

Editor's Comment:

1 Title

- Title can be more informative such as "Effect of chitosan coated immobilized algal cells as plant growth promoter in *Vigna radiata* L."
- South Gujarat word can be mentioned in the materials and method.

2 Abstract

- Corrections are mentioned in the manuscript file.
- Some incorrect phrases have been used, need to check.

3. Introduction

- Need to align introduction in the direction of the research. Like, the present introduction gives general information of plant growth promotion by biofertilizers in general, not related to algae as a biofertilizer.
- Should have enough information pertaining to the mode of action of algae and source as well as effect of chitosan with suitable supporting references.
- References in the text are not as per guidelines. They have been shown like (Boraste et al., 2009). Instead of [1] as per authors guideline. This is applicable for all the references.

4. Materials and methods

- Need detailed methodology for isolation of algae with suitable reference.
- Many other mistakes have been marked in the manuscript.
- Identification of algae was performed by only microscopic observation that need to confirm with molecular methods as only microscopic methods are not that much accurate.
- Along with absolute control, plain beads and chitosan coated beads (both without algae) should be taken as treatment, to know the impact of sodium alginate, CaCl₂ and chitosan on all the parameters of mungbean. (Improvement in the mungbean parameters may be just due to calcium chloride, sodium alginate or chitosan rather than algae. This need to prove scientifically by taking above treatments).

5. Results

- Vigour percent can be worked out instead of germination percent as all the treatment showed same germination percent.
- The biggest point need to consider is that the analysis of several parameters like nitrogen, phosphorus, chlorophyll, etc. were analyzed without any statistical tools. Appropriate methods (CRD) must be employed for data analysis by considering standard degree of freedom for effective data presentation.

6. Discussion

- In discussion, there must be proper mention for mode of action of chitosan coated algal cells.
- References have been given but none of them are in support of immobilized cells. They are only related to foliar application of algal extracts.

7. Conclusion

- It looks like discussion. There should be meaningful conclusion pertaining to the immobilization advantages, constraints, etc. Cost benefits should also be worked out over conventional biofertilizers available in the market.

8. References

- Not arranged as per the authors guideline of the journal.

9. Overall

- Manuscript needs serious (major) corrections, including correctness in the phrases, grammar and all above mentioned aspects.
- Current manuscript is poor in scientific writing and need much improvement to maintain journal quality standards.

10. Final verdict

In current form, manuscript should be rejected. We may reconsider if authors could justify and address above queries.

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