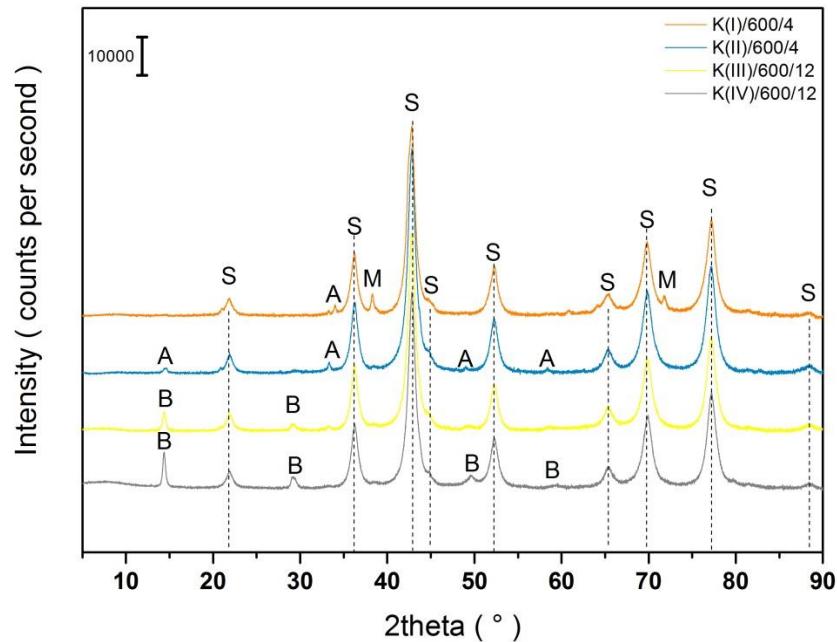
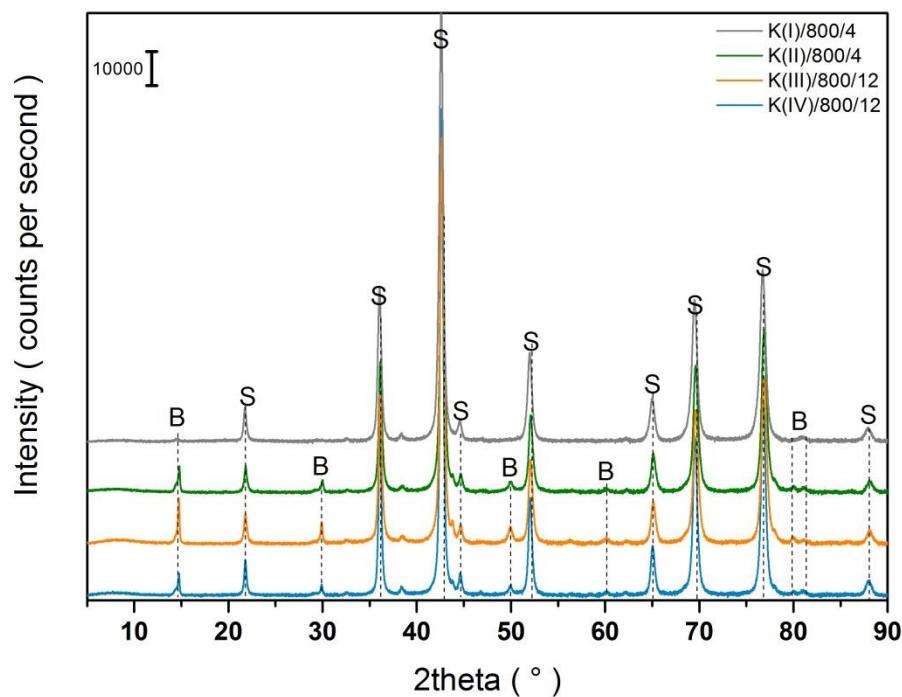


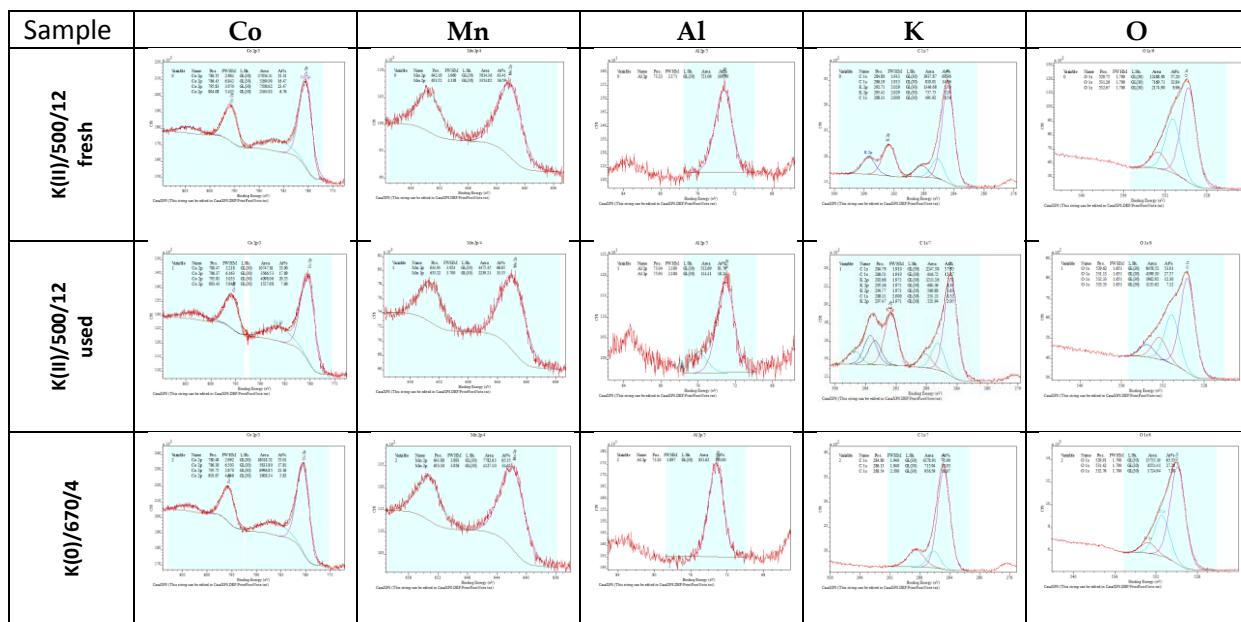
**Figure S1.** XRD results for samples K(II)/ $y$ /4. A = cryptomelane ( $\text{KMn}_8\text{O}_{16}$ ), B = potassium manganese oxide ( $\text{K}_2\text{Mn}_4\text{O}_8$  or  $\text{K}_{1.39}\text{Mn}_4\text{O}_8$ ), S = spinel, M =  $\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_3$ .



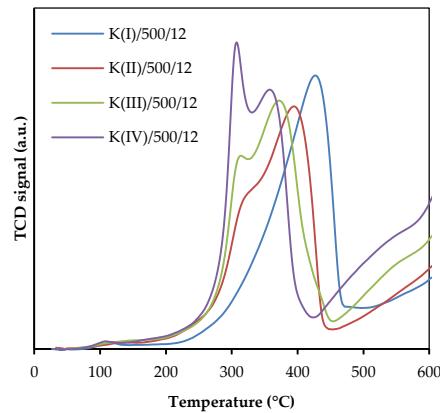
**Figure S2.** XRD results for samples K( $x$ )/600/ $z$ . A = cryptomelane ( $\text{KMn}_8\text{O}_{16}$ ), B = potassium manganese oxide ( $\text{K}_2\text{Mn}_4\text{O}_8$  or  $\text{K}_{1.39}\text{Mn}_4\text{O}_8$ ), S = spinel, M =  $\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_3$ .



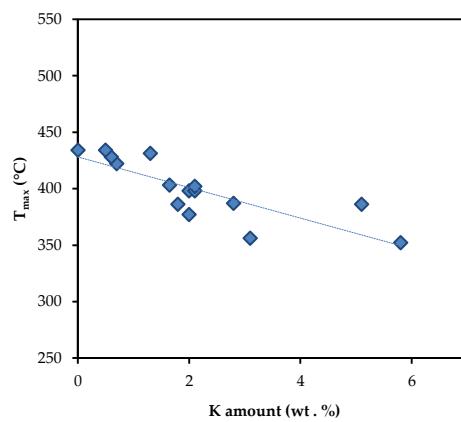
**Figure S3.** XRD results for samples  $K(x)/800/z$ . A = cryptomelane ( $KMn_8O_{16}$ ), B = potassium manganese oxide ( $K_2Mn_4O_8$  or  $K_{1.39}Mn_4O_8$ ), S = spinel, M =  $Mn_2O_3$ .



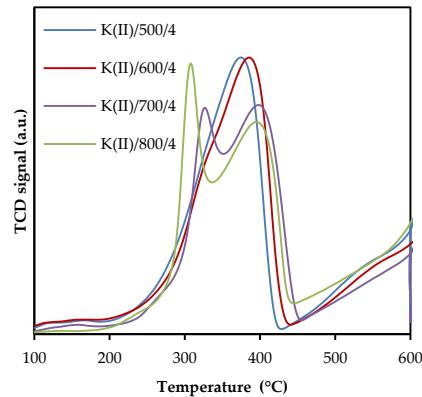
**Figure S4.** XPS results.



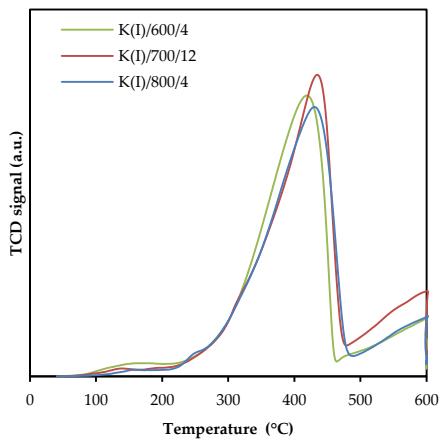
**Figure S5.** TPR H<sub>2</sub> – effect of potassium amount.



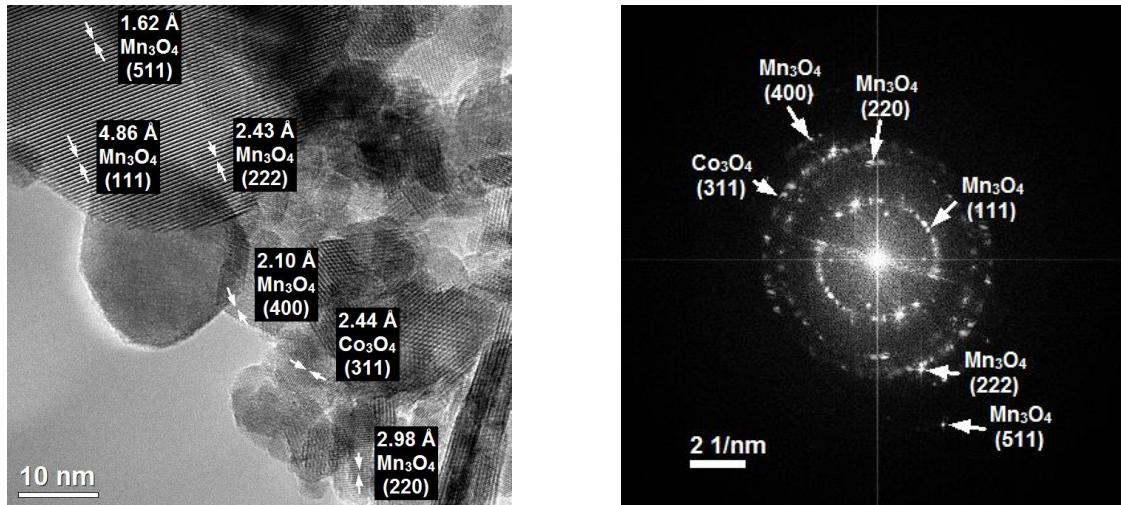
**Figure S6** T<sub>max</sub> (from TPR H<sub>2</sub>) dependence on K amount determined by AAS.



**Figure S7** TPR H<sub>2</sub> – effect of calcination temperature for samples K(II)/y/4.



**Figure S8** TPR H<sub>2</sub> – effect of calcination temperature for samples K(I)/y/z.



**Figure S9** HRTEM image with FFT and phase identification for sample K(II)/600/4.

**Table S10** Work function of selected samples.

Sample	K(IV)/500/12	K(IV)/600/12	K(IV)/700/12	K(IV)/800/12
Conditions	Work function (eV)			
Air + room temperature	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.7
Vacuum + room temperature	4.4	4.3	4.1	4.0
Vacuum + 150 °C	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.7
Vacuum + room temperature 2	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.8