THE STUDY OF NANO-ZEOLITE COATED POTASSIUM FOR SLOW RELEASE FERTILIZER APPLICATION

SITI NURUL SHAHIDAH BINTI ITHNIN

Final Year Project Report Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Science (Hons.) Physics in the Faculty of Applied Sciences Universiti Teknologi MARA

MAY 2011

This Final Year Project Report entitled "The Study of Nano-Zeolite Coated Potassium For Slow Release Fertilizer Application" was submitted by Siti Nurul Shahidah Binti Ithnin, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Science (Hons.) Physics in the Faculty of Applied Sciences, and was approved by

Prof. Dr. Saifollah bin Abdullah

Supervisor -B.Sc. (Hons.)-Physics-Faculty of Applied Sciences Universiti Teknologi MARA 40450 Shah Alam Selangor

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohamad Rusop bin Mahmood Co-supervisor -B:Se: (Hons:)-Physics-Faculty of Applied Sciences Universiti Teknologi MARA 40450 Shah Alam Selangor

Assoc. Prof. Yusofbin Teehran Project Coordinator **B.Sc.(Hons.)** Physics Faculty of Applied Sciences University Teknologi MARA 40450 Shah Alam Selangor

Dr. Ab. Malik Marwan bin Ali Head of Programme **B.Sc.(Hons.)** Physics Faculty of Applied Sciences University Teknologi MARA 40450 Shah Alam Selangor

2 5 MAY 2011

Date:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Alhamdulillah, upon completion of this project, I am grateful to Allah S.W.T for conferring me the strength and patience to make this project a success and to complete this project within the time given. I am also particularly pleased to record my appreciation and gratitude to my supportive supervisor Prof. Dr. Saifollah bin Abdullah and my Co-supervisor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohamad Rusop bin Mahmood for their continuous and helpful support, attention, assistance, their supervision, advice, useful guidance, comments and influence in making this research a reality in a very supportive and organized manner.

Special thanks for everyone in the NanoSciTech Laboratory especially laboratory assistants, research assistants (R.A) and master students for their co-operation, technical assistance, and valuable contribution to my work because they give me a lot of informations and guide me to do my research with full commitment.

Also, I would like to express my gratitude to my family especially my parents Mr Ithnin bin Lanbak and Mdm Kidah binti Abu Bakar, lecturers, my partner and friends, and everyone who have lends a hand and helped me out in completing this research paper.

Last but not least, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all those, who in one way or another, have assisted me in the preparation of this research paper. And, I would like to thank those whom offering their support by read and criticized for better improvement and development of my research. Thank you very much.

Siti Nurul Shahidah Binti Ithnin.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
LIST OF TABLES	vi
LIST OF FIGURES	vii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	ix
ABSTRACT	xi
ABSTRAK	xii

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1	Background	1
1.2	Problem statement	4
1.3	Objective of study	4
1.4	Significance of study	4

CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1	Zeolite	5
2.1.1	Zeolite Properties	5
2.2	Slow Release Fertilizer	6
2.2.1	Slow Release Fertilizer based on Nano-Zeolite	6
2.2.2	Slow Release of Phosphorus	7
2.3	The Characteristics of Zeolite	9

CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY

3.1	Introduction	10
3.2	Materials and Equipments	11
3.3	Immersion of Zeolite in chemical solvent (Potassium Nitrate)	11
3.4	Sample Drying	12
3.5	Characterizations	12
3.5.1	Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)	12
3.5.2	X-ray Diffraction (XRD)	13
3.5.3	Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometer (FTIR)	15
3.5.4	Ultraviolet-Visible Spectroscopy (UV-Vis)	16
3.3 3.4 3.5 3.5.1 3.5.2 3.5.3 3.5.4	Immersion of Zeolite in chemical solvent (Potassium Nitrate) Sample Drying Characterizations Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) X-ray Diffraction (XRD) Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometer (FTIR) Ultraviolet-Visible Spectroscopy (UV-Vis)	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

1910

ABSTRACT

THE STUDY OF NANO-ZEOLITE COATED POTASSIUM FOR SLOW RELEASE FERTILIZER APPLICATION

The feasibility of using Nano- Zeolite coated potassium for slow release fertilizer application was investigated. Nano-zeolite coated potassium was prepared by immersed Nano-Zeolite in Potassium solution-Potassium Nitrate (KNO3). Nano-Zeolite was thoroughly characterized using X-ray Diffraction (XRD), Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR), Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) and Ultraviolet-Visible Spectroscopy (UV-Vis) to study the effect of Nano-Zeolite after had been coated in the Potassium Nitrate (KNO₃). It was observed comparative study of the release of Potassium (K) from Potassium Nitrate (KNO3) with different concentration. The concentration that had been observed was 0.2 M, 0.4 M, 0.6 M, 0.8 M and 1.0 M. The results for XRD and SEM had shown the existence of Potassium that had been coated on the Zeolite. Analysis of XRD showed the presence of element Potassium (K), Potassium Oxide (K2O) and Zeolite in the sample. The existence of Potassium (K) in the Zeolite structure proved that the Potassium (K) had been coated on Zeolite since the basic structure of Zeolite only have the element of Aluminium (Al), Silicon (Si) and Oxygen (O). The release of Potassium (K) in the water decrease with the number of immersion by using UV-Vis.