

PERUBAHAN RETENSI AIR PADA ZONE PERAKARAN TANAMAN JAGUNG AKIBAT APLIKASI BAHAN ORGANIK ECENG GONDOK (*EICHORNIA CRASSIPES*)¹⁾

Nurmi^a, Y. Saleh^b, H. Monoarfa^c, dan H. Uno^d

^{a,c,d}Jurusan Agroteknologi, Fakultas Ilmu-Ilmu Pertanian, Universitas Negeri Gorontalo

^bJurusan Agribisnis, Fakultas Ilmu-Ilmu Pertanian, Universitas Negeri Gorontalo

Abstract: Management system implemented aimed to preventing land degradation and improve water availability in the rooting zone of *Zea mays* plantation. Increased availability of high water as implikasi ability of organic matter in binding water. The research method using field experiments with Completely Random Design with five levels, ie, P0 = without *Eichornia crassipess* organic matter or control, P1 = 3 ton.ha⁻¹ *E. crassipess* organic matter, P2 = 6 ton.ha⁻¹ *E. crassipess* organic matter, P3 = 9 ton.ha⁻¹ *E. crassipess* organic matter, and P4 = 12 ton.ha⁻¹ *E. crassipess* organic matter. The results obtained showed that the treatment of *E. crassipess* organic matter 12 ton ha⁻¹ can increase water retention at pF pF 1.00 and 2.00 times respectively at 1.19 and 1.17 times larger compared with the untreated organic matter (P0).

Key words: *E. crassipess*, water retention, *Zea mays*