

Effect of wheat straw and its biochar on physical and enzymatic properties of tobacco-growing soil

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CONTENT



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There is only one world.

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Background

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**Experiment design and
method**

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Results

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Conclusion

Relief map of Shandong Province



the **earliest** tobacco planting area in China

the most important tobacco growing areas in Shandong province

tobacco fields mainly concentrated in **hilly** and **mountain** areas

➤ Annual tobacco straw removal and insufficient exogenetic organic matter input exacerbated **tobacco-planting soil degradation**

Removal of tobacco straw to avoid soil borne disease



Tobacco straw removal

Black shank

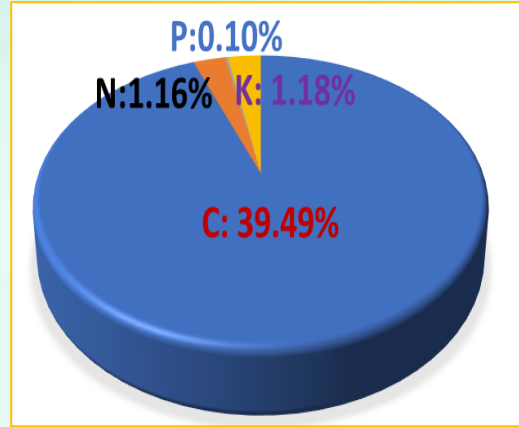
Tobacco-planting soil degradation



Soil compaction

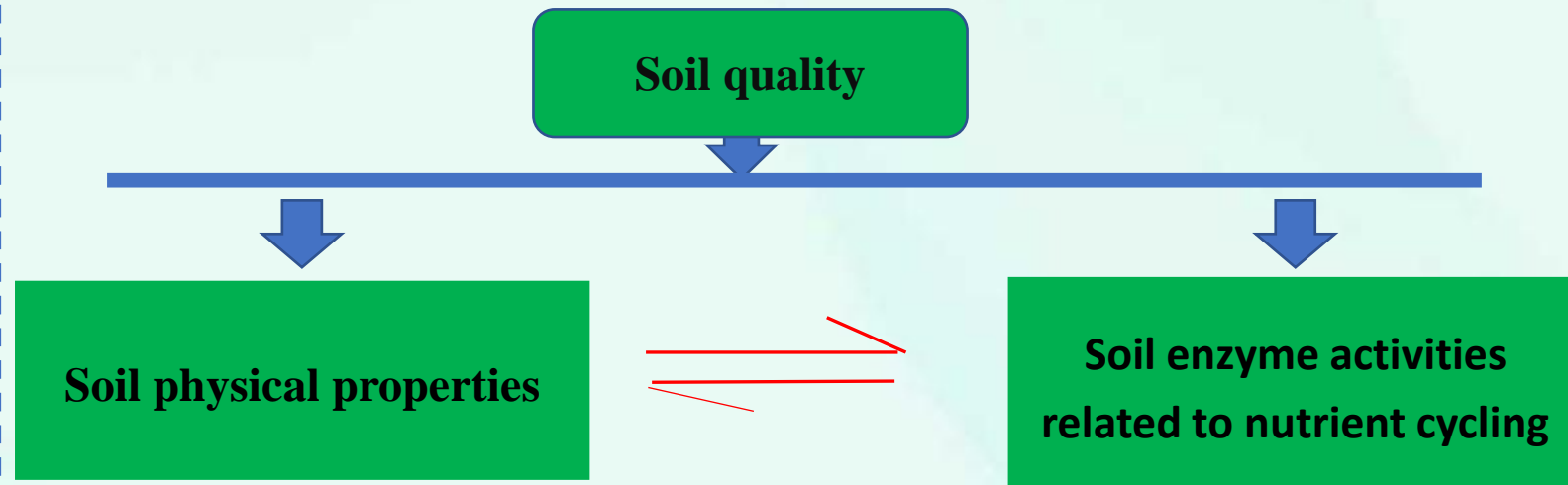
Nutrient imbalance

➤ Comparative effect of wheat and wheat straw-derived biochar on soil quality improvement



Wheat straw VS biochar

Objective



Four treatments:

CK: chemical fertilizer only (control)

WS: chemical fertilizer plus 6.75 t hm⁻² wheat straw

FB1: chemical fertilizer plus 2.25 t hm⁻² wheat straw-derived biochar

FB2: chemical fertilizer plus 4.5 t hm⁻² wheat straw-derived biochar



METHOD

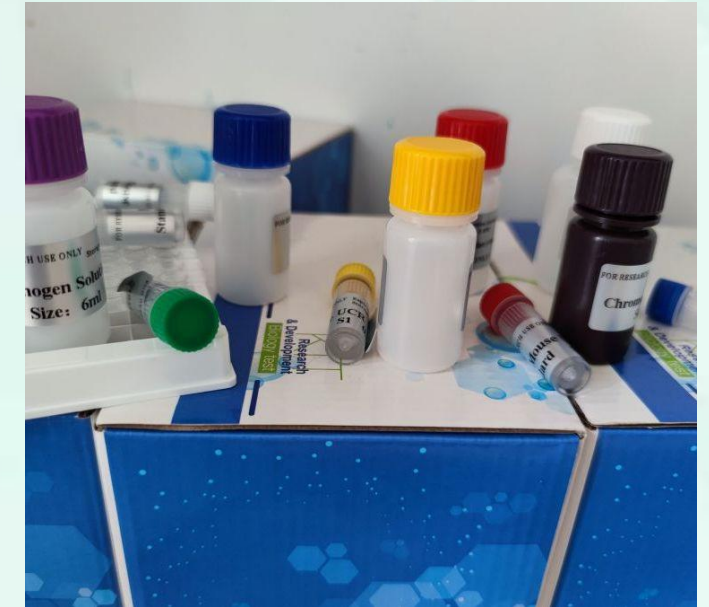
Wet sieving fractionation

Soil bulk density



Six aggregate size fractions: $> 2 \text{ mm}$,
 $1-2 \text{ mm}$, $0.5-1 \text{ mm}$, $0.25-0.5 \text{ mm}$, $0.106-0.25 \text{ mm}$ and < 0.106
 mm
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Detection of soil enzyme activity



Activities of sucrase, urease,
phosphatase, catalase

➤ Soil bulk density (0-40 cm)

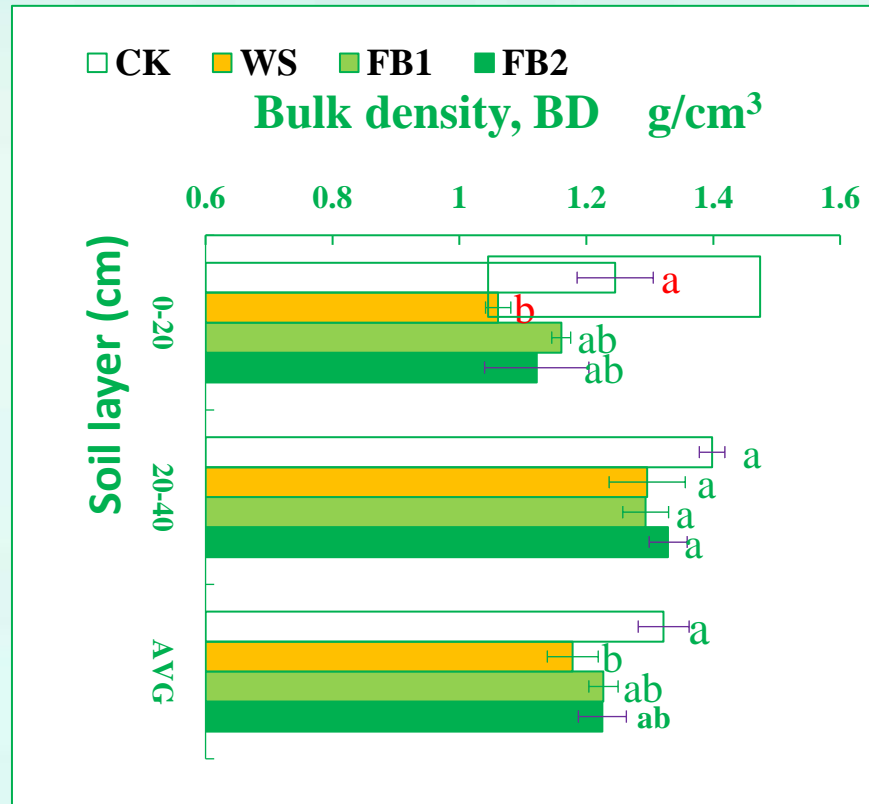


Fig 1. Change of soil bulk density at 0 - 40 cm depth under different treatments

Compared with CK, wheat straw incorporation could decrease **bulk density** (0-20 cm), whereas different adding amount of biochar showed no obvious difference.

Significant difference of the **field capacity** was not observed among different treatments.

➤ Soil field capacity

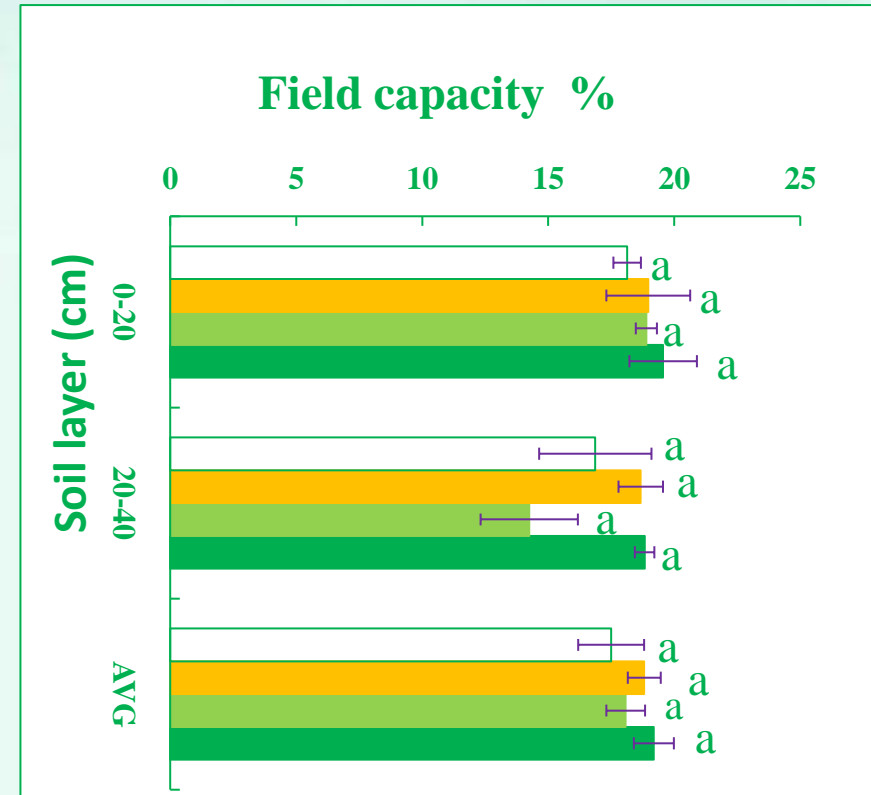


Fig 2. Change of soil field capacity at 0 - 40 cm depth under different treatments

➤ Fraction of soil water stable aggregate

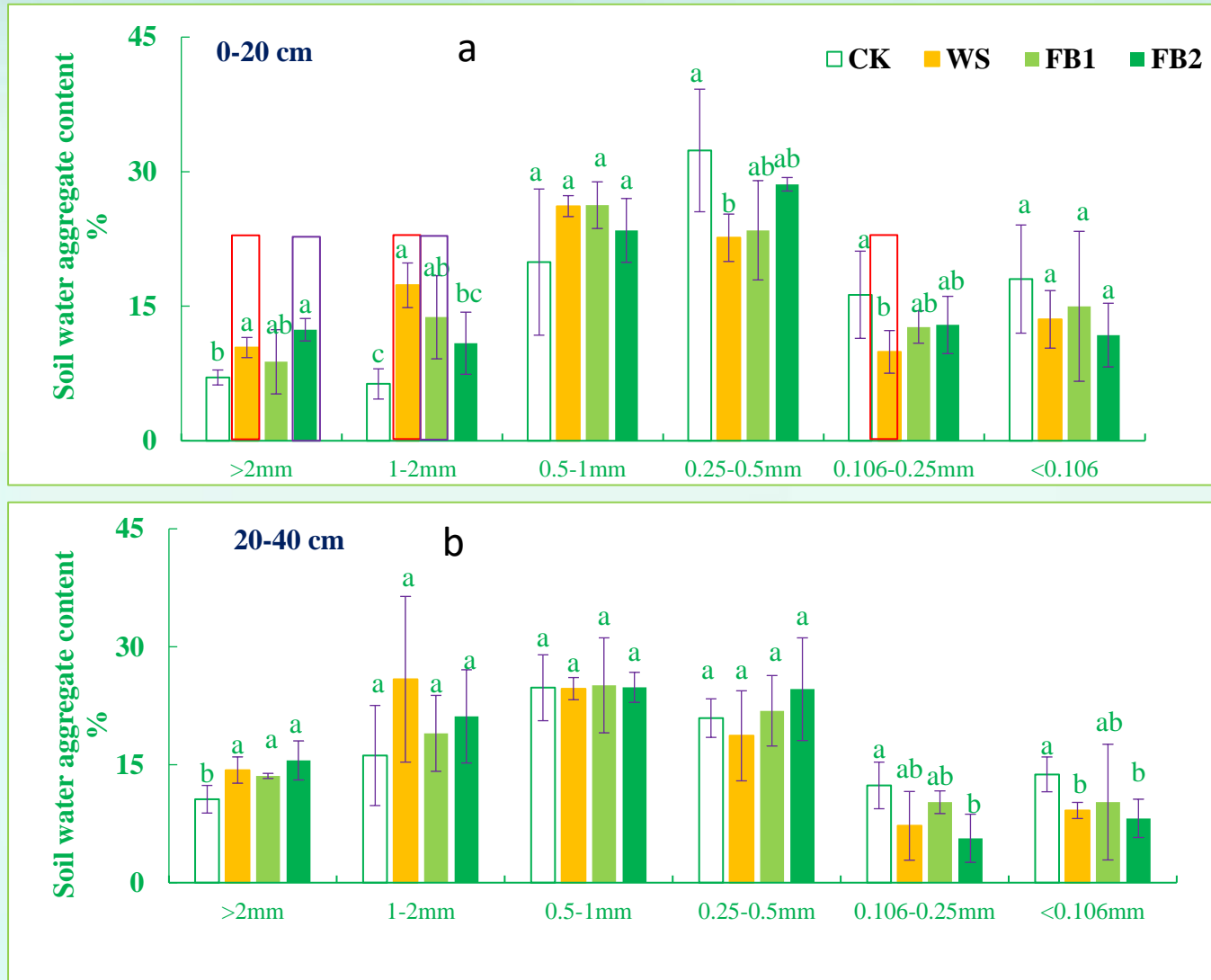


Fig 3. fraction of soil water stable aggregate at 20 - 40 cm depth under different treatments

The WS treatment increased **the >2 mm, 1-2 mm** water-stable aggregate content, whereas decreased **0.106-0.25 mm** water-stable aggregate content compared with CK.

Biochar treatments (FB1, FB2) also increased the content of **> 1 mm** soil water stable aggregates.

Stability of soil water stable aggregate

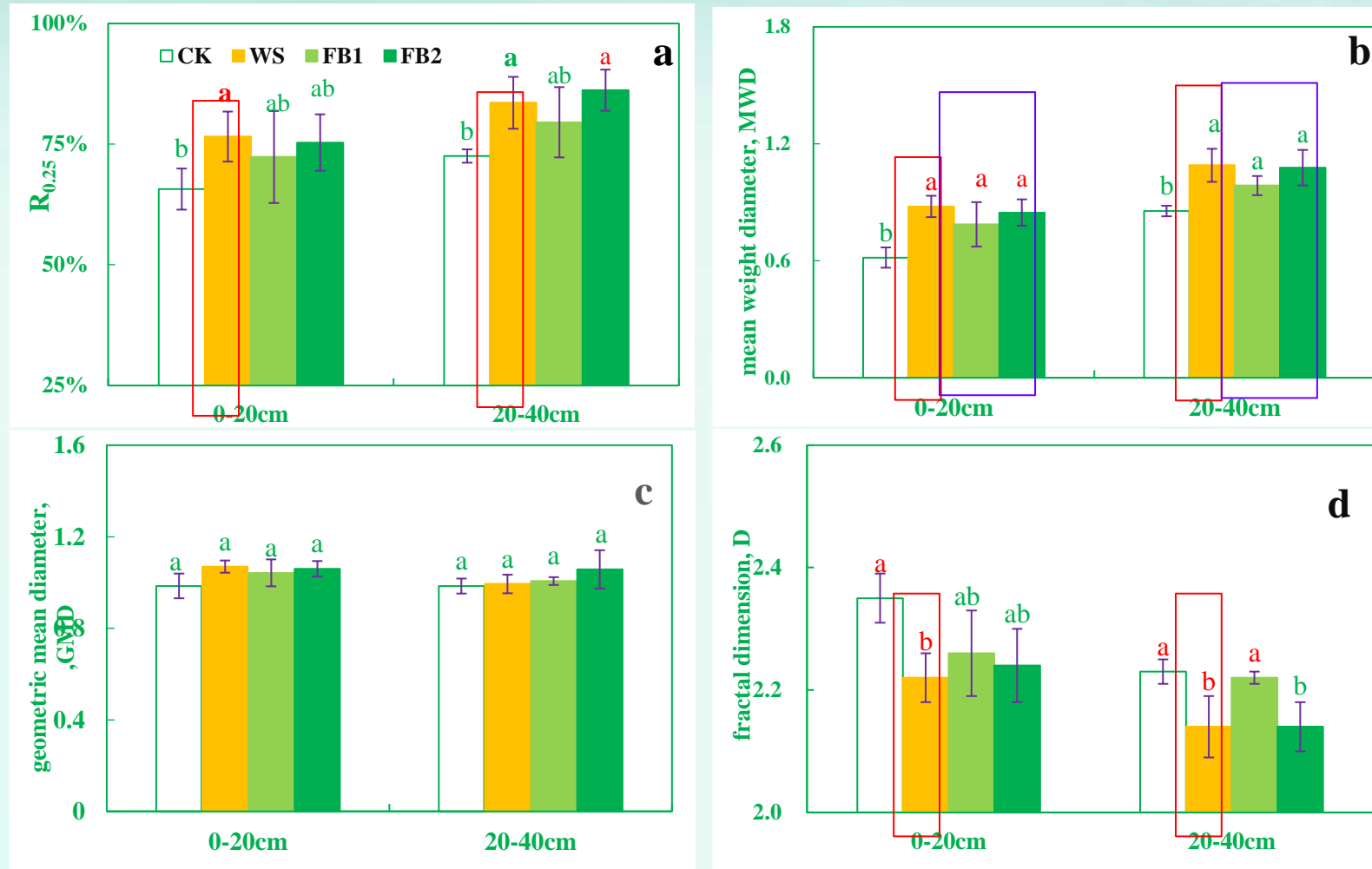


Fig 4. stability of soil water stable aggregate at 0 - 40 cm depth under different treatments

In comparison with CK, the WS treatments could improve content of > 0.25 mm aggregates ($R_{0.25}$), mean weight diameter (MWD) and fractal dimension(D), FB1 and FB2 treatments only improved MWD .

➤ **Correlation among soil aggregate content and stability evaluation index**

Table 1. Correlation among soil water stable aggregate and stability evaluation index under different treatments

soil layer cm	index	>2mm	1-2mm	0.5-1mm	0.25-0.5mm	0.106-0.25mm	<0.106
0-20	MWD	0.768**	0.687*	0.667*	-0.293	-0.760**	-0.789**
	GMD	0.691*	0.598*	0.735**	-0.131	-0.727**	-0.921**
	R _{0.25}	0.594*	0.581*	0.722**	0.089	-0.855**	-0.937**
	D	-0.659*	-0.704*	-0.707*	0.193	0.789**	0.872**
20-40	MWD	0.697*	0.694*	-0.166	-0.020	-0.713**	-0.655*
	GMD	0.023	0.628*	-0.251	-0.020	-0.701*	-0.196
	R _{0.25}	0.753**	0.360	0.176	0.422	-0.711**	-0.851**
	D	-0.561	-0.642*	0.075	0.016	0.750**	0.553

MWD, GMD, R_{0.25}, and D showed **strong positive or negative correlation** with different particle sizes of water stable aggregates.

➤ Enzyme activity

Table 2. Effect of straw incorporation and straw derived biochar on soil enzyme activity

Soil layer cm	Treatment	Sucrase mg glucose g ⁻¹ dry soil·24h ⁻¹	Urease μg NH ₄ ⁺ N g ⁻¹ drysoil·24h ⁻¹	Phosphatase mg P nitro-phenol released g ⁻¹ dry soil· h ⁻¹	Catalase 0.1NKMnO ₄ ·g ⁻¹ dry soil·h ⁻¹
0-20	CK	26.51 ± 2.82b	1023.01 ± 48.46b	0.74 ± 0.08b	53.47 ± 0.46a
	WS	56.34 ± 7.43a ↑	1102.95 ± 14.29a ↑	1.00 ± 0.12a ↑	52.70 ± 0.94a
	FB1	37.95 ± 8.42ab	1029.61 ± 53.69b	0.74 ± 0.17b	51.26 ± 3.60a
	FB2	32.82 ± 9.40ab	929.77 ± 125.11b	0.63 ± 0.05b	53.44 ± 0.39a
20-40	CK	18.49 ± 1.86b	950.19 ± 132.61a	0.59 ± 0.03b	53.72 ± 0.22a
	WS	32.02 ± 4.02a	1027.65 ± 60.66a	0.78 ± 0.11a	53.68 ± 0.38a
	FB1	32.42 ± 2.87a	1007.35 ± 48.64a	0.71 ± 0.07a	53.67 ± 0.21a
	FB2	25.16 ± 8.61ab	929.77 ± 125.12a	0.59 ± 0.11b	53.69 ± 0.54a

The WS treatment significantly increased **activities of sucrase, urease, phosphatase** (0-20 cm) compared with CK application, respectively.

The enzyme activities treated by FB1 and FB2 showed little difference compared with CK.

➤ Correlation among soil physical index and soil enzyme activity

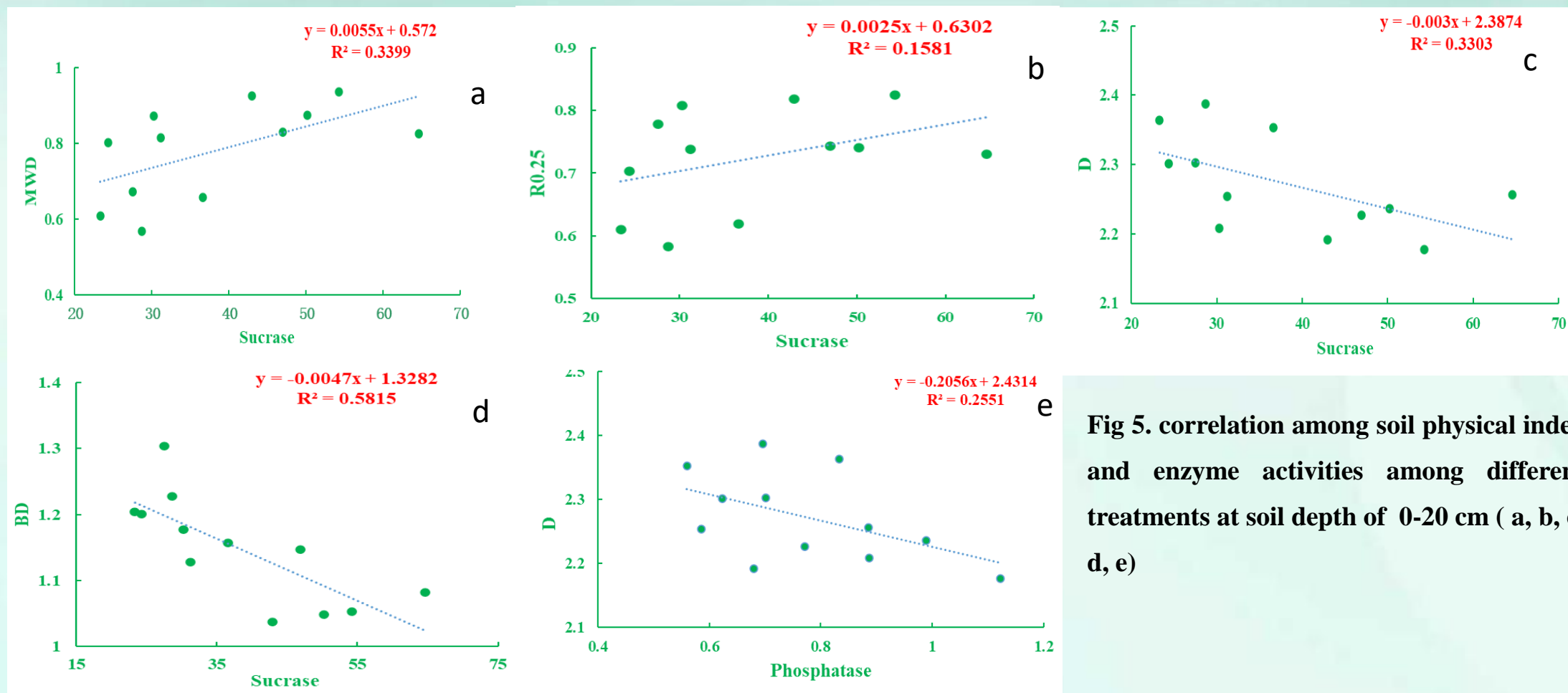
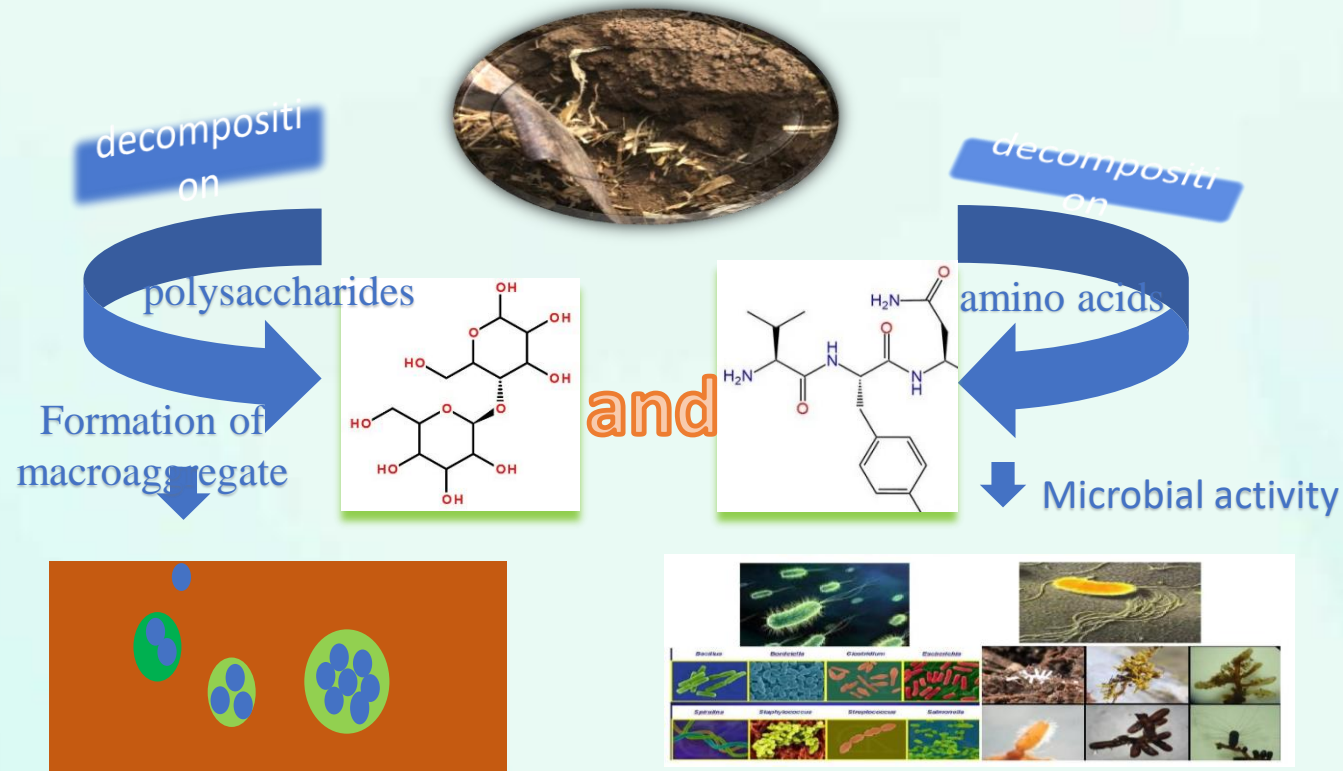


Fig 5. correlation among soil physical index and enzyme activities among different treatments at soil depth of 0-20 cm (a, b, c, d, e)

Sucrase was positively correlated with MWD and $R_{0.25}$, and negatively correlated with D and bulk density. Phosphatase was negatively correlated with D.

The result showed enzymes related to soil C, P cycling are more sensitive to changes in soil physical index.

- Straw incorporation directly promoted the formation of soil macroaggregates, improved stability of soil structure and soil enzyme activity.



- Different adding amount of biochar increased the content of soil macroaggregates, but had little effect on enzyme activity
- Enzymes related to soil C, P cycling are more sensitive to changes in soil physical index.



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