

*Original Research*

# Innovative Practice of Heavy Metal Soil Remediation Technology under the Background of Rural Revitalization by Integrating Agriculture, Culture and Tourism

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## Abstract

With the development and modernization of rural economies, the integration of agriculture, cultural tourism, and other fields has gradually become a new driving force for promoting rural revitalization. However, in recent years, the development of mines and the utilization of resources have led to severe heavy metal pollution of farmland soil, causing significant food safety risks and economic losses, which pose serious challenges to the integration of agriculture, culture, and tourism. Therefore, China has invested a lot of attention in addressing the issue of soil remediation in abandoned rural mining areas. The study focuses on an abandoned mining area polluted by heavy metals such as Cd, Zn, and Cu in a certain area. Two materials, biochar and compost, were added to the soil in the polluted area, and the weight ratios of biochar and compost were set to 0:100, 10:90, 20:80, 40:60, 60:40, and 100:0. A new type of biochar was prepared by mixing two materials at high temperatures, and its effects on the pH and organic carbon content of soil in heavy metal polluted rural abandoned mining areas were explored. The effective removal and adsorption of heavy metals in the soil were also investigated, as was the promotion of crop growth in the soil area. This indicates that the use of biochar and compost can significantly repair heavy metal contaminated soil in mining areas and improve soil availability. Meanwhile, research has found that the integration of agriculture, culture, and tourism provides a unique perspective on soil remediation technology, which may involve maintaining rural cultural traditions, enhancing the attractiveness of rural tourism, and ensuring food safety and agricultural sustainability. Therefore, the selection and implementation of repair technologies need to consider multiple factors to ensure the triple benefits to the economy, society, and environment.

**Keywords:** rural revitalization, composting, biochar, soil remediation, heavy metal pollution

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## Introduction

Agriculture, culture, and tourism (ACT) integration is the integration of agriculture, cultural creativity, experience tourism, and other industries. Compared with traditional cultural tourism, it not only has more industrial roots, but also fulfills the responsibility of maintaining natural ecology. This is the inevitable trend of the current development of the tourism industry [1, 2]. In a broad sense, ACT integration is the only way to adapt to the market and plays an important role in the further implementation of the rural revitalization strategy. It has far-reaching significance in promoting economic benefits in rural areas and improving the rural ecological environment. With the deepening of ACT integration and rural revitalization, Heavy Metal pollution has gradually become an urgent problem in rural SR work [3, 4]. Heavy metals are one of the pollutants that are highly toxic, difficult to degrade, and easily amplified. After entering the soil, they gradually accumulate under the effects of adsorption, complexation, and sedimentation. This phenomenon greatly increases the content of heavy metals in soil sediments and poses a serious threat to the entire soil ecosystem. The content and types of heavy metals in abandoned mining areas are relatively high, and the soil is often affected by pollution from heavy metals such as Cd, Zn, Cu, etc. Heavy metal pollution in farmland near mining areas is a soil pollution phenomenon caused by excessive deposition of heavy metals in the soil [5, 6]. Heavy Metals will not decompose after entering the soil. But it will migrate and transform in the soil and inhibit the activity of soil enzymes through the biomagnification of the food chain. So the physical and chemical properties of soil are changed. Unlike organic pollutants, Heavy Metal pollution in soil will last for decades or even centuries. Biochar is an important soil Heavy Metal remediation agent that can fix Heavy Metal in soil. Therefore, the mobility of Heavy Metal organisms is reduced to a certain extent. So it can achieve the purpose of degrading organic pollutants and improving the quality of contaminated soil [7, 8]. Onmonya et al. used the adsorption of biochar to remove lead, chromium, mercury, and copper from soil and water. The results verified the effectiveness of this method [9]. Fayuan's team proposed to apply phytoremediation - biochar to soil remediation (SR) in view of the problem of Heavy Metal pollution caused by mining activities. It can effectively remove the contaminated biomass from the soil [10]. However, in the current research, there is a lack of utilization of the mechanism of biocarbon remediation. That is, the influence of soil characteristics, Heavy Metal

species, and other factors is ignored, resulting in poor remediation effects. Therefore, a new type of biochar was prepared by mixing biochar and compost at high temperatures. It is expected to improve the remediation capacity of Heavy Metal contaminated soil and provide new technical support for the sustainable use of soil.

## Material and Methods

### Selection and Measurement of Research Indicators

#### *Selection and Physical and Chemical Properties of Test Soil*

The Heavy Metal contaminated soil in the abandoned mining area selected by the research institute is located in the countryside, which makes it easy to have a great impact on the daily lives of rural people [11]. The experiment was carried out in the key laboratory for degraded ecosystem restoration and watershed eco hydrology built by the Nanchang Institute of Engineering. The laboratory is located in a subtropical monsoon climate. The annual average temperature remains around 18°C, and the annual relative humidity is 77.9%. The entire experiment lasted from April 11, 2020, to October 8, 2020, and the overall cycle was relatively long.

5 sampling points are set up in the selected abandoned mining area, and sampling was conducted on March 9, 2020. Each sampling point selects surface soil with a depth of 5-15 cm. After collecting each soil sample, plant roots and debris, such as sand and gravel, are removed. They are stored in a self sealing bag, and they are quickly transported back to the laboratory. The soil from 5 points is mixed evenly, and it is dried naturally in a ventilated indoor area for 4 weeks. The dried soil blocks are crushed, and they are passed through a 2 mm mesh sieve. These experiments are conducted to determine the physical and chemical properties of the selected soil and remediate heavy metal pollution in the soil. The specific physical and chemical properties covered by the selected test soil are shown in Table 1.

The basic soil properties are determined according to conventional methods, and the specific determination methods are as follows: To determine the pH value of the soil, 2 g of screened, air-dried mining area soil is put into a dried beaker (50 ml). Then deionized water is added according to the ratio of the soil sample: deionized water = 1:2.5 (w/v). Next, the sample is stirred violently with a clean glass rod for 1~2 min and stands for half an hour. The liquid obtained after filtering with ordinary filter paper is used as the test sample, and the strictly

Table 1. Basic properties.

pH	TOC(g/kg)	Total nitrogen(g/kg)	Total phosphorus (g/kg)	Cu (mg/kg)	Cd (mg/kg)	Zn (mg/kg)
3.43	32.58	4.92	2.75	2915.41	15.66	365.89









Table 5. Soil physicochemical properties for different restoragents.

Treatments	pH	CEC	TOC (%)	WEOC (mg/kg)
S	5.74	17.84	8.21	241.11.
S + C	6.64	26.75	11.56	293.54
S + B + C (10/90)	6.77	24.91	11.23	276.97
S + B + C (20/80)	6.87	24.18.	11.14	266.96
S + B + C (40/60)	6.80	23.52	11.03	249.72
S + B + C (60/40)	6.48	21.37	10.93	220.65
S + B	6.26	19.23	10.59	183.14
Treatments	Available P (mg/kg)	Cd (mg/kg)	Cu (mg/kg)	Zn (mg/kg)
S	17.07	592	52.89	212.16
S + C	85.86	5.66	71.90	22251.
S + B + C (10/90)	72.16	4.97	67.43.	210.40
S + B + C (20/80)	66.29	5.14	65.15	210.78
S + B + C (40/60)	54.32.	5.17	61.73	209.54.
S + B + C (60/40)	38.64	5.08	57.55	199.06
S + B	28.37	4.73	51.57	194.59

Table 6. The Pearson correlation coefficient between different indicators.

Variables	pH	TOC	WEOC	Cd	Cu	Zn
pH	1.000	-	-	-	-	-
TOC	0.865**	1.000	-	-	-	-
WEOC	0.478**	0.215**	1.000	-	-	-
Cd	-0.472**	-0.641**	0.380**	1.000	-	-
Cu	0.680**	0.534**	0.930**	0.105**	1.000	-
Zn	0.176**	-0.037**	0.904**	0.642**	0.782*	1.000
T1-Cd	-0.946**	-0.877**	-0.627**	0.317**	-0.835**	-0.361**
T1-Cu	0.843**	0.652**	0.835**	-0.029**	0.939**	0.635**
T1-Zn	-0.919**	-0.729**	-0.762*	0.233**	-0.894**	-0.498**
T8-Cd	-0.934**	-0.978**	-0.374**	0.539**	-0.659**	-0.103**
T8-Cu	0.857**	0.831*	0.709*	-0.240**	0.895**	0.496**
T8-Zn	-0.948**	-0.815*	-0.658**	0.355**	-0.828*	-0.371**
Variables	T1-Cd	T1-Cu	T1-Zn	T8-Cd	T8-Cu	T8-Zn
T1-Cd	1.000	-	-	-	-	-
T1-Cu	-0.929**	1.000	-	-	-	-
T1-Zn	0.951**	-0.971**	1.000	-	-	-
T8-Cd	0.954**	-0.787**	0.844**	1.000	-	-
T8-Cu	-0.956**	0.909**	0.924**	-0.891**	1.000	-
T8-Zn	0.969**	-0.938**	0.982**	0.906**	-0.932**	1.000*

Note: (1) T1-Heavy Metal: availability of Heavy Metal after applying different SR agents to soil for one week. (2) T8-Heavy Metal: availability of Heavy Metal after two months of application of different SR agents to soil. (3) \*, \*\*, and \*\*\* refer to  $P < 0.10$ ,  $P < 0.05$ , and  $P < 0.01$ , respectively.



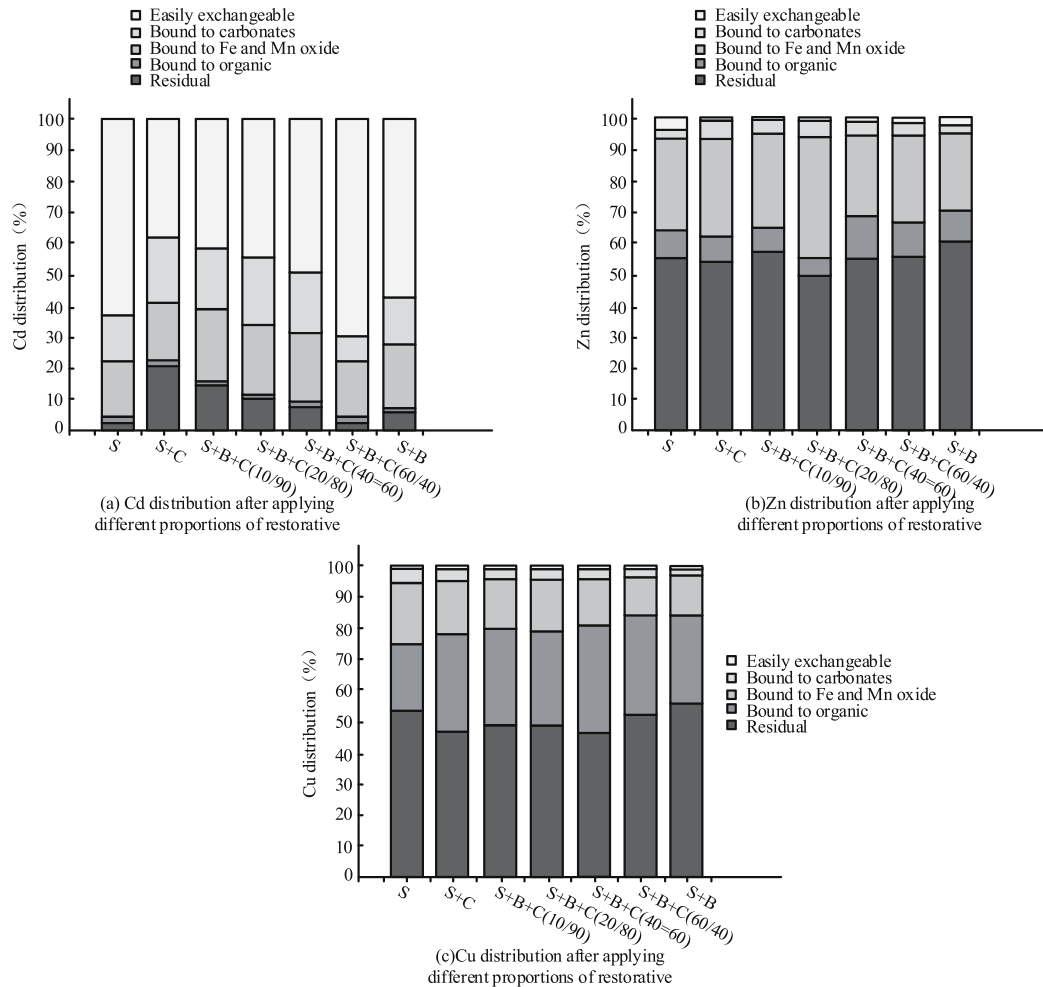


Fig. 2. Morphological distribution of heavy metals in the soil after applying different proportions of remediation agents.

have a negative correlation ( $r < -0.91$ ,  $P < 0.01$ ). This indicates that the availability and mobility of Cd and Zn in soil are closely related to pH value (pH value changes with the proportion of biochar and compost). In addition, Heavy Metal ions are not easy to move and absorb under high pH changes. The use of SR agents increases the pH value and reduces the mobility and availability of Heavy Metal extracted from CaCl<sub>2</sub>, which is beneficial to the stabilization of Heavy Metal in soil. In addition, the availability and mobility of Heavy Metal-Cd are significantly related to TOC, which means that the increase in organic carbon content in soil is beneficial to increase the retention of Cd and reduce its potential harm to soil organisms.

In addition, remediation agents promoted the availability and mobility of Cu, and its availability increased when the compost proportion increased. Available Cu concentration in soil has a positive correlation with WEOC ( $r > 0.70$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ) and total Cu content ( $r > 0.89$ ,  $P < 0.01$ ). This indicates that the increase in Cu availability and mobility is related to the increase in WEOC and total Cu content. And the increase in compost proportion directly affects the change in WEOC and Cu concentrations in the soil. Fig. 2 shows the morphological distribution of Heavy Metals in soil.

In Fig. 2a), when the compost proportion increased, the exchangeable content of Cd decreased significantly. When the compost proportion increased, the residue content of Cd increased significantly. In each group of soil experiments, the exchangeable content of Cd accounted for 37% and 63% of the total Cd content. This indicates that Cd has strong mobility in soil, and the combination of Cd with soil colloid and the SR agent is weak. However, the SR agent does not affect the carbonate bound state, iron manganese oxide bound state, or organic bound state of Cd, obviously. In Fig. 2b), for Zn, the exchangeable content gradually decreases with the increase in compost. But the carbonate bound content of Zn increases when compost content increases. The residual state increases when the proportion of biochar increases. In Fig. 2c), about 80% of Cu exists in the iron manganese oxide bound state, organic bound state, and residual state. This means that, compared with Cd, the mobility and migration abilities of Cu in soil are relatively small. The application of different proportions of SR agents has no obvious effect on the exchangeable state and nitrate binding state of Heavy Metals in soil. However, the Fe-Mn oxide bound state of Cu decreases when the biochar proportion increases. And the content of organically bound states increases significantly.







and adsorption affinity parameters for Heavy Metals. This promotion will increase with an increase in  $F$  the proportion of compost in the remediation agent. Fig. 3 shows the adsorption isotherm of Heavy Metals after soil remediation with different proportions of remediation agents.

Fig. 3 shows the adsorption isotherm of soil to Heavy Metal under the concentration gradient of different remediation agents. From the adsorption isotherms of each Heavy Metal, the use of SR agents significantly increased the amount of Heavy Metal adsorption by soil. When the concentration of Heavy Metal is low, the adsorption capacity shows an obvious linear increase with the increase in concentration, and Heavy Metal is almost completely adsorbed. When the concentration of Heavy Metal is high, the adsorption of different SR agents on Heavy Metal gradually reaches an equilibrium trend, and the adsorption isotherm curve gradually tends to be flat. This is because of the heterogeneity and heterogeneity of the soil surface. The soil surface contains both high-energy adsorption sites and low-energy adsorption sites. When the concentration of Heavy Metal in the soil is low, Heavy Metal in the soil preferentially adsorbs at high-energy binding sites. In addition, when the concentration of Heavy Metal gradually increases, the ions contained in Heavy Metal can combine with the low-energy adsorption sites, finally causing the adsorption of Heavy Metal in soil to reach saturation. In Fig. 3b), when the proportion of biochar in the remediation agent is 10% and 20%, respectively, the soil has the maximum adsorption capacity for Cu. This means that biochar application is conducive to enhancing the adsorption capacity of soil and the maximum buffer capacity for Cu.

According to the comprehensive adsorption isotherm and fitting adsorption parameters, the use of different proportions of remediation agents significantly affects the soil adsorption of Heavy Metal. The study uses Cd and Zn as examples. When compost increases, the maximum adsorption capacity of soil and the maximum buffer capacity for Cd and Zn increase. Because the organic matter content, and available P and CEC in compost are higher compared with biomass carbon. The application of compost can significantly improve the physical and chemical properties of soil, increase the content of organic matter, and increase the available P and CEC, thus improving the adsorption capacity of soil for Heavy Metals. The study shows that after a terrific amount of Cd and Zn entering the soil in a short time, the adsorption effect of compost on Cd and Zn in the soil is very obvious, but the effect of biochar is small. Because of the slight acidity before and after SR (pH<6.9). In acid soil, the adsorption of Heavy Metal is reversible, so the desorption of Heavy Metal becomes particularly important. Fig. 4 shows the desorption of Heavy Metal.

## Conclusions

The integration of agriculture, culture, and tourism into rural revitalization has brought new development opportunities to rural China, but it also faces the challenge of how to deal with and repair soil problems caused by heavy metal pollution. Traditional soil remediation techniques may not be suitable for complex rural contexts and require some innovative practices. In view of this, the study used biochar and compost as soil remediation agents to explore the role and impact of different ratios of biochar and compost on heavy metals (Cd, Zn, and Cu) in the soil of rural abandoned mining areas and analyze the effects of applying different ratios of biochar and compost. Change the characteristics of soil physical and chemical properties, heavy metal bioavailability and mobility, heavy metal form distribution, and adsorption-desorption reactions in rural abandoned mining areas, and explore the causes and mechanisms of the changes. The experiment first prepared a new type of biochar under high-temperature conditions and finally verified the remediation effect of this method in an abandoned mining area contaminated by Heavy Metals in a certain area. Different from traditional remediation methods, all soil remediation agents prepared in the experiment effectively reduced the bioavailability of Cd and Zn in the soil; they had a significant effect on the form distribution of heavy metals in the soil. After applying different ratios of biochar and compost mixtures to wetland soil contaminated by multiple heavy metals, the pH, TOC, WEOC, available phosphorus, and CEC of the wetland soil increased significantly. The above results all show that the addition of a certain amount of biochar can effectively reduce the release of adsorbed Cd and Cu. The resolution rate of Zn gradually decreased with the increase in compost ratio. The proposed method can promote soil remediation and has certain effectiveness. However, this research was conducted under laboratory control conditions, but the complexity of the actual environment and the diversity of external environmental factors will also have an impact on the remediation of soil heavy metals, so it is necessary to conduct relevant field experiments and on-site experimental research.

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## Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interests.



