

Growth Response of Cocoa Seedlings (*Theobroma cacao* L.) ICCRI 06 Clone with Application of Manure and *Trichoderma* sp.

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1 MAIN TEXT

2 **4** 3 **Growth Response of Cocoa Seedlings (*Theobroma cacao* L.) ICCRI 06 Clone with Application of Manure** 4 **and *Trichoderma* sp.**

5 6 ABSTRACT

7 **4** The growth of cocoa seedlings (*Theobroma cacao* L.) is influenced by **20** the use of the type of planting medium and the presence
8 of supporting microorganisms, such as the *Trichoderma* sp. **1** This research aims to determine the effect of giving *Trichoderma*
9 and manure **24** on the growth of cocoa seedlings. The research used a factorial **19** Randomized Block Design (RBD) method consisting
10 of 9 treatments which were repeated 3 times, so there were 27 experimental units. Factor 1 is Chicken Manure by 200, 300 and
11 400 g/polybag, factor 2 is *Trichoderma* sp with different level of mixing. **8** The parameters observed were plant height, number of
12 leaves, stem diameter, wet weight of the crown, wet weight of the roots, dry weight of the crown, dry weight of the roots. The
13 research results showed that M3 (400 g/polybag) gave the best results for the parameters of stem diameter, crown wet weight,
14 root wet weight and root dry weight of cocoa plants. Giving *Trichoderma* sp. at a level of 10 ml/L gave the best results for stem
15 diameter, root wet weight and root dry weight. The research results provide a positive contribution to the application of a
16 combination of chicken manure (M1:200 g/polybag) with *Trichoderma* sp. (P2: 10 ml/l) on stem diameter and root wet weight.
17

18 Keywords: biofertilizer, chicken manure, cocoa seeds, dosage

19 20 INTRODUCTION

21 Cocoa (*Theobroma cacao* L.) is a potential plantation crop commodity to support the economy in Indonesia. According
22 to 2019 Central Statistics Agency data, cocoa productivity in 2019 was able to produce 243,000 tons. Naturally, a variety of
23 factors affect the export of goods to the global (international) market. In the case of cocoa beans, these factors include production
24 volume, local and international prices, and currency rates (Putri & Prihantanti, 2020). The Directorate General of Plantations,
25 Ministry of Agriculture (2023) noted that although there was a decrease in the area of cocoa plantations from 2022 to 2023,
26 namely from 1,442 thousand hectares to 1,389 thousand hectares in 2023, Indonesia's cocoa production reached 692,198 tons.

27 Significant and sustainable production results cannot be separated from cultivation activities in accordance with GAP
28 **13** (*Good Agriculture Practice*). Good cocoa breeding techniques are one of the important aspects in cocoa cultivation. The goal is
29 to produce good, quality ready-to-plant seeds that can later produce maximum production. Failure in breeding activities must be
30 suppressed to produce quality seeds. Some of the contributing factors are the use of poor plant materials, less than optimal
31 cultivation technology, plant age and problems with pest and disease attacks. Unhealthy seeds will **37** have a major impact on the
32 productivity and quality of cocoa beans. The low quality of cocoa beans can be overcome by overcoming the problem of low
33 quality cocoa beans through sanitation, pest control, fertilization, pruning, and selecting seed sources with superior clones
34 (Wahyuni & Ndwes, 2023). Cocoa seeds have an important role in farming, because this plant has a long economic life of up
35 to 37 years. Selecting the right seeds is the key to farmer success (Dewi et al., 2023).

36 The use of superior clones, such as ICCRI 06 clone, in breeding can help overcome reduced production due to disease
37 attacks. The ICCRI 06 clone, the result of crossing Cocoa TSH 858 and KW 162, was proven to be very resistant to two types
38 of detrimental diseases, namely fruit rot and Vascular Streak Dieback (VSD) (Setiawan et al., 2020). Intensive maintenance
39 during the nursery phase can improve the quality of seedlings, one of which is by using appropriate organic growing media
40 (Falieza et al., 2022). The optimal planting medium is one that is able to provide sufficient water and nutrient requirements for

41 the growth of plant seeds. This can be found in soil with good air circulation that has a sturdy aggregate structure, optimal water
42 retention capacity, and adequate root space (Ahmad et al., 2022).

43 Using different planting media compositions can affect the growth of cocoa seedlings (Nugroho et al., 2021). Fertilizer
44 from chicken manure, which contains relatively high levels of nutrients, not only acts as a provider of additional nutrients, but
45 is also useful for improving soil structure and increasing the activity of microorganisms (Setiawan, 2022). Analysis shows that
46 chicken manure has an N content of 1.31%, P 1.68%, and K 2.43% (Tarigan et al., 2014). In horticulture such as shallot, the
47 average plant height at 14 and 35 days of planting, tuber diameter, average tuber wet weight per hill, and average tuber dry
48 weight per hill were all significantly impacted by the independent influence of chicken manure.

49 One strategy for optimizing the use of organic materials in planting media, such as compost, is to add microbes such as
50 the *Trichoderma* sp. (Siswadi et al., 2023). There needs to be a combination of environmentally friendly science, one of which
51 is using beneficial microorganisms (Dinata et al., 2021). *Trichoderma* is one of the beneficial fungi that can inhibit the pathogens
52 (Dinata, 2023; Dinata et al., 2023). This not only has antagonistic properties against disease but also acts as a decomposer of
53 organic matter in the soil. *Trichoderma* sp. is one of the types of fungi that are found in almost all types of soil and in various
54 habitats which is one of the types of antagonism fungi that can be used as a biological agent controlling soil pathogens. This
55 beneficial fungi can multiply quickly in the root area of plants (Gunawaty et al., 2014). *Trichoderma* sp. is a saprophytic soil
56 microorganism that naturally attacks pathogenic fungi and is beneficial for plants (Inayati et al., 2020; Tyśkiewicz et al., 2022).
57 *Trichoderma* sp. helps speed up the process of breaking down micro and macro nutrients that are really needed by plants (Isnaini
58 et al., 2021). Many studies have shown that *Trichoderma* can be combined with manure such as goat manure (Fatur et al., 2023).

59 This research will contribute to supporting sustainable agriculture, namely by utilizing chicken manure waste with
60 control using biological agents which is an option that needs to be developed, because it is relatively cheap and easy to do, and
61 environmentally friendly. The development of cocoa seedlings and other commodity, the utilization of local resources is a priority
62 in order to minimize the cost of crop production. Abundant local resources in agricultural areas include the availability of natural
63 materials in the form of livestock waste. Livestock waste is processed into manure. In this case, the utilization of *Trichoderma*
64 sp. can provide additional nutrients, growth regulator compounds for plants (hormonal), and increase soil fertility biologically.
65 Therefore, it is necessary to study the effect of *Trichoderma* sp. combined with chicken manure on the growth and production
66 of cocoa seedlings (*Theobroma cacao* L.).

67

68 MATERIALS AND METHODS (Times New Roman 10)

69 This research was carried out from August to November 2023 located at the Research Land of Politeknik Negeri Jember
70 in -8.158846618712836, 113.72312636544673. The tools used are hoes, gembors, machetes, digital scales, buckets, measuring
71 tapes, ovens, rulers, measuring cups, pruning scissors, cutters, label paper, bamboo, seedling tubs, calipers, stationery, signs or
72 boards, and cameras. The materials used are ICCRI 06 clone cocoa seeds from Puslitkoka, *Trichoderma* sp., polybag size 25 x
73 30 cm, paranet, top soil, chicken manure, fungicide (furan and dhitane).

74 The implementation of this research includes preparing the nursery by making a nursery shade, preparing planting media
75 in the form of sand: top soil: chicken manure, preparing cocoa seeds from Puslitkoka, then sowing the seeds for 2 weeks, which
76 are then transplanted in the form of seeds into polybags, application *Trichoderma* sp. for 5 times, and maintenance of cocoa
77 seedlings.

78

79 A. Preparation of Nursery Sites

80 The first step to take is to prepare a suitable nursery location. The land at the nursery location is leveled and cleaned of weeds
81 and plant roots using a hoe. The beds are made with a width of 1-1.2 m and a length of 2 m and are equipped with forks with a
82 height of 120 cm on the west side and 180 cm on the east side and a paranet is added.

83 B. Preparation of Planting Media

84 The planting media used are top soil and chicken manure. The planting medium is sieved and put into each polybag measuring
85 25 cm x 30 cm with 2 kg top soil. Chicken manure is appropriately weighed according to the treatment, namely,
86 M1: 200 grams/polybag, M2: 300 grams/polybag and M3: 400 grams/polybag. Top soil in polybags is mixed with chicken
87 manure according to the treatment. The planting media was mixed one by one in polybags and furadan was added.

88 C. Preparation of Cocoa Seeds

89 ICCRI 06 clone cocoa seeds come from Puslitkoka with the criteria that the seeds are healthy, uniform, large in size, not attacked
90 by pests and diseases, and the skin is not injured.

91 D. Seed Nursery

92 The selected cocoa seeds are soaked in 5 grams/l dhitane before sowing. Seeds are planted in finely sifted sand planting medium
93 with a height of 15 cm in a seedbed with the cotyledons not too deep. Next, the surface of the polybag is covered with pieces of
94 straw on top of the seeds that have been immersed and watered every morning and evening.

95 C. Transplanting Cocoa Seeds

96 Cocoa seeds that have germinated 2 weeks after sowing are transferred from the seedling tub to polybags with 2/3 of the
97 sprouts immersed in the media. Next, rinse with water.

98 This activity was prepared using a Factorial Randomized Block Design (RAK). The first factor is chicken manure with
99 3 treatment doses and the second factor is administration *Trichoderma* sp. with 3 treatment doses. This activity used 9 treatments
100 and 3 repetitions to obtain 27 units. Each unit contains 4 plant samples so that the required seeds are 108 seeds. Research data
101 was analyzed using Anova, if it showed significant differences, it was continued with the DMRT test at the 5% level.

102 Factor 1 is Chicken Manure:

103 M1: 200 g/polybag

104 M2: 300 g/polybag

105 M3: 400 g/polybag

106 Factor 2 is *Trichoderma* sp.:

107 P1: 5 ml/l water with 150 ml mixing

108 P2: 10 ml/l water with 150 ml mixing

109 P3: 15 ml/l water with 150 ml mixing

110 Observation parameters observed at 84 DAP include plant height (cm), number of leaves (leaves), stem diameter (mm), root wet
111 weight (g), root dry weight (g), canopy wet weight (g) and canopy dry weight (g).

112

113 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION** (Times New Roman 10)

114 The results of variance analysis show that there is a significant influence on several parameters on the provision of
115 chicken manure and *Trichoderma* sp. namely the parameters of stem diameter, crown wet weight, root wet weight, crown dry
116 weight, root dry weight. Meanwhile, the real interaction in the treatment combination was in the parameters of stem diameter
117 and root wet weight (Table 1).

118 Table 1. Summary of Anova Results Of Plant Height Parameters, Number of Leaves, Stem Diameter, Canopy and Root Wet
 119 Weight, Canopy and Root Dry Weight at 84 DAP.

| Observation Parameters | F. Count | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | M | P | MxP |
| Plant height | 0.45 ^{ns} | 0,1 ^{ns} | 0.41 ^{ns} |
| Number of Leaves | 2.95 ^{ns} | 0.03 ^{ns} | 1.06 ^{ns} |
| Stem Diameter | 20.36 ^{**} | 5.02 [*] | 5.68 ^{**} |
| Canopy Wet Weight | 5.8 [*] | 0.07 ^{ns} | 1.05 ^{ns} |
| Root Wet Weight | 8.97 ^{**} | 7.15 ^{**} | 3.75 [*] |
| Canopy Dry Weight | 3.32 ^{ns} | 0.48 ^{ns} | 0.56 ^{ns} |
| Root Dry Weight | 12.56 ^{**} | 6.23 ^{**} | 2.66 ^{ns} |

120 Information:

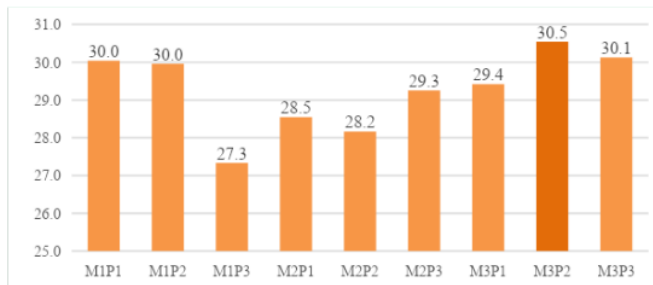
121 ns = not significantly different (non-significant)

122 * = significantly different at the 5% level

123 ** = very significantly different (very significant) at the 1% level

124

125 *Plant height of cocoa*



126

127 Figure 1. Graph of Average Height of Cocoa Plants at 84 DAP.

128 Based on the graphic image of the average height of plants aged 84 DAP, it shows that the M3P2 treatment had the

129 highest average growth, namely 30.5 cm and the lowest average value was obtained in the MIP3 treatment, namely 27.3 cm.

130 However, the variance results show that the use of chicken manure and Trichoderma sp. has no significant effect on plant height.

131 The nutrient element phosphorus is needed by plants for stem formation and helps stimulate plant vegetative growth such as

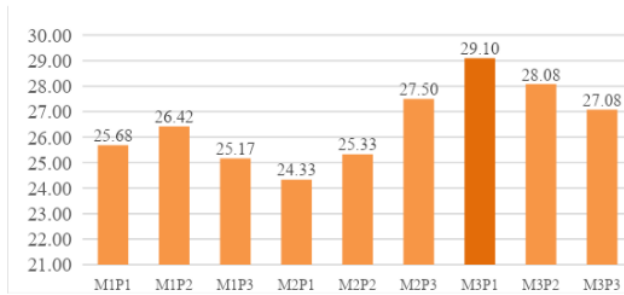
132 stem circumference, height and increase in the number of leaves (Setiawan, 2023). The element P (phosphorus) content in

133 chicken manure does not have a significant effect in stimulating vegetative growth, the content is too small so it is not sufficient

134 for the growth needs of cocoa plants.

135

136 *Number of leaves of cocoa plant*



137
138 Figure 2. Graph of the Average Number of Leaves for Cocoa Plants Aged 84 DAP.
139

140 One of the keys to the sustainable growth of cocoa plants lies in the leaves. The part of the plant that functions as the
141 location for the photosynthesis process to produce the food needed by the plant itself and as a nutritional reserve is the leaf. The
142 chlorophyll content in leaves is key in the process of plant photosynthesis. The more leaves on the cocoa plant, the higher the
143 photosynthesis results, which in turn, photosynthesis can support optimal growth of the cocoa plant.

144 The graph of the average number of leaves at 84 DAP in Figure 2 shows that the M3P1 treatment showed the highest
145 average value of 29.10 pieces. Meanwhile, the M2P1 treatment showed the lowest average value of 24.33 strands. This can be
146 caused by using chicken manure doses that are too small and concentrated *Trichoderma* sp. which is too low. Lack of nutrients
147 N, P, K, Mg, S, and Ca can have a negative impact on plant growth, because these nutrients are needed for plant growth and
148 development. The factor of balanced nutrient availability determines plant growth and production (Siahaan, 2022).
149 Photosynthesis from non-leaf parts and shading by non-leaf tissue can also influence the use of sunlight by the canopy of
150 cultivated plants.

151
152 *Stem diameter of cocoa plant*

153 This parameter shows that the use of chicken manure and *Trichoderma* sp. shows a very significant effect. Giving with levels
154 *Trichoderma* sp. too high does not have a real effect on the stem diameter. This is shown in Table 2 that the highest level of
155 application produces the smallest average stem diameter. Giving *Trichoderma* sp. able to increase the diameter of the stem to a
156 greater extent compared to those not given *Trichoderma* sp. This can happen because *Trichoderma* is able to suppress the growth
157 of pathogens in rhizosphere roots, so that nutrient absorption can be optimal (Yusuf and Firsandi, 2021). *Trichoderma* sp. produces
158 decomposing enzymes that can break down organic material, thus releasing nutrients bound in complex compounds to become
159 available, especially the elements N, P, and S. Table 2. Further Test of 84 DAP Cocoa Plant Stem Diameter on Factor (M) Using
160 DMRT Level 1%
161

| Treatment | Mean | Notation | DMRT 1% |
|-----------|------|----------|---------|
| M2 | 6.82 | a | 0.32 |
| M1 | 6.90 | a | 0.34 |
| M3 | 7.47 | b | 0.35 |

162 Note: Values followed by the same letter are not significantly different in the Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) at the 5%
163 level.

164 In the M3 treatment which used chicken manure at a dose of 400 grams, the plant stems had the largest size with an
165 average of 7.47 mm. Meanwhile, the M2 and M1 treatments had means that were not significantly different, this shows that the
166 use of chicken manure at higher doses had a very significantly different effect. The application of chicken manure to the planting
167 medium shows a very significant value, indicating that the cocoa seedlings can develop and grow well. A good planting medium
168 is a planting medium that is able to provide conditions where the roots are able to explore more widely to absorb nutrients in the
169 soil.

170

171 *Wet weight of canopy cocoa plant*

172 This parameter shows that the wet weight of the cocoa plant canopy has a significantly different influence on the chicken
173 manure use factor (M) with a calculated F of 5.80 which is greater than the F table of 5%. Meanwhile, regarding the application
174 factor *Trichoderma* sp. and the interaction between the two has an influence that is not significantly different. It is suspected that
175 cocoa seedlings are very responsive to media composition.

176

177 Table 3. Advanced Test of Wet Weight of Cocoa Plant Crowns 84 DAP on Factor (M) Using DMRT at 5% level

| Treatment | Mean | Notation | DMRT 5% |
|-----------|-------|----------|---------|
| M1 | 18.32 | a | 5.13 |
| M2 | 19.40 | a | 5.38 |
| M3 | 22.88 | b | 3.24 |

178 Note: Values followed by the same letter are not significantly different in the Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) at the 5%
179 level.

180

181 Based on the table the highest average was obtained in treatment M3. This is because the M3 treatment uses chicken manure at
182 a dose of 400 grams so that the nutrient content needed by cocoa plants is sufficient. The appropriate media composition will
183 increase water and nutrient uptake so that it will trigger the growth of plant organs (Ahmad *et al.*, 2022).

184

185 Root wet weight of cocoa plant
 186

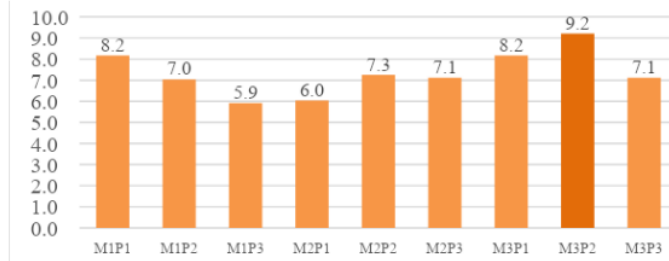


Figure 3. Graph of Average Wet Weight of Roots at 84 DAP

187
 188
 189
 190

Table 4. Advanced Test of Wet Weight of Plant Roots 84 DAP on factor (M) using DMRT level of 1%

| Treatment | Mean | Notation | DMRT 1% |
|-----------|------|----------|---------|
| M2 | 6.89 | a | 1.9361 |
| M1 | 7.22 | a | 2.0191 |
| M3 | 8.33 | b | 2.0739 |

191 Note: Values followed by the same letter are not significantly different in the Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) at the 5%
 192 level.

193

194 The figure 3 shows the average wet weight of roots aged 84 DAP, it shows that in the M3P2 treatment the highest
 195 average was 9.2 grams, while in the M1P3 treatment the lowest average was 5.9 grams. Based on the table, it shows that the M3
 196 treatment, which uses chicken manure at a dose of 400 grams, has the highest average yield compared to other treatments. The
 197 increase in wet root weight along with increasing levels of chicken manure application is thought to be due to the fairly high P
 198 content in chicken manure (Tarigan et al., 2014). The formation of healthy plant roots can be influenced by root conditions, good
 199 roots are an important factor for plant growth. Availability and absorption of nutrients by plant roots can occur well if root
 200 conditions are not disturbed by disease and other attacks. With the addition of *Trichoderma*, apart from being able to protect the
 201 roots which can cause wilt disease in plants, it also acts as a decomposer of organic materials from compost. *Trichoderma* sp is
 202 a biopesticide, one of the tactics used for integrated pest control (Agus et al., 2022).

203

204 Table 5. Advanced Test of Root Wet Weight 84 DAT on Factor (P) Using DMRT at 5% level

| Treatment | Mean | Notation | DMRT 5% |
|-----------|------|----------|---------|
| P3 | 6.72 | a | 1.4051 |
| P1 | 7.71 | ab | 1.4735 |
| P2 | 8.01 | b | 1.5161 |

205 Note: Values followed by the same letter are not significantly different in the Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) at the 5%
 206 level.

207

208 Based on the table, it shows that giving *Trichoderma* sp. can increase root weight gain, where it is shown that treatment
 209 P2 is the best treatment which produces the highest average (8.01) in the root wet weight parameter. It is alleged that with
 210 *Trichoderma* sp. a level of 10 ml/l is a level that is in accordance with what the plant needs. Planting media is an important factor
 211 for plant growth. This is because it affects the performance of the roots in absorbing nutrients in the soil. Factors that can influence
 the absorption of nutrients and water by roots include humidity levels, fertility, soil friability, soil biota, etc. In this case, a gift

212 ⁴¹ *Trichoderma* sp. as a biological agent for controlling disease in soil and also has the potential for fungi that can also support the
 213 availability of nutrients. Another thing that is an important factor in plant growth is good nutrient absorption. Maximum nutrient
 214 absorption can influence plant growth. Schmidt (2006), stated that *Trichoderma* is a cellulolytic fungi which has good potential
 215 for decomposing cellulose and hemicellulose compared to wax and lignin. ²⁹ The use of biological fertilizer is able to maintain the
 216 soil environment through fixation of N in the soil, dissolution of P and potassium or mineralization, release of plant growth
 217 regulators, and production (Sinha et al., 2014). So it is necessary to maintain a good soil environment. One of the biological
 218 materials that can be used to increase plant production is *Trichoderma* sp. The use of *Trichoderma* sp. can be combined with
 219 organic fertilizer such as chicken manure.
 220

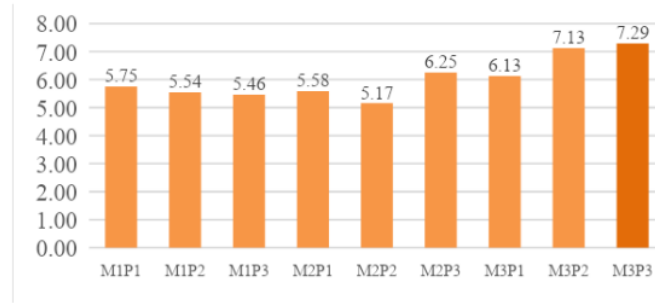
221 Table 6. Follow-up Test of Root Wet Weight 84 DAP on Factor (MxP) Using DMRT at 5% level

| Treatment | Mean | Notation | DMRT 5% |
|-----------|------|----------|---------|
| M1P3 | 5.92 | a | 1.4051 |
| M2P1 | 6.04 | a | 1.4735 |
| M1P2 | 7.00 | ab | 1.5162 |
| M2P3 | 7.13 | ab | 1.5453 |
| M3P3 | 7.13 | ab | 1.5668 |
| M2P2 | 7.25 | ab | 1.5823 |
| M1P1 | 8.17 | bc | 1.5945 |
| M3P1 | 8.17 | bc | 1.6038 |
| M3P2 | 9.21 | c | 1.6109 |

222 Note: Values followed by the same letter are not significantly different in the Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) at the 5%
 223 level.

224 ⁶ Based on table 6 on the ⁵ interaction between the use of chicken manure and *Trichoderma* sp. shows a real difference. In
 225 the combination treatment of chicken manure at a dose of 400 grams and *Trichoderma* sp. with a level of 10 ml/L provides an
 226 increase in the wet weight of the roots. An appropriate media composition will increase water and nutrient uptake, thereby
 227 triggering the growth of plant organs such as shoots and roots (Ahmad et al., 2022). In the combination of M3P1 treatment,
 228 namely chicken manure at a dose of 400 grams and *Trichoderma* sp. with a level of 5 ml/L ³⁵ gave the highest results on the stem
 229 diameter parameter. The interaction of the two factors results in stem enlargement, where *Trichoderma* sp. helps decompose
 230 organic materials from chicken manure that plants need for growth. According to Yusuf and Firsandi (2021), *Trichoderma* sp.
 231 have a high chance of competing for living space and food sources first, penetrate cell walls more quickly and enter cells to take
 232 up nutrients, and produce antibiotics that can kill pathogenic fungal cells. The availability of nutrients in sufficient quantities
 233 causes the metabolic activities of the plant to increase as well as the accumulation of assimilate in the stem area will increase
 234 resulting in enlargement of the stem.
 235

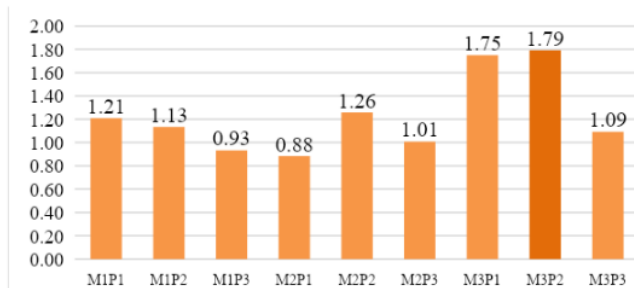
236 *Dry weight of canopy cocoa plant*



237
238 Figure 4. Graph of Average Dry Weight of Title Age 84 DAP
239

240 ⁶ Based on the graphic image of the average dry weight of shoots aged 84 DAT, it shows that the M3P3 treatment obtained
241 the highest average value, namely 7.29 grams. According to Susilo et al. (2017) that the high or low dry biomass of plants
242 depends on how much or how little nutrient uptake occurs during the plant growth process. ¹⁵ Plant dry weight describes the
243 accumulation of organic compounds that plants have successfully synthesized from inorganic compounds. ² Based on showing
244 that the use of chicken manure and *Trichoderma* sp. had no significantly different effect on the dry weight of cocoa plant shoots.
245 ³⁰ This is thought to have occurred because the oven process was carried out for too long a time at an inappropriate temperature so
246 that the canopy was too dry when weighed. ¹² According to Liu et al., (2014) who stated that the nitrogen content in organic
247 fertilizer is slow releasing so it is difficult for the roots to absorb it as an important element for optimal plant growth.

248 *Root dry weight of cocoa plant*



249
250 Figure 5. Average Graph of Root Dry Weight Age 84 DAP
251

252 Based on Figure 5, the average dry weight of roots aged 84 DAP shows that the M3P2 ³ treatment obtained the highest
253 average value, namely 1.79 grams. In table 4.1, observations of root dry weight at 84 DAT show that the use of chicken manure
254 (M) ²⁵ has a very significantly different effect on root dry weight and also on application. *Trichoderma* sp. (P) ³ has a very significant
255 different effect on the dry weight of cocoa plant roots. The M3 treatment, namely the use of chicken manure at a dose of ²³ 400 g,
256 increases the dry weight of cocoa plant roots. This shows that plants can grow and develop well in this media mixture so that
257 nutrient and water uptake is maximized. The dry weight of plant biomass shows the uptake of photosynthesis or nutrients
258 contained in plant tissue.

259 Table 7. Further Test of Dry Weight of Roots of Cocoa Plants Aged 84 DAP on Factor (M) Using DMRT at 1% level

| Treatment | Mean | Notation | DMRT 1% |
|-----------|------|----------|---------|
| M2 | 1.05 | a | 0.5444 |
| M1 | 1.09 | a | 0.5677 |
| 10 | 1.56 | b | 0.5831 |

260 Note: Values followed by the same letter are not significantly different in the Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) at the 5%
 261 level.

262 Table 8. Further Test of Dry Weight of Roots of Cocoa Plants Aged 84 DAP on Factor (P) Using DMRT at 1% level

| Treatment | Mean | Notation | DMRT 1% |
|-----------|------|----------|---------|
| P3 | 3.03 | a | 0.5444 |
| P1 | 3.84 | b | 0.5677 |
| 12 | 4.18 | b | 0.5831 |

264 Note: Values followed by the same letter are not significantly different in the Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) at the 5%
 265 level.

266 Based on Table 8, it shows that giving *Trichoderma* sp. in the P2 treatment, 10 ml/l, it was able to increase the dry weight
 267 of cocoa plant roots. *Trichoderma* sp. can reproduce quickly in the root area, is able to compete with other fungi but at the same
 268 time develops well in the roots, making the presence of this fungi able to act as a *biocontrol* and increasing plant growth
 269 (Amiruddin, 2021). Various investigations have found that the highest bacterial population, 24×10^{12} CFU/g, was obtained after
 270 treating 10 kg of compost with *Trichoderma* sp. These bacteria are prevalent and symbiotic in the roots of tangerine plants, and
 271 it is believed that they have an impact on the growth of tangerine plants (Siswadi et al., 2024).

272 In the M3 treatment, namely the use of chicken manure with a dose of 400 grams, it increased the dry weight of cocoa
 273 plant roots. This shows that plants can grow and develop well in the media mixture so that nutrient and water absorption is
 274 maximized. The use of higher and more balanced manure has the best effect on the dry weight of cocoa plant roots. Crumbly
 275 media allows roots to explore wider and deeper so that they form more tissue and will affect root weight. According to (Saputra
 276 et al., 2023), the friability of the media is a condition that determines how easy it is for roots to penetrate the planting medium.

277 The use of chicken manure showed the best treatment at a dose of 400 grams on the parameters of stem diameter, wet
 278 weight of the crown, wet weight of the roots, and dry weight of the cocoa plant roots. While the application of *Trichoderma* sp.
 279 showed the best treatment at a level of 10 ml/L affecting stem diameter, wet weight of the roots, and dry weight of the roots.

282 **CONCLUSION**

283 The results showed that giving chicken manure at a dose of 400 g had the best effect on stem diameter, canopy wet
 284 weight, root wet weight and root dry weight of cocoa plants. Meanwhile, when giving *Trichoderma* sp. showed that the best
 285 treatment at the level of 10 ml/L had an effect on stem diameter, root wet weight and root dry weight. The interaction shows the
 286 best treatment combination of chicken manure with a dose of 400 g and *Trichoderma* sp. with a level of 10 ml/L which influences
 287 the parameters of stem diameter and root fresh weight.

288 .
 289

290 **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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293 **AUTHORS CONTRIBUTIONS** (Times New Roman 10)

294 DG: Descha Giatri Cahyaningrum

295 KH: Kalista Hayu Margi Siwi

296 S: Sugiyarto

297 IH: Irma Harliningtyas

298 GFD: Gallyndra Fatkhu Dinata

299

300 DGC, KH and S³² considered and planned the experiment. GFD carried out the preparation of *Trichoderma* sp. IH performed
301 analysis data. KH carried out the preparation of chicken manure. DG, S, IH and KH interpreting the data. DGC and GFD prepared
302 the manuscript. The authors provided responses and comments on the research flow, data analysis, and interpretation as well as
303 the shape of the manuscript.

304

305 **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

306 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

307

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