

**ANALISIS MATEMATIS PERANCANGAN *MODIFIED ATMOSPHERE PACKAGING* (MAP) UNTUK CABAI RAWIT (*Capsicum frutescens* L.) KULTIVAR RHS N 30 A DENGAN *PRETREATMENT* MINYAK SERAI**

**ABSTRAK**

Cabai rawit segar (*Capsicum frutescens* L.) merupakan produk hortikultura yang mudah mengalami kerusakan akibat respirasi dan serangan mikroba, sehingga diperlukan teknologi penyimpanan inovatif untuk menjaga kualitas dan memperpanjang masa simpannya. Salah satu metode yang mudah, murah, dan efektif adalah penerapan *Modified Atmosphere Packaging* (MAP). Namun demikian, perancangan MAP secara ilmiah masih sulit diaplikasikan oleh pihak-pihak yang berkepentingan. Metode perancangan MAP ini memerlukan berbagai informasi yang relatif sulit untuk didapatkan seperti karakteristik kemasan (tebal, luas permukaan, permeabilitas terhadap O<sub>2</sub> dan CO<sub>2</sub>) serta karakteristik dari produk yang dikemas (jenis produk, laju respirasi, berat optimum). Disamping itu, kelembaban yang tinggi di dalam kemasan memicu tumbuhnya mikroorganisme pada produk yang dikemas sehingga digunakan minyak serai dapur sebagai *pretreatment* alami.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis pengaruh jenis dan ketebalan kemasan terhadap permeabilitasnya, menganalisis secara matematik metode pengemasan MAP untuk produk cabe rawit segar sehingga dapat diperoleh informasi ilmiah yang komprehensif yang diharapkan dapat mempermudah dan memperjelas dalam penerapan MAP. Demikian juga sudah diteliti pengaruh *pretreatment* minyak serai pada cabe rawit sebelum dikemas. Penelitian dilaksanakan menggunakan sampel bahan cabe rawit segar yang diperoleh dari petani Kalasan, umur panen 91-96 HST dengan warna kuning semburat orange. Sedangkan bahan pengemasnya adalah plastik jenis *Low Density Polyethylene* (LDPE) dan *Polypropylene* (PP) dengan ketebalan 30, 50, dan 80 $\mu$ m. Penyimpanan dilakukan pada suhu 5, 15, dan 28°C. Dalam penelitian ini terdapat 18 kombinasi perlakuan dan 1 kontrol, masing-masing diulang sebanyak 3 kali sehingga diperoleh 57 unit percobaan. Juga digunakan bahan minyak serai (*Cymbopogon citratus*) bagian daun sebagai bahan anti mikroba pada penelitian dengan suhu dan ketebalan kemasan terpilih yaitu dikemas LDPE ketebalan 50 $\mu$ m disimpan pada suhu 5 dan 15°C dan dikemas PP ketebalan 50 $\mu$ m disimpan pada suhu 5°C. Parameter-parameter yang diukur dalam penelitian meliputi penentuan karakteristik plastik kemasan, perubahan kualitas cabe rawit selama penyimpanan pada suhu 5, 15, dan 28°C (ruang terbuka), dan perubahan kualitas cabe rawit dengan *pretreatment* minyak serai (dengan konsentrasi 0; 0,025; dan 0,05%) sebelum pengemasan. Adapun analisis data yang digunakan adalah analisis statistik, analisis kinetika dan *Arrhenius*, PCA (*Principal Component Analysis*), dan pemodelan matematis berbasis analisis dimensi serta ASLT (*Accelerated Self Life Test*).

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa jenis dan ketebalan plastik kemasan mempengaruhi permeabilitas gas secara signifikan. Permeabilitas kemasan terhadap gas O<sub>2</sub> dan CO<sub>2</sub> secara berturut-turut berkisar antara 7093,80-13316,65 cm<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>2</sup>.d.0.1Mpa dan 10038,41-40840,54 cm<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>2</sup>.d.0.1Mpa. Koefisien

Permeabilitas kemasan terhadap gas O<sub>2</sub> dan CO<sub>2</sub> secara berturut-turut berkisar antara  $1,31 \times 10^{-15}$ - $2,87 \times 10^{-15}$  mol/m.s.Pa dan  $1,97 \times 10^{-15}$ - $5,17 \times 10^{-15}$  mol/m.s.Pa. Nilai  $\beta$  kemasan berkisar antara 0,77-1,71 untuk PP dan 0,16-2,98 untuk LDPE. Berdasarkan hasil analisis statistik diperoleh bahwa jenis kemasan, ketebalan kemasan, serta suhu penyimpanan dan interaksinya mempengaruhi perubahan beberapa kualitas cabai rawit secara signifikan ( $P < 0,05$ ). Hasil analisis kinetika menunjukkan bahwa perubahan mutu cabai rawit mengikuti model kinetika orde nol dan orde satu, sedangkan konstanta laju perubahannya dipengaruhi oleh suhu penyimpanan. *Pretreatment* minyak serai terbukti efektif dalam menekan laju respirasi, memperlambat susut bobot, mempertahankan kekerasan, stabilitas warna, kadar vitamin C, dan menekan pertumbuhan mikroba selama penyimpanan. Analisis PCA berhasil mereduksi jumlah parameter dan mengelompokkan faktor perlakuan berdasarkan pengaruhnya terhadap kualitas cabai. Pemodelan *Arrhenius* terhadap perubahan kualitas cabai rawit memberikan nilai  $R^2 > 0,95$  yang menunjukkan akurasi model sangat baik. Hasil analisis ASLT menunjukkan bahwa untuk kemasan LDPE lama waktu penyimpanan paling panjang diperoleh untuk ketebalan 50  $\mu$ m pada suhu 5°C, dengan prediksi waktu penyimpanan 21 hari. Kemasan PP dengan ketebalan 50  $\mu$ m pada suhu 5°C diprediksi memiliki lama waktu penyimpanan selama 15 hari. Pengembangan model laju respirasi dan permeabilitas berbasis analisis dimensi juga menghasilkan persamaan prediksi yang valid dengan koefisien determinasi yang tinggi ( $R^2 > 0,96$ ). Selain itu, pengujian nilai  $\beta$  (rasio permeabilitas CO<sub>2</sub> terhadap O<sub>2</sub>) pada kemasan PP dan LDPE menunjukkan bahwa karakteristik  $\beta$  sangat menentukan keberhasilan pencapaian kondisi gas optimum dalam MAP. Penelitian ini membuktikan bahwa kombinasi penggunaan plastik kemasan dengan nilai  $\beta$  yang sesuai, *pretreatment* minyak serai, dan penyimpanan suhu rendah dapat secara signifikan memperpanjang umur simpan cabai rawit segar. Hasil penelitian ini diharapkan dapat menjadi acuan dalam penerapan teknologi MAP secara ilmiah untuk penyimpanan produk hortikultura, khususnya cabai rawit, secara lebih praktis, efektif, dan aplikatif.

**Kata Kunci:** analisis dimensi, *Capsicum frutescens* L., minyak serai, MAP, pemodelan matematis

**MATHEMATICAL ANALYSIS OF MODIFIED ATMOSPHERE  
PACKAGING (MAP) METHOD FOR FRESH CAYENNE PEPPER  
(*Capsicum frutescens* L.) CULTIVAR RHS N 30 A WITH  
LEMONGRASS OIL PRETREATMENT**

**ABSTRACT**

Fresh cayenne pepper (*Capsicum frutescens* L.) is a horticultural product that is easily damaged by respiration and microbial attacks, requiring innovative storage technology to maintain quality and extend shelf life. One easy, inexpensive, and effective method is the application of Modified Atmosphere Packaging (MAP). However, the scientific design of MAP is still difficult to apply by interested parties. This MAP design method requires various information that is relatively difficult to obtain, such as packaging characteristics (thickness, surface area, permeability to O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>) and characteristics of the packaged product (product type, respiration rate, optimum weight). In addition, high humidity inside the packaging triggers the growth of microorganisms in the packaged product so that lemongrass oil is used as a natural pretreatment.

This study aims to analyze the effect of packaging type and thickness on its permeability, analyze mathematically the MAP packaging method for fresh cayenne pepper products so that comprehensive scientific information can be obtained, which is expected to facilitate and clarify the application of MAP. The effect of lemongrass oil pretreatment on cayenne pepper before packaging has also been studied. The study was conducted using samples of fresh cayenne pepper obtained from farmers in Kalasan, harvested at 91-96 days after planting, with a yellowish-orange color. The packaging materials were Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE) and Polypropylene (PP) plastics with thicknesses of 30, 50, and 80µm. Storage was carried out at temperatures of 5, 15, and 28°C. In this study, there were 18 treatment combinations and 1 control, each repeated 3 times, resulting in 57 experimental units. Lemongrass oil (*Cymbopogon citratus*) from the leaves was also used as an antimicrobial agent in the study with selected temperatures and packaging thicknesses, packaged in 50µm thick LDPE stored at 5 and 15°C and packaged in 50µm thick PP stored at 5°C. The parameters measured in the study included the determination of packaging plastic characteristics, changes in the quality of cayenne pepper during storage at temperatures of 5, 15, and 28°C (open space), and changes in the quality of cayenne pepper with lemongrass oil pretreatment (at concentrations of 0; 0.025; and 0.05%) before packaging. The data analysis used was statistical analysis, kinetic and Arrhenius analysis, PCA (Principal Component Analysis), and mathematical modeling based on dimensional analysis and ASLT (Accelerated Self Life Test).

The results showed that the type and thickness of the plastic packaging significantly affected gas permeability. The permeability of the packaging to O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> gases ranged from 7093.80 to 13316.65 cm<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>2</sup>.d.0.1Mpa and 10038.41 to 40840.54 cm<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>2</sup>.d.0.1Mpa, respectively. The permeability coefficient of the packaging to O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> gases ranged from 1.31x10<sup>-15</sup> to 2.87x10<sup>-15</sup> mol/m.s.Pa and 1.97x10<sup>-15</sup> to 5.17x10<sup>-15</sup> mol/m.s.Pa, respectively. The β value of the packaging

ranged from 0.77 to 1.71 for PP and 0.16 to 2.98 for LDPE. Based on the results of statistical analysis, it was found that the type of packaging, packaging thickness, storage temperature, and their interaction significantly affected changes in several qualities of cayenne pepper ( $P < 0.05$ ). The kinetic analysis results showed that the quality changes of cayenne pepper followed the zero-order and first-order kinetic models, while the rate constant was influenced by the storage temperature. Lemongrass oil pretreatment was proven to be effective in suppressing the respiration rate, slowing down weight loss, maintaining hardness, color stability, vitamin C content, and suppressing microbial growth during storage. PCA analysis successfully reduced the number of parameters and grouped treatment factors based on their effect on chili quality. Arrhenius modeling of changes in cayenne pepper quality yielded an  $R^2$  value  $> 0.95$ , indicating excellent model accuracy. ASLT analysis results showed that for old LDPE packaging, the longest storage time was obtained for a thickness of  $50\mu\text{m}$  at a temperature of  $5^\circ\text{C}$ , with a predicted storage time of 21 days. PP packaging with a thickness of  $50\mu\text{m}$  at a temperature of  $5^\circ\text{C}$  was predicted to have a storage time of 15 days. The development of a respiration rate and permeability model based on dimensional analysis also produced a valid prediction equation with a high coefficient of determination ( $R^2 > 0.96$ ). In addition, testing the  $\beta$  value (the ratio of  $\text{CO}_2$  permeability to  $\text{O}_2$ ) in PP and LDPE packaging showed that the  $\beta$  characteristic was crucial to achieving optimal gas conditions in MAP. This study proves that the combination of packaging with the appropriate  $\beta$  value, lemongrass oil pretreatment, and low-temperature storage can significantly extend the shelf life of fresh cayenne pepper. The results of this study are expected to serve as a reference in the scientific application of MAP technology for the storage of horticultural products, especially cayenne pepper, in a more practical, effective, and applicable manner.

**Keywords:** dimensional analysis, *Capsicum frutescens* L., lemongrass essential oil, MAP, mathematical modeling