

Mitigation of Cadmium Bioaccumulation in Cacao through Soil Remediation



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Cacao and Cadmium



EU Maximum Limits for Cadmium in Cocoa Products to be applicable from 1st January 2019 (commission Regulation (EU) No 488/2014 amending Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006).

Specific cocoa and chocolate products as listed below - Milk chocolate with <30% total dry cocoa solids	0.10mg/kg as from 1 Jan 2019
Chocolate with <50% total dry cocoa solids; milk chocolate with ≥ 30% total dry cocoa solids	0.30mg/kg as from 1 Jan 2019
Chocolate with ≥ 50% total dry cocoa solids	0.80mg/kg as from 1 Jan 2019
Cocoa powder sold to the final consumer or as an ingredient in sweetened cocoa powder sold to the final consumer	0.60mg/kg as from 1 Jan 2019

'For the specific cocoa and chocolate products the definitions set out in points A. 2, 3 and 4 of Annex I to Directive 2000/36/ EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 June 2000 relating to cocoa and chocolate products intended for human consumption (OJ L 197, 3.8.2000, p. 19) apply



K. O'Reilly, 2008 Food Density, 2017

Cadmium (Cd) absorption and accumulation in plants







Laboratory Soil Incubation Study

Greenhouse Study

Results

Study-1 -Laboratory soil incubation studies: The effect of biochar and lime on available soil Cd



Study-1 -Laboratory soil incubation studies: The effect of rate of application of biochar and lime on available soil Cd



Study-2 -Greenhouse studies – Effect of application rates of lime on leaf Cd levels in *T. cacao*



Study-2 -Greenhouse studies – Effect of application rates of biochar on leaf Cd levels in *T. cacao*



Study-2 -Greenhouse studies – Effect of application rates of combined lime and biochar on leaf Cd levels in *T. cacao*.



Summary of Results

Laboratory and Greenhouse Trials:

- 1. Biochar and Lime both effective in reducing bioavailable Cd in the soil.
- 2. Biochar and lime both effective in reducing **leaf** cadmium concentrations.
- 3. Effectiveness of reduction of Cd in soil and leaves increased with rate of application of ameliorants.
- 4. Effectiveness of reduction of Cd in soil and leaves increased with combination of ameliorants.



Where do we go from here?

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