**Supplementary material**

**Effect of supplementing commercially available and locally prepared carbon materials in anaerobic digestion – Focusing on enhanced performance and potential mechanisms**

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**Methodology for preparation of pyrochar and hydrochar**

*Slow pyrolysis*

A muffle furnace was used for producing the PC. The substrate materials were weighed and kept inside crucibles of 150 mL in triplicates. The pyrolysis was carried out at 500 ℃ for a residence time of 1 h with a heating rate of 8.33℃/min. More details regarding the muffle furnace and operating conditions are well explained in Sahoo et al. (2021). The applied temperature and residence time were optimized earlier for the slow pyrolysis of anaerobic digestate from AD-treating lignocellulosic wastes (leaves, agricultural wastes, and cattle dung) in the literature (Ghysels et al., 2020; Miliotti et al., 2020; Hübner et al., 2015). The residence time of 1 h was also considered to make the results comparable with the HTC experiment. The electrical energy required for this slow pyrolysis experiment was 2 kWh (recorded from the energy meter). The biochar received after the pyrolysis experiment was collected and dried at the ambient temperature before being utilized further for biomethane potential experiments.

*Hydrothermal carbonization*

A hydrothermal reactor of 2 L working volume was used for the HTC processing of the digestate. The slurry mixture containing solid and liquid digestate was maintained at 15 %TS inside the HTC reactor, and the lid was tightly closed. A biomass-to-water ratio of 1:6 is essential for HTC (Kambo & Dutta, 2015; 2014). The reactor was subjected to severe conditions: temperature of 220 ℃ and pressure of 24 bar for 60 min. A constant temperature of 220 ℃ and a time duration of 1 h was optimized earlier to be the best for carbon and nutrient recovery with maximal volatile solubilization to the liquid from HTC of anaerobic digestate from the AD treating lignocellulosic biomass and food wastes together (Stutzenstein et al., 2018). The reason for setting the temperature at 220℃ and 1 h residence time was also because it was reported in the literature that high energy potential was achieved for the digestate-derived hydrochar when the temperature is at least 200 ℃ temperature and 1 h residence time (Magdziarz et al., 2021). In addition, increasing the temperature beyond 220℃ releases phenolic compounds from the feedstock (specifically organic fraction of municipal solid wastes) that are detrimental to the AD process (Ghasemzadeh et al., 2022). The set temperature and residence time give a severity factor of 5.31, calculated according to Overend and Chornet (1987). The input energy required for the process was 2.2 kWh (recorded from the energy meter). After cooling, the thermally treated slurry was taken out. The solid and liquid portions were manually separated using a two-layered cloth. The solid portion was then sun-dried for 2 days and was tightly packed in a sealed polyethylene pouch. The liquid portion (process water) was collected in an air-tight polyethylene bottle and was stored at -20 ℃ for further analysis.

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**Fig.S1** Linear relationship between biochar dosage and total solids concentration

(a)

(b)

**Fig.S2 (a, b)** Daily and cumulative biogas production yield and composition obtained the reactor fed with process water

**Fig.S3** Cumulative yield of H2S concentration in the reactor fed with process water



**Fig.S4** FTIR peaks of anaerobic digestate, PC and HC

**Table S1.** Characteristics of process water and liquid digestate

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Process water | Liquid digestate |
| pH | 5.13 ± 0.23 | 6.84 ± 0.17 |
| EC (ms/cm) | 8.64 ± 1.45 | 2.34 ± 0.35 |
| TDS (mg/L) | 5.87 ± 1.11 | 1.34 ± 0.41 |
| TVA (mg/L) | 7650 ± 640 | 440 ± 110 |
| TA (mg/L as CaCO3)) | 2170 ± 430 | 5630 ± 870 |