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Chapter 2 - Bioremediation of soil: an overview

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Abstract

Soil pollution is a major and growing concern all over the globe and a serious threat to the environment as well as to living organisms. Different pollutants, viz. heavy metals, radionuclides, organic pollutants, plastics, agrochemicals like pesticides, herbicides, etc. are known to pollute the soil and reduce the already limited arable land important for food production. In search of economical and eco-friendly remediation techniques many methodologies have been devised, such as rhizoremediation and phytoremediation, and by using them polluted lands can be put back in cultivation or other types of production systems without harming the environment any further. Bioremediation is one such technique in which microorganisms are employed for the purpose directly or indirectly. Bioremediation reduces time and labor by a variety of mechanisms. They help in bioremediation via various mechanisms such as biosorption, EPS production, metalloproteins, metal resistant genes, SOD, POD, Catalase production, volatilization, and others. Microbial inoculation decreases the MDA (malondialdehyde) and H₂O₂ content by 20% and 33%, respectively. They also increase the antioxidant enzymes such as SOD (superoxide dismutase enzyme) and catalase by 30% and 7%, respectively. They can also biotransform the oxidation states of toxic metals to nontoxic ones. They even enhance the hyperaccumulator capacity to aid phytoremediation.



Keywords

Bioremediation; heavy metals; biosorption; SOD; Pseudomonas

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