



Biochar potential to mitigate soil pollution and soil greenhouse gas emissions

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Recent research in Terra Pretas or Amazonian Dark Earths has led to an increasing interest for biochar. Scientists are investigating if the benefits shown by biochar in tropical soils (increased microbial activity, carbon stocks and nutrient availability leading to increased fertility and productivity) can be spread to other areas and soil types. Biochar has been proposed as a geoengineering approach to promote soil carbon sequestration and thus help to mitigate global warming. Mitigating soil pollution could be an additional benefit from biochar utilisation. In our talk, we will offer an overall view on the current state of art of biochar research including the major areas where research is warranted in the near future.