

# We are IntechOpen, the world's leading publisher of Open Access books Built by scientists, for scientists

5,000

Open access books available

125,000

International authors and editors

140M

Downloads

Our authors are among the

154

Countries delivered to

TOP 1%

most cited scientists

12.2%

Contributors from top 500 universities



WEB OF SCIENCE™

Selection of our books indexed in the Book Citation Index  
in Web of Science™ Core Collection (BKCI)

Interested in publishing with us?  
Contact [book.department@intechopen.com](mailto:book.department@intechopen.com)

Numbers displayed above are based on latest data collected.  
For more information visit [www.intechopen.com](http://www.intechopen.com)



# Research Progress of Forest Land Nutrient Management in China

*Zhi Li, Yanmei Wang, Xiaodong Geng, Qifei Cai  
and Xiaoyan Xue*

## Abstract

Forest land fertilization is a supplement and regulation method based on the regular pattern of forest physiological activity and nutrient demand, combined with the ability of soil to supply nutrient elements. We summarized the important achievements and influential events of forest land fertilization and nutrient management in modern times, and discussed the main problems of forest land fertilization at this stage. The main theories of comprehensive nutrition diagnosis method, formula fertilization method, site nutrient effect fertilization model, and ASI-based balanced fertilization method were analyzed. The main scientific research institutions, main tree species, and main research results of forest fertilization research are described. The development trend of the comprehensive nutrition diagnosis method, the combination of forest fertilization theory and environmental ecology principle, the combination of fertilization and forest oriented cultivation goal, the application of precise fertilization technology in forest land, the development of new forest specific fertilizer, the research of plant nutrition molecular genetics, the research of root state and rhizosphere microecosystem, the application of advanced technology and technology, and the development and application of new nonpollution fertilizer were discussed. It is an important research direction to apply the existing research results to forestry production and improve the quality.

**Keywords:** forest land fertilization, nutrient cycle, forest soil, nutrient management, new fertilizer

## 1. Introduction

Forest resource is one of the most important resources on earth and the basis of biodiversity. It can not only provide a variety of precious wood and raw materials for production and life but also provide a variety of food for human economic life. More importantly, it can regulate climate; conserve water and soil; prevent and mitigate natural disasters such as drought and flood, sandstorm, hail, etc.; purify air and eliminate noise; and other functions [1, 2]. With the growth of global population and some sudden natural risks, similar events such as the continuous spread of the current COVID-19, people are under the pressure of living space and means of life, which increases the demand for food and timber, and at the same time, the area of forests in many regions is sharply reduced, which requires more

forest products to be produced in a short time, especially some economic forests, which require the same production cycle to get more output [3, 4].

At present, China's forestry industry is still in extensive development. Although the state has increased the investment in forestry industry in recent years, the overall quality of forestry industry needs to be improved, which is manifested in the strong singleness of forestry construction and the failure to form a good forestry ecosystem [5, 6]. In addition, in the utilization of forestry resources, the ability of fine finishing of products is not strong, and the technical content of forest products is low, which will inevitably affect the overall economic benefits of forestry and will be detrimental to the sustainable development of forestry industry [7].

Forest fertilization is a supplement and adjustment method based on the regular pattern of forest physiological activities and nutrient demand, combined with the ability of soil to supply nutrient elements [8]. It is also a forest management measure to improve soil fertility, improve forest nutrient status, and promote tree growth, so as to achieve high quality, high yield, high efficiency, and low cost. Some countries began to apply fertilizer to forest land before the Second World War, such as Europe, the United States, Japan, Australia, etc. Due to the rapid economic development after the War, the demand for wood is increasing, and the application of fertilizer measures in forest production is increasingly extensive [9, 10]. China's forestry fertilization research began in the late 1950s and then developed slowly until the 1970s. The fertilization area increased year by year [11]. Through the efforts of generations, people have made significant progress in plant nutrition physiology, nutrition diagnosis, fertilization technology, and fertilizer creation and made outstanding contributions to the protection of human food supply [12]. Forestry fertilization has also been recognized by most forestry producers in production, but up to now, the research on forest fertilization is still in the experimental stage. In addition, the lack of knowledge and technical experience leads to the phenomena of poor afforestation effect, slow growth of trees, high afforestation cost, and low yield [13]. In many developed countries, forest fertilization is regarded as an important means to build fast-growing artificial forest, and the yield-increasing effect of forestry fertilization is very significant [14].

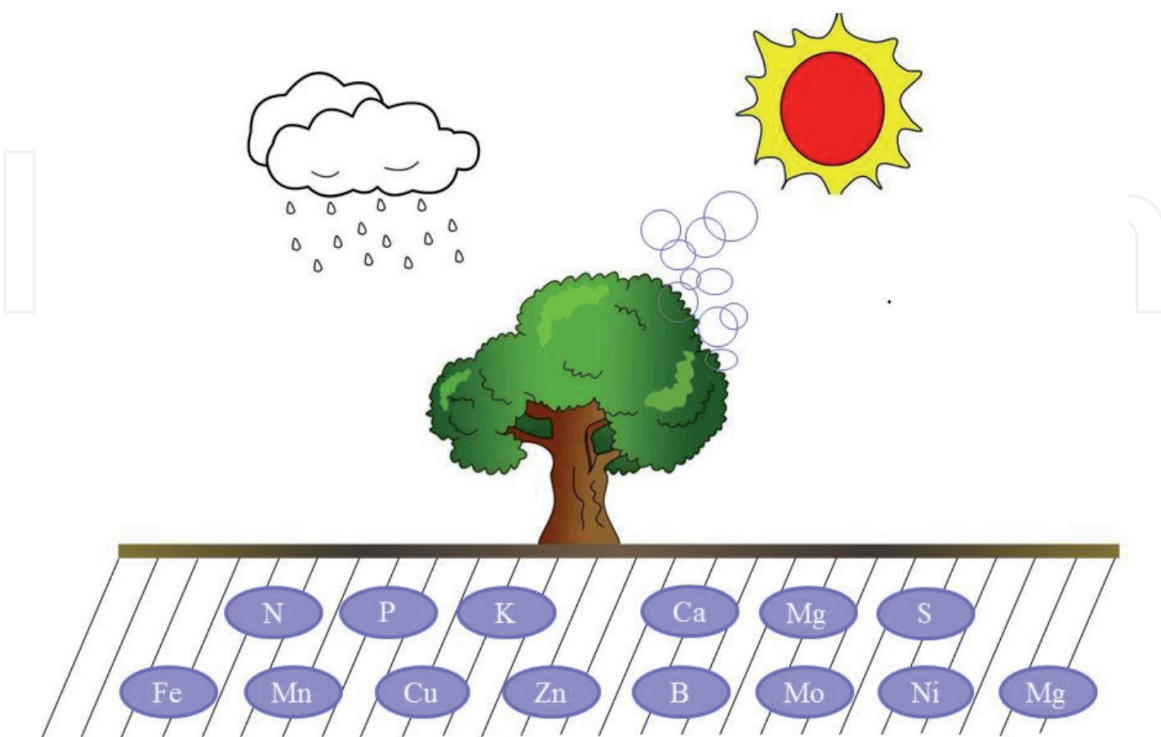
Combined with relevant research results, we reviewed the landmark events and their impacts on forest land fertilization; analyzed the existing problems and put forward corresponding solutions; then looked forward to the future development direction of forest land fertilization, in order to provide basis for domestic and foreign forestry fertilization; and also provided reference for forestry management and fertilizer research.

## **2. Research progress of forest fertilization**

After 1840, Leibig put forward the theory of plant mineral nutrition, which is widely accepted [15]. However, what elements are needed in the process of plant growth and development has become a research hotspot at that time. The essential nutrient elements for plant growth refer to the indispensable nutrient elements in the process of crop growth. If the essential nutrient elements lack, the plant cannot grow and develop normally, blossom, and bear fruit and will cause disease. At present, there are 17 kinds of essential nutrients for crops, which are carbon (C), hydrogen (H), oxygen (O), nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg), sulfur (S), iron (Fe), manganese (Mn), copper (Cu), zinc (Zn),

boron (B), molybdenum (Mo), nickel (Ni), and chlorine (Cl) (**Figure 1**). According to the demand of crops for various elements, 17 elements are divided into a large number of elements (C, H, O, N, P, K), medium elements (Ca, Mg, S), and trace elements (Fe, Mn, Cu, Zn, B, Mo, Ni, Cl). They are equally important in the growth process of plants and irreplaceable. In addition, there are also some nutritional elements called beneficial elements; although these elements are not necessary for plant growth, they have certain nutritional effects on plants, such as cobalt (Co), which is necessary for nitrogen fixation of legume rhizobia, so it has a good impact on legume growth. Sodium (Na), silicon (Si), iodine (I), selenium (Se), strontium (Sr), and vanadium (V) are also beneficial elements.

France is the first country to carry out the experiment of forest land fertilization. In 1847, French scientists applied fertilizer to forest land with plant ash, ammonium salt, and slag, which increased the growth of trees by 17–26% [16]. In the middle nineteenth century, German scientists found that harvesting dead branches and leaves from forest land would lead to a sharp decline in forest productivity and began some early fertilization experiments [17, 18]. Some other countries in Europe have also carried out afforestation and fertilization experiments and achieved results, but due to the slow effect of forest fertilization, the research process is relatively slow [19, 20]. Forest land fertilization did not enter the practical stage until the 1950s. With the reduction of forest resources, global economic recovery, and the development of fertilizer industry, forest land fertilization-related scientific research and production applications have been developed rapidly [21]. In 1973, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) held an International Symposium on forest fertilization in Paris, with a wide range of research contents. After that, the research on forest fertilization has become more and more comprehensive and in-depth in the world, which has changed from a single direction to a multi-level and multi-functional comprehensive research. Some countries have carried out long-term



**Figure 1.**  
*Nutrient elements for plant growth. Drawing: Zhi Li.*



positioning observation on forest fertilization in combination with the research on forest ecosystem [22].

In the 1950s, China began to carry out forest fertilization experiments and small-scale productive fertilization and then gradually developed from economic forest to timber forest [23]. At the national forest fertilization conference held in 1985, there are many species studied, such as *Cunninghamia lanceolata* (Lamb.) Hook, *Phyllostachys edulis* (Carrière) J.Houz, *Vernicia fordii* (Hemsl.) Airy Shaw, *Camellia oleifera* Abel., *Juglans regia* L., *Populus tomentosa* Carrière, *Eucalyptus robusta* Smith, etc. The main research contents covered the effects of different fertilizers, different amounts and proportions on the growth and yield of forest trees; the control of forest diseases through fertilization; the application of isotope tracer technology; the diagnosis of forest nutrition, etc. Until at the end of the twentieth century, the cultivation direction of short-term timber forest was defined, and the special topic of “Research on fertilization technology and measures for maintaining soil fertility of main industrial timber forest” was set up. In 1995, a seminar on forest fertilization and nutrition was held in Beijing. The results of the research were exchanged among the seedlings and young forests of *Cunninghamia lanceolata*, *Ziziphus jujuba* Mill. var. *spinosa* (Bunge) Hu ex H. F. Chow, *Eucalyptus robusta*, *Populus*, *Pinus elliptic*, *Pinus caribaea* Morelet, and the middle-aged and mature forests of some species (*Pinus massoniana* Lamb.). Based on the theory of forest site productivity and nutrient productivity, the model of site nutrient effect fertilization was discussed systematically [24]. Up to now, a set of mature technology of nutrition diagnosis and fertilization has been formed in China’s agriculture. However, due to the long cycle of forestry production, the single function of fertilizer, and the short duration of fertilizer effect, the utilization ratio of forest trees to fertilizer is relatively low, and some even pollute the environment. Therefore, the research and promotion of forest-specific fertilizer can improve the nutritional status of trees and promote the growth of trees, which is an important direction of fertilizer research in the new century [25].

Looking at the development of forest fertilization experiment in China, it can be seen that the main research object of fertilization effect at this stage is mostly the young forest period of forest trees, usually using the conventional method of agricultural fertilization, lacking systematic technology, and theoretical support system, so there is a big controversy. Because the growth cycle of forest is long, the natural environment factors of forest are complex, and the amount of fertilization is difficult to control. However, the implementation of large-scale organization is more difficult, which often results in the phenomenon of excessive or insufficient amount of fertilization. Therefore, it is necessary for researchers to conduct in-depth study on the methods and theories of forest fertilization. With the rapid development of modern economy and the continuous improvement of forest intensification, China needs to vigorously carry out in-depth research on forest fertilization technology, strive to develop forest modernization and intensification, create an efficient and high-quality ecological environment, and realize the sustainable development of forestry.

### 3. Main theories and methods of forest fertilization research in China

The purpose of fertilization is to improve the nutritional status of trees, promote the growth of trees, and increase the unit yield. At the same time, through fertilization, the forest soil status is improved and the soil fertility is improved. Over the years, forestry researchers have studied fertilization technology in the aspects of fertilizer selection, amount and time, and gained valuable experience and achievements.

Comprehensive nutrition diagnosis and steady-state nutrition method are based on plant nutrition mechanism. Forest nutrition diagnosis is a technology to study the correlation and influence between forest nutrition and various nutrients held by forest soil. It is a method to predict, judge, and evaluate fertilization effect [26].

Formula fertilization method is based on field experiment, soil classification, and pre-production ration. According to the regular pattern of plant fertilizer demand, soil fertilizer supply capacity and fertilizer efficiency, the researchers put forward the proportion scheme of microelements and macroelements and the corresponding fertilization technology [27]. The main methods are soil fertility grading ratio method, nutrient balance quantitative method, soil fertility difference subtraction method, nutrient abundance and deficiency index method, field experiment proportion method, yield determination by soil, nitrogen determination by yield, fertilizer supplement method due to lack of elements, etc. Before using these methods, there should be a large number of information data about the characteristics of crop fertilizer demand, soil fertilizer supply capacity, fertilizer effect, and so on. In the process of using these methods, we should closely combine the high-yield and high-quality cultivation techniques such as irrigation, cultivation, soil improvement, and soil and water conservation.

Based on the theory of forest environmental productivity and nutrient productivity, a fertilization model of environmental nutrient effect was established [28]. Different from the conventional methods of forest fertilization experiment, the formula fertilization model of forest site nutrient effect is used to determine the necessity of forest land fertilization, the dynamic and static relationship between forest growth and nutrient absorption, the curve of soil nutrient capacity and intensity, and the target benefit equation through the measurement of site and nutrient effect parameters and correlation coefficient. Based on this set of curves and equations, the optimal target yield increase, the increment of effective nutrients required for reaching the target, the corresponding amount and formula of fertilizer application, and the optimal period and method of fertilizer application are determined. It is widely applicable, not limited by the region and the growth stage of trees, and has high accuracy and popularization value in application.

There is also a forest nutrient diagnosis balanced fertilization method, also known as ASI method (the method recommended by the Agro Services International Inc., ASI for short) [29]. It is mainly aimed at the soil conditions in different regions, the fertilizer demand characteristics of different tree species, and the research contents of formula fertilization and balanced fertilization technology. A variety of special compound fertilizers rich in N, P, K, Zn, Fe, Mn, B, and other large, medium, and microelements, organic matter, and humus have been developed. Now, they are mostly used in economic tree species.

At present, the development and application of various compound fertilizers have fundamentally solved and met the needs of fertilization for fast-growing and high-yield forests and economic forests in forestry and made forestry fertilization develop from simple fertilizer, formula fertilizer, to organic multiple special fertilizer to high-tech direction.

#### **4. Main units and species of forest fertilization research in China**

According to the reality of China's economic reform and forestry practice, many scientific research institutions and forestry workers in China have done a lot of relevant research and put forward the forestry development theory and practice results of fertilization for different forest management processes. These theories have played a positive role in guiding China's forestry development, such as:



Beijing Forestry University has carried out researches on *Populus* [30], *Castanea mollissima* BL. [31], *Larix gmelinii* (Rupr.) Kuzen. [32], and *Acacia mearnsii* De Will [33]; Nanjing Forestry University has carried out researches on *Populus* [34], *Carya illinoensis* (Wangenh.) K. Koch [27], *Ginkgo biloba* L. [35], and *Cyclocarya paliurus* (Batal.) Iljinsk. [36]; Northeast Forestry University has carried out researches on *Larix gmelinii* [37], *Fraxinus mandshurica* Rupr. [38], and *Betula platyphylla* Suk. [39]; Northwest Agricultural and Forestry University has carried out researches on *Malus domestica* “Changfu-2” [40], *Ziziphus jujuba* [41], etc.; Hebei Agricultural University has carried out researches on *Juglans regia* [42], *Castanea mollissima* [43], *Malus domestica* Borkh.CV.Red Fuji [44], and others; Central South University of Forestry and Technology has carried out research on *Camellia oleifera* [45], *Vernicia fordii* [46], *Pyrus pyrifolia* “Whangkeumbae” [47], *Cunninghamia lanceolata* [48], *Phyllostachys edulis* [49], etc.; Zhejiang Agriculture and Forestry University has carried out research on *Phyllostachys praecox* C. D. Chu et C. S. Chao “Prevernalis” [50], *Phyllostachys edulis* [51], *Castanea mollissima* [52], *Carya cathayensis* Sarg. [53], *Torreya grandis* Fort.et lindl [54], etc.; Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University has carried out research on *Cunninghamia lanceolata* [55], *Castanea henryi* (Skan) Rehd. et Wils. [56], etc.; Chinese Academy of Forestry has been carried out research on *Populus* [57], *Castanea mollissima* [58], *Paulownia* Sieb.et Zucc. [59], etc.; and Jiangxi Agricultural University has carried out research on *Camellia oleifera* [60], *Phyllostachys edulis* [61], *Eucalyptus robusta* [62], *Cinnamomum camphora* var. *linaloolifera* Fujita [63], *Evodia rutaecarpa* (Juss.) Benth. [64], etc.

Take the research of Jiangxi Agricultural University that I studied as an example. The College of Forestry in Jiangxi Agricultural University is at the forefront



**Figure 2.** The College of Forestry, Jiangxi agricultural university, has developed the special fertilizer for *Camellia oleifera* to guide the precise fertilization and intensive nutrient management. Photo: Zhi Li. Notes: (A) special formula fertilizer for *Camellia oleifera*. (B) Special fertilizer for organic and inorganic oil tea. (C) the *Camellia oleifera* forest land. (D) Farmers apply special fertilizer for *Camellia oleifera*.



of the country in terms of high-yield and intensive management measures and balanced fertilization technology of *Camellia oleifera*, and its achievements have reached the international leading level. It has developed the special fertilizer for *Camellia oleifera*, which ensures the high-quality and high-yield of *Camellia oleifera*. It is used to guide the precise fertilization and intensive management of *Camellia oleifera*, and realize the sustainable management of *Camellia oleifera* forest (**Figure 2**) [65].

In recent years, the forest fertilization research team of Jiangxi Agricultural University has also carried out research on balanced fertilization technology and formula of *Eucalyptus robusta*, *Evodia rutaecarpa*, *Ziziphus jujuba*, *Cunninghamia lanceolata*, and other tree species, meeting the needs of Jiangxi forestry production [66]. The vegetation restoration of rare earth mines in South Jiangxi relies on good nutrient management technology, which makes afforestation of barren wasteland successful [67]. The related research results include: (1) establishing the indicators of soil nutrient abundance and deficiency and leaf nutrient diagnosis (critical value) of economic forest species such as *Phyllostachys edulis* (**Figure 3**), *Camellia oleifera*, *Eucalyptus robusta* (**Figure 4**), and *Evodia rutaecarpa*, which provide the basis and scientific basis for the diagnosis and balanced fertilization of main economic forest species in Jiangxi Province; (2) based on this, the balanced fertilization formula for *Phyllostachys edulis* and *Camellia oleifera*, in Jiangxi Province, was formulated, and special fertilizers for *Phyllostachys edulis* and *Camellia oleifera* were developed; (3) the spatial heterogeneity of soil nutrients in *Phyllostachys edulis* and *Camellia oleifera* plantation was studied, which provided scientific

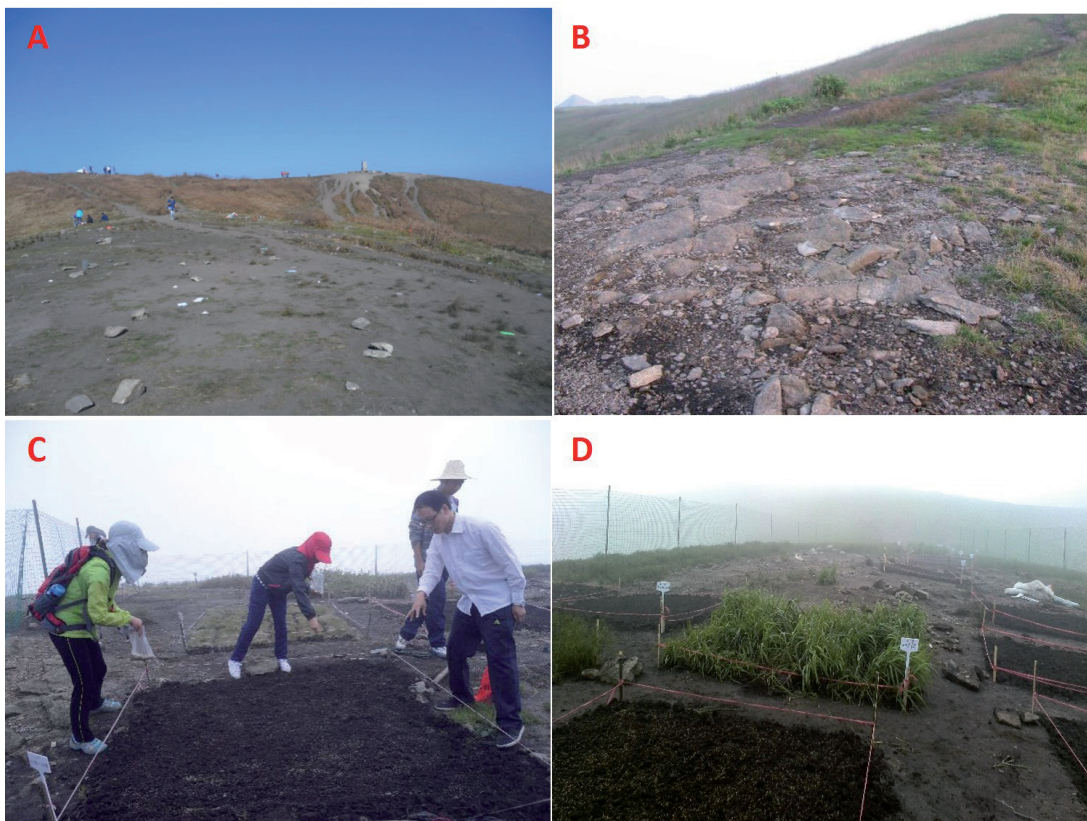


**Figure 3.** The College of Forestry, Jiangxi agricultural university, has developed the special fertilizer for *Phyllostachys edulis* to guide the reconstruction after freezing disaster, precision fertilization, and intensive nutrient management. Photo: Zhi Li. Notes: (A) the *Phyllostachys edulis* forest suffered from freezing disaster; (B) the special formula fertilizer for *Phyllostachys edulis*; (C) Farmers apply special fertilizer for *Phyllostachys edulis*; and (D) after precision fertilization and intensive nutrient management, the growth of *Phyllostachys edulis* forest was exuberant.





**Figure 4.** Vegetation restoration and afforestation with nutrient management technology in rare earth mines in South Jiangxi Province, China. Photo: Zhi Li. Notes: (A and B) Rare earth tailings are barren. (C and D) Successful afforestation through nutrient management technology.



**Figure 5.** Soil nutrient management and vegetation restoration in the subtropical mountain meadow of Wugong Mountain, Jiangxi Province, China. Photo: Zhi Li. Notes: (A and B) Seriously degraded Wugong Mountain meadow. (C and D) Our researchers are doing vegetation restoration experiments.

basis for precise fertilization; (4) using artificial neural network to predict the DBH of *Phyllostachys edulis* forest, the average simulation accuracy is 93.13%; (5) a computer nutrient management information system for balanced fertilization of *Phyllostachys edulis* in a small area has been developed, which provides an advanced technology and decision-making platform for large-scale balanced fertilization and sustainable management of *Phyllostachys edulis*; (6) the coupling technology of water and fertilizer was studied to improve the yield and quality of *Camellia oleifera*; and (7) studies on nutrition and physiological/mechanism of tree growth and development.

In addition, the researchers of Jiangxi Agricultural University have carried out systematic research on soil nutrient management of subtropical mountain meadow [68–71] (Figure 5) and obtained a series of scientific research results [72–75], providing a good scientific guidance for the protection and degradation restoration of mountain meadow which was a special ecosystem element [76–78].

## 5. Characteristics and difficulties of fertilization in forest land

Forest land soil is the soil under forest cover, which is one of the organic components of forest ecosystem. Compared with conventional farmland and other uses of soil, forest land soil has special characteristics because of the impact of forest litter, woody plant root group, forest biological community, and special environmental conditions of forest ecosystem.

### 5.1 Characteristics of forest fertilizer demand

The regular pattern and absorptive capacity of forest trees are obviously different from that of most crops, with deep root, large root range, and low nutrition demand; most trees are perennial, immobile, and non-intercropped, with long-term and continuous nutrient supply; the growth cycle of general trees is long, with complex influencing factors and difficult nutrition diagnosis; moreover, the growth and development law of different trees is different [79].

### 5.2 Fertilization requirements for forest land

The fertilization in forest land is mainly based on base fertilizer, supplemented by top dressing; the spacing between plants and rows is large, and hole fertilization is often used, so it is difficult to apply fertilizer in mountainous area, and the times of fertilization are not many; the time, method, and amount of fertilization vary according to the characteristics of tree species [25].

### 5.3 Difficulties in forest land fertilization

The spatial heterogeneity of forest land nutrients is large, and the difficulty of nutrient diagnosis is large. The growth cycle of forest trees is long, the effect is slow, and the short-term fertilizer effect is not necessarily obvious. The spacing between trees and rows is large; there are many weeds in the forest, which need to be applied in caves; and the workload is large. The trees grow in mountainous areas, but the transportation conditions in mountainous areas are poor, so the cost of fertilization is high. The research on forest fertilization is also relatively late, and the nutrient characteristics of most trees are unknown. The method of fertilization is still in its infancy; at present, there are few special fertilizers for trees in the market [80].



## **6. Development trend of forest land fertilization**

The main direction of forest land nutrient management and fertilizer research is still to improve the utilization efficiency of forest nutrient elements and reduce the environmental pollution caused by nutrient elements or some non-nutrient elements brought in by fertilization [81]. According to the needs of the industry, the targeted cultivation and intensive management of trees will be carried out to realize the fertilization of trees (specialization, long-term, and precision), so as to achieve the development goal of high yield, high quality, and efficiency, taking into account the ecological benefits of the environment and the overall social benefits [82].

At present and in the future, the development mode of forest land fertilization includes using the comprehensive nutrition diagnosis method, combining with the principle of site productivity, improving the accuracy and comparability of analysis, revealing the law of forest nutrition balance, detecting the mechanism of nutrient absorption and utilization, and determining the relationship between the growth and absorption of different growth stages of plants and the rate of soil fertilizer supply [83]. Combining the theory of forest fertilization with the principle of environmental ecology, we can improve the productivity of forest land and keep the human ecological environment in harmony [84, 85]. Fertilization should be combined with the goal of forest-oriented cultivation. As a basic technical measure of forest cultivation, fertilization should be classified under different cultivation goals, and its research results should also be carried out in production according to the cultivation goal [86]. The application of forest land precision fertilization technology and the application of forest nutrition management information system supported by 3S technology in forest land fertilization will achieve precision fertilization for different tree species, different soil, and different development stages and improve fertilizer utilization rate [87]. In view of the long-term nature of the absorption of nutrient elements by trees and in order to meet the demand of large-scale operational fertilization in mountain forest areas, the development of new forest-specific fertilizer will gradually develop to high concentration, slow effect, and special compound fertilizer [88]. In the study of plant nutrition molecular genetics, while improving the fertilization methods, we should focus on the research and cultivation of good varieties to adapt to the specific soil environment, so as to realize the transformation from suitable trees to suitable varieties [89]. The research frontier of root state and rhizosphere micro ecosystem is to explore the dynamics of soil root interface nutrients and their environment, so as to clarify the biological effectiveness of soil nutrients [90]. The application of high-tech technology, such as atomic absorption spectrometer, electron probe, and various automatic analyzers, provides necessary conditions for diagnosis and fertilization [91]. In forest is a very important factor in the formation of water source of rivers and lakes. The safety of fertilizer application in forest land is closely related to the safety of water body, so the research and application of new nonpollution fertilizer is particularly important [92].

## **7. Conclusion**

As an important green raw material, trees are favored under the great development of ecological construction. In recent years, China's demand for wood is growing day by day. The cultivation of artificial forest, timber forest, and the construction of industrial raw material forest have been greatly supported by policies and funds. With the rapid development of plantation and the continuous improvement of its area, it still faces the problems of insufficient total amount of



forest resources and poor quality. However, for a long time, the utilization rate of fertilizer in China is low, which has caused great economic losses and also brought great impact on the environment. Research and development of new fertilizer can effectively solve the above problems. Although there are still some problems in the manufacturing process of new fertilizer, due to its outstanding advantages, it will usher in greater development in the near future.

The research of forest land fertilization is developing rapidly, and rational fertilization has become an important technical measure to cultivate short rotation industrial timber forest and accelerate economic forest benefits. At the same time, many forestry workers realize that the simple fertilization cannot achieve the expected effect on greatly improving the growth of trees. In addition to some technical problems that limit the fertilizer effect to a certain extent, how to reasonably apply fertilizer according to the water status of forest land is the key to the problem. It needs to be especially pointed out that at present, most of the research on water and fertilizer balance is in agricultural production and has made great achievements, while the research on water and fertilizer balance in forestry is still in its infancy. Therefore, how to apply the existing research results to the forestry production and speed up the solution to the backward situation of China's forestry production should be one of the future research topics for forestry workers.

In addition, nutrient management in forest ecosystems should consider the ecological effects of fertilization under the context of global climate change, considering the potential interactions among global change factors [93, 94], nutrient input [95], and internal element cycling within forest ecosystems [96–101]. For example, in plantations experiencing intensive management, N input may induce more N leaching due to excessive application, especially in areas characterized by acid soils [101, 102]. To prevent such N loss from soil to happen, soil amelioration should be employed to decrease N leaching via runoffs, trace gas emissions, or volatilization [102, 103], increasing the fertilization efficiency of agricultural practice [101, 102]. Presently, biochar has been widely used in soil amelioration or mitigation of soil trace gas (especially those containing N) [103, 104]. Thereby, future fertilization practice could be combined with soil amelioration strategies to obtain efficient fertilization practice and nutrient management in forest or plantation soils [103, 104].

## **Acknowledgements**

We acknowledge the funding support by Key Scientific Research Projects of Higher Education Institutions of Henan Province of China (Award number: 19A220001), “One Hundred Professors, One Thousand Students and Ten Thousand Villages” Fund Project of Henan Agricultural University, Doctoral Research Start-up Project of Henan Agricultural University, Agricultural Science and Technology Research Project of Science and Technology Department of Henan Province (Award number: 182102110070), and Henan Province Science and Technology Assisted Forestry Project [Award number:(2018)68].

## **Conflict of interest**

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

IntechOpen

### **Author details**

Zhi Li<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Yanmei Wang<sup>1,2</sup>, Xiaodong Geng<sup>1,2</sup>, Qifei Cai<sup>1,2</sup> and Xiaoyan Xue<sup>1,2</sup>

1 College of Forestry, Henan Agricultural University, Zhengzhou, China

2 National Forestry and Grassland Administration Key Laboratory of Central Plains Forest Resources Cultivation, Zhengzhou, China

\*Address all correspondence to: lizhi876@163.com

### **IntechOpen**

© 2020 The Author(s). Licensee IntechOpen. This chapter is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited. 

## References

- [1] Deng C et al. Functional monitoring and evaluation of forest air quality improvement. *Journal of Ecological Environment*. 2015;**24**(1):84-89
- [2] Li Z et al. Soil and water conservation effects driven by the implementation of ecological restoration projects: Evidence from the red soil hilly region of China in the last three decades. *Journal of Cleaner Production*. 2020;**260**:121109
- [3] Cao G et al. Effect of balanced fertilization on growth and quality of *Pyrus Pyrifolia* 'Whangkeumbae' in desert area. *Journal of Applied Ecology*. 2018;**29**(8):2477-2484
- [4] Chen P et al. Study on soil nutrient capacity and forest sustainability in plateau karst. *Earth and Environment*. 2017;**45**(1):32-37
- [5] Shinjini G et al. Phosphorus limitation of aboveground production in northern hardwood forests. *Ecology*. 2018;**99**(2):438-499
- [6] Aljosa Z et al. Forest soil phosphorus resources and fertilization affect ectomycorrhizal community composition, beech P uptake efficiency, and photosynthesis. *Frontiers in Plant Science*. 2018;**9**:1-13
- [7] Yang C-D. The decrease of soil organic matter content and quality of plantation in China is the key factor to restrict the growth of forest trees. *Forestry Sciences*. 2016;**52**(12):1-12
- [8] Bai Y-L. Thinking on some problems of fertilizer development in China. *China Agricultural Information*. 2014;**22**:5-9
- [9] Burg J. Results and experiences from fertilization experiments in the Netherlands. *Fertilizer Research*. 1991;**27**(1):107-111
- [10] Chunichiro B. Fertilization technology of forest land in Japan. *Fujian Forestry Science and Technology*. 1993;**20**(3):47-51
- [11] Guo X-M et al. Forest land fertilization and efficient forestry. *Jiangxi Forestry Science and Technology*. 1998;**5**:31-34
- [12] Guo X-M et al. Regression analysis of leaf nutrition, soil fertility and yield of *Phyllostachys edulis* (Carrière) J.Houz. forest by balanced fertilization. *Forestry Sciences*. 2007;**43**(S1):53-57
- [13] Wang Z-H. Research process and effect analysis of forest fertilization. *Shanxi Forestry*. 2015;**3**:27-28
- [14] Liao L-P. Study on nutrient internal circulation of foreign trees. *Journal of Ecology*. 1994;**13**(6):34-38
- [15] Li W-B. General situation of forest land fertilization development at home and abroad. *Tropical Crop Research*. 1995;**4**:37-40
- [16] Li Y-Q. Forest fertilization and nutrition diagnosis. *Forestry Sciences*. 1991;**27**(4):435-442
- [17] Evers F. Forest fertilization—Present state and history with special reference to south German conditions. *Fertilizer Research*. 1991;**27**(1):71-86
- [18] Matzner E et al. Effects of liming and fertilization on soil solution chemistry in north German forest ecosystems. *Water, Air, and Soil Pollution*. 1990;**54**(3):377-389
- [19] Liu Y-S. Research progress of forest fertilization in the Netherlands. *Shaanxi Forestry Science and Technology*. 1993;**2**:58-59
- [20] Hiittl RF et al. Forest fertilization effect in the countries of Germany,



France and Nordic. Guangxi Forestry Science and Technology. 1988;4:33-39

[21] Zuo H-J et al. Review of forest nutrition diagnosis and forest land fertilization. Journal of Southwest Forestry University. 2010;30(6):78-82

[22] Chen W et al. Review on the research progress of fertilization in artificial forest. Guangdong Forestry Science and Technology. 2004;20(1):61-66

[23] Liu S-P et al. Theory and practice of forest land fertilization. Advances in Soil Sciences. 1987;4:1-8

[24] Liu H-Q. Review of forest fertilization research. Anhui Agronomy Bulletin. 2010;16(10):139-141

[25] Guan Y-X et al. Research progress and prospect of forest nutrient properties. Journal of Northwest Agricultural and Forestry University (Natural Science Edition). 2006;34(1):51-55

[26] Ding X-G et al. Research progress of forest nutrition diagnosis and fertilization. Guangdong Forestry Science and Technology. 2010;26(4):66-71

[27] Zheng X-Q et al. Effect of formula fertilization on nutrient content and photosynthesis of *Carya cathayensis* seedlings. Journal of Nanjing Forestry University (Natural Science Edition). 2019;43(5):169-174

[28] Wu X-F et al. Study on the dynamic model of tree growth and nutrition—Site nutrient effect formula fertilization model. Journal of Central South Forestry College. 2002;22(3):1-8

[29] Yang L-P et al. Study on the correlation between ASI method and conventional chemical methods in China. Soils Bulletin. 2000;31(6):277-279

[30] Liu F et al. Effects of water and fertilizer coupling on soil nitrogen, fine root distribution and biomass of *Populus tomentosa* stand. Journal of Beijing Forestry University. 2020;42(1):75-83

[31] Sun H-J et al. Effects of pruning and nitrogen application on photosynthetic characteristics and yield of *Castanea mollissima* trees. Journal of Northeast Forestry University. 2017;45(9):40-44

[32] Song X-H et al. Effect of fertilization by bottom infiltration on growth and nutrient status of container seedlings of *Larix principis rupprechtii*. Journal of Northeast Forestry University. 2017;45(9):1-4

[33] Sun Y-Y et al. Adaptability of introduced *Acacia mearnsii* from South Africa and its effect of fertilizer. Journal of Anhui Agricultural University. 2010;37(1):131-134

[34] Xu J et al. Effect of biochar application on soil physical and chemical properties and enzyme activity of *Poplar* plantation in Dongtai coastal area. Journal of Fujian Agricultural and Forestry University (Natural Science Edition). 2020;49(3):348-353

[35] Guo J et al. Effects of fertilization on photosynthesis and nutrient content of *Ginkgo biloba* leaves. Journal of Zhejiang Agricultural and Forestry University. 2016;33(6):969-975

[36] Yue X-L et al. Effect of nitrogen level on the content of main secondary metabolites and antioxidant capacity of *Cyclocarya paliurus* leaves. Journal of Nanjing Forestry University (Natural Science Edition). 2020;44(2):35-42

[37] Tang Y-K et al. Effect of nitrogen and phosphorus fertilization on nonstructural carbon concentration of *Larix gmelinii* leaves. Forest Engineering. 2018;34(4):1-6

[38] Li H-Y et al. Effects of seedling density and fertilization methods

on the growth and development of *Fraxinus mandshurica* seedlings. Journal of Northeast Forestry University. 2018;**46**(9):16-20

[39] Zhang S-N et al. Effects of light and fertilization on the growth of seedlings of *Larix gmelinii* and *Juglans mandshurica* under the canopy of birch forest. Forest Engineering. 2015;**31**(2):51-56

[40] Liu Y-Q et al. The improvement of soil physical and chemical properties and nutrient utilization rate of apple trees by applying different kinds of organic fertilizers to the soil. Journal of Northwest Forestry University. 2020;**35**(1):112-117

[41] Yuan J-J et al. Comprehensive evaluation of the effect of biochar combined with nitrogen fertilizer on soil fertility in *Ziziphus jujuba* garden. Journal of Agricultural Engineering. 2018;**34**(1):134-140

[42] Ren H-M et al. Effects of fertilization methods on soil and fruiting of *Juglans regia* garden and benefit evaluation. Nonwood Forest Research. 2019;**37**(2):120-125

[43] Zhang W et al. Response of *Castanea mollissima* to N, P, K and nutrient fate. Journal of North China Agriculture. 2015;**30**(5):174-179

[44] Li Y et al. Evaluation of soil fertility and fertilization status in Yanshan apple production area, Hebei Province. Fruit Trees in China. 2019;**35**(6):32-37

[45] Li A-L et al. Research progress in fertilization technology of *Camellia oleifera*. China Agronomy Bulletin. 2015;**31**(31):36-40

[46] Li Z et al. Effects of extra root topdressing on growth, photosynthesis and chlorophyll fluorescence parameters of *Vernicia fordii* seedlings. Journal of Central South University of Forestry and Technology. 2016;**36**(2):40-44

[47] Zhou J et al. Nutritional diagnosis and fertilization standard of *Pyrus pyrifolia* 'Whangkeumbae' leaves. Journal of Zhejiang Forestry University. 2007;**1**:39-43

[48] Zhao Y et al. Effect of N fertilizer application on N and P content of *Cunninghamia lanceolata* (Lamb.) Hook plantation. Hunan Forestry Science and Technology. 2016;**43**(3):49-55

[49] Liu S et al. Study on potassium effect and balanced fertilization of *Phyllostachys edulis* forest. Nonwood Forest Research. 2013;**31**(3):29-34

[50] Hu Y-Y et al. Effects of different fertilization modes on nitrogen and phosphorus loss of *Phyllostachys praecox* C.D. Chu et C.S. Chao 'Prevernalis' forest. Journal of Soil and Water Conservation. 2019;**33**(3):51-57

[51] Mao C et al. Absorption and utilization of N by organs of *Phyllostachys edulis* forest. Scientia Silvae Sinica. 2016;**52**(5):64-70

[52] Zhang J-J et al. Effect of absorption *Castanea mollissima* BL. dynamics. Journal of Plant Nutrition and Fertilizers. 2013;**19**(6):1428-1437

[53] Ding L-Z et al. Effects of soil testing and formula fertilization on the growth and yield of *Carya cathayensis* Sarg. in Lin'an. Nonwood Forest Research. 2018;**36**(4):33-39

[54] Huang Q-Y et al. Effects of boron, zinc, copper and molybdenum on the growth, fruit yield and quality of *Torreya grandis* Fort. et lindl. Nonwood Forest Research. 2015;**33**(3):33-38

[55] Li H-T et al. Diagnosis of fertilization and nutrition of *Cunninghamia lanceolata* (Lamb.) Hook seedlings based on secondary general rotation design. Chinese Soil and Fertilizer. 2017;**1**:73-79

- [56] Chen H. Nutrient compensation experiment and formula optimization of *Castanea henryi* (Skan) Rehd. et Wils. plantation—Formula fertilization experiment of high yield type forest. *Scientia Silvae Sinica*. 2001;**37**(S1):60-67
- [57] He Y et al. Study on N, P, K uptake and fertilization of 107 *Populus* L. young forest under drip fertilization. *Forest Research*. 2015;**28**(3):426-430
- [58] Su M-Y et al. Study on the technology of TDS growth regulator to improve the bearing rate of *Castanea mollissima* BL. *Forest Research*. 1998;**11**(3):92-97
- [59] Jia H-J et al. Study on the growth and nutrition of *Paulownia* Sieb. et Zucc. root cuttings. *Research on Forestry Science*. 1988;**1**(5):485-491
- [60] Zhang W-Y et al. Effect of potassium application level on nutrient accumulation and oil production of *Camellia oleifera*. *Journal of Plant Nutrition and Fertilizers*. 2016;**22**(3):863-868
- [61] Zhang W-Y et al. Effect of fertilization on aboveground biomass structure of *Phyllostachys edulis* forest. *Journal of Northwest Forestry College*. 2016;**31**(5):61-67
- [62] Zhou G-X et al. Species diversity of undergrowth shrubs of *Eucalyptus robusta* Smith under different management measures. *Journal of Jiangxi Agricultural University*. 2012;**34**(1):59-65
- [63] Zeng J et al. Effects of different fertilization types and dosage on the growth and resistance physiology of *Cinnamomum camphora*. *Journal of Central South University of Forestry and Technology*. 2018;**38**(6):50-55
- [64] Hu X-K et al. Study on the effect of formula fertilization on the growth characteristics of *Evodia rutaecarpa* plantation. *Nonwood Forest Research*. 2009;**27**(2):40-43
- [65] Hu D-N et al. Effects of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and irrigation on spring shoot growth of *Camellia oleifera*. *Scientia Silvae Sinica*. 2015;**51**(4):148-155
- [66] Guo X-M et al. Bottleneck analysis and countermeasures for the development of Jiangxi *Camellia oleifera* industry. *Nonwood Forest Research*. 2013;**31**(2):1-7
- [67] Tu S-P et al. Soil erosion resistance evaluation of *Eucalyptus robusta* Smith forest land in Ganxian rare earth mining area. *Forest Research*. 2013;**26**(6):752-758
- [68] Jiang L et al. Alpine meadow restorations by non-dominant species increased soil nitrogen transformation rates but decreased their sensitivity to warming. *Journal of Soils and Sediments*. 2017;**17**(9):2329-2337
- [69] Zhi L et al. Response of soil sulfur availability to elevation and degradation in the Wugong Mountain meadow, China. *Plant, Soil and Environment*. 2017;**63**(6):250-256
- [70] Li Z et al. Distribution characteristics of soil available nutrients in subtropical mountain meadow: A case study of Wugong Mountain, Jiangxi Province. *Journal of Southwest Agriculture*. 2017;**30**(10):2308-2314
- [71] Deng B et al. Increases in soil CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions with warming depend on plant species in restored alpine meadows of Wugong Mountain, China. *Journal of Soils and Sediments*. 2016;**16**(3):777-784
- [72] Li Z et al. Soil microbial community responses to soil chemistry modifications in alpine meadows following human trampling. *Catena*. 2020;**194**:104717



- [73] Li Z et al. Effects of altitude and tourism disturbance on soil permeability of mountain meadow in Wugong mountain. *Acta Ecologica Sinica*. 2018;**38**(2):635-645
- [74] Zhang X-L et al. Temporal and spatial change of vegetation coverage of Wugong Mountain meadow based on tmndvi. *Acta Ecologica Sinica*. 2018;**38**(7):2414-2424
- [75] Li Z et al. Effect of different disturbance on soil organic matter and acidity of mountain meadow. *Jiangsu Agricultural Sciences*. 2018;**46**(9):285-288
- [76] Li Z et al. Study on the growth effect and adaptability of different vegetation restoration measures in Wugongshan degraded meadow. *Journal of Central South University of Forestry & Technology*. 2018;**38**(2):90-96
- [77] Hou X-J et al. Effect of nitrogen application on soil nitrogen content, root growth and nitrogen absorption of meadow in Wugong mountain. *Pratacultural Science*. 2018;**35**(6):1343-1351
- [78] Li Z. Variation and influencing factors of soil microbiological characteristics in Wugong mountain meadow [PhD thesis]. Nanchang of China: Jiangxi Agricultural University; 2017. pp. 75-98
- [79] Li H-T et al. Soil fertility analysis of *Cunninghamia lanceolata* (Lamb.) Hook plantation in different development stages. *Forest Research*. 2017;**30**(2):322-328
- [80] Pi B. Characteristics of forestry fertilization and problems in fertilization. *Hunan Forestry Science and Technology*. 2006;**33**(6):81-83
- [81] Zhou F-Y et al. Discussion on the development stage and the third generation product characteristics of microbial fertilizer in China. *Chinese Soil and Fertilizer*. 2015;**1**:12-17
- [82] Wang Q et al. N and P fertilization reduced soil autotrophic and heterotrophic respiration in a young *Cunninghamia lanceolata* (Lamb.) Hook forest. *Agricultural and Forest Meteorology*. 2017;**232**(15):66-73
- [83] Gao W et al. Nutritional diagnosis of DRIs in early spring sprouting stage of Jiangxi *Camellia oleifera* Abel. Slice. *Economic Forest Research*. 2017;**35**(4):192-196
- [84] Jiang Y et al. Effects of long-term fertilization and water increase on soil properties and plant properties of semi-arid grassland. *Journal of Applied Ecology*. 2019;**30**(7):2470-2480
- [85] Gong Q-L et al. Effects of different fertilizer combinations on soil nutrients and enzyme activities in the northern area of Weihe river dry land apple orchard covered with grass. *Journal of Applied Ecology*. 2018;**29**(01):205-212
- [86] Wu J-W et al. Dynamic changes of leaf development of *Catalpa bungei* C. A. Mey. Clones under different nitrogen index fertilization. *Journal of Beijing Forestry University*. 2015;**37**(7):19-28
- [87] Yang J-S et al. Study on the comprehensive evaluation of soil quality in the coastal reclamation area of northern Jiangsu Province. *Chinese Journal of Eco-Agriculture*. 2009;**17**(3):410-415
- [88] Wang W-G et al. Application status and development strategy of water and fertilizer integration technology. *Chinese Fruits and Vegetables*. 2019;**39**(10):68-70
- [89] Yang Y et al. Formula fertilization of soil testing and its correlation with tree nutrients in *Poplar* plantation around Dongting Lake. *Journal of Central South University of Forestry and Technology*. 2018;**38**(12):103-107

- [90] Shen D-L et al. Current situation and development direction of microbial fertilizer industry in China. *Journal of Microbiology*. 2013;**33**(3):1-4
- [91] Jing D-W et al. Water retaining agent urea gel on fine root growth and nitrogen use efficiency of bare roots seedlings of *Platycladus orientalis*. *Acta Sinica Sinica*. 2016;**27**(4):1046-1052
- [92] Sun Y et al. Effects of advanced anaerobic digestion sludge organic fertilizer on growth and nutrient accumulation of *Pinus tabulaeformis* and *Ulmus pumila* trees. *Journal of Central South University of Forestry and Technology*. 2019;**39**(10):55-63
- [93] Deng B et al. Effects of nitrogen deposition and UV-B radiation on seedling performance of Chinese tallow tree (*Triadica sebifera*): A photosynthesis perspective. *Forest Ecology and Management*. 2019;**433**:453-458
- [94] Zhang L et al. Interactive effects of elevated CO<sub>2</sub> and nitrogen deposition accelerate litter decomposition cycles of invasive tree (*Triadica sebifera*). *Forest Ecology and Management*. 2017;**385**:189-197
- [95] Li Z et al. Effects of moso bamboo (*Phyllostachys edulis*) invasions on soil nitrogen cycles depend on invasion stage and warming. *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*. 2017;**24**(32):24989-24999
- [96] Pan J et al. Root litter mixing with that of Japanese cedar altered CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from Moso Bamboo Forest soil. *Forests*. 2020;**11**(3):356
- [97] Zheng X et al. Litter removal enhances soil N<sub>2</sub>O emissions: Implications for management of leaf-harvesting *Cinnamomum camphora* plantations. *Forest Ecology and Management*. 2020;**466**:118121
- [98] Liu X et al. Moso bamboo (*Phyllostachys edulis*) invasion effects on litter, soil and microbial PLFA characteristics depend on sites and invaded forests. *Plant and Soil*. 2019;**438**(1):85-99
- [99] Xie J et al. Understory plant functional types Alter stoichiometry correlations between litter and soil in Chinese Fir plantations with N and P addition. *Forests*. 2019;**10**(9):742
- [100] Pan P et al. Impact of understory vegetation on soil carbon and nitrogen dynamic in aerially seeded *Pinus massoniana* plantations. *PLOS One*. 2018;**13**:e01919521
- [101] Deng B et al. Biochar is comparable to dicyandiamide in the mitigation of nitrous oxide emissions from *Camellia oleifera* Abel. *Fields. Forests*. 2019;**10**(12):1076
- [102] Deng B et al. Effects of biochar and dicyandiamide combination on nitrous oxide emissions from *Camellia oleifera* field soil. *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*. 2019;**26**(4):4070-4077
- [103] Xu X et al. Rice straw biochar mitigated more N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from fertilized paddy soil with higher water content than that derived from ex situ bio-waste. *Environmental Pollution*. 2020;**263**:114477
- [104] Deng B et al. Effects of spent mushroom substrate-derived biochar on soil CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions depend on pyrolysis temperature. *Chemosphere*. 2020;**246**:125608