



# Comparative Analysis of Biochar Derived from Rice Straw and Soybean Straw

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## Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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## ABSTRACT

**Aim:** Recycling agricultural postharvest waste and re-introducing it again into farmland is one of the tangible ways to address zero waste dream, soil infertility and climate change. Pyrolysis of crop leftovers into biochar remains the most acceptable alternative for proper management of crop waste. The possibility of sustainable biochar production practices and multi-functionality features makes it promising to fulfill an increasing demand for soil amendment, agricultural sustainability, environmental protection, cutting-edge materials and mitigation of climate change.

**Methodology:** Same amount (14450 g) in feedstock of rice straw (RS) and soybean straw (SS) undergo slow pyrolysis separately to produce biochar. Physical (percentage yield, moisture, ash, volatile matter, bulk density, pH, electrical conductivity), chemical characterization (Microwave Plasma Atomic Emission Spectroscopy (MP-AES), Scanning Electron Microscope Energy Dispersive X-ray (SEM-EDX), Fourier Transformed Infrared (FTIR) and Thermogravimetric Analysis and Derivative Thermogravimetry (TGA and DTA)) and evaluation of biochar was determined.

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**Results:** Rice straw biochar (RSB) recorded a higher char yield of 42.1%. Both lignocellulosic biochars were black and porous with a higher silica (10.6%) content in RSB and higher carbon (82.2%) content in SSB as was revealed by SEM-EDX. Higher ash 27.1%, volatile matter (VM) 31.3% and moisture 29.4% content was seen in RSB compared to SSB because of feedstock composition. Rice straw biochar show higher peaks of macro and micro mineral elements K(14561.21mg/kg), Ca (2401.28 mg/kg), and Na(1735.27 mg/kg) than soybean straw biochar. FTIR was used to identify functional groups that might act as cation adsorbents. As the temperature increased, the TGA and DTG graphs showed mass loss and sample breakdown.

**Conclusion:** Rice and soybean crop wastes were converted into biochar, a nutrient-rich material that maybe utilized to balance acidic soils promoting healthy plant growth and also protecting the environment.

*Keywords: Recycling; postharvest waste; pyrolysis; biochar; climate change.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Postharvest leftovers make up a sizeable portion of agricultural biomass. Straw, husks, peels, leaves, and other plant parts that are usually thrown away during processing or left behind in the field to waste [1,2]. Plant postharvest waste needs to be managed and used effectively for agricultural and environment sustenance. The production of biochar, a highly porous and stable form of carbon, involves a thermochemical process that breaks down organic material at high temperatures under limited oxygen. Biochar, bio-oil, and syngas are the three main products that are produced from feedstock through this method. The primary focus is on biochar, the solid residue, because of its numerous advantages for agriculture and the environment [3]. Scientists first became interested in biochar in the late 20th century when they discovered how well it could trap carbon and improve soil fertility. The discovery of Terra Preta prompted studies into the application of biochar to simulate these rich environments elsewhere in the world [4]. The application of biochar to soils can improve soil structure, increase water retention, and enhance nutrient availability, hence promoting plant growth and crop yield [5,6]. Furthermore, it has been demonstrated that biochar sequesters carbon, lowering greenhouse gas emissions from soils and assisting in the mitigation of climate change [7,8]. Biochar, which immobilises organic pollutants and heavy metals to promote soil health and crop productivity in contaminated areas, can be added to agricultural soils to reduce emissions of methane and nitrous oxide, two potent greenhouse gases associated to agricultural operations [9-12]. Difference in biochar characteristics result from varying feedstocks, pyrolysis temperatures, and durations, which makes cross-study comparisons difficult [3]. Not every study thoroughly describes the chemical and physical characteristics of the

biochar that was produced. Comparing data and drawing broad generalizations regarding the usefulness of biochar is challenging due to this inconsistent reporting [13]. This discrepancy makes evaluating the comparative efficacy of biochar more difficult [14]. Comparisons between studies could be deceptive if these characteristics are ignored [15]. According to Sohi et al., [16] the comparability of study findings was hampered by the absence of consistent measurements. To properly evaluate research findings, biochar must be thoroughly and consistently characterized. Thorough understanding of the characteristics of biochar can aid in pin-pointing the particular circumstances in which biochar functions best [13]. This research seeks to produce biochar from rice straw and soybean straw, characterize the physico-chemical properties and compare the biochars.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Mortar, pestle, sample container, kiln, desiccator, crucible, pH meter, measuring cylinder, beaker, stirring rod, oven, analytical weighting balance, furnace, conductivity meter, distilled water, sieve, polyethylene bag and spreading mat. Microwave Plasma Atomic Emission Spectroscopy (MP-AES), Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM), Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR) and Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA and TGA) are the instrumental techniques used in this study.

### 2.1 Sample Collection and Preparation

Sack bags were used to collect rice straw and soybean straw from Air Force Base Farm in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State. The samples were transported to Ministry of Agriculture, Benue State Government in Makurdi for identification. Spreading mat was used to

sun-dry the biomass and sorting was carried out to remove impurities. After sun-drying for 10 days to get rid of excess moisture. The biomass was cut 8-10 cm for length reduction.

## 2.2 Methods

### 2.2.1 Biochar production

Separately, same amount (14450 g) of rice straw and soybean straw was fed into the pyrolysis drum [17] (height of 587 mm and 585 mm in diameter and perforated holes of 20 mm at the bottom). The bass drum was fitted with an air tight adaptor (height 310 mm; diameter 585 mm) incorporated with a chimney (height 700 mm; diameter 140 mm). Separately the heating was started using a match box and the temperature fluctuated between 100-382°C. After slow pyrolysis for 30 minutes each, the yield of RSB and SSB were collected because according to Novak et al. [18] biochars produced at low temperatures retain more nutrients, functional group and are more suitable for agriculture. The biochar fire was quenched with water to room temperature, and the sample was examined for their physical and chemical characteristics.

### 2.2.2 Physicochemical properties of biochar

Percentage yield (%) was determined as the absolute weight of the biochar formed during pyrolysis divide by the total weight of the feedstock consumed.

$$\text{Percentage yield (\%)} = \frac{\text{mass of biochar}}{\text{mass of feedstock}} \times 100$$

A crucible was pre-heated for 5 minutes at 105 °C in an oven, then cooled and weighed. The biochar was then weighed again with a known sample weight (5.2 g). The sample crucible was placed in an oven and heated to 105 °C for 2 hours, after which it was removed and allowed to cool in a desiccator [19].

$$\% \text{ Moisture content} = \frac{ws - (w2 - w1)}{ws} \times 100$$

Where:

$W_1$  = Constant weight of a crucible

$W_s$  = Weight of the crucible with its content

$W_2$  = Weight of the crucible with its content when cooled in a desiccator

A clean porcelain crucible was oven dried at a temperature of 105°C for 10 minutes, it was then weighed after been placed in a desiccator to cool. 5g of biochar was placed in the crucible and

the weight recorded. The crucible was placed in a muffle furnace at a temperature of 720°C for four hours until it was completely ashed. The crucible was removed and placed in a desiccator and then weighed.

$$\text{Ash content (\%)} = \frac{\text{Ash weight} - \text{crucible weight}}{\text{biochar weight}} \times 100$$

Volatile matter was determined using a muffle furnace. A known weight of sample (5.45 g) was placed into a crucible and heated to 950°C for 7 minutes in a muffle furnace before being removed and placed in a desiccator to cool.

$$\text{Volatile Matter (\%)} = \frac{w2 - w3}{w2 - w1} \times 100$$

Where:

$W_1$  = Weight of pre-heated crucible

$W_2$  = Weight of pre-heated crucible with the sample

$W_3$  = Weight of the crucible with the sample after being heated

Fixed carbon (%) = 100 – (Moisture % + Volatile matter % + Ash %) [20]

The bulk density was determined as the dry weight of the sample divided by its volume. A known weight of the sample was put into an empty measuring cylinder. It was gently tapped for two minutes until it was compacted and evenly packed. Then, the volume of the sample in the measuring cylinder was measured.

$$\text{Density} = \frac{\text{mass of sample}}{\text{volume occupied}}$$

The standard test was used to determine the pH. In a beaker, 200 mL distilled water was added to 2.0 g of the sample, and the mixture was manually agitated with a stirring rod for 20 minutes and allowed to stabilize before the pH was measured using a pH meter (HANNA).

Electrical conductivity was carried out as described, 200 mL of distilled water was added to a beaker containing 2.0 g of biochar, and the mixture was manually agitated for 20 minutes using a stirring rod. A conductivity meter (ROHS) was used to determine the electrical conductivity, and the results were provided in decisiemens per meter.

### 2.2.3 Mineral elemental analysis

Two hundred milligrams (200 mg) of samples were weighed and placed in microwave digestion vessels with a capacity of 90 mL. Each jar

received 10 mL of a 7:2:1 mixture of 15.9 N trace metal grade Nitric acid, hydrogen peroxide, and perchloric acid. The materials were processed using a microwave digestion device after standing for one hour. After ramping the temperature from ambient to 200°C over 20 minutes and holding it there for another 20 minutes, they were allowed to drop to around 50°C before handling. The digestate was transferred to a 50 mL volumetric flask and filtered, and the solution volume was adjusted to 50 mL with deionized water. The Agilent 4210 MP-AES was used for all measurements. PVC peristaltic pump tubing (white/white and blue/blue), a single pass cyclonic spray chamber, and a single Nebulizer made up the sample introduction system. The background signal was automatically subtracted from the analytical signal using Agilent MP Expert software. A blank solution's background spectrum was recorded and automatically removed from each standard and sample solution under investigation. To improve sensitivity, the program was also utilized to tune the nebulization pressure and viewing position for each wavelength chosen. Each analyte was determined under optimum conditions as a result of this optimization and the fact that all measurements were carried out sequentially. To quickly and simply tune the settings, a standard reference solution was used [21].

#### 2.2.4 Scanning electron microscope (SEM)

The morphological characterization was achieved using SEM instrument (Make:

PhenomProXQ150R Netherlands) at an accelerating voltage of 20.00kv [21].

#### 2.2.5 Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR)

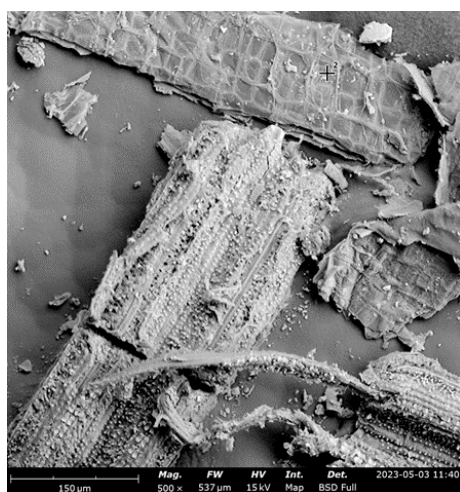
The infrared spectrum was obtained using Agilent Technology Cary 630 FT-IR spectrometer over the infrared region of 4000 – 600  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and a resolution of 4  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The sample was compacted into KBr pellets before scanning. The spectrum of the pure Kbr was measured before the sample measurement.

#### 2.2.6 Thermogravimetric analysis and derived thermogravimetry (TGA and DTG)

The thermogravimetric analysis was performed under the flow of nitrogen at a max heat-up rate of 20°C and maximum operating temperature of 1200°C while monitoring the weight loss and thermal behaviour of the biochar on a PerkinElmer TGA 4000 analyzer, made in the Netherlands. The analysis enabled the observed changes in physical and chemical properties of materials as a function of increasing temperature.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Physicochemical characterization of feedstock:** Rice straw was rougher, more porous surface with denser structure while soybean straw was rough and less porous surface as was seen in Fig. 1a and Fig. 1b.



a. Rice straw (x500)



b. Soybean straw (X500)

**Fig. 1. SEM images of rice straw and soybean straw**

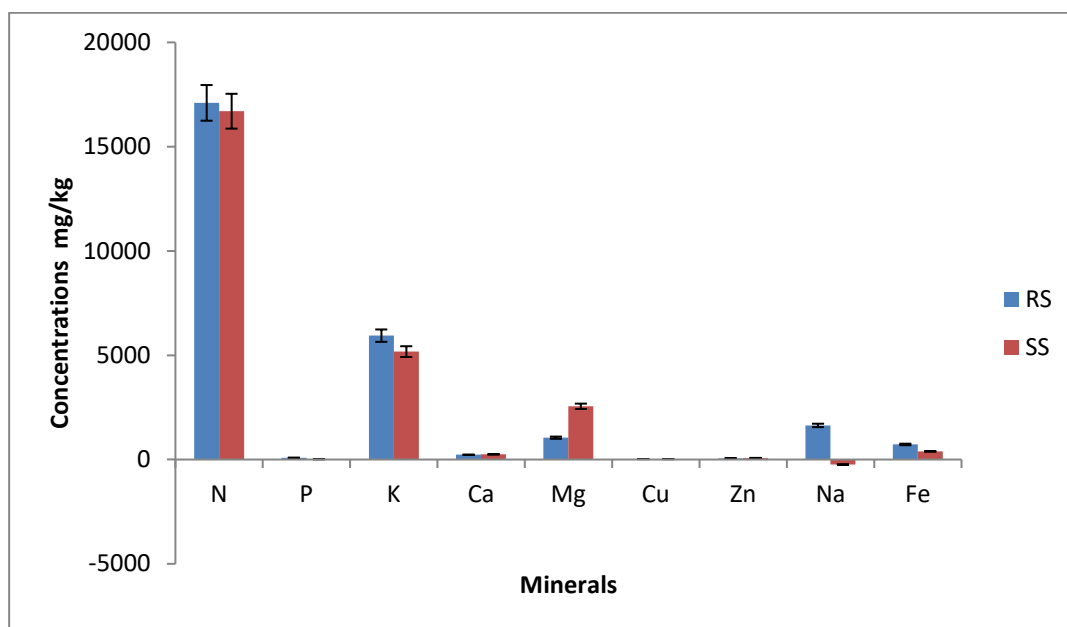


Fig. 2. Mineral content of rice straw and soybean straw

Table 1. Percentage yield of biochars

Feedstock	Feedstock concentration (g)	Biochar concentration (g)	Percentage (%) yield (dry weight basis)
Rice straw	14450	6083	42.1
Soybean straw	14450	3700	25.6

Rice straw's higher macro (N17100; P84.1;K5939.41;Mg;1047.15) mg/kg and micro elements (Cu22.05; Na1635.26;Fe724.04) mg/kg content in Fig. 2 was attributed to its water logged paddy fields and robust root system [22] while soybean straw's lower macro (N16700, P16.81;K5174.24) mg/kg and micro (Cu20.08; Fe389.91) mg/kg nutrient content was influenced by its reliance on atmospheric nitrogen fixation and growth in well drained soils [23].

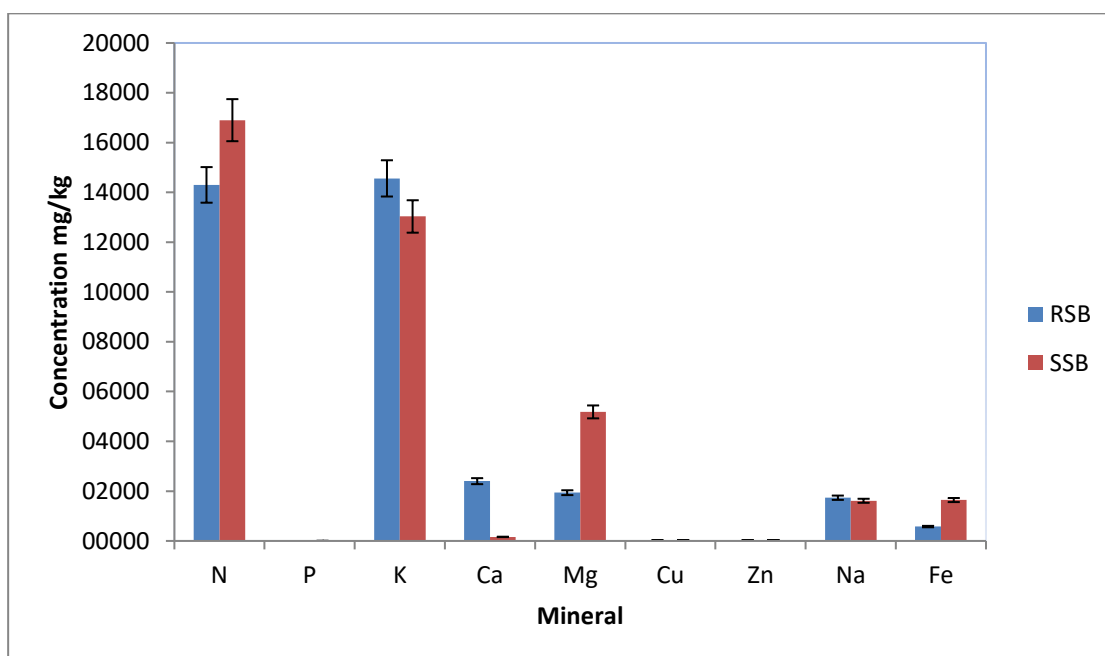
Rice straw biochar exhibited a higher charring yield of 42.1% while soybean straw biochar had a lower yield of 25.6% as seen in Table 1. This is because silica and other inorganic components in rice straw biochar do not volatilize during pyrolysis which contribute to a higher yield of biochar [24]. Also at elevated temperatures during pyrolysis the high organic matter content in soybean straw volatilizes leaving behind small percentage yield of soybean straw biochar. The yield of rice straw biochar at 400°C does not fall within the range of 45-50% reported by Purakayathsa et al., [25] for rice straw biochar but higher than the 29.7% and 32% yield observed by Kamara et al., [26] and Um-e-Laila et al. [27].

**Physical characterization of biochar:** In Table 2. Rice straw biochar show high amount of moisture (29.4%), ash (27.1%) and volatile matter (31.3%) when compared to soybean straw biochar with higher fixed carbon 34.9% content. This implies that rice straw biochar has higher mineral concentration than soybean straw biochar. The ash 21.9% content of SSB observed in this study was higher than the 10.19% ash value reported by Wu et al., [28] for SSB. The RSB ash content in this research does not agree with the 34.2% ash value reported by Kamara et al., [26] but similar to the 28.8% ash content presented by Wu et al., [29]. Soybean straw biochar present a high pH of 12.5 and a high ash content of 21.9% when compared to the relative low pH 9.46 and ash content 10.19% as reported by Sarfaraz et al., [30] and Wu et al., [28]. Both biochars are highly alkaline and aligns with the work of Sarfaraz et al., [30] with high alkaline values for crop residue when compared to the slightly alkaline values of crop residue as reported by Garba et al., [31]. Electrical conductivity is the concentration of all soluble salt present in solution. Soybean straw biochar's high pH and electrical conductivity can be useful for delivering nutrients and reducing soil acidity [32].

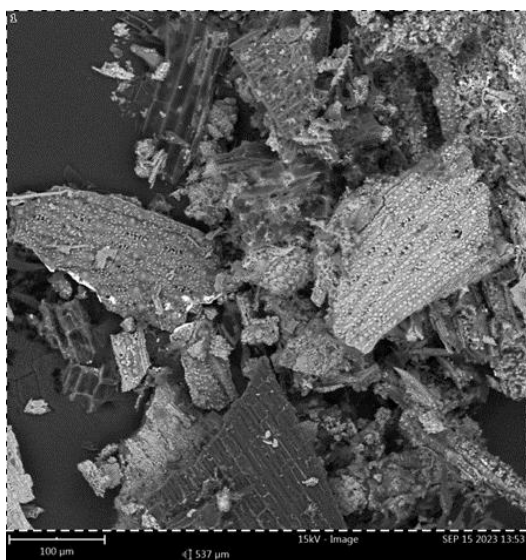
On the other hand, there could be which call for cautious handling to negative effects such as elevated soil guarantee ideal plant development and soil well-salinity and probable nutrient imbalances, being [33].

**Table 2. Proximate composition of biochars**

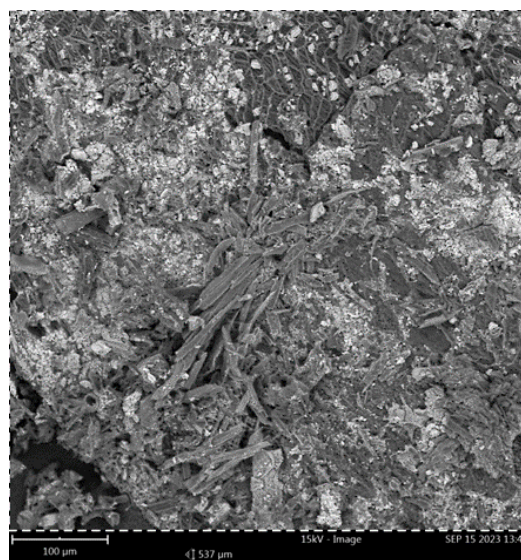
Biochar	% Moisture	%Ash	%Volatile matter	%Fixed carbon	Bulk density g/mL	pH	Electrical conductivity dS/m
RSB	29.4±3.77	27.1±8.16	31.3±4.08	12.1	0.199±0.0191	11.9±1.3	0.542±0.0576
SSB	17.6±0.834	21.9±0.663	25.4±8.97	34.9	0.25±0.0171	12.5±0.808	0.695±0.36



**Fig. 3. Mineral element of rice straw biochar (RSB) and soybean straw biochar (SSB)**



**Fig. 4a. SEM of rice straw biochar (X500)**



**Fig. 4b. SEM of soybean straw biochar (X500)**

**Mineral analysis:** Macro elements like N (14300 mg/kg), P (4.75 mg/kg), K (14561.21 mg/kg), Ca (2401.28 mg/kg), and Mg (1937.88 mg/kg) are found in rice straw biochar, whose micro elements include Cu (20.46 mg/kg), Zn (24.81 mg/kg), Na (1735.27 mg/kg), and Fe (576.51 mg/kg). The macro-minerals in soybean straw biochar are (N 16900 mg/kg, P 3.00 mg/kg, K 13031.97 mg/kg, Ca 162.32 mg/kg, Mg 5118.91 mg/kg), whose micro elements (Cu 25.24 mg/kg, Zn 34.09 mg/kg, Na 1612.25 mg/kg, Fe 1642.80 mg/kg). Soybean straw biochar had the lowest P (3.00 mg/kg) and highest N (16900 mg/kg) mineral element composition than rice straw biochar in Fig. 3. For plants to flourish, nitrogen is crucial because it is a major component of amino acids and chlorophyll [34]. Studies according to Um-e-Laila et al., [27] reported macro nutrient (N, K, Ca, and Mg) values for RSB which were lower in concentration compared to the ones reported in this investigation. But the micro elements (Cu and Zn) in RSB identified Um-e-Laila et al., [27] were higher than those observed in this work. Um-e-Laila et al., [27] reported 38 mg/kg of phosphorus in rice straw biochar but phosphorus was not found in rice straw biochar in this investigation.

**Scanning Electron Microscope and Energy Dispersive X-ray (SEM-EDX):** Figs. 4a and b shows the changes in the surface morphology of rice straw biochar and soybean straw biochar.

Both varieties of lignocellulosic biochar have embedded organic and inorganic components and are porous and black due to carbonisation. In rice straw biochar, a porous structure with a high level of microporosity was typically observed. A rough surface roughness and a linked network of pores are revealed in Fig. 4a, which was often visible on the SEM images. As shown in Fig. 4b, the porosity structure of soybean straw biochar is more variable and uneven than that of rice straw biochar. The surface could appear smoother if there are fewer, larger pores. The pores in soy straw biochar are often less visible and more uneven in shape. EDX spectral lines of rice straw biochar show high silica content (10.68%) and low carbon content (79.9%) which both contribute to the structure's rigidity and brittleness. EDX peaks of soybean straw biochar reveal a higher carbon content (82.24%) and a lower silica concentration (1.03%), which leads to a less brittle structure. The variation in mineral composition attributes to

the differences in feedstock composition [21]. By breaking down the organic matter and producing ash that is rich in minerals, the pyrolysis process concentrates these minerals even more in the biochar [35].

**Fourier transformed infrared (FTIR):** Table 3. displays seven peaks for each type of biochar. Broadly intensified bands with wavenumbers  $3305.1\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $3265.1\text{ cm}^{-1}$  were linked to O-H<sub>(stretch)</sub> [38,28] vibrations of hydroxyl groups in rice and soybean straw biochars. Do and Nguyen [36] and Zhao et al., [37] reported bands at  $3322\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $3426\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for hydroxyl group in rice straw biochar which were higher than the OH band in this study. Soybean straw biochar vibrational broad band at  $3265.1\text{ cm}^{-1}$  fits within the range of  $3500\text{-}3200\text{ cm}^{-1}$  as was described by Chen et al., [39]. The two types of biochar differ in their structural makeup and chemical composition, which accounts for the little variation in wavenumbers. Soybean straw biochar and rice straw biochar had wavenumbers at  $2109.7\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $2113.4\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , suggesting C  $\equiv$  N or C  $\equiv$  C stretching vibrations [43,42,38,41,44]. These vibrations may be from nitriles or alkynes. The frequency at  $1871.1\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1900.9\text{ cm}^{-1}$  indicate carbonyl stretching vibrations. The absorption bands at  $1871.1\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is often associated with carbonyl compounds such as ketenes (C=C=O) in rice straw biochar. Similar band around  $1870\text{ cm}^{-1}$  was observed by Chen et al., [46] in which both bands fall within the range of  $1850\text{-}1900\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in rice straw biochar according to [47]. The frequency  $1900.9\text{ cm}^{-1}$  was attributed to C=O in soybean straw biochar but however, this band was not reported in other studies by Gaskin et al., [51], Cantrell et al., [55] and Qian et al., [56] which typically observe C=O within the range of  $1650\text{-}1750\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The biochar from rice and soybean straws had a common band at  $1625.1\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , representing aromatic C=C stretching vibrations [49,50,51]. This implies that both kinds of biochar have about the same level of aromaticity. The band found in the rice straw biochar examined in this study corresponds to a comparable band in rice straw biochar that was located between  $1600\text{ - }1630\text{ cm}^{-1}$  [41,48]. The wavenumbers for rice straw biochar ( $1379.1\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and soybean straw biochar ( $1375.4\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) are similar, suggesting that the two have medium-intensity C-H bending vibrations [41,48,49,52]. The variations in C-O stretching vibrations suggested by the difference between  $1028.7\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1043.7\text{ cm}^{-1}$  [46,41,48,57] indicate narrow peaks in rice straw biochar and weak peaks in soybean straw

biochar from alcohols, esters, ethers, or residual polysaccharides. Various kinds of functional groups containing oxygen could be the cause of this. Indicating comparable out-of-plane C-H bending vibrations in aromatic compounds, rice straw and soybean straw biochar both exhibit a weak peak at the same frequency of 872.2 cm<sup>-1</sup> [42,37,52,54].

**Thermogravimetry and derivative thermogravimetric analysis:**

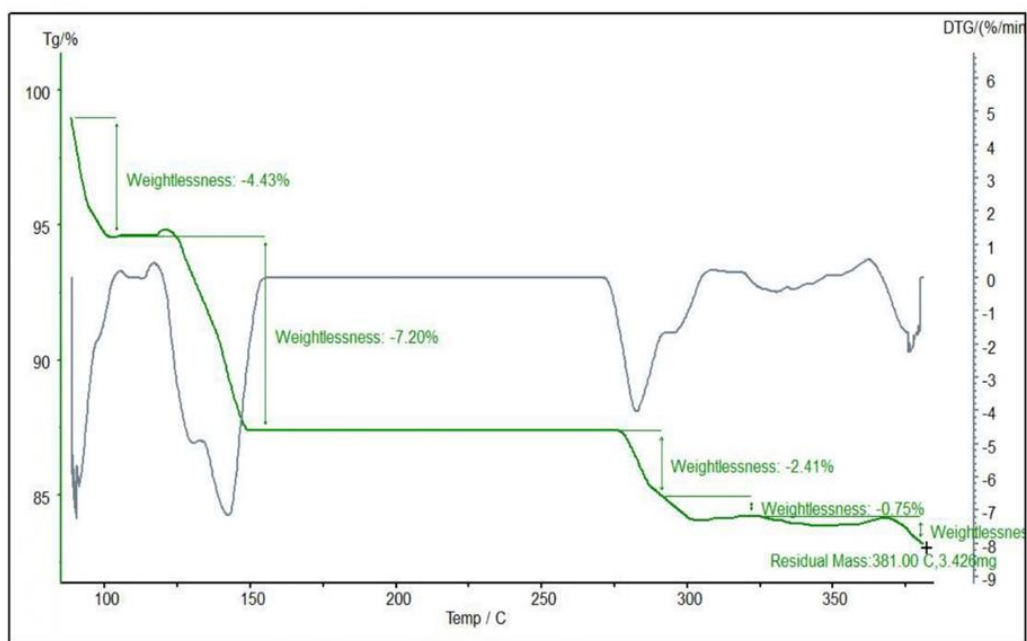
The thermal properties of rice straw biochar and soybean straw biochar can be analyzed using TGA and DTG. In an inert nitrogen environment, volatile chemicals can thermally decompose up to 1200°C at a maximum rate of 20°C min<sup>-1</sup>. In Figs. 5a and 5b the result of the TGA analysis for rice straw biochar had four (4) stages [41,46] of mass loss when compared to the three (3) stages [58,59,60] of mass loss displayed by soybean straw biochar. Rice straw biochar initial stage I(155.4-104°C) exhibit a higher weight loss of -4.43% corresponding to moisture [61] and light volatiles [41] occurring on the DTG shoulder at 116.8°C within a temperature range of 125-104°C while soybean straw biochar's initial stage I(102.8-36.8°C) had the lowest mass loss of -0.35% that was attributed to moisture loss [62] positioned on the dip temperature of 42.0°C on the DTG curve within a limit of (102.8-36.8°C). In the second stage II(291.2-155.4°C), rice straw biochar exhibits the highest weight loss of -7.20% attributed to continuous degradation of hemicellulose and cellulose [46] at a peak temperature of 276.2°C on the DTG curve within

a temperature limit of 285-270°C. This second stage is usually marked by significant weight loss ranging from 30-50% [63]. Contrastingly, the soybean straw biochars second stage II(270.5-102.8°C) show a lower weight loss of -1.34% which indicates a steady and continuous degradation of hemicellulose and cellulose [64] with an obvious dip on the DTG curve and a shoulder positioned at 269.9°C within a temperature region of 275-250°C. Soybean straw biochar's third stage III(382.1-270.5°C) was associated with a higher weight loss of -2.54% which represents a constant thermal degradation of cellulose, lignin [65] and de-volatilization of biochar. The DTG curve hump positioned at 270.5°C followed by a constant decomposition showing a residual mass of 3.938mg at a temperature of 382.1°C in the thermogram. Comparably, rice straw biochar third stage III(322.2-291.6°C) weightlessness of -2.41% attributed to lignin [40] was lower as reflected on the DTG curve positioned on 308.1°C within a temperature limit of 322.2-300°C. The fourth stage IV(381.8-322.2°C) of the TGA curve exhibit a mass loss of -0.75% which represents minor degradation of decaying organic matter and possible formation of stable aromatic structures [66] as shown by the narrow peak position on 370°C on the DTG curve within a temperature range of 375-350°C. Residual mass (3.426mg) consist primarily of ash and stable carbon structures indicating a substantial amount of inorganic material and recalcitrant carbon remaining after pyrolysis.

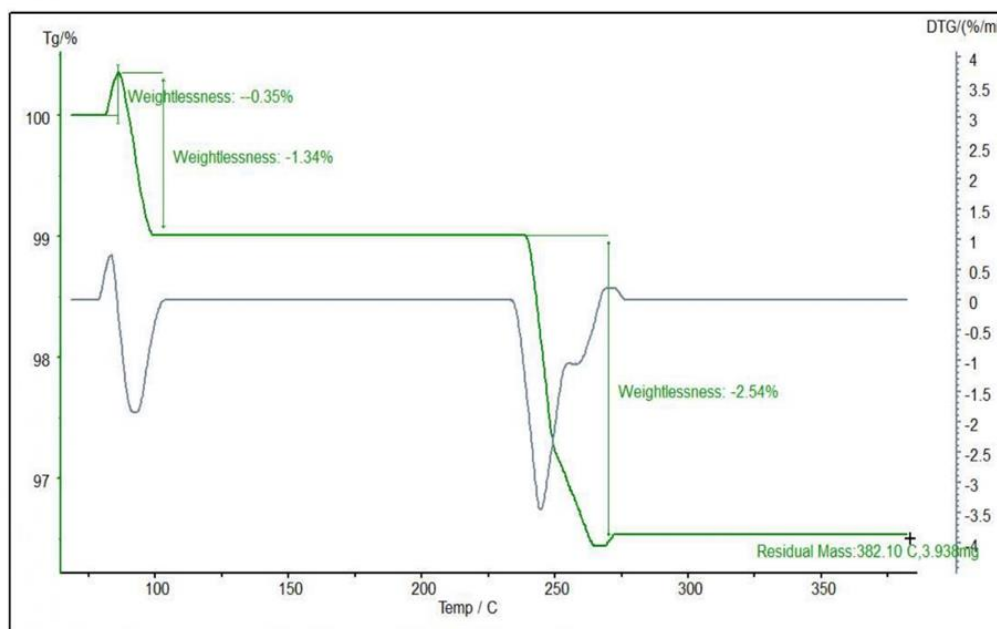
**Table 3. shows the FTIR analysis of rice straw biochar and soybean straw biochar**

Frequency cm <sup>-1</sup>	Intensity	Functional group	References
RSB	SSB		
3305.1	Broad	O-H <sub>(stretch)</sub>	[36, 37, 38]
	3265.1	Broad	[21, 39, 28, 40]
2113.4	strong	C≡C <sub>(stretch)</sub>	[41, 42, 38]
	2109.7	strong	[43, 44]
	1900.9	strong	[45]
1871.1	medium	C=C=O <sub>(stretch)</sub>	[46, 47]
1625.1	1625.1	medium	[41, 48, 49, 50, 51]
1379.1	Weak	C-H <sub>(bend)</sub>	[42, 37, 48, 52]
	1375.4	narrow	[52]
	1043.7	Weak	[53]
1028.7	narrow	C-O <sub>(stretch)</sub> or Si-O <sub>(stretch)</sub>	[46,41,48]
872.2	872.2	Weak	[42,37,52,54]





**Fig. 5a. Rice straw biochar thermogravimetry and derivative thermogravimetric analysis**



**Fig. 5b. Soybean straw biochar thermogravimetry and derivative thermogravimetric analysis**

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The same amount of postharvest crop leftovers was used to produce biochars using a local reactor. Rice straw biochar exhibited higher percentage yield, ash and mineral element (K, Ca, Na) concentration except in the case of N and Fe when compared to soybean straw biochar. Furthermore, rice straw biochar was

higher in Si and lower in C composition than soybean straw biochar. The pH and EC of soybean straw biochar produced at 400°C was higher which implies that such biochar neutralize acidic soils when placed in it. Hydroxyl and carbonyl functional groups common between the biochars enable adsorption of organic and inorganic soil pollutants. Cellulose and hemicellulose was decomposed into soluble

fractions while lignin was partially decomposed in the biochar.

### DISCLAIMER (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE)

Author(s) hereby declare that NO generative AI technologies such as Large Language Models (ChatGPT, COPILOT, etc.) and text-to-image generators have been used during the writing or editing of this manuscript.

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### COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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