



## Some aspects of remediation of contaminated soils

Jaume Bech (1), Elena Korobova (2), Manuela Abreu (3), Claudio Bini (4), Hyo-Taek Chon (5), Carmen Pérez-Sirvent (6), Núria Roca (1,7)

(1) University of Barcelona, Laboratory of Soil Science, Faculty of Biology, Plant Biology, Barcelona, Spain, (2) Vernadsky Institute of Geochemistry and Analytical Chemistry, Russian Academy of Sciences (GEOKHI RAS), Russian Federation, (3) Instituto Superior de Agronomía, Technical University of Lisbon, Lisboa, Portugal, (4) Environmental Sciences, University of Venice, (5) Dept of Energy Resources Engineering, Seoul National University, Seoul, Republic of Korea, (6) Faculty of Chemistry, Agricultural Chemistry, Geology and Pedology, University of Murcia, Murcia, Spain, (7) Facultad de Agronomía, Universidad Nacional del Centro de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, Azul, Argentina

Soils are essential components of the environment, a limited precious and fragile resource, the quality of which should be preserved. The concentration, chemical form and distribution of potential harmful elements in soils depends on parent rocks, weathering, soil type and soil use. However, their concentration can be altered by mismanagement of industrial and mining activities, energy generation, traffic increase, overuse of agrochemicals, sewage sludge and waste disposal, causing contamination, environmental problems and health concerns. Heavy metals, some metalloids and radionuclides are persistent in the environment. This persistence hampers the cost/efficiency of remediation technologies. The choice of the most appropriate soil remediation techniques depends of many factors and essentially of the specific site. This contribution aims to offer an overview of the main remediation methods in contaminated soils. There are two main groups of technologies: the first group dealing with containment and confinement, minimizing their toxicity, mobility and bioavailability. Containment measures include covering, sealing, encapsulation and immobilization and stabilization. The second group, remediation with decontamination, is based on the removal, clean up and/or destruction of contaminants. This group includes mechanical procedures, physical separations, chemical technologies such as soil washing with leaching or precipitation of harmful elements, soil flushing, thermal treatments and electrokinetic technologies. There are also two approaches of biological nature: bioremediation and phytoremediation. Case studies from Chile, Ecuador, Italy, Korea, Peru, Portugal, Russia and Spain, will be discussed in accordance with the time available.