Special Issue

Effects of Biochar and Compost Amendments on Soil Fertility

Message from the Guest Editors

Soil constraint is a major problem for plant growth and crop production. There are a couple of soil constraints that affect crop yield. Among those, the most notable ones are chemical, physical, and biological constraints. Chemical constraints are nutrient deficiencies, acidity, salinity, and sodicity that significantly impact crop production. Nutrient-deficient soil is not suitable for adequate crop production and requires a large amount of fertilizers. Physically constrained soils, which have compacted soil layers with high bulk density, low air entry, and water movement, have low soil fertility and nutrients. Soils with low organic matter content have poor biological activities with reduced diversity of soil organisms, earthworms, and arbuscular mycorrhizae. Soil amendment by biochar and compost can significantly improve soil quality by increasing the soil organic carbon, soil health, soil fertility, and agronomic benefits.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (15 December 2021)

Agriculture

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.6
CiteScore 6.3

mdpi.com/si/46234

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Agriculture (ISSN 2077-0472) is an international, cross-disciplinary and scholarly journal on the science and technology of crop and animal production, and management of the natural resource base for agricultural production. We invite submissions from authors according to the aims and scope of the journal described in more detail on this page. *Agriculture* is published in an open access format – articles are published on the journal's website immediately after acceptance, giving the scientific community and the public unlimited and free access to the content.

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