Special Issue

Environmental Assessment of Organic Waste Recycling in Agriculture: Challenges and Solutions

Message from the Guest Editors

Due to economic growth, production intensification and relocation, and urbanisation, organic waste (OW) accumulates in increasingly large “nutrient sinks”, leading to an increasing need and potential for OW recycling. The agricultural recycling of organic waste derived from urban, agricultural, and agro-industrial sources thus constitutes a key strategy for sustainable development. Nonetheless, a number of challenges hinder the global increase of this practice. For instance, the repeated application of nutrient-laden OW in crop fields can also drastically boost the levels of trace contaminants in soil, whose fate in the environment remains difficult to quantify; many direct field emission models do not capture the mode of action of organic fertilisers. To contribute to the body of literature addressing these challenges, this SI aims to describe technical and environmental issues associated with the agricultural recycling of OW in the world, and to propose solutions to overcome them. Review and research papers are sought, as well as pertinent case studies, as long as novel approaches are applied to overcome one or more issues.

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