

**FORMULATION OF POLYHERBAL ENRICHED
SEAWEED WITH ANTI-PLANT PATHOGEN
PROPERTY**

A PROJECT REPORT

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Abstract

Now a days demand for the organic foods increased the demand of the biofertilizer production .The present study is to isolate seaweed biofertilizer & formulate of polyherbal enriched seaweed biofertilizer .The study is also focused to study the germination and growth parameters of biofertilizers treated maize plant .The plant with antifungal activity *Acalypha indica* ,*Calotropis gigantean* and *Lawsoina inermis* were collected .Antifungal activity of the plant extracts was analysed by well diffusion method against to the plant fungal pathogen *Curvularia lunata* .The result revealed that the chloroform extract of *Lawsoina inermis* shows 75% inhibition of the plant fungal pathogen *Curvularia lunata*.Simultaneously ,seaweed liquid fertilizer extracted from the macroalage *Sargassium muticum* . The plant grown in with 10% concentration of seaweed and 10% chloroform extract of *Lawsonia inermis* plant leaf in the condition of seed soaked +fertilizer sprayed is found to be the tallest plant when compared to all the plant grown in different conditions.

KEYWORDS: *Acalypha indica*, *Calotropis gigantea*, *Lawsonia inermis*, Antifungal, Biofertilizer preparation, Plant growth.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION

<i>A.indica</i>	- Acalypha indica
⁰ C	- DegreeCelsius
g	- gram
µg	-microgram
mg	-milligram
ml	-millilitre
mm	-millimetre
PDA	-potatodextroseagar
<i>C.lunata</i>	- <i>Curvularia lunata</i>
<i>L.inermis</i>	- <i>Lawsonia inermis</i>
<i>C.gigantea</i>	- <i>Calotropisgigantea</i>
<i>s.muticum</i>	- <i>sargassummuticum</i>

AIM AND OBJECTIVE

AIM:

Our aim is to formulate the polyherbal from three different plants *Acalypha indica* (kuppaimeni), *Lawsonia inermis*(maruthani), *Calotropis gigantea*(erukan) with seaweed (*sargassum muticum*) to produce biofertilizer against to the plant fungal pathogen *Curvularia lunata*.

Objective:

1. To identify plants with antifungal activity against *Curvularialunata*.
2. To isolate seaweed biofertilizer and formulate polyherbal enriched seaweed biofertilizer
- 3 To study the germination and growth parameters of biofertilizer treated maizeplants.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays excessive chemical inputs usage, hard soils, low pest resistance and stagnant/declining yields have become global challenges in agriculture. Majority of farmers in these days are struggling to balance higher input costs, developing their fields and maintenance of yields. So this has led to a subsequent decline in profits with farmers actively searching for sustainable solutions as a business altogether.

Therefore aggressive use of harsh chemical inputs leads to a decline in beneficial soil biology to a greater extent. This leads to higher requirement of chemical fertilizers as a major nutrient source in the absence of adequate soil biological activity. Presence of high salt deposits and loss of organic matter in soil further leads to hardening of soil, which greatly impact the crop yields as well as quality of the crops. Therefore farmers awareness of such issues are unable to implement sustainable solutions.

In effort to solve such problems and ensure organically safe and healthy food, organic farming is often suggested as an option. However, the reason for its failure to implement it leads to lower yields and losses during the first few seasons of this transition towards organic farming methods. Such losses are not affordable for most farmers from trying such new methods.

Nowadays new generation technologies are available to solve this sort of problems. These technologies are greatly biologically boosting technologies that promote the growth of beneficial soil biology whilst improving soil quality, water holding capacity and % of organic matter. Thus, they bestow dual benefits of biofertilizers as well as soil conditioners. This allows farmers to benefit from enhanced organically developed high-quality yields along with healthier soils.

1.1 Acalypha indica

Acalypha Indica (FIG.1.1) known as kuppaimeni in tamil is an annual weed it belongs to the family Euphorbiaceae. *Acalypha indica* is an herbaceous annual that has catkin like inflorescences with cup-shaped involucre surrounding the minute flowers (Schmelzer

and gurib-fakim ,2008). It is a common weed in many parts of Asia. It grows in the common farmlands, gardens, roadsides wastelands. Parts used are leaves, roots, stalk and flowers, it has been reported to be useful in treating Pneumoniae, asthma, rheumatism and several other ailments, the dried leaves of was made in to a poultice to treat bedsores and wounds and the juice of *Acalypha Indica* added to oil and lime and used to treat a variety of skin disorders. Leaves possess laxative properties (a substitute for senega) used in the form of powder decoction cures diseases of the teeth and gums, burns, toxins of plants and mixed origin stomach pain, diseases due to pitta, bleeding piles, irritations, stabbing pain, wheezing, sinusitis and neutralizes predominance of the Kabha Factor. The ethanolic extracts of *Heliotropium Indicum*, *Plumbago zeylanicum* and *Acalypha indica* were evaluated for their wound healing activity in rats (Suresh Reddy et al., 2002). The major phytochemical constituents are alkaloids, acalypus and alcyphine (Kirtikar and Basu, 1975). This plant is used as diuretic, antihelminthic and for respiratory problems such as bronchitis, asthma and pneumonia (Varier, 1996). The roots of *Acalypha indica* is used as laxative and leaves for scabies and other cutaneous diseases (Perry, 1980). The plant has many traditional medical uses. In Madagascar, the crushed plant is used for skin parasites. In Mauritius, the shape of crushed leaves mixed with salt or decoction of plant, is used for scabies and other skin problems. In Madagascar, the crushed plant is used for skin parasites. In Mauritius, the shape of crushed leaves mixed with salt or a decoction plant, is used for scabies and other skin problems. In the Seyhelles, infusion or decoction is taken for asthma, and also to clean the liver and kidneys. The root decoction is also taken for intestinal worms and stomach. The leaf shape is taken as an emetic in the case of poisoning. A leaves infusion is also taken as purgative and vermifuge in Madagascar. In East Africa sap of the leaves is used for eye infections. Leaf powder is used for maggot-infested wounds. *Acalypha indica* is listed in the pharmacopoeia of India as an expectorant to treat the asthma and Pneumonia. This plant is held in high system traditional Tamil Siddha medicine as it is believed to rejuvenate the body. The plant has also been eaten as a vegetable in Africa and India. But care needs when eating it since it contains several alkaloids as well as hydrocyanic acid. This plant has been used extensively in herbal medicine in many tropical and subtropical countries (Ramachandran, 2008).



Fig 1.1 *Acalypha indica*

1.2 *Lawsonia inermis*

Lawsonia inermis syn. *Lawsonia* alba known as henna is a flowering plant, it takes place in the genus *Lawsonia* (Siddique et al., 2003; Arun et al., 2010). It is native to some subtropical and tropical regions of Africa and Southern Asia in semi-arid zones. Henna (*Lawsonia inermis*) is cultivated commercially throughout Pakistan, India, Iran, Libya and Sudan for its valuable leaves (Saadabi, 2007). Henna plant is deciduous, has a perennial shrub which is reaching a height of up to 2.5 - 5m. The plant leaves are small, lanceolate, dark-green, opposite and have short petioles. The leaves of the plant contain a red or orange color component, lawsonone (2-hydroxy-1, 4-Naphthoquinone). Lawsonone (2-hydroxy-1, 4-Naphthoquinone) is easily bonding with protein, and thus it has been used to dye skin, hair and fingernails (Siddique et al., 2003; Rahiman and Taha, 2011). The plant is traditionally used for its red or black coloring to hands, feet and hair in some occasions such as weddings etc. (Saadabi, 2007). For the cooling effect of henna, the paste form is used to bring down fever. Henna is believed as a medicinal plant, because of its antibacterial effects especially on gram positive bacteria, antifungal activity against dermatophytes, wound healing, antitumoral effects, hypotensive, astringent and sedative effects. We have seen it as a folk medicine in using against headache, jaundice and leprosy. Several studies are being carried towards it activates like cytotoxic, hypoglycaemic, antimicrobial, antibacterial, antioxidant, trypsin inhibitory, wound healing, analgesic, anti-corrosive, anti-inflammatory, antiparasitic, tuberculostatic, hepatoprotective, anti-tumoral activity (Berenji et al., 2010; Elmanama et al., 2011; Karpe et al., 2011; Rayavarapu et al.,

2011). The paste from decoction of henna leaves are also used as a prophylactic against skin inflammation (Siddique et al., 2003). Phytochemical characterization of *Lawsonia inermis* Plant produces a wide variety of secondary metabolites such as tannins, terpenoids, alkaloids, and flavonoid. Many studies have already been done on the spot disease of paddy plant, but to the best of our knowledge, the similar reports on maize are absent. The effect of the *Lawsonia inermis* extracts on *Curvularia lunata* which is the causative organism of the spot disease in maize.



Fig 1.2 *Lawsonia inermis*

1.3 *Calotropis gigantea*

Calotropis gigantea genera comprise of two species, with 90% inhabiting southern Asian country and are most endemic to the India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Srilanka, China. *Calotropis gigantea* a weed plant commonly known as giant milk weed. The plant is belonging to Apocynaceae family which *Calotropis gigantea* is a weed plant commonly known as giant milk weed. The plant is belonging to Apocynaceae family which includes latex bearing plants. *C. gigantea* is known for various medicinal properties in traditional medicinal system and use to cure a variety of diseases. In last few decades, *C. gigantea* is extensively studied for its medicinal properties by advanced scientific techniques and active compounds have been isolated from the different parts of the plant and were analysed pharmacologically. The plant is reported for analgesic activity, antimicrobial activity, antioxidant activity, anti-pyretic activity, insecticidal activity, cytotoxicity activity, hepatoprotective activity, pregnancy interceptive properties, purgative properties, procoagulant activity and wound healing activity. The medicinal properties of this plant represent it as a valuable source of medicinal compound. It is a large shrub growing to 4m (13ft) tall. It has

clusters of waxy flowers that are either white or lavender in colours. Each flower consists of five pointed petals and a small " crown" rising from the center which holds the stamens. The aestivation found in *Calotropis* is valvate i.e. sepals or petals in a whorl just touch one another at the margin, without overlapping. The plant has oval, light green leaves and milky stem. The latex of *Calotropis gigantea* contains cardiac glycosides, fatty acids, and calcium oxalate. Phyto chemical studies on *Calotropis* have afforded several types of compounds such as Cardenolide, triterpenoids, alkaloids, resins, anthocyanins and proteolytic enzymes in latex, flavonoids, tannins, sterol,saponins, cardiac glycosides. Flowers contain terpenes, multiflorenol, and cyclisadol. *C. gigantea* is also against the antifungal activity of *Curvularia lunata*.



Fig 1.3 *Calotropis gigantea*

1.4 *Curvularialunata*

The causal organism of leaf spot of maize *Curvularia lunata* (Wakker) Boedjn is soil and seed borne pathogenic fungus. It is characterized by production of brown geniculate conidiophores with curved conidia in host tissue and culture media.

1.4.1 Ecology

Cochlioboluslunatus has a wide spread distribution ,though it is especially prevalent in the tropics and subtropics. Infection is caused by airborne conidia and ascospores, however, sclerotoid *C. lunatus* can also survive in the soil. The optimal temperature for in vitro growth and infection ranges from 24-30 °C while death results from exposure at 59 °C for 1 minute duration, or 55 °C for 5 minute duration. Successful plant host infection requires the host surface to be wet for 13 hours. The majority of clinical cases have been reported in India, the United States, Brazil, Japan and Australia.

1.4.2 Morphological characteristics

Curvularia lunata (Wakker) Boedijn Colony of *Curvularia lunata* is brown, gray, or black, cottony, hairy, or cushion-like and spreads loosely. Conidia 3-5 celled with middle cell enlarged, dark and curved. Hyphae of *Curvularia lunata* are branched and septate. Conidiophores are erected unbranched and septate. The size of conidia measured 18- 29×8-10µm size. The anamorph of this fungus is known as *Curvularia lunata*, while *Cochliobolus lunatus* denotes the teleomorph or sexual state. They are, however, the same biological entity. *Cochliobolus lunatus* is the most commonly reported species in clinical cases of reported *Cochliobolus* infection.

1.4.3 Plant diseases

Cochliobolus lunatus is best known as the causative agent of seedling blight and seed germination failure in monocotyledon crops in such as sugarcane, rice, millet and maize. *Cochliobolus lunatus* also causes leaf spot on a wide variety of angiosperm hosts, where each lesion contains a spore mass of fungi at its center. The Clk1 gene plays an important role in fungal growth during the infection process, specifically condition, which is vital to the process of foliar infection. Fungicides in particular those with organo-mercurial compounds, have been associated with effective eradication of this pathogen.

Fig 1.4 Leaf spot on maize plant



1.4.4 Leaf spot disease on maize plant:

Maize, *Zea mays* L. is one of the most important cereals in the world after wheat and rice with regards to cultivation area and total production. Maize is high yielding, easy to process, readily digested and cheaper than others cereals. it's also a versatile digested and cheaper than other cereals. It is also a versatile crop, growing across a range of agroecological zones. Every part of the maize plant has ecological value : the grain, leaves ,stalks ,tassel and cob can all be used to produce a large variety of food and non-food products

With this important of maize, it is being plagued by an array disease which include the leaf spot of maize which is caused by *C. lunata*. This disease is a very important seed and oil borne disease prevalent in the hot ,humid maize areas. The disease produces small necrotic or chlorotic spot with a light colored halo; lesions are about 0.5 cm per spot when fully developed and this causes significant damage maize up to 60% due to great loss of photosynthetic region of the crop

Attempts have been made to develop maize cultivars that are develop maize cultivars that are resistant to leaf spot, and many other control measures have also been used to check this fungal disease. These include improved cultural practices on the farm and chemical control using fungicides and were then found to be effective against leaf spot when tested. But, most of these fungicides are not available to peasant farmers because most of the fungicides are expensive, require skilled labour and add to the cost of production while the yield obtained by their uses may not be sufficient to justify cost of production. Also most of these fungicides are toxic to humans and with the dwindling foreign exchange and prohibitive cost; most of the useful fungicides are usually out of reach of peasant farmers, The pathogens on its own, also build up resistance to the fungicides and even when resistant varieties are planted in endemic areas.

1.5 BIOFERTILIZER

Biofertilizers are natural fertilizers which are living microbial inoculants of bacteria, algae, fungal or in combination and they augment the availability of nutrients to the plants. The role of biofertilizers in agriculture assumes special significance, particularly in the present

context of increased cost of chemical fertilizer and their hazardous effects on soil health (Narendra kumaw at on Feb 15, 2018)

Sustainable agriculture development is a very important challenge that encounters the world nowadays as it requires increasing the productivity of plants with minimal disturbance of the environment. Plant growth is very susceptible to different conditions that affect its productivity and yield. These conditions could be divided into biotic (living) and abiotic (nonliving) stresses. Biotic stress includes interference from pathogenic microorganisms, insects, and higher animals, which include humans, while abiotic stress includes soil salinity, waterlogging, drought, high and low temperatures, wind, intense light, heavy metals, and inadequate or excessive mineral nutrients. Most of the abiotic stress factors could be attributed to different climatic changes which are considered the major reasons for regression of principal crop productivity. Plant species are surrounded by diverse beneficial microorganisms that dominate in their rhizosphere and have the ability to stimulate plant growth and protect them against different stress conditions. Different microbial activities have the ability to improve plant tolerance to biotic and abiotic stress conditions. The role of alleviation depends on the plant genus, the stress type, the microbial species, and the type of relationship between microorganisms and the plant. Microorganisms could enhance plant survival, growth, performance, and yield by several functions such as stimulating root growth by production of phytohormones, enabling water uptake to roots by production of polysaccharides in the root hair zone, improving plant nutrition by increasing nutrients through solubilization of phosphate, secreting siderophores for iron, and fixing dinitrogen, which is either associative or non-associative. Using microbial inoculants is considered an important task in the next decades to counter abiotic stress in different regions (Mona S. Zayed on Jun 07, 2018)

1.5.1 Merits of bio-fertilizers

- 1) A biofertilizer is a natural product carrying living microorganisms derived from the plant root or cultivated soil. As such no harmful effect on soil fertility is generally seen.
- 2) Biofertilizer is required in smaller dose. A dose of 350- 500 gm. of material per hectare is often sufficient to give desirable effect. This is because each gram of carrier of biofertilizer contains at least 10 million viable cells of a specific strain.
- 3) Wide variety of biofertilizers with proven utility for large number of crop species are now available in the market. Effect of biofertilizers in increasing the yield of different crops under irrigated and rainfed conditions has been proved.

- 4) Besides their direct effect on current crop, use of a biofertilizer also leaves considerable beneficial residual effect on soil fertility.
- 5) Biofertilizers may exert favourable effect on root growth and crop stand by affecting general growth and development of plant. For example, *Azospirillum* and *Phosphobacterin* produce growth promoting substances.
- 6) It may hasten flowering and crop maturity to a certain extent.
- 7) Rhizobium culture possesses better tolerance to salt and pH under various ecological conditions, therefore, possess better adaptability to different agro-climatic situations.
- 8) Use of biofertilizers is economical with a high cost: benefit ratio, without risk.
- 9) Some biofertilizers may work as biopesticide. For example, *Azotobacter* strain has shown potential to inhibit seed borne pathogen in some cereals.
- 10) Biofertilizers are renewable and pollution free.

1.6 Sargassum muticum

Sargassum muticum, commonly known as Japanese wireweed, is a large brown seaweed of the genus *Sargassum*. It is an invasive seaweed with high growth rate (upto 10cm per day during spring). It has an efficient dispersion thanks to its float *Sargassum muticum* is a brown seaweed, normally brown to yellowish with a length upto 10m. It is an autotroph that uses energy from sunlight. The photosynthesis is facilitated thanks to aerial vesicles which allows the algae to raise to the surface.

Sargassum muticum is composed of two distinct parts: a perennial part, which contains the holdfast and one or more short main axes; and an annual part: the secondary axes, which develop on the main axis, whose growth is unlimited and the size is variable. There are three types of ramifications: laterals with foliaceous expansions called fronds, laterals with fronds and aerenchyma and laterals with fronds, aerenchyma and reproductive organs called receptacles. In winter, only the perennial part persists (5 cm). In summer, the lateral part is in maximum development of 2–3 meters to 10 meters.

1.6.1 SEAWEED AS BIOFERTILIZER

Seaweeds are large plants growing in the sea, especially various marine algae like the rockweeds, kelps, sea lettuce and dulse. Dried or fresh seaweeds and liquid extracts have been increasingly employed by horticulturists, gardeners, farmers, and orchardists as a fertilizer. Seaweed extracts are now commercially available as Maxicrop, Seasol, SM3, Kelpak, and cytokine. The effect of seaweed extract is due to the microelements and plant growth regulators such as cytokinin present in it (FAO, 2006). Seaweed extract is used as a foliar spray, application to soil and for soaking of seeds before sowing. It enhances the germination of seeds, increases uptake of plant nutrients, and gives resistance to frost and fungal diseases. Seaweed extract is effective for ripening of fruits, increasing shelf-life of the produce, improves the quality of produce, and serves as an excellent soil conditioner. Seaweed extracts are also known as biological fertilizers (Zodape, 2001).

Seaweed biofertilizers contain macronutrients (Ca, Mg, P, and K), micronutrients (Fe, Cu, Zn, B, Mn, Co, and Mo), as well as various plant growth regulators (Kumar et al., 2012). Various studies have confirmed that seaweeds contain auxins or auxin-like compounds and it has been observed that *A. nodosum* contains approximately 50 mg of indole-3-acetic acid per gram of dry extract (Kingman and Moore, 1982; Crouch and van Staden, 1992). Cytokines have also been reported from seaweed extracts, containing trans-zeatin, benzyl amino purine, and topolin (Strike and van Staden, 1997; Stirk et al., 2004; Ördog et al., 2004). Extracts of *A. nodosum* also contain betaine and betaine-like compounds as well as gibberellins (Blunden et al., 1986; Craigie, 2010).

1.6.2 Important uses of seaweeds

Increase in production of phyto-chemicals such as agar-agar, carrageen and alginate. As food for human consumption as green vegetable, salads and also in the form of jelly, jam, chocolates and pickles. Apart from that seaweeds are used as raw material for cosmetics. Treatment of wastewater to reduce nitrogen- and phosphorus-containing compounds. Removal of toxic metals from industrial wastewater. Integrated aquaculture Biomass for fuel, Animal feed, Fish feed.

CHAPTER 2

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Madhurima Dutta et al, (2014) Plant materials are used throughout developed and developing countries as home remedies, over the counter drug products and raw materials for the pharmaceutical industry. Some of quality control parameters of the leaves of *Calotropis gigantea* belonging to Apocynaceae family were analyzed. *Calotropis gigantea* is an important Indian medicinal plant and widely used in Ayurveda for management of various diseases. Different biochemical screening has been carried out to identify the important phytoconstituents. A number of biological constituents in good yield and some have been shown to possess useful biological actions belonging mainly to phenolics, flavonoids, glycosides, alkaloids, cardiac glycosides, phytosterols. Extract of this plant possess useful antimicrobial activities.

Pasumarthi Brahmam et al., (2019) The present study report the phytochemical analysis of chloroform, ethyl acetate, methanolic extracts of leaf, stem bark and root of *Acalypha indica* (L.) and *Cocculushirsutus*(L.) plants. The authentication of the plant species was done by the taxonomist. The plant part extraction was done by using soxhlet apparatus. The preliminary phytochemical screening of this extracts was conducted by following the standard methods for the presence of the alkaloids, saponins, terpenoids & steroids, flavonoids, tannins, phenolic compounds, coumarins, quinones, resins, and glycosides. Results indicated the presence of alkaloids, saponins, terpenoids & steroids, tannins, anthocyanidins, phenolic compounds, coumarins, quinones, resins and glycosides in all the plant extracts and could be used for the treatment of wounds and burns.

B. TPawaretal.,(2011) Extracts of the various plant parts like leaf, stem, root, fruit and seeds are found to be effective against seed-borne pathogenic fungi. The *in vitro* studies have been performed by using cup-plate method to examine the antifungal activity of some leaf extracts. Leaf extracts of 18 plants were screened against 5 seed-borne pathogenic fungi viz. *Alternaria alternata*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Curvularia lunata*, *Fusarium moniliforme* and *Trichoderma viride*. Out of 18 leaf extracts, 9 leaf extracts showed antifungal activity. The

extract of *Azadirachta indica* showed maximum activity; while minimum activity was observed with *Holoptelia integrifolia* against the fungi under investigation.

Tansukh Barupal et al., (2017) Antimicrobial activity of *Lawsonia inermis* extracts against fungus *Curvularia lunata* has been assessed. We tried six different solvents for successive extraction; the purpose was to screen out the best extract in term of its fungicidal action. Among all solvent extracts, acetone extract showed greatest percent (70.15%) inhibition of mycelia growth of target fungi. The commonly used laboratory method, poison food technique was used to evaluate and screen the *in vitro* antifungal activity. Mancozeb and Bavist in were used as standards. Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) and Minimum Fungicidal Concentration (MFC) of acetone fraction of *Lawsonia inermis* were investigated against *Curvularia lunata* and phytotoxicity of best partially purified extract was observed. Our result shows that acetone fraction of *Lawsonia inermis* has maximum antifungal activity and can be used as a powerful fungicide against *Curvularia lunata* in treating leaf spot disease of maize plant.

Katarzyna Godlewska et al., (2016) have investigated the Plant Growth Biostimulants Based on Different Methods of Seaweed Extraction with Water We explored two methods for obtaining aqueous extracts: boiling and soaking of Baltic seaweeds (EB and ES, resp.). Algal extracts were characterized in terms of polyphenols, micro- and macro elements, lipids content, and antibacterial properties. The utilitarian properties were examined in the germination tests on *Lepidium sativum* for three extract dilutions (0.5, 2.5, and 10%). It was found that the extracts were similar in micro- and macro element concentrations. Water was proved to be a good solvent to extract phenolic compounds. The algal extract produced by soaking biomass did not show inhibitory effect on *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*. Only the boiled extract had an inhibitory activity against *E. coli*. Germination tests revealed a positive influence of the bioproducts on the cultivated plants. In the group treated with 10% EB, plants were 13% longer than in the control group; the content of elements B, Mo, Zn, and N in the group treated with 10% ES was higher by 76%, 48%, 31%, and 59% than in the control group, respectively; the content of chlorophyll was 2.5 times higher in 0.5% ES than in the control group. Extracts showed the slight impact on the morphology of plants.

Tansukh Barupal et al., (2019) have studied the antifungal activity of *Lawsonia inermis* against the fungal stain *curvularia lunata*. Effect of partially purified acetone fraction of *L. inermis* leaves on various cytomorphological parameters i.e. mycelium width, conidial

size, etc. of test fungi and fraction was subjected to confirming the presence of primary and secondary metabolites by rapid qualitative phytochemical tests, chromatographic methods such as TLC, column chromatography, GC-MS, etc. which were responsible for the inhibition of growth of test pathogen conidial size of *Curvularia lunata* decreased up to 64.76% at 0.039 µg/ml concentration of the extract. Mycelial width of *C. lunata* increased up to 55.91% at 0.312 µg/ml concentration of the extract. Carbohydrate, steroids, volatile oils, flavonoids, and tannins were found to be present in acetone extract of *L. inermis* leaf.

Somchit et al., (2010) have investigated the antimicrobial activity of water, ethanol and chloroform extracts of *Acalypha indica* against four bacterial and fungal strains using the disc diffusion method. The antifungal activity was more significant ($p < 0.05$) only in chloroform extract.

Seham et al., (2018) have investigated the role of marine macroalgae in plant protection. Marine macroalgae are also characterized by producing a large array of biologically active biocidal substances against plant-infecting pathogens. Bioactive compounds like fatty acids (in particular polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs)), proteins (amino acids), bioflavonoids, sulfated polysaccharides, carotenoids, polyphenols and carbohydrates are considered to have bactericidal, antiviral and fungicidal effects against some plant-infecting pathogens. These biocontrol agents provide multiple benefits and act as useful pointers for improving cultivation practices in diverse habitats. Commercial production and exploitation of specific compounds with interesting biotechnological importance from marine macroalgae including microbicides, nematocides, insecticides, biofertilizers, biostimulators and soil conditioners. Marine macroalgae can be generally considered as promising multifunctional bioinoculants and ecofriendly environmental tools in recent trends of organic farming.

Silva et al., (2019) have studied the biofertilizer production from *Sargassum muticum*. Seaweeds produce many compounds and secondary metabolites that can be used in different fields of industry such as food, agricultural, pharmaceutical and health. Seaweed has many bioactive compounds beneficial to plant development, giving them a great potential as an agricultural fertilizer. Adding seaweeds to the soil provides organic matter, minerals, trace elements, growth plant regulator, metabolites, vitamins, and amino acids and it can work as a soil conditioner. The potential of the extracts obtained from *Ascophyllum nodosum* and from *Sargassum muticum* as an agricultural fertilizer. This evaluation was carried out with rice plants (*Oryza sativa*) and lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*), in germination bioassays, the culture of rice and

lettuce plants in pots, and culture of lettuce plants in hydroponics. For that, seaweed liquid extracts were used in different concentrations in different bioassays. Results show that extracts obtained from two seaweeds, *A. nodosum* and *S. muticum*, can be promissory plant biofertilizer at a concentration of 25% and had a positive effect on seed germination, plant development, and production.

Mohamed et al., (2019) have investigated the Red sea stretches along Marsa Alam of Egypt is a habitation of diverse groups of marine macro-algal species recorded along Marsa Hemerashore. Ecological studies (meteorological data, water, soil, aqueous extract analysis of *Sargassum muticum* (Yendo) Fensholt and associated species) reported that, slightly alkaline; low turbidity, moderate temperature and available nutrient content of saline water produced massive growth of *S. muticum* during September (2018). Ecological and Physico-chemical properties of collected water samples showed variations of different parameters of sea water like temperature, salinity, pH, and high dissolved minerals. Heavy metals accumulation inside the investigated seaweeds *S. muticum* was within the corresponding range. The aqueous extract of *S. muticum* contained high amounts of Na, Ca, K and Fe, moderate amounts of Zn, and low in Cu, Cd, Ni and Mn. Lead Pb recorded 0.291 ppm, Ag, Co and Ga were absent in aqueous extract. The associated species to the brown algae *S. muticum* are belonging to 6 families and 7 species as follows: *Sargassaceae*, *Fucaceae*, *Phaeophyceae*, *Rhodomelaceae*, *Caulerpaceae* and *Hydrocharitaceae*. Results showed that *S. muticum* enriched in essential amino acids; micro and macro elements, carbohydrates, protein, lipids, and agar. These algae may be used as biofertilizers.

Pawarnt et al., (2018) have investigated the antifungal activity of *Calotropis gigantea* leaf extract, It was found to be effective against seed-borne pathogenic fungi. The *in-vitro* studies have been performed by using cup-plate method to examine the antifungal activity of *C. gigantea* leaf extract. It was screened against 5 seed-borne pathogenic fungi *viz.* *Alternaria alternata*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Curvularia lunata*, *Fusarium moniliforme* and *Trichoderma viride*. Out of them, antifungal activity of *C. gigantea* leaf extract against *C. lunata* was found maximum (Mean activity zone - 19.33 mm) followed by *A. alternata* (Mean activity zone - 17.67 mm); while minimum activity was observed against *A. niger* (Mean activity zone - 14.67 mm). *C. gigantea* leaf extract can possibly be exploited in the management of seed-borne pathogenic fungi to prevent biodeterioration of seeds in an eco-friendly way.

Chapter 3

Materials and Methods

3.1 COLLECTION AND PROCESSING OF PLANT MATERIALS:

The Leaves of *Acalypha indica*(kuppaimeni), *Lawsonia inermis*(maruthani) and *Calotropis gigantea*(erukan) were collected from Putlur village, Thiruvallur taluk. The collected leaf of all the three plants were washed thoroughly with distilled water and the plant material were shade dried for two weeks. The Shade dried leaves of all the three plants was grounded using mortar and pestle to powder. The powdered samples were hermetically sealed in separate polythene bags until the time of extraction.

3.2 COLLECTION OF ORGANISM:

Fungal strain *Curvularia lunata* was collected from Biozone Research Technologies Pvt.Ltd., Zameen Pallavaram.



Fig 3.1: *Curvularia lunata*

3.3 STERILIZATION:

Media and glassware were sterilized in autoclave at 15psi pressure at for 121°C 0min

3.4 PREPARATION OF INNOCULUM:

10ml of potato dextrose agar prepared, to that fungus *Curvularia lunata* was inoculated and incubated for 4 days at 30°C in incubator.



Fig 3.2: Inoculum of *Curvularia lunata*

3.5 SEQUENTIAL EXTRACTION:

Different solvents are chosen with different polarity to get respective phytochemicals present in the plant species (leaves of *Acalypha indica*, *Lawsonia inermis* and *Calotropis*).

3.5.1 EQUIPMENTS:

Weighing balance, laminar air flow chamber, incubator, autoclave, freezer, Soxhlet apparatus.

3.5.2 REQUIREMENTS:

All the requirements are maintained in aseptic condition, Petroleum ether, Chloroform, Methanol, Conical flask, Soxhlet apparatus.

3.5.3 SOXHLET EXTRACTION:

Soxhlet extractor is a kind of laboratory equipment used for solid-liquid extraction. Normally a solid material containing some of the desired compound was placed inside a thimble made from thick filter paper, which was loaded into the main chamber of the Soxhlet extractor. The Soxhlet extractor was placed onto the flask containing the extraction solvent, The Soxhlet was then equipped with a condenser.

The solvent is heated to reflux. The solvent vapour travels up a distillation arm, and the solvent floods into the chamber housing the thimble of the solid. The condenser ensures that any solvent vapours cool and drip back down into the chamber housing the powdered sample.

The chamber containing the sample slowly fills with the warm solvents. Some of the desired compound will then dissolve in the warm solvent. When the Soxhlet chamber is almost full, the

chamber is automatically emptied by a siphon side arm, with the solvents back down to the distillation flask. This cycle may be allowed to repeat many times over 5 hours.

During each cycle, a portion of the non-volatile compound dissolves in the solvents. After many cycles the desired compound was concentrated in the distillation flask.

After extraction the solvent was removed, typically by means of a rotary evaporator, yielding the extracted compound. The non-soluble portion of the extracted solid remains in the thimble, and was usually discarded.

3.5.4 PETROLEUM ETHER, CHLOROFORM AND METHANOL EXTRACT OF *Acalypha indica* LEAF: PREPARED USING SOXHLET EXTRACTOR

3.5.4.1 PETROLEUM ETHER EXTRACTION OF *Acalypha indica* LEAF:

The finely ground powder (80gm) was placed in a porous bag or thimble made out of strong filter paper, which was placed in the chamber of the soxhlet apparatus. The soxhlet apparatus is placed onto a round bottom flask containing the extracting solvent petroleum ether (300ml).

The solvents are used in the increasing order of polarity. The extracting solvent petroleum ether (300ml) in the flask was heated at its boiling point, and its vapors condense in the condenser. The condensed extractant drips into the thimble containing the plant powder and extract it by contact. When the level of the liquid in the chamber have reached the top of siphon tube, the liquid content of the chamber siphon into the flask. After extraction the solvent was removed, typically by evaporation, yielding the extracted compound. The non-soluble portion of the extracted solid remains in the thimble, and was usually discarded. The obtained extract was condensed for further use.

3.5.4.2 CHLOROFORM EXTRACTION OF *Acalypha indica* LEAF:

The finely ground powder (80gm) after the treatment with the petroleum ether (low polar solvent) the powder was placed in a porous bag or thimble made out of strong filter paper, which was placed in the chamber of the soxhlet apparatus. The soxhlet apparatus is placed on to a round bottom flask containing the extracting solvent chloroform (300 ml). The solvents are used in the increasing order of polarity. The extracting solvent chloroform (300ml) in the flask was heated at its boiling point, and its vapors condense in the condenser. The condensed extractant drips into the thimble containing the plant powder and extract it by contact. When

the level of the liquid in the chamber have reached the top of siphon tube, the liquid content of the chamber sip-hon into the flask. After 72 hours the dried compound is concentrated in the flask. After extraction the solvent was removed, typically by evaporation, yielding the extracted compound. The non-soluble portion of the extracted solid remains in the thimble, and was usually discarded. The obtained extract was condensed for further use.

3.5.4.3 METHANOL EXTRACTION OF *Acalypha indica* LEAF:

The finely ground powder (80gm) after the treatment with chloroform, the powder was placed in a porous bag or thimble made out of strong filter paper, which was placed in the chamber of the soxhlet apparatus. The soxhlet apparatus is placed on to a round bottom flask containing the extracting solvent methanol (300 ml). The solvents are used in the increasing order of polarity. The extracting solvent methanol (300ml) in the flask was heated at its boiling point, and its vapors condense in the condenser. The condensed extractant drips into the thimble containing the plant powder and extract it by contact. When the level of the liquid in the chamber have reached the top of siphon tube, the liquid content of the chamber sip-hon into the flask. After 72 hours the dried compound is concentrated in the flask. After extraction the solvent was removed, typically by evaporation, yielding the extracted compound. The non-soluble portion of the extracted solid remains in the thimble, and was usually discarded. The obtained extract was condensed for further use.

3.5.5 PETROLEUM ETHER, CHLOROFORM AND METHANOL EXTRACT OF *Calotropis gigantea* LEAF – PREPARED USING SOXHLET EXTRACTOR

3.5.5.1 PETROLEUM EXTRACTION OF *Calotropis gigantea* LEAF:

The finely ground powder (80gm) was placed in a porous bag or thimble made out of strong filter paper, which was placed in the chamber of the soxhlet apparatus. The soxhlet apparatus is placed on to a round bottom flask containing the extracting solvent petroleum ether (300 ml). The solvents are used in the increasing order of polarity. The extracting solvent petroleum ether (300ml) in the flask was heated at its boiling point, and its vapors condense in the condenser. The condensed extractant drips into the thimble containing the plant powder and extract it by contact. When the level of the liquid in the chamber have reached the top of siphon tube, the liquid content of the chamber sip-hon into the flask. After extraction the solvent was removed, typically by evaporation, yielding the extracted compound. The non-

soluble portion of the extracted solid remains in the thimble, and was usually discarded. The obtained extract was condensed for further use.

3.5.5.2 CHLOROFORM EXTRACTION OF *Calotropis gigantea* LEAF:

The finely ground powder (80gm) after the treatment with the petroleum ether (low polar solvent) the powder was placed in a porous bag or thimble made out of strong filter paper, which was placed in the chamber of the soxhlet apparatus. The soxhlet apparatus is placed on to a round bottom flask containing the extracting solvent chloroform (300 ml). The solvents are used in the increasing order of polarity. The extracting solvent chloroform (300ml) in the flask was heated at its boiling point, and its vapors condense in the condenser. The condensed extractant drips into the thimble containing the plant powder and extract it by contact. When the level of the liquid in the chamber have reached the top of siphon tube, the liquid content of the chamber sip-hon into the flask. After 72 hours the dried compound is concentrated in the flask. After extraction the solvent was removed, typically by evaporation, yielding the extracted compound. The non-soluble portion of the extracted solid remains in the thimble, and was usually discarded. The obtained extract was condensed for further use.

3.5.5.3 METHANOL EXTRACTION OF *Calotropis gigantea* LEAF:

The finely ground powder (80gm) after the treatment with chloroform, the powder was placed in a porous bag or thimble made out of strong filter paper, which was placed in the chamber of the soxhlet apparatus. The soxhlet apparatus is placed on to a round bottom flask containing the extracting solvent methanol (300 ml). The solvents are used in the increasing order of polarity. The extracting solvent methanol (300ml) in the flask was heated at its boiling point, and its vapors condense in the condenser. The condensed extractant drips into the thimble containing the plant powder and extract it by contact. When the level of the liquid in the chamber have reached the top of siphon tube, the liquid content of the chamber sip-hon into the flask. After 72 hours the dried compound is concentrated in the flask. After extraction the solvent was removed, typically by evaporation, yielding the extracted compound. The non-soluble portion of the extracted solid remains in the thimble, and was usually discarded. The obtained extract was condensed for further use.

3.5.6 PETROLEUM ETHER, CHLOROFORM AND METHANOL EXTRACT OF *Lawsonia inermis* LEAF – PREPARED USING SOXHLET EXTRACTOR.

3.5.6.1 PETROLEUM ETHER EXTRACTION OF *Lawsonia inermis* LEAF:

The finely ground powder (80gm) was placed in a porous bag or thimble made out of strong filter paper, which was placed in the chamber of the soxhlet apparatus. The soxhlet apparatus is placed on to a round bottom flask containing the extracting solvent petroleum ether (300ml). The solvents are used in the increasing order of polarity. The extracting solvent petroleum ether (300ml) in the flask was heated at its boiling point, and its vapors condense in the condenser. The condensed extractant drips into the thimble containing the plant powder and extract it by contact. When the level of the liquid in the chamber have reached the top of siphon tube, the liquid content of the chamber sip-hon into the flask. After extraction the solvent was removed, typically by evaporation, yielding the extracted compound. The non-soluble portion of the extracted solid remains in the thimble, and was usually discarded. The obtained extract was condensed for further use.

3.5.6.2 CHLOROFORM EXTRACTION OF *Lawsonia inermis* LEAF:

The finely ground powder (80gm) after the treatment with the petroleum ether (low polar solvent) the powder was placed in a porous bag or thimble made out of strong filter paper, which was placed in the chamber of the soxhlet apparatus. The soxhlet apparatus is placed on to a round bottom flask containing the extracting solvent chloroform (300 ml). The solvents are used in the increasing order of polarity. The extracting solvent chloroform (300ml) in the flask was heated at its boiling point, and its vapors condense in the condenser. The condensed extractant drips into the thimble containing the plant powder and extract it by contact. When the level of the liquid in the chamber have reached the top of siphon tube, the liquid content of the chamber sip-hon into the flask. After 72 hours the dried compound is concentrated in the flask. After extraction the solvent was removed, typically by evaporation, yielding the extracted compound. The non-soluble portion of the extracted solid remains in the thimble, and was usually discarded. The obtained extract was condensed for further use.

3.5.6.3 METHANOL EXTRACTION OF *Lawsonia inermis* LEAF:

The finely ground powder (80gm) after the treatment with chloroform, the powder was placed in a porous bag or thimble made out of strong filter paper, which was placed in the chamber of the soxhlet apparatus. The soxhlet apparatus is placed on to a round bottom flask containing the extracting solvent methanol (300 ml). The solvents are used in the increasing

order of polarity. The extracting solvent methanol (300ml) in the flask was heated at its boiling point, and its vapors condense in the condenser. The condensed extractant drips into the thimble containing the plant powder and extract it by contact. When the level of the liquid in the chamber has reached the top of siphon tube, the liquid content of the chamber siphons into the flask. After 72 hours the dried compound is concentrated in the flask. After extraction the solvent was removed, typically by evaporation, yielding the extracted compound. The non-soluble portion of the extracted solid remains in the thimble, and was usually discarded. The obtained extract was condensed for further use.



Fig:3.3 Extraction of *Acalypha indica*, *Lawsonia inermis* and *Calotropis gigantea* leaves using soxhlet extractor

3.6 QUALITATIVE PHYTOCHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF *Acalypha indica*, *Calotropis* and *Lawsonia inermis*

3.6.1 TEST FOR ALKALOIDS:

MAYER'S TEST: 2ml of plant extract was dissolved with 2ml of concentrated hydrochloric acid and then few drops of Mayer's reagent was added. Presence of green colour or white precipitate indicates the presence of alkaloid.

3.6.2 TEST FOR GLYCOSIDES:

To 2ml of plant extract, 3ml of chloroform and 10% ammonia solution was added. Formation of pink color indicates the presence of glycosides.

3.6.3 TEST FOR FLAVANOIDS:

ALKALINE REAGENT TEST: 2ml of plant extract was dissolved in 1ml of 2N sodium hydroxide. Presence of yellow colour indicates the presence of flavonoids.

3.6.4 PHENOLIC TEST:

1ml of plant extract and few drops of phenol-dens reagent were added followed by 2ml of 15% sodium carbonate solution. Formation of blue or green colour indicates the presence of phenols.

3.6.5 TEST FOR TERPENOID:

SALKOWSKI TEST: 0.5 ml of plant extract and 2ml of chloroform and concentrated sulphuric acid was added carefully. Formation of red brown colour at the interface indicates the presence of terpenoids.

3.6.6 TEST FOR TANNIN:

FOLIN-DENIS REAGENT TEST: 1ml of plant extract was dissolved with 2ml of 7M NaOH and then few drops of folin-denis reagent were added. Formation of dark blue or greenish black indicates the presence of tannins

3.6.7 TEST FOR QUINONES:

CONCENTRATED SULPHURIC ACID TEST: 1ml of plant extract was dissolved with 1ml of concentrated sulphuric acid. Formation of red colour indicates presence of quinines.

3.6.8 TEST FOR SAPONINS:

FROTH TEST: 2ml of plant extract was dissolved with 2ml of distilled water and then shaken in a graduated cylinder for 15 minutes length wise. Formation of 1cm layer of foam indicates the presence of saponins.

3.6.9 TEST FOR CARBOHYDRATES:

MOLISCH'S TEST: 2 ml of plant extract was dissolved with 1ml of Molisch's reagent and few drops of concentrated sulphuric acid was added to the extract which produced a reddish colour or purple colour indicates the presence of carbohydrates.

3.6.10 TEST FOR CARDIACGLYCOSIDES:

0.5 ml of plant extract was dissolved with 2ml of glacial acetic acid and added few drops of 5% ferric chloride. This was underlayered with 1 ml of concentrated sulphuric acid. Formation of brown ring at the interface indicated the presence of cardiac glycosides

3.6.11 TEST FOR COUMARINS:

To 1 ml of extract, 1 ml of 10% NaOH was added. Formation of yellow color indicates presence of coumarins.

3.6.12 TEST FOR STEROIDS:

1 ml of plant extract and equal volume of chloroform was added and subjected with few drops of concentrated sulphuric acid. Appearance of brown ring indicated the presence of steroids and appearances of bluish brown ring indicated the presence of phyto steroids.

3.6.13 TEST FOR PHLOBATANNINS:

1 ml of plant extract and few drops of 2% HCl was added appearance of red colour precipitate indicates the presence of phlobatannins.

3.6.14 TEST FOR ANTHRAQUINONES:

1 ml of plant extract and few drops of 10% ammonia solution were added, appearance of pink colour precipitate indicated the presence of anthraquinones.

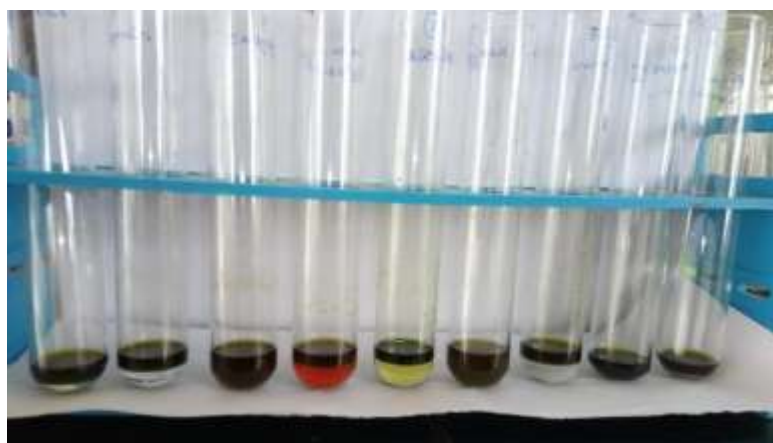


Fig:3.4 Screening of phytochemicals of *Acalypha indica* leaves extract

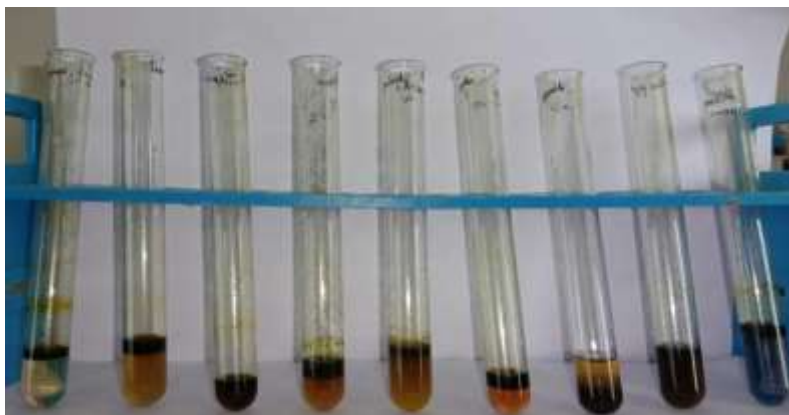


Fig:3.5 Screening of phytochemicals of *Lawsonia inermis* leaves extract



Fig:3.6 Screening of phytochemicals of *Calotropis gigantea* leaves extract

3.7 QUANTITATIVE PHYTOCHEMICAL ANALYSIS:

3.7.1 DETERMINATION OF FLAVONOIDS CONTENT:

Total Flavonoids content in the extracts was determined using the method described (Sankanaka, et al, 2005). The flavonoids content was determined by aluminium chloride method using Quercetin as standard. Extract and quercetin were prepared in Ethyl acetate (10mg/ml). 0.1ml of extract was mixed with 0.9ml of distilled water in test tube, followed by

addition of 75 μ l of 5% sodium nitrite solution. 150 μ l of 10% aluminium chloride solution was added after 6 minutes and the mixture was allowed to stand for further 5 minutes after which 0.5 ml of 1M sodium hydroxide was added to the reaction mixture. The reaction mixture was brought to 2.5 ml distilled water and mixed well. The absorbance was measured immediately at 510 nm using a spectrophotometer. A calibration curve was generated using various concentration of Quercetin (20-120g). Blank consists of all the reagents, except for the extract or Quercetin is substituted with 0.1 ml of ethanol. The result was expressed as the Quercetin equivalences (QE) of the sample in mg/ml of the extract. Total content of flavonoids compound was calculated as.

$$\text{Total flavonoids content} = \text{QE} * \text{V/M}$$

Where QE, is the Quercetin equivalences (mg/ml) or concentrated solution of quercetin established from calibration curve, V is the volume of extract (ml) and m is the weight of the pure plant extract (g).

3.7.2 DETERMINATION OF TOTAL PHENOLIC CONTENT:

The amount of phenolic compounds in the extracts was determined by the Folin Ciocalteu colorimetric method and calculated from a calibration curve obtained with Gallic acid as standard (1 mg/1 ml). From the standard solution 20 to 100 ml was added to different test tubes.

Extract was added in a separate test tube at a concentration of 1 mg/ml. To 0.1 ml of each extract, 5 ml of follin-ciocalteu (1:10 dilution) was added and the content was mixed thoroughly and incubated in dark for 3 minutes. 5 ml of sodium carbonate (75 g/l) was added and the mixture was incubated in dark for 60 min. The absorbance was measured at 765 nm in a UV-visible spectrophotometer. They were expressed in gallic acid equivalence of the samples (GE) g/mg of the extract. Total contents of phenolic compound is calculated as

$$\text{Total phenolic content} = \text{GAE} * \text{V/m},$$

Where GAE, is the gallic acid equivalence (mg/ml) or concentration of gallic acid solution established from the calibration curve V, is the volume of extract (ml) and m, is the weight of the pure plant extract (g).

3.8 INVITRO ANALYSIS OF ANTIFUNGAL ACTIVITY OF *Acalypha indica*, *Calotropis gigantea* and *Lawsonia inermis* LEAF EXTRACT BY AGAR WELL DIFFUSIONMETHOD:

Well diffusion method was adopted for evaluation of antifungal activity of three different medicinal leaves. Agar was prepared and autoclaved at 15 lbs pressure for 20 minutes and cooled at 45°C. the cooled media was poured on to the sterile petriplates and allowed for solidification. The plates with media were seeded with the respective fungus suspension using sterile swab. The Well impregnated with respective leaf extract at different concentration (100-300mg/ml) individually were placed on the four corners of each petridishes, fluconazole were placed in the control well. The petridishes were then incubated at 37° C for 24 hours. After incubation period, the diameter of the zone formed around the well were measured.

3.9 BIOFERTILIZER PREPARATION:

3.9.1 Collection of sample:

The Seaweed *Sargassum muticum* were collected from Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu. Seaweed samples were handpicked and immediately washed with seawater to remove foreign particles, sand particles and epiphytes. The samples were kept in polythene bags with seawater and immediately transported to Biozone research laboratory for the identification of the species. Then washed thoroughly using tap water to remove the salt on the surface of the sample and finally with distilled water. Then seaweeds were spread on blotting papers to remove excess water and it is placed in spread in white cotton cloth for the process of shade drying.



Fig 3.7 *Sargassum muticum*

3.9.2 Extraction of seaweed liquid fertilizer:

The 100 gm of chopped *Sargassum muticum* was taken and it was blended for 20 minutes using motor and pestle for a clear grinded extraction. Then the powdered mixture was taken in a 1000 ml conical flask and 500 ml of water is added in the conical flask and the flask is boiled at 100°C for 30 minutes. This process yielded 500 ml of concentrated extract of *Seaweed*. Concentrated extract was filtered with Whatman filter paper to remove debris. Then the filtered extract is taken and centrifuged and supernatant is taken as the concentrated liquid fertilizer. For the concentrated extract, 0.1% of formaldehyde solution (5 ml) was added to preserve the extract. The Seaweed liquid fertilizer (SLF) were prepared by adding distilled water. Finally the concentrated seaweed extract was taken in falcon tube and stored for future use at 4. (Katarzyna Godlewska et al., (2016)

3.9.3 Selection of crop plant:

The crop plant, selected for the present study was maize plant. The seeds were collected from provisional store located in Maraimalainagar. The selected seeds were stored in a plastic container until use in the project.

3.9.4 Preparation of crude extract

For the polyherbal formulation, 300 gm of *Lawsonia inermis* leaf was taken in the soxhlet extractor under chloroform as a solvent and the soxhlet was performed for several times until the colour change.

3.9.4 Culture of seed:

Totally 3 Plastic trays were used for raising the crops. The trays were filled with the equal amount of soil filled in the tray of 3kg. Then 60 maize seeds are taken and 20 maize seeds were soaked in 1% of seaweed extract and 10% crude extract of *Lawsoina inermis* chloroform extract. And another 20 maize seeds were soaked in 5% of seaweed extract and 10% of crude extract of *Lawsonia inermis* chloroform extract. And last 20 maize seeds were soaked in 10% seaweed extract and 10% crude extract of *Lawsoina inermis* chloroform extract for 24 hours. they were kept in a net house to prevent damage until germination. **(Jayasinghe PS, Pahalawattaarachchi(2016))**. The trays were rearranged at regular intervals to ensure uniform environment impact on the plant growth. The fertilizer sprays and watering were done at two days intervals.

CHAPTER 4

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4.1 QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF LEAFEXTRACTS

The phytochemical analysis confirms the presence of compounds like carbohydrate, saponins, tannins, flavonoids, quinones, steroids, alkaloids, glycosides. The presence or absence of different compounds is identified by characteristics changes when the leaf extracts treated with specific chemical reagents. The results are given in the tables.

Table 4.1.1: PHYTOCHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF *Acalypha indica* LEAF EXTRACTS

PHYTOCHEMICAL TEST	Petroleum ether	Chloroform	Methanol
Carbohydrates	+	+	+
Tannins	-	+	-
Saponins	-	+	-
Flavonoids	+	+	-
Alkaloids	+	+	+
Quinones	-	+	-
Glycosides	-	-	-
Cardiac glycosides	+	+	+
Terpenoids	-	+	-
Phenols	+	+	+
Coumarins	-	-	+
Steroids	-	+	-
Phlobatannins	-	-	-
Anthraquinones	-	-	-

(+ indicates presence, - indicates absence)

Table 4.1.2: PHYTOCHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF *Calotropis gigantea* LEAF EXTRACTS

PHYTOCHEMICAL TEST	Petroleum ether	Chlorofom	Methanol
Carbohydrates	+	+	+
Tannins	-	-	-
Saponins	-	-	-
Flavonoids	+	-	+
Alkaloids	+	+	+
Quinones	-	+	-
Glycosides	-	-	-
Cardiac glycosides	+	+	+
Terpenoids	-	-	-
Phenols	-	+	+
Coumarins	-	-	+
Steroids and Phyto steroids	-	-	-
Phlobatannins	-	+	-
Anthraquinones	-	+	-

Table 4.1.3: PHYTOCHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF *Lawsonia inermis* LEAF EXTRACTS

PHYTOCHEMICAL TEST	Petroleum ether	Chloroform	Methanol
Carbohydrates	+	+	+
Tannins	+	+	-
Saponins	-	-	-
Flavonoids	-	+	-
Alkaloids	+	+	+
Quinones	-	-	-
Glycosides	-	-	+
Cardiac glycosides	+	+	-
Terpenoids	+	+	+
Phenols	+	+	+
Coumarins	+	+	-
Steroids	-	+	-
Phlobatannins	-	-	-
Anthraquinones	-	+	-

4.1.4 Phytochemical analysis

The *Acalypha indica*, *Lawsonia inermis* and *Calotropis gigantea* extract have the presence of carbohydrates, alkaloids, flavonoids, phenols, cardiac glycosides, quinones, tannins, phytotannins, anthraquinones.

QUANTITATIVE TEST:

4.1.5 DETERMINATION OF TOTAL FLAVONOIDS CONTENT

Flavonoids are the classes of polyphenolic compounds which have antioxidant properties. Flavonoids have been reported to exert multiple biological compounds which include antimicrobial, cytotoxicity study etc. The flavonoids content in petroleum ether of *Acalypha indica* leaf extract was found to be 6.86g and in the chloroform extract was found to be 8.61g. The flavonoids content was not found in the methanol extract. The chloroform extract has the high content of flavonoids. And the flavonoids content in petroleum ether of *Calotropis gigantean* extract was found to be 6.86g and in the methanol extract was found to be 23.5g. The flavonoids content was not found in the chloroform extract. The methanol extract has the high content of flavonoids. And the flavonoid content in chloroform of *Lawsonia inermis* leaf extract was found to be 35.01g.

FLAVONOID ESTIMATION:

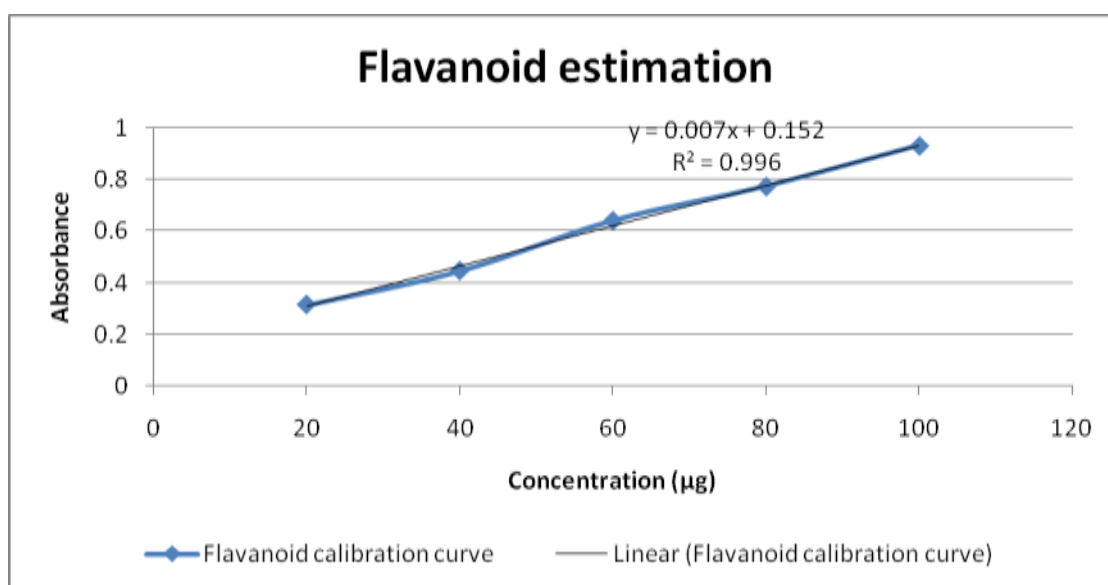


Fig4.1: Graph shows the standard calibration curve of Quercetin

4.1.6 DETERMINATION OF TOTAL PHENOLIC CONTENT

Phenolic compounds are the secondary metabolites that are being extensively studied in plant parts of medicinal value, fruits and vegetables. The phenolic content in petroleum ether of *Acalypha indica* leaf extract was found to be 15.53g, Chloroform extract was found to be 21.03g and the methanolic extract was found to be 11.01g. The phenolic content in Chloroform of *Calotropis gigantea* leaf extract was found to be 5.256g and methanolic extract was found to be 22.04g. The phenolic content in petroleum ether of *Lawsonia inermis* leaf extract was found to be 112.30g, Chloroform extract was found to be 143.07g and the methanolic extract was found to be 10.74g.

PHENOL ESTIMATION:

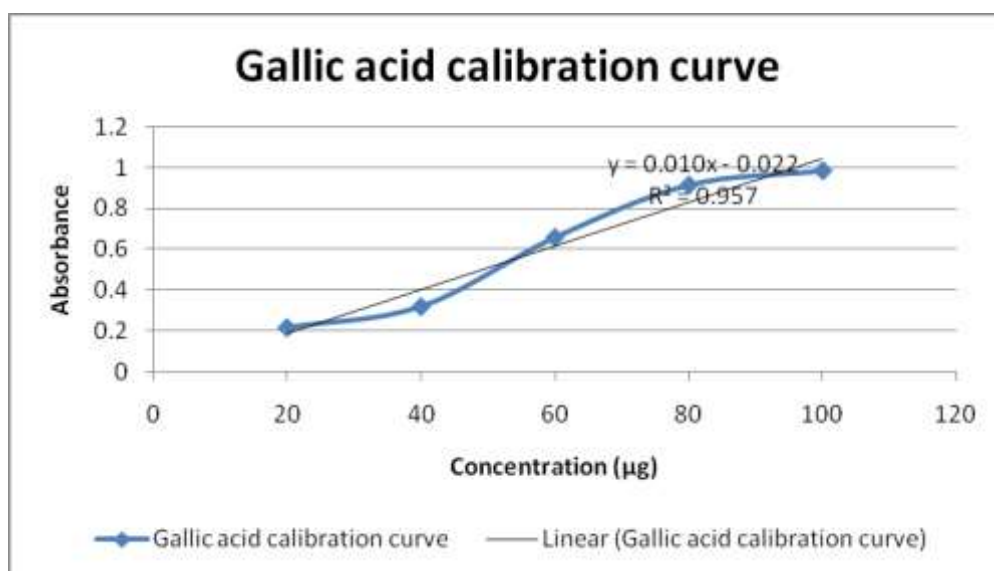


Fig4.2: Graph shows the standard calibration curve of Gallic acid

4.2 INVITRO ANALYSIS OF ANTIFUNGALACTIVITY

Petroleum ether, of Chloroform extract of *Acalypha indica* exhibited maximum zone of inhibition [fig] of 12mm and 20mm against *Curvularia lunata* concentration of 80 µg/ml.

Table4.2.1: Petroleum ether, chloroform and methanol extract of *Acalypha indica* Against *Curvularia lunata*

EXTRACT	ZONE OF INHIBITION(mm)				ANTIBIOTIC FLUCONAZOLE (1mg/ml)
	CONCENTRATION(μ g/ml)				
	80	60	40	20	
PETROLEUM ETHER	12	9	6	-	19
CHLOROFORM	20	9	10	9	25
METHANOL	-	-	-	-	15

Petroleum ether, Chloroform of *Acalypha indica* exhibited maximum zone of inhibition [fig 4.3] and [fig 4.4] 12mm, 20mm against *Curvularia lunata* at concentration of 80 μ g/ml.



Fig4.3:petroleumether

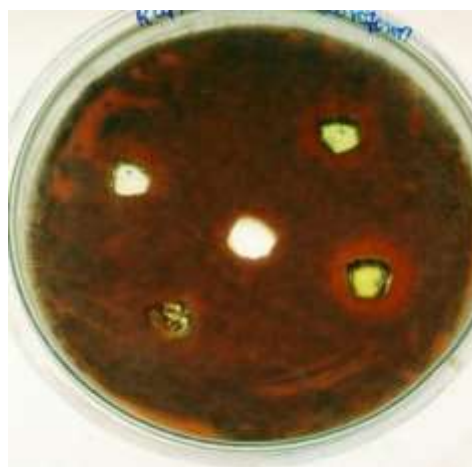


Fig4.4:Chloroform

Table4.2.2: Petroleum ether, chloroform and methanol extract of *Calotropis gigantea* Against *Curvularia lunata*

EXTRACT	ZONE OF INHIBITION(mm)				ANTIBIOTIC FLUCONAZOLE (1mg/ml)
	CONCENTRATION(μ g/ml)				
	80	60	40	20	

PETROLEUM ETHER	-	-	-	-	19
CHLOROFORM	-	-	-	-	15
METHANOL	20	18	17	17	25

Methanol extract of *Calotropis gigantean* exhibited maximum zone of inhibition (fig)4.5 of 20mm against *Curvularia lunata* at concentration of 80 µg /ml.



Fig 4.5: Chloroform

Table4.2.3: Petroleum ether, chloroform and methanol extract of *Lawsonia inermis* Against *Curvularia lunata*

EXTRACT	ZONE OF INHIBITION(mm)				ANTIBIOTIC FLUCONAZOLE (1mg/ml)
	CONCENTRATION(µg/ml)				
	80	60	40	20	
PETROLEUM ETHER	14	11	10	7	25
CHLOROFORM	24	20	11	5	18
METHANOL	15	11	10	-	33

Petroleum ether, chloroform and Methonal extract of *Lawsoina inermis* exhibited maximum zone of inhibition of 14mm,24mm,15mm against *Curvularia lunata* at concentration of 80 $\mu\text{g/ml}$.



4.6:petroleumether

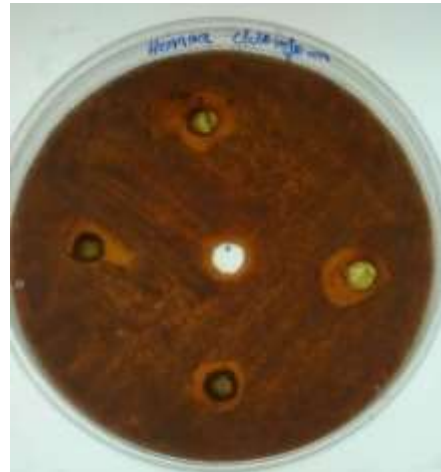


Fig4.7:chloroform



Fig4.8: Methanol

4.3 Formulation of polyherbal enriched seaweed biofertilizer:

From the antifungal activity of all the three plant leaves *Acalypha indica*, *Calotropis gigantea* and *Lawsoniainermis*, Chloroform extract of *Lawsoniainermis* shows 75% inhibition of plant fungal pathogen *Curvularia lunata*. The chloroform extract of *Lawsonia inermis* was mixed with the seaweed biofertilizer at 10% concentration.

4.4: Plant growth parameters:

Totally 3 Plastic trays were used for raising the crops. The trays were filled with the equal amount of soil filled in the tray of 3kg. Then 60 maize seeds are taken, In treatment 1, 20 maize seeds were soaked in 1% of seaweed extract and 10% chloroform extract of *Lawsonia inermis* leaf. And in treatment 2, 20 maize seeds were soaked in 5% of seaweed extract and 10% chloroform extract of *Lawsonia inermis* leaf. And last in treatment 3, 20 maize seeds were soaked in 10% seaweed extract and 10% chloroform extract of *Lawsonia inermis* leaf for 24 hours. After 24 hours the pre-treatment seeds were germinated, Plants taken from the trays were uprooted carefully after 15th day and were separated by hand picking and the following growth parameters were measured. During 15 days the plant was continuously sprayed with biofertilizer. The plants from each treatment of different concentration were taken for different analyses.

4.4.1 : Root and Shoot length of the plant of treatment 1

Extract 1- 1% concentration of seaweed extract and 10% chloroform extract of *Lawsonia inermis* leaf

Treatment 1

S.No	Root length (cm)	Shoot length (cm)
1	31	16
2	30.9	15.9
3	29.7	14.5
4	30.8	15.8
5	29	14.8
6	29.1	15
7	28.9	14.9
8	29.2	15.8
9	28.5	14.8
10	29.1	14.1

The maximum root length of the plant grown in treatment 1 (i.e) seed soaked + fertilizer sprayed at 1% concentration of seaweed extract and 10% chloroform extract of *Lawsonia inermis* leaf is **31cm** and maximum shoot length is found to be **16cm**.



Fig 4.9 : Representative image of the uprooted plant from the treatment 1 for which the root and shoot length was measured.

4.4.2 :Root and Shoot length of the plant of treatment2:

Extract2- 5%concentrationofseaweedextractand10%chloroformextractof *Lawsonia inermis* leaf

Treatment 2:

S.No	Root length (cm)	Shoot length (cm)
1	33.1	18.2
2	32.9	18.1
3	33.1	18
4	30.6	17.5
5	30.3	17.9
6	30.1	16.9
7	29.9	13.1
8	29	16.8
9	29.7	15.4
10	28.7	15.5

The maximum root length of the plant grown in treatment 2(i.e) seed soaked + fertilizer sprayed at 5% concentration of seaweed extract and 10% chloroform extract of *Lawsonia inermis* leaf is **33.1cm** and maximum shoot length is found to be **18.2cm**.



Fig4.10: Representative image of the uprooted plant from the treatment 2 for which the root and shoot length was measured.

4.4.3 : Root and Shoot length of the plant of treatment3:

Extract 3- 10% concentration of seaweed extract and 10% chloroform extract of *Lawsoina inermis* leaf

Treatment 3

S.No	Root length (cm)	Shoot length (cm)
1	36.5	20.2
2	36.1	20.1
3	35.9	18
4	35.6	18.5
5	35.3	18.9
6	34.1	17.9
7	30.9	13.1
8	31	16.8
9	29.7	15.4
10	28.7	15

The maximum root length of the plant grown in treatment 3 (i.e) seed soaked + fertilizers sprayed at 10% concentration of seaweed extract and 10% chloroform extract of *Lawsonia inermis* leaf is **36.5cm** and maximum shoot length is found to be **20.2cm**.



Fig4.11: Representative image of the uprooted plant from the treatment 3 for which the root and shoot length was measured.

Result:

Comparison of root and shoot length of the plants with extract of different concentration:

The maximum shoot and root length of the plant obtained by treating extract 3 are **36.5cms** and **20.2cms** is found to be the tallest plant when compare to the plant grown in different concentration.

4.5 Over all height of the plantgrown:

Extract 1- 1%concentration of seaweedextract and 10% chloroform extract of *Lawsonia inermis* leaf

Treatment 1:

Average of shoot and root length of the plant			
S.No	Cms	S.No	Cms
1	47	6	44.1
2	46.8	7	43.8
3	44.2	8	45

4	46.6	9	43.3
5	43.8	10	43.2
228.4		219.4	
Average =44.78cm			

Observation:

The average total length of the plant grown in treatment 1 (i.e) is **44.78cms**.

Extract 2- 5% concentration of seaweed extract and 10% chloroform extract of *Lawsoina inermis* leaf

Treatment 2:

Average of shoot and root length of the plant			
S.No	Cms	S.No	Cms
1	51.3	6	47
2	51	7	43
3	51.1	8	45.8
4	48.1	9	45.1
5	48.2	10	44.2
249.7		224.1	
Average = 47.38cm			

The average total length of the plant grown in treatment 2 (i.e) is **47.38cms**.

Extract3- 10% concentration of seaweed extract and10% chloroform extract of *Lawsoina inermis* leaf:

Treatment 3:

Average of shoot and root length of the plant			
S.No	Cms	S.No	Cms
1	56.7	6	52
2	56.2	7	44
3	53.9	8	47.8
4	54.1	9	45.1
5	54.2	10	43.7
275.1		232.6	
Average = 50.77cm			

The average total length of the plant grown in treatment 3 (i.e.) is **50.77cms**.

4.6 Total height of the plant:

The average total length of the plant grown in treatment 1 of 1% concentration of seaweed and 10% chloroform extracts of *Lawsonia inermis* is 44.78cms. And the plant grown in treatment 2 of 5% concentration of seaweed and 10% chloroform extract of *Lawsonia inermis* is 47.38 cm. And the plant grown in treatment 3 of 10% concentration of seaweed and 10% chloroform extract of *Lawsonia inermis* is 50.77cm. Therefore, the plant grown in treatment 3 with 10% concentration of seaweed and 10% chloroform extract of *lawsonia inermis* plant leaf in the condition of seed soaked +fertilizer sprayed is found to be the tallest plant when compared to all the plant grown in different conditions, hence this treatment increases the overall growth of the plant.

5. DISCUSSION

The result of present study showed that *Acalypha indica*, *Calotropis gigantea* and *Lawsonia inermis* has antifungal activity against to *Curvularia lunata*. These result corroborate earlier investigation by Somchit et al., (2010), Pawar NT et al., (2018) and Tansukh Barupal et al., (2019).

Antimicrobial activity of *Lawsonia inermis* extracts against fungus *Curvularia lunata* has been assessed and acetone extract showed greatest percent (70.15%) inhibition of mycelial growth of target fungi, Mancozeb and bavistin were used as standards. Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) and the acetone fraction of *Lawsonia inermis* has maximum antifungal activity and can be used as a powerful fungicide against *Curvularia lunata* in treating leaf spot disease of maize Tansukh Barupal et al., (2017). In the present study the chloroform extracts of *Acalypha indica*, *Calotropis gigantea* and *Lawsonia inermis* have a greater effect than that of acetone. Chloroform extract of *Lawsonia inermis* shows 75% inhibition of *Curvularia lunata*, fluconazole were used as the standards. It indicates that the active compounds can readily be dissolved or extracted in chloroform when compared to ethanol and petroleum ether.

The leaves of *Acalypha indica* possess major phyto chemical constituents include alkaloids, saponins, terpenoids & steroids, flavonoids, tannins, phenolic compounds Pasumarthi Brahmam et al., (2019) and the *Calotropis gigantea* possess useful biological actions belonging mainly to phenolics, flavonoids, glycosides, alkaloids, cardiac glycosides, phytosterols Madhurima Dutta et al., (2014). *Lawsonia inermis* possess cardio glycosides, tannins, phenol Tansukh Barupal et al., (2019). The phytochemical screening of the study showed that the presence of flavonoids, alkaloids, tannins, phenol in the leaves extract supports for the antifungal activity.

Plant Growth Biostimulants Based on Different Methods of Seaweed Extraction with Water We explored two methods for obtaining aqueous extracts: boiling and soaking of Baltic seaweeds (EB and ES, resp.). Algal extracts were characterized in terms of polyphenols, micro- and macroelements, lipids content, and antibacterial properties. The utilitarian properties were examined in the germination tests on *Lepidium sativum* for three extract dilutions (0.5, 2.5, and 10%). It was found that the extracts were similar in micro- and macroelement concentrations. Water was proved to be a good solvent to extract phenolic compounds. The algal extract produced by soaking biomass did not show inhibitory effect on *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*. Only the boiled extract had an inhibitory activity against *E. coli*. Germination tests revealed a positive influence of the

bioproducts on the cultivated plants. In the group treated with 10% EB, plants were 13% longer than in the control group; the content of elements B, Mo, Zn, and Na in the group treated with 10% ES was higher by 76%, 48%, 31%, and 59% than in the control group, respectively; the content of chlorophyll was 2.5 times higher in 0.5% ES than in the control group. Extracts showed the slight impact on the morphology of plants Katarzyna Godlewska et al., (2016). According to their result the present study shows the average total length of the plant grown in tray A of 1% concentration is **44.78cms**. And the plant grown in tray B of 5% concentration is 47.38cms. And the plant grown in tray C of 5% concentration is 50.77cm. Therefore, the plant grown in tray C with 5% concentration extract in the condition of seed soaked +fertilizer sprayed is found to be the lengthiest plant when compared to all the plants grown in different conditions.

Seaweed liquid extracts were used in different concentrations in different bioassays. Results show that extracts obtained from two seaweeds, *A.nodosum* and *S.muticum*, can be promissory plant biofertilizer at a concentration of 25% and had a positive effect on seed germination, plant development, and production investigated by Silva *et al.*, (2019). The result of present study showed that extracts obtained from Seaweed *Sargassum muticum* has maximum effect on maize seed germination and plant development at the concentration of 10%.

6. SUMMARY

The present study reveals that the that the three plants namely *Acalypha indica*, *Calotropis gigantea* and *Lawsonia inermis* shows antifungal activity against to the plant fungal pathogen *Curvularia lunata* and the maximum inhibition of *Curvularia lunata* obtained in the Chloroform extract of plants. And the phytochemical result shows the presence of Alkaloids, Flavanoids, tannins, phenol. *Lawsonia inermis* plant shows inhibition of *Curvularia lunata* in all three solvents (petroleum ether, chloroform and methanol) when compared to *Acalypha indica* and *Calotropis gigantea*.

Extract of Seaweed *Sargassum muticum* of different concentration 1%, 5% and 10% respectively shows the germination of maize seed and development of plant. Increase in the concentration of the Seaweed *Sargassum muticum* leads to increase the seed germination and growth of the maize plant.

In conclusion, At 10% concentration of the Seaweed extract the maximum growth of the maize plant obtained. The average total length of plant in treatment 3 is 50.77cm which is considered to be a lengthiest plant when compared to the plant in treatment 1 is 44.78cm and treatment 2 is 47.38cm.

In future, GC-MS and molecular docking studies of *Lawsonia inermis* leaf chloroform extract to be performed to find the specific biological compound responsible for the inhibition of plant fungal pathogen *Curvularia lunata*. So that the active compound from the GC-MS and molecular docking analysis can be tested against the *Curvularia lunata* and can be used with the seaweed *Sargassum muticum* to produce polyherbal enriched biofertilizer against plant fungal pathogen. Entire stage of the plant growth rate and the response of *Curvularia lunata* towards plant treated with polyherbal enriched biofertilizer can be studied.

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