



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Energy

REVIEW OF PRODUCTION, ACTIVATION, AND APPLICATIONS OF BIOCHAR IN RECENT TIMES

KEY WORDS: Bichar, Carbon material, Pyrolysis, Transformation, Global challenges.

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ABSTRACT

Biochar is a carbon-rich material produced through the pyrolysis or thermal decomposition of organic biomass under low-oxygen conditions. This abstract provides an overview of the production, activation, and applications of biochar in recent times. Biochar production involves the transformation of biomass, such as agricultural residues, forestry waste, or organic matter, into a stable carbon form through a process called pyrolysis. This process occurs at elevated temperatures in the absence or limited presence of oxygen, preventing complete combustion. Various technologies, including slow pyrolysis, fast pyrolysis, and gasification, are employed to produce biochar. The choice of feedstock and pyrolysis conditions significantly influences the characteristics of the resulting biochar. The production, activation, and applications of biochar have seen significant advancements in recent times, driven by the growing need for sustainable solutions in agriculture, environmental management, and industry. As researchers continue to explore innovative production methods and refine applications, biochar holds promise as a versatile and environmentally friendly material with the potential to address various global challenges.

INTRODUCTION

In recent times, the exploration and utilization of biochar have garnered increasing attention due to its multifaceted benefits in agriculture, environmental sustainability, and industrial applications. Biochar, a carbonaceous material derived from the pyrolysis of organic biomass, is produced through controlled thermal processes in the absence of, or with limited, oxygen. This introductory overview delves into the contemporary aspects of biochar, focusing on its production methods, activation processes, and diverse applications.

Production:

The production of biochar involves subjecting biomass, such as agricultural residues, wood chips, or organic waste, to pyrolysis. Pyrolysis is a thermochemical process that breaks down the organic matter into a carbon-rich residue. Various techniques, including slow pyrolysis, fast pyrolysis, and gasification, are employed to tailor the properties of biochar, such as its porosity, surface area, and elemental composition. The choice of feedstock and pyrolysis conditions significantly influences the final characteristics of the produced biochar.

Activation:

Activation processes are employed to enhance the inherent properties of biochar, making it more effective in specific applications. Physical activation involves the use of steam or carbon dioxide to create pores and increase surface area, while chemical activation utilizes agents like acids or bases combined with heat treatment. Activated biochar exhibits improved adsorption capabilities, rendering it suitable for applications in water treatment, air purification, and soil remediation.

In recent years, the applications of biochar have diversified, reflecting its versatility and eco-friendly nature. In agriculture, biochar is utilized as a soil amendment to enhance nutrient retention, water holding capacity, and microbial activity, contributing to improved soil health and plant growth. Environmental applications include the use of biochar in water filtration systems, where its porous structure effectively adsorbs contaminants, and in air purification to mitigate pollutants. Furthermore, biochar serves as a sustainable option for carbon sequestration and is explored for its potential in renewable energy production. As the global focus on sustainable practices intensifies, biochar emerges as a promising solution with wide-ranging applications. The

dynamic interplay between production methods, activation techniques, and diverse applications underscores the evolving landscape of biochar research and implementation. This introduction sets the stage for a deeper exploration of the advancements and challenges within the realm of biochar, highlighting its role in addressing contemporary environmental and agricultural concerns.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Production Techniques:

Recent advancements in biochar production techniques have led to the development of more efficient and tailored methods. Slow pyrolysis, fast pyrolysis, and gasification processes have been refined to optimize biochar characteristics such as porosity, surface area, and stability. Researchers have explored diverse feedstocks, including agricultural residues, woody biomass, and organic waste, to produce biochar with specific properties suited for various applications.

Characterization of Biochar:

Extensive characterization studies have been conducted to understand the physicochemical properties of biochar. Parameters such as surface area, pore size distribution, elemental composition, and surface functional groups are analyzed to tailor biochar for specific applications. These characterizations contribute to a better understanding of how biochar interacts with different environments.

Activation Methods:

Results from activation studies demonstrate the efficacy of physical and chemical activation methods in enhancing the properties of biochar. Physical activation with steam or carbon dioxide has been shown to increase the surface area and porosity, while chemical activation using acids or bases followed by heat treatment modifies the biochar structure for improved reactivity. Activated biochar exhibits enhanced adsorption capabilities, making it suitable for diverse applications.

Innovations in Production Efficiency:

Recent research has focused on improving the efficiency of biochar production processes. This includes the development of scalable and economically viable production technologies. Integration of biochar production with bioenergy processes, such as co-generation of heat and

power, contributes to a more sustainable and economically feasible biochar production.

Optimizing Biochar for Agriculture:

The application of biochar in agriculture has been a significant focus of recent discussions. Studies indicate that biochar amendments in soil can enhance nutrient availability, water retention, and microbial activity. Ongoing discussions center on optimizing biochar properties to cater to specific soil types and crop needs, ensuring sustainable agricultural practices.

Environmental Applications:

The use of biochar in environmental applications, such as water and air purification, has shown promising results. Discussions revolve around the potential of biochar to mitigate water pollution by adsorbing contaminants and its role in air quality improvement. Challenges, including the scalability and long-term effectiveness of biochar in these applications, are actively debated.

Synergies with Renewable Energy:

The integration of biochar production with renewable energy processes has sparked discussions on creating synergies between biochar and bioenergy. Co-generation of biochar and bioenergy provides a dual benefit, addressing waste management concerns while contributing to renewable energy production. The discussion also encompasses the economic viability of such integrated systems.

Carbon Sequestration and Climate Change Mitigation:

The role of biochar in carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation is a subject of ongoing discourse. Discussions focus on the potential of biochar to sequester carbon in soils for extended periods, thereby reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide levels. However, questions remain regarding the long-term stability of biochar in different environmental conditions.

In conclusion, recent results and discussions in the field of biochar production, activation, and applications highlight the dynamic nature of this research area. The optimization of production techniques, the characterization of biochar properties, and ongoing discussions about its diverse applications underscore the evolving role of biochar in addressing contemporary challenges in agriculture, environment, and sustainability. Ongoing research and discussions will likely shape the future trajectory of biochar utilization and contribute to a more sustainable and resilient global ecosystem.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the recent advancements in the production, activation, and applications of biochar have significantly expanded our understanding of its potential as a versatile and sustainable material. The dynamic landscape of research in this field reflects the ongoing efforts to address contemporary challenges in agriculture, environmental sustainability, and industrial processes. The key findings and discussions can be summarized as follows:

Production Advances:

Recent innovations in biochar production techniques have led to more efficient and tailored methods. The choice of feedstock, pyrolysis conditions, and integration with bioenergy processes have been optimized for improved biochar quality and production efficiency. These advancements pave the way for scalable and economically viable biochar production.

Activation Strategies:

The activation of biochar through physical and chemical methods has been a focal point, resulting in materials with enhanced porosity and reactivity. The activated biochar

shows promise in various applications, particularly in environmental remediation. The ongoing discussion revolves around optimizing activation processes for specific uses and understanding the long-term effects of activation on biochar properties.

Agricultural Applications:

Biochar's role in agriculture has been a subject of extensive research, highlighting its potential to enhance soil fertility, water retention, and nutrient availability. Ongoing discussions focus on tailoring biochar properties to suit different soil types and crops, with the aim of promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

Environmental and Industrial Use:

The application of biochar in environmental contexts, such as water and air purification, showcases its adsorption capabilities. Ongoing discussions center on scalability, effectiveness, and long-term impacts of using biochar in diverse environmental and industrial settings. Biochar's potential as a tool for carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation is also a topic of active exploration.

Integration with Renewable Energy:

The integration of biochar production with renewable energy processes presents a promising avenue for addressing waste management issues while contributing to sustainable energy production. Discussions revolve around the economic feasibility and scalability of such integrated systems.

In summary, the recent developments in biochar research underscore its potential as a multifaceted solution to various global challenges. The optimization of production and activation processes, coupled with a nuanced understanding of biochar's applications, positions it as a valuable tool in sustainable agriculture, environmental management, and industrial processes. However, ongoing discussions and further research are essential to address questions related to scalability, long-term effectiveness, and the economic viability of biochar applications. The continued exploration of biochar's potential holds promise for contributing to a more sustainable and resilient future.

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