

INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, BELGRADE, SERBIA

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IV



Belgrade, December 2023

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International Scientific Conference

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IV

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

December, 2023

Belgrade, Serbia

Publisher:

Institute of Agricultural Economics, Belgrade, Serbia

Editors:

Jonel Subić, Ph.D.
Miroslav Nedeljković, Ph.D.
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Technical arrangement and printing:

SZR NS MALA KNJIGA +
Zetska Street no. 15,
21000 Novi Sad, Republic of Serbia,
Phone: +381 21 64 00 578

Technical preparation and typesetting:
Vladimir Sokolović

Printing: 200

ISBN 978-86-6269-132-3 ISBN (e-book) 978-86-6269-133-0

The publisher is not responsible for the content of the abstracts of scientific papers and opinions published in the Book of Abstracts.

They represent the authors' point of view.

Publication of Book of Abstracts was financially supported by the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of the Republic of Serbia.

PHYTOREMEDIATION AND ELECTROKINETIC SOIL REMEDIATION

Vladimir Miladinović¹, Vladan Ugrenović², Mira Milinković³

Abstract

An efficient and sustainable way of removing organic and inorganic pollutants from soil using plants is possible through the biotechnological process of phytoremediation. Depending on the type of pollutant, degree of pollution and environmental conditions, there are several mechanisms of phytoremediation, such as: phytodegradation, phytoaccumulation, phytostabilization, rhizodegradation and rhizofiltration.

The application of phytoremediation is not expensive, it can be applied on large areas and does not lead to soil damage. The disadvantage of this aplication is the potential shelf life of the process, as the development of the plants is monitored in one or more years. Also, the removal of pollutants from the soil is carried out in the depth zone of the plant's root system, which is directly affected by the physical and chemical properties of the soil and the pollutant itself.

The method of improvement is the application of the phytoremediation process in combination with electrokinetics. The application of electrokinetics is the use of low-intensity electric current using electrodes (anode and cathode), in the immediate vicinity of plant roots and the creation of an electric field. The result is greater mobility and bioavailability of pollutants, which is a consequence of the processes of electroosmosis and electromigration. As the bioavailability of pollutants in the soil increases, the efficiency of the phytoremediation process also increases. AC or DC currents and different voltage levels can be used.

Key words: *Phytoremediation, electrokinetic remediation, soil pollutants.*

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CIP - Каталогизација у публикацији Народна библиотека Србије, Београд

631:502.121.1(048) 005.591.6:631(048) 338.432(048)

INTERNATIONAL scientific conference Sustainable agriculture and rural development (4; 2023; Beograd)

Book of abstracts / IV international scientific conference Sustainable agriculture and rural development, December, 2022 Belgrade; [organizers] Institute of Agricultural Economics ... [et al.]; [editors Jonel Subić ... [et al.]]. - Belgrade: Institute of Agricultural Economics, 2023 (Novi Sad: NS Mala knjiga +). - XIX, 90 str.; 24 cm

Tiraž 200. - Str. XIX: Preface / editors.

ISBN 978-86-6269-132-3

- 1. Subić, Jonel, 1964- [уредник]
- а) Пољопривреда -- Научно-технолошки развој -- Апстракти б) Пољопривреда -- Економски аспект -- Апстракти в) Пољопривреда -- Одрживи развој -- Апстракти г) Пољопривредна производња -- Апстракти д) Рурални развој -- Апстракти

COBISS.SR-ID 132365577