioxide that may be called as co-product of fermentation. In general fermentation is a bio-chemical process where decomposition of biomaterials takes place. During bio-chemical reduction the sugar compounds like sucrose, fructose, glucose and lactose are converted into the ethyl ethanol and CO₂ as by product of the fermentation process. The yield of ethanol greatly depends upon the amount of sugar content, conversion rate (fermentation rate), type of culture and aerobic and anaerobic condition. In this study the one of the agricultural produce i.e. broken rice was taken as the source of sugar for ethanol production because it has considerable lower market value as compared to whole rice. The substrate of broken rice was pre-treated with different method in order to release the sugars. The more the reducing sugar results higher the ethanol production.

Introduction

In the developing countries the use of fossil fuel is increasing that leads to the rapid exhaustion which cannot be renewed and leaving some serious environmental problems. To overcome the problems, the contribution of renewable energy is essential as non-renewable energy sources are limited and expensive. The alternative of the fuel is bio-fuel that may be produced from the decomposition of bio-materials. In general, the starch of biomaterials is broken down into the simple

sugar and then sugar is converted into ethanol and CO₂. The rate of ethanol production may depend mainly on the two phenomena the first one is starch content of biomass and secondly the amount of sugar which is available to break down and conversion rate of starch to simple sugar. The rate of releasing the reducing sugar can be speeded up by giving some pre-treatments before going to fermentation. The pre-treatment can increase the rate of biochemical process where starch to sugar conversion takes place. H₂SO₄ and enzymatic pre-treatment can enhance the yield of ethanol

production by improving the reducing sugar conversion rate. The substrate was pre-treated with sulphuric acid and α -amylase enzyme at different concentration for various times. The substrate treated with enzyme gives higher reducing sugars as compare to acid treated substrate. Now days the intention has increasing on use of bioethanol as commercial fuel because of its distinct characteristics like high octane number, lower cetane number and high heat of vaporization. Fermentation is one of the efficient methods for producing bio-fuels by reducing the biological compounds into ethanol. Fermentation is bio-chemical reaction where degradation of sugar components takes place. Fermentation of bio-materials produces ethanol and carbon dioxide as by product. Ethanol can be replaced instead of fossil fuels that may call renewable energy sources. The ethanol can be produce by fermenting the bio-materials. Basically, the in fermentation the sugar compounds are anaerobically reduced down into ethyl ethanol with the help of fermenting microbes. The yield of ethanol production mainly depends upon the amount of free sugar that is available for chemically conversion and microorganisms. To increase the production of free sugars and ethanol, different pre-treatment may involve before fermentation. Pre-treatments before fermentation may help in converting the complex sugar into the simple sugar by releasing the free sugars. Different pre-treatment like sulphuric acid and enzymatic reaction may perform to increase the ethanol production and thereby to produce an alternative fuel to replace the fossil fuels. From the last few decades, the production of bio-ethanol by fermentation has taken attention. An association has been surveyed that United States and Brazil are the world's top most lading countries at global level ethanol production i.e. approximately 90% (Demirbas, 2009). Now the days the other countries are too started the commercializing the ethanol production from the biomaterials

(Sims, Mabee *et al.*, 2010). In North America, the ethanol are producing by using mainly corn starch while in South America sugarcane straws, molasses and juices are using as feed materials for ethanol production (Spyridon, Euverink *et al.*, 2016). Fermentation depends mainly on the biochemical process where starch gets converted into the simple sugars. But the chemical reaction of starch to simple sugar may involves the basically two process as saccharification, where starch is converted into sugar using an amylolytic microorganism or enzymes such as α -amylase and another is fermentation, where sugar is converted into ethanol using *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (Inlow *et al.*, 1988). The aim of this study is to determine the effect of various pre-treatments on yield of ethanol production.

Materials and Methods

Selection and procurement of substrate

The commonly summer grown rice varieties (viz. IR-36, IR-64, MTU-1010, Danteshwari, Mahamaya HMT, and Javafull etc.) of the Chhattisgarh state collected from the Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding, College of Agriculture, Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur. The broken rice percentage was determined by availing the lab scale milling facilities available in Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding. After determination of broken percentage of rice varieties, the four rice varieties namely as: IR-36, IR-64, MTU-1010 and Danteshwari were selected for the study.

Preparation of the substrate

A known quantity (50 gm) of each rice variety (IR-36, IR-64, MTU-1010 and Danteshwari) was steep for one hour and cooked separately in aluminum cooker having 1Ltr. Capacity with equal amount of water (W/V) up to 5 min after one whistle on sim mode. After cooling

of the cooked rice, paste was prepared using pastel mortar. Further, 25 gm of the mashed (paste) substrate weighed separately and volume was made to 35 ml with distilled water for the hydrolysis of fermentable sugars.

Acid pre-treatment

The mashed substrate was pre-treated with 25 ml sulphuric acid (Plate 3.2) at different concentrations *viz.*, 0.5, 1.0, 2.0 and 2.5 per cent and kept at different incubation periods *viz.*, 2, 4, 8, and 24 hours at $28\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ for hydrolysis of fermentable sugars.

Enzyme pre-treatment

Commercial α -amylase (Diastase α -amylase) enzyme was prepared with buffer, 10 mM CaCl_2 at different concentration *viz.*, 0.5, 1.0 and 2.0 per cent and added to the mashed substrate for saccharification.

Estimation of reducing sugars

The reducing sugars were estimated (Plate 3.3) by following 3, 5, Dinitrosalicylic acid method (Miller, 1959).

Preparation of reagents

DNSA

One gram of 3,5, Dinitrosalicylic acid (DNSA), 200 mg of crystal phenol and 50 mg of sodium sulphite was dissolved in 1.0% NaOH solution and the volume was made up to 100 ml reagent was stored at 4°C . Since the reagent deteriorates during long storage due to sodium sulphite; hence, sodium sulphite was added at the time of use.

Rochelle salt solution 40%

Rochelle salt solution was prepared by dissolving 40 g of potassium sodium tartarate

in distilled water and volume was made up to 100 ml.

Preparation of stock solution of glucose

Standard stock solution of glucose was prepared at 1 mg/ml by dissolving 100 mg of D-glucose in distilled water and final volume was made upto 100 ml.

Procedure

Sample of 0.5 ml from acid pre-treated and 0.1 ml from enzymatic pre-treated hydrolysed sample was drawn from each treatment and delivered into thin walled test tubes and volume was made to 1.0 ml with distilled water. The reagent blank containing 1 ml of distilled water was also kept. Similarly, standards were also included ranging from 0.1 mg to 1.0 mg/ml of glucose. 0.5 ml of DNSA reagent was added to each sample, mixed well and kept on boiling water bath for 5 min. The sample was added with 1 ml of 40 per cent Rochelle salt solution before cooling and volume was made upto 25 ml using volumetric flask.

Absorbance in terms of optical density of the standard and the sample were recorded at 510 nm using visible spectrophotometer-106 (Plate 3). The standard curve of glucose was plotted on graph (Fig. 4).

Estimation of starch

The starch was estimated by anthrone method (Hodge and Hofreiter, 1962).

Preparation of Reagents

Anthrone reagent

Two hundred mg of anthrone powder was dissolved in 100 ml of ice cold 95 per cent sulphuric acid.

Preparation of stock solution of glucose

Standard stock solution was prepared by dissolving 10 mg of D-glucose in distilled water and final volume was made upto 10 ml with distilled water.

Procedure

Homogenize well-grounded rice sample of 0.5 g in hot 80% ethanol to remove sugars. Centrifuge and retain the residue repeatedly with hot 80% ethanol till the washing does not give color with anthrone reagent. To the residue add 0.5 ml of water and 6.5 ml of 52% perchloric acid. Extract at 60°C for 20 min. Centrifuge and collect the supernatant. Repeat the extraction using fresh perchloric acid. Centrifuge and collect the all the supernatant and makeup upto 100 ml. Pipette out the 0.2 ml of the supernatant and make up the volume to 1 ml with water. Prepare the glucose standard by taking 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8 and 1ml of standard solution of glucose. Add 4 ml of anthrone reagent to each tube. Heat the sample for eight minutes in boiling water bath. The samples were cooled rapidly and the colour intensity of the standards and the samples were recorded as 630 nm using visible spectrophotometer-106. The standard curve of glucose was plotted on graph (Fig. 5).

Fermentation

After hydrolysis of samples volume was made up upto 100 ml for fermentation. The hydrolysate from the pre-treatment was ameliorated to obtain 24°Brix by adding cane sugar. Brix reading of the samples was determined with the help of hand refractometer having a range of 0-32°Brix at 20°C and pH was adjusted to 3.5 by adding sodium bicarbonate. Activity of the natural flora of the must was suppressed by adding 200 mg of potassium metabisulphite and kept for 4-5 hours. The must was supplemented

with diammonium hydrogen phosphate (0.5 g/l) as a source of nitrogen and phosphorus.

The pretreated samples (100 ml) of rice varieties were inoculated with standard yeast, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* 3281, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* 3570 and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* 3640 @ 5 per cent. The samples were fermented anaerobically at 28±1°C in incubator at 90 rpm.

Estimation of ethanol

The ethanol was estimated by colorimetric method as described by Caputi *et al.*, (1968).

Preparation of reagent

Potassium dichromate solution

Thirty-four grams of K₂Cr₂O₇ was dissolved in 500 ml distilled water, 325 ml of sulphuric acid was added to it slowly and volume was made up to 1000 ml with distilled water to give 0.23N K₂Cr₂O₇.

Preparation of standard ethanol solution

Standard ethanol solution was prepared by dissolving 12.67 ml of 100 per cent pure analytical grade (containing 789 mg/ml) ethanol in 100 ml distilled water, which results in 10 mg/ml of standard ethanol.

Procedure

One ml of representative samples from each treatment was transferred to 250 ml round bottom distillation flask connected to the condenser and was diluted with 30 ml distilled water. The sample was distilled at 74-75°C. The distillate was collected in 25 ml of 0.23 N K₂Cr₂O₇ reagents, which was kept at receiving end. The distillate containing ethanol was collected till total volume of 45 ml was obtained. Similarly, standards (20-100 mg

ethanol) were mixed with 25 ml of $K_2Cr_2O_7$ separately and the volume was made up to 45 ml. The distillate of samples and standards were heated in water bath at 60°C for 20 minutes and cooled. The volume was made up to 50 ml with distilled water and the optical density was measured at 600 nm using visible spectrophotometer-106. The standard curve was plotted considering the concentration against absorbance.

Results and Discussion

Ethanol is a fermented product of cereals, fresh fruits *etc.* Ethanol from rice is produced after saccharification of starch by acids, enzymes (especially, commercial amylase) *etc.* Produced raw ethanol is a complex mixture of organic and inorganic substances like carbohydrates, proteins, amino acids, ethyl ethanol, organic acids, inorganic acids and micronutrients *etc.* The quality/ quantity of ethanol depend on the composition of rice. The ethanol quality differs with rice varieties and also with different yeast strains. The experimental results on screening of rice varieties and microbial cultures, standardization of pre-treatment methods for efficient hydrolysis for release of free sugar, screening of yeast strains for ethanol production and condition optimization are presented in this chapter.

Selected rice varieties

From the above table the following rice varieties were selected on the basis of higher broken rice percentage (which is higher than normal broken percentage) for further experiments.

Initial starch and protein content of different rice varieties

The data recorded on starch and protein content in different selected varieties of rice

are presented in Table 4.3 and Figure 2 (a & b) the obtained results clearly indicated that rice varieties differed in starch and protein contents. The highest starch content was recorded in IR-36 rice variety which accounts to 84.393 per cent, followed by MTU-1010 (83.067%) variety, which did not differ significantly with Danteshwari (83.067%) and IR-64 (83.003%) varieties. Highest protein content was recorded in IR-64 rice variety (7.997%) followed by IR-36 variety (7.370%) and both were significantly superior over other two rice varieties. Ramarathnam and Kulkarni (1988) and Sadhana Singh *et al.*, (1998) also observed wide variation in starch content (65-72%, 61.76%-77.95%) of 17 and 6 varieties, respectively. Damir (1985) reported that the parboiled and raw rice when milled contained crude protein of 8.14 and 7.67, respectively.

Effect of acid and enzyme pre-treatment

Among the different pre-treatment method acid pre-treatment, microbial pre-treatment using bacterial culture and enzymatic pre-treatment used for efficient hydrolysis for ethanol production. In the current study only acid treatment and enzyme treatment was analysed.

Effect of different concentration of acid pre-treatment on reducing sugar content in different rice varieties

Table 4.4 and Figure 3 indicate that maximum reducing sugar was released in IR-36 ranging from 5.299 to 11.534 with different acid concentration, with the mean 9.618 which is significantly higher in comparison to other rice varieties. On other hand highest (11.452) reducing sugar on mean basis was released in 2.5% acid treatment; however, 11.435 in 2% acid treatment was statistically at par.

Starch is a polysaccharide composed of glucose units. Hydrolysis of starch to obtain

glucose may be carried out either by chemical treatment or by enzyme treatment. In the above experiment rice starch was hydrolysed using various concentration of sulphuric acid. As the concentration of acid is increased the amount of hydrolysed product is increased up to an extent, after that increase in the concentration do not affect the hydrolysis as indicated in results. In the experiment production of free sugar increases significantly up to 2% acid concentration. From 2-2.5% acid treatment, production of free sugar increase marginally. On the other hand, production of free glucose also depends on the quality of starch (amylase, amylopectin ratio and degree of polymerization) which differ from variety to variety which is also indicated by the results, as IR -36 produce significant amount of free sugar in comparison to other varieties. Lee *et al.*, (2000) achieved 4 percent sugar solution by pre-treatment of cellulosic biomass with 0.07 per cent sulphuric acid. Geeta *et al.*, (2002) optimized the extraction of soluble reducing sugars from *Samaneasaman* pods by hot water and acid extraction and observed maximum release of reducing sugars (313 mg/g) at one per cent acid (H₂SO₄) concentration.

Effect of commercial α -amylase (Diastase α -amylase) on hydrolysis

An experiment was conducted to know the effect of commercial α -amylase pre-treatment on hydrolysis on different rice varieties. Reducing sugar content of rice differed at different incubation periods along with different concentration of α - amylase enzyme *viz.* 0%, 0.5%, 1%, and 2% level.

Effect of enzyme concentration on reducing sugar content at different rice varieties

Sugar content was highest from 5.269 to 48.237 mg/g (Table 4.11 and Figure 9) with all the enzyme concentration in IR-36, with

the mean 34.135 which is significantly higher in comparison to other rice varieties. On other hand highest (46.456 mg/g) reducing sugar content on mean basis was found in 2% enzyme concentration; however, 46.365 mg/g at 6h was statistically at par.

The results of the investigation (Table 4.12 and Figure 10) clearly revealed that reducing sugar content in control (zero per cent concentration) was 5.330 mg/g even at 7h. Maximum sugar was observed at 7h incubation period with 2% enzyme treatment in IR-36 rice variety. However, sugar content 69.920 mg/g and 69.952 mg/g with 1% enzyme treatment at 6h and 7h respectively in the same IR-36 rice variety is statistically at par.

Hydrolysis of starch was carried out using enzyme treatment. In the above experiment rice starch was hydrolysed using various concentration of α -amylase enzyme. The enzymatic hydrolysis of different biomass depends upon different parameters *viz.*, structural property of the substrate, bonding mode of action for enzyme, adsorption and desorption phenomenon (Sattler *et al.*, 1998). Enzyme digests the starch at faster rate than the acid treatment as revealed from the above results. As the concentration of enzyme is increases the amount of free sugar increases up to a limit, where other factor limits the enzyme activity as shown from the result that sugar content was significantly higher at 1% enzyme treatment in comparison to 0.5%.

However, the sugar content released by 1% enzyme was statistically at par to the sugar content at 2% enzyme treatment. Starch quality also affects the enzyme activity. Similar work was carried out by Aguirre *et al.*, (1978) and they reported that 0.1 per cent of α -amylase gives best results when tested on processing of pre-cooked rice and maize flours at different concentration.

Table.1 Selected rice varieties

S.N.	Name of the Rice variety	Source
1.	MTU-1010	I.G.K.V. Raipur
2.	IR-36	I.G.K.V. Raipur
3.	IR-64	I.G.K.V. Raipur
4.	Danteshwari	I.G.K.V. Raipur

Table.2 Initial starch and protein content in different rice varieties

S.N.	Rice varieties	Starch %	Protein %
1	MTU-1010	83.067	7.342
2	IR-64	83.003	7.997
3	IR-36	84.393	7.370
4	DANTESHWARI	83.067	7.200
		C.D. 0.581	C.D. 0.090
		SE(m)±0.175	SE(m)±0.027

Table.3 Interaction table of variety and treatments

Variety	0%	0.5%	1%	2%	2.5%	Mean
MTU-1010	5.247	8.867	10.902	11.409	11.448	9.574
IR-64	5.270	8.890	10.882	11.414	11.390	9.569
IR-36	5.299	8.767	10.989	11.499	11.534	9.618
DANTESHWARI	5.247	8.819	10.913	11.418	11.435	9.566
Mean	5.266	8.836	10.921	11.435	11.452	
					C.D.	SE(m)
					0.020	0.007
					0.022	0.008
					0.044	0.016

Table.4 Interaction of table variety and enzymatic concentration

Variety	0%	0.5%	1%	2%	Mean
MTU-1010	5.194	34.319	44.995	45.304	32.453
IR-64	5.240	33.842	46.477	46.420	32.995
IR-36	5.269	34.722	48.310	48.237	34.135
DANTESHWARI	5.192	34.273	45.677	45.863	32.751
Mean	5.224	34.289	46.365	46.456	
				C.D.	SE(m)
				0.334	0.120
				0.334	0.120
				0.669	0.240

Table.5 Interaction table of different culture and rice varieties

Variety	NCIM 3570	NCIM 3281	NCIM 3640	Mean
MTU-1010	4.013	3.998	4.005	4.005
IR-64	2.766	4.038	3.781	3.862
IR-36	4.064	4.085	4.039	4.063
DANTESHWARI	4.014	4.037	4.019	4.023
Mean	3.964	4.039	3.961	
			C.D.	SE(m)
Variety			0.010	0.004
Culture			0.009	0.003
Interaction			0.018	0.006

Table.6 Interaction table of enzyme concentration and rice variety

Variety	C1	C2	C3	C4	Mean
MTU-1010	0.495	2.982	6.257	6.286	4.005
IR-64	0.493	2.953	6.338	5.663	3.862
IR-36	0.494	3.067	6.340	6.349	4.063
DANTESHWARI	0.492	2.982	6.294	6.325	4.023
Mean	0.494	2.996	6.307	6.156	
				C.D.	SE(m)
Variety				0.010	0.004
Enzyme treatment				0.010	0.003
Interaction				0.021	0.007

Table.7 Analysis of variance (ANOVA) table for ethanol production with different cultures and enzymatic treatments in different rice varieties

Source of Variation	DF	Mean squares	F- Cal	C.D.	SE (m)
variety (A)	3	0.278	566.991	0.010	0.004
Culture (B)	2	0.096	195.964	0.009	0.003
Int. AxB	6	0.064	131.199	0.018	0.006
Enzyme% (C)	3	279.276	570507.832	0.010	0.004
Int. Ax C	9	0.246	502.232	0.021	0.007
Int. BxC	6	0.071	144.124	0.018	0.006
Int. (AxBxC)	18	0.061	124.155	0.036	0.013
Error	96	0.000			
Total	143				

Table.8 Ethanol production at optimized condition

Rice	Substrate concentration	Culture	Temperature	Agitation	Ethanol %
IR-36	1:1	NCIM 3281	30±1 °C	100 rpm	6.858

Fig.1 Standard graph for glucose using DNSA method

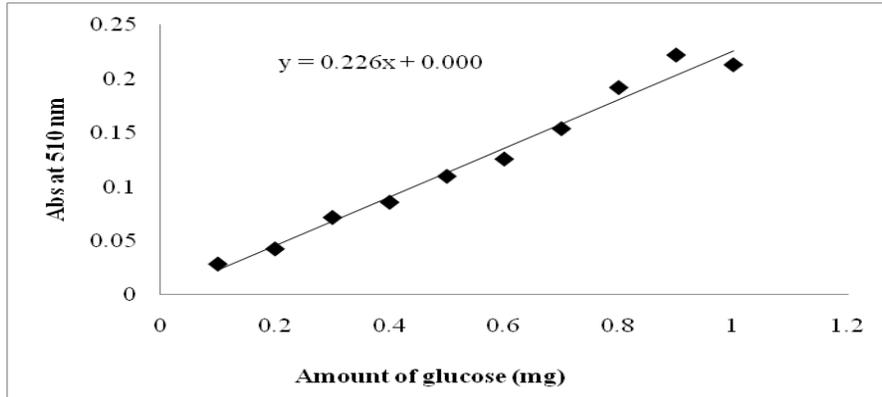


Fig.2 Standard graph of glucose using Anthrone reagent

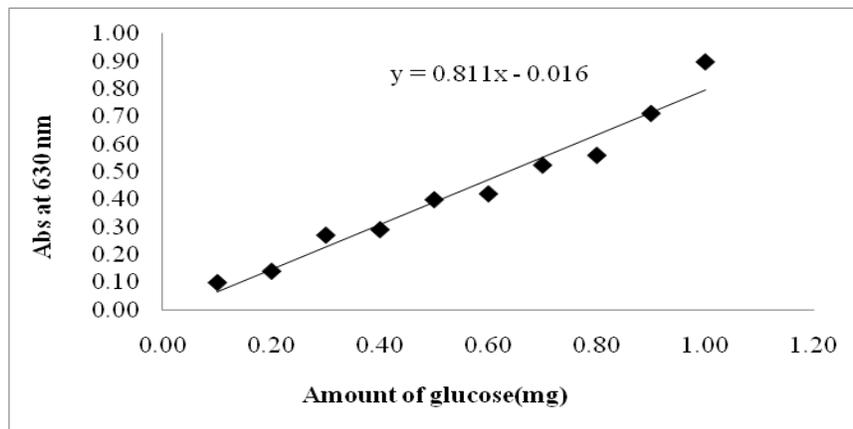


Fig.3 Starch and Protein percentage of selected varieties

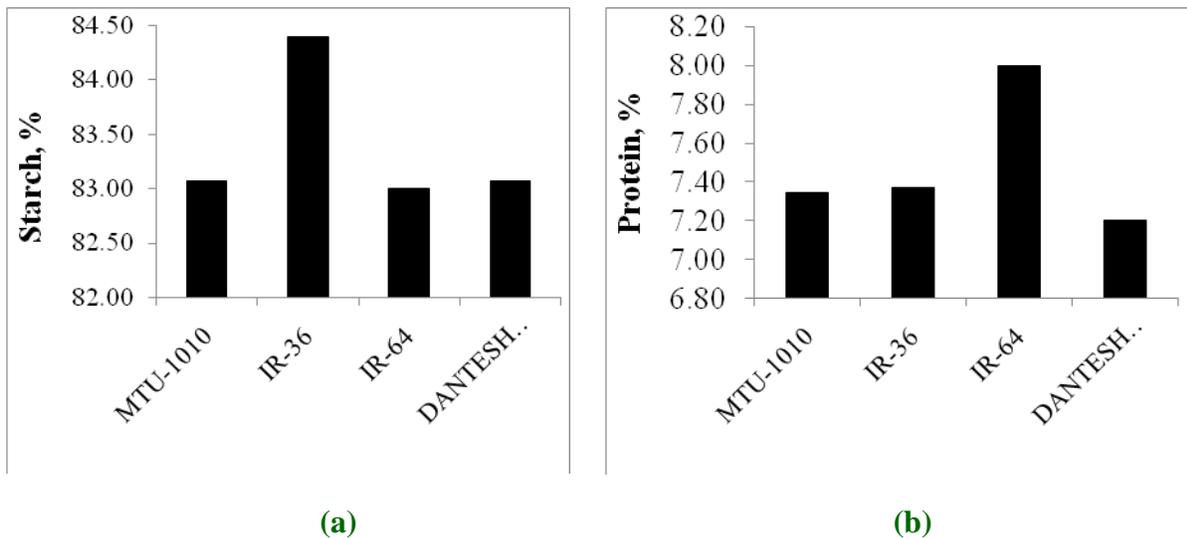


Fig.4 Interaction of variety and treatments

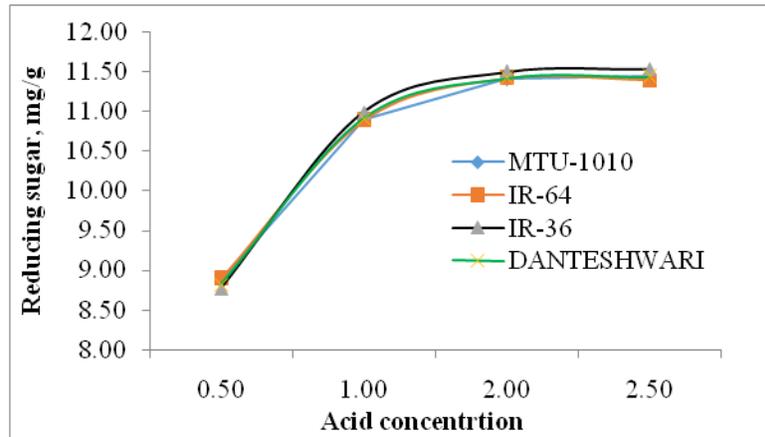


Fig.5 Interaction variety and enzymatic concentration

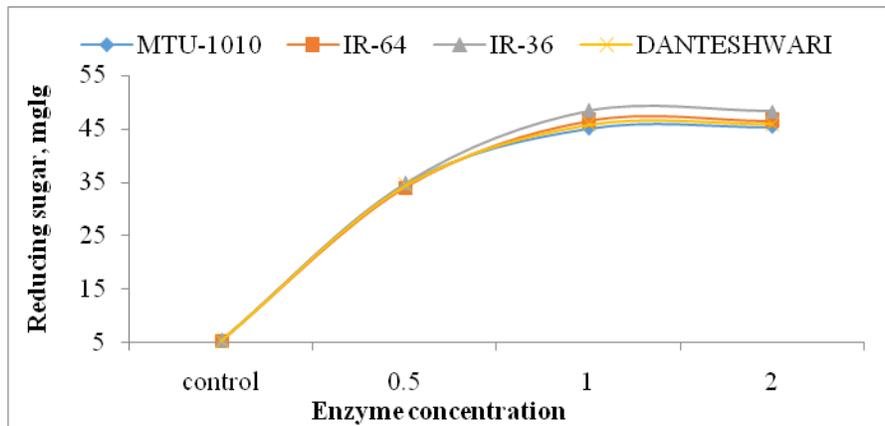


Fig.6 Interaction of different culture and rice varieties

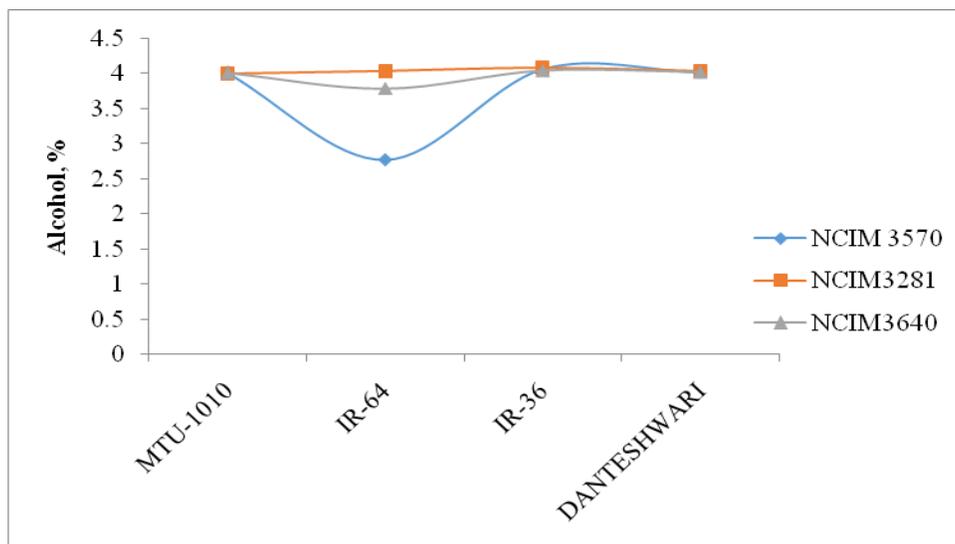
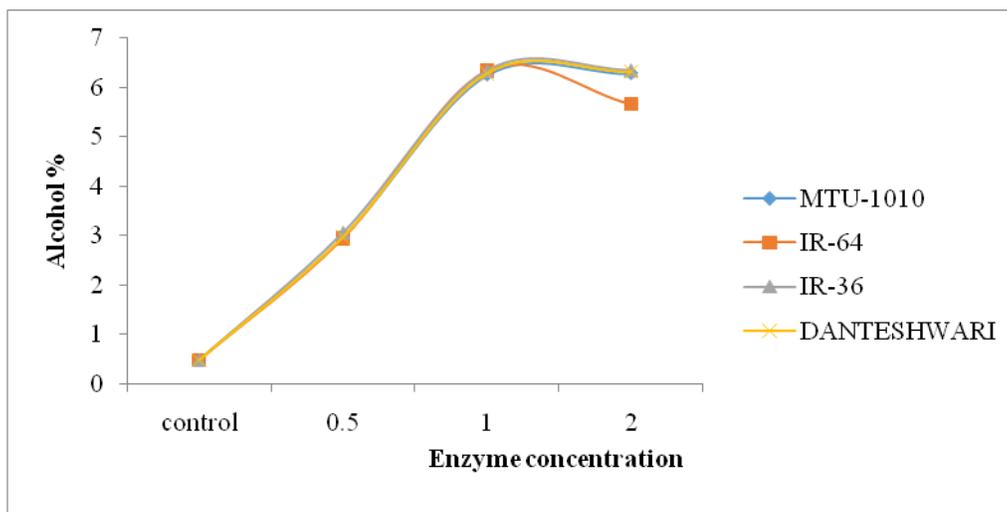


Fig.7 Interaction enzyme concentration and rice variety



Similarly, Brooks and Griffin (1987) observed maximum reducing sugars for both long and short grain rice varieties at 0.01 per cent (w/v) concentration and 70°C temperature. Complex starch (higher percent of amylopectine ratio with higher degree of branching) is less digested by the enzyme. Starch quality differs from variety to variety. Above results also reveals that there is a significant variation in release of free sugar among the varieties. Hence, from the above results it is inferred that reducing sugar was maximum in rice variety IR-36 followed by other rice variety. It was also cleared from the above results that enzyme treatment @ 2% was better but treatment @ 1% was at par. Similarly, the incubation period 7h gives highest amount of free sugar; however, 6h was at par.

Ethanol Production

Saccharomyces cerevisiae strains are known for ethanol production from various carbohydrates containing raw material. In this experiment raw material used for ethanol production was broken rice after pre-treatment (various percent of α -amylase treatment for 6h). Pre-treated rice from all the

varieties was further incubated with three different yeast strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* namely: viz. NCIM 3570, NCIM 328 and NCIM 3640 for ethanol production. The ethanol produced after fermentation was analysed using standard method and ethanol content presented on percent basis.

Effect of yeast strain on ethanol production from different varieties

Table 4.15 and Figure 4.11 indicate that maximum ethanol production was found in IR-36 ranging from 4.064 to 4.039% with all three different cultures, with the mean 4.063 which is significantly higher in comparison to other rice varieties, while IR-64 produces least ethanol (3.862%) on the mean basis. On other hand significantly higher ethanol (4.039) percentage on mean basis was produced with yeast strain NCIM 3281.

Effect of enzymatic concentration on ethanol production in different rice varieties

From the Table 4.16 and Figure 4.12 it can be inferred that maximum ethanol production is found in IR-36 ranging from 0.494 to 6.349%

with different concentration of enzyme, with the mean 4.063% which is significantly higher in comparison to other rice varieties. On other side highest ethanol (6.307) percentage on mean basis was observed with pre-treatment of 1 % enzyme concentration for 6h.

Effect of enzyme pre-treatment, different cultures and rice varieties on ethanol production

Ethanol is produced by the yeast through fermentation process. Yeast strain differs in their capacity to produce ethanol and ethanol production from the yeast strain also affected by the other factors. In the above experiment three yeast strains were incubated with substrate from four different rice varieties treated at four different enzyme concentrations. From the results of the above experiment it is revealed that rice variety IR-36 treated with 1% α -amylase enzyme produce significantly higher ethanol (6.386%) with NCIM 3281 strain, while IR-64 produce least amount of ethanol.

Referring the ANOVA (Table 4.19) it was observed that the varieties, enzyme treatment and yeast strain along with their interactions significantly affect the ethanol production at 5% confidence level.

Ethanol production at optimized conditions

Ethanol was produced by following all the optimized conditions from IR-36 with *S. cerevisiae* NCIM 3281 and it was recorded 6.858%.

From the above study it seems like the pre-treatment of rice substrate by enzyme is more enough to release the reducing sugar from starch. So it can be concluded that the pre-treatment with different concentration of enzyme is best for maximum ethanol

production as compare to acid pre-treatment. From the study it can be concluded that the enzyme concentration of 1% and hydrolysis time of 6h gives the maximum ethanol production.

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Conflict of interest

No conflicts of interest.

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