

Effect of biochar application on Cd accumulation and Cd/Zn ratio of rice grain

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Remediation of heavy metal contaminated soils is a issue. Biochar is becoming an environmentally friendly material for remediation of heavy metal contaminated soils and improving food safety. Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) is the main staple food in China and is cultivated on about 27% of the nation's cropland area. There is a wide variation in Cd uptake and accumulation among different rice cultivars. In addition, rice can exclude Zn, Fe and Ca with higher uptake of Cd and lead to insufficient accumulation of these elements in rice grain. It is suggested that a Cd/Zn ratio of less than 0.015 in the grain can effectively protect from Cd induced health impacts. We conducted the pot and field experiment to investigate the effect of biochar application on Cd and Zn uptake by rice in heavy metal contaminated soil. Our results showed that biochar significantly decreased Cd uptake, but did not affect Zn uptake. Cd/Zn ratios of rice grain significantly decreased. Soil pH was sustainably increased ,and concentrations of CaCl₂ extractable Cd and Zn greatly decreased by biochar application. It suggested that It indicated that biochar application should be an efficient way to remediate Cd contaminated rice paddies and reduce health risk.

Key words: biochar, rice, heavy metal, contaminated soils