INTRODUCTION

Sago, which is scientifically known as *Metroxylon sagu*, comes from genus *metroxylon* and family *palmae* (Singhal et al., 2008). Sago palm is commonly found in tropical lowland forests and freshwater swamps. The areas under sago cultivation in wild and semi-wild conditions are estimated to be at 19,720 hectares, with a total planted area of 28,000 hectares. Sarawak is currently one of the world’s largest exporters of sago products with annual exports of approximately 43,000 tons. The mass production of sago produces residues during processing. It was estimated that from 600 logs of sago palm per day, 15.6 tons of woody bark, 237.6 tons of waste water, and 7.1 tons of starch fibrous sago pith residue are generated (Bujang & Ahmad, 1999). Sago pith residue is composed mainly of 41.7 - 65% starch and 14.8% fibre, including a fair amount of mineral (Wina et al., 2008).