

## Kinetic Studies of Bioethanol Production from Salt-Pretreated Sugarcane Leaves

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**Abstract :** This study examines the kinetics of *S. cerevisiae* BY4743 growth and bioethanol production from sugarcane leaf waste (SLW), utilizing two different optimized pretreatment regimes; under two fermentation modes: steam salt-alkali filtered enzymatic hydrolysate (SSA-F), steam salt-alkali unfiltered (SSA-U), microwave salt-alkali filtered (MSA-F) and microwave salt-alkali unfiltered (MSA-U). The kinetic coefficients were determined by fitting the Monod, modified Gompertz, and logistic models to the experimental data with high coefficients of determination  $R^2 > 0.97$ . A maximum specific growth rate ( $\mu_{max}$ ) of  $0.153 \text{ h}^{-1}$  was obtained under SSA-F and SSA-U whereas,  $0.150 \text{ h}^{-1}$  was observed with MSA-F and MSA-U. SSA-U gave a potential maximum bioethanol concentration ( $P_m$ ) of 31.06 g/L compared to 30.49, 23.26 and 21.79g/L for SSA-F, MSA-F and MSA-U respectively. An insignificant difference was observed in the  $\mu_{max}$  and  $P_m$  for the filtered and unfiltered enzymatic hydrolysate for both SSA and MSA pretreatments, thus potentially reducing a unit operation. These findings provide significant insights for process scale up.

**Keywords :** lignocellulosic bioethanol, microwave pretreatment, sugarcane leaves, kinetics

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