

Dear Editor in Chief,

We wish to submit an original article entitled “**Formulation Optimization of Chitosan-Based Edible Films Using Organic Acid Solvents, Fatty Acids, and Sodium Benzoate for Sustainable Food Packaging Applications**” for consideration for publication in the *Journal of Applied Food Technology (JAFT)*. This study addresses the pressing need for environmentally friendly alternatives to conventional plastic food packaging by exploring optimized formulations of chitosan-based edible films. We systematically investigated the effects of organic acid solvents (acetic and lactic acid), fatty acids (stearic and oleic acid), and sodium benzoate on the physical, mechanical, barrier, microstructural, and antimicrobial characteristics of the films. Our findings demonstrate that chitosan dissolved in 1% acetic acid with the incorporation of 5% stearic acid and sodium benzoate exhibits the most balanced mechanical strength, moisture-barrier performance, and antimicrobial activity. These results provide new insights into synergistic formulation strategies for improving edible film functionality and advancing sustainable food packaging technologies.

The manuscript is original, has not been published previously, and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. This research did not involve any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors. As such, ethical approval and informed consent were not applicable. All authors have read and approved the final version of the manuscript and agree to its submission to JAFT. We declare that we comply with the journal’s anti-plagiarism, the use of generative AI, and publication ethics policies, as confirmed by the signed cover letter.

Here is a list of three qualified reviewers which is in related with this research field:

Reviewer 1

Name : Yoga Pratama, Ph.D
E-mail Address : yogapratama@live.undip.ac.id
Institution : Diponegoro University

Reviewer 2

Name : Prof. Yus Aniza Yusof

E-mail Address : yus.aniza@upm.edu.my
Institution : Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Malaysia

Reviewer 3

Name : Dr. Muhammad Abdurrahman
E-mail Address : m.abdurrahman@ugm.ac.id
Institution : Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Indonesia

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response.

On behalf of all authors

Sincerely,



Sumarto

Poltekkes Kemenkes Tasikmalaya
sumarto@dosen.poltekkestasikmalaya.ac.id