

1 Effect of organic manures on degrading soil due to brick  
2 manufacture industry at Changunarayan municipality of  
3 Bhaktapur district, Nepal

4 Efecto de los abonos orgánicos en el suelo degradado debido a  
5 la industria de fabricación de ladrillos en el municipio de  
6 Changunarayan del distrito de Bhaktapur, Nepal

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14  
15 ABSTRACT

16 A lab experiment was conducted to analyze the degraded land reclamation potential  
17 by the use of organic manure (OM) in the soil collected from Changunarayan municipality  
18 of Bhaktapur District, Nepal. Benchmark nutrient test was performed to the different soil  
19 sample collected from three land types i.e., brick kiln premises, excavated land and arable  
20 land. Samples was then replicated three times weighing 100g in each replication and lab  
21 test was carried out by adding 2% and 4% organic manure (OM) by weight per 100g of  
22 each soil samples. The samples were incubated at 32°C for 45 days and the soil chemical  
23 properties; N, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, K<sub>2</sub>O, pH and soil organic matter were analyzed. It was revealed that  
24 with the application of 4% OM by weight in all soil samples collected, there was increased  
25 in chemical parameters analyzed, followed by 2% OM by weight. The total soil nitrogen  
26 content and soil organic matter content was found significant (P<0.05) with different  
27 treatment of OM. Significant changes were noticed in the phosphorus content in the soil  
28 from brick kiln premises with the application of 4% OM. Slight increase were noticed in  
29 the potassium content. With the application of 2% and 4% OM, pH was found to be  
30 increased significantly in the soil from brick kiln premises. Thus, from this study, it is  
31 revealed that the use of 4% OM by weight might be optimal to improve the land degraded  
32 by the brick kilns and excavation to some extent but at 4-10 times higher economic cost  
33 than usual farming management practices of organic manure.

34 Keywords: Brick kiln, degraded soil, Excavated land, Organic manure, Soil Restoration

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## RESUMEN

37 Se llevó a cabo un experimento de laboratorio para analizar el potencial de  
38 recuperación de tierras degradadas mediante el uso de abono orgánico (MO) en el suelo  
39 recolectado del municipio de Changunarayan del distrito de Bhaktapur, Nepal. Se realizó  
40 una prueba de referencia de nutrientes para las diferentes muestras de suelo recolectadas  
41 de tres tipos de tierra, es decir, locales de hornos de ladrillos, tierra excavada y tierra  
42 cultivable. A continuación, las muestras se repitieron tres veces con un peso de 100 g en  
43 cada réplica y se llevó a cabo una prueba de laboratorio agregando 2% y 4% de estiércol  
44 orgánico (MO) en peso por 100 g de cada muestra de suelo. Las muestras se incubaron a  
45 32°C durante 45 días y las propiedades químicas del suelo; Se analizaron N, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, K<sub>2</sub>O,  
46 pH y materia orgánica del suelo. Se reveló que con la aplicación de 4% de MO por peso  
47 en todas las muestras de suelo recolectadas, se incrementó en los parámetros químicos  
48 analizados, seguido de 2% de MO por peso. El contenido total de nitrógeno del suelo y el  
49 contenido de materia orgánica del suelo se encontraron significativos (P <0.05) con  
50 diferentes tratamientos de la MO. Se notaron cambios significativos en el contenido de  
51 fósforo en el suelo de las instalaciones del horno de ladrillos con la aplicación de 4% de  
52 MO. Se notó un ligero aumento en el contenido de potasio. Con la aplicación de 2% y 4%  
53 de MO, se encontró que el pH aumentó significativamente en el suelo de las instalaciones  
54 de los hornos de ladrillos. Por lo tanto, a partir de este estudio, se revela que el uso de  
55 4% de MO por peso podría ser óptimo para mejorar la tierra degradada por los hornos de  
56 ladrillos y la excavación hasta cierto punto, pero a un costo económico de 4 a 10 veces  
57 mayor que las prácticas habituales de manejo agrícola de abono orgánico..

58 Palabras clave: horno de ladrillos, suelo degradado, tierra excavada, abono orgánico,  
59 restauración de suelos

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## INTRODUCTION

62 For a developing country like Nepal, land is one of the major natural resources.  
63 More than 65% of the population of Nepal is dependent upon the land for fulfillment of  
64 their basic needs namely food, fodder, fuel, fiber and timber (Paudel et al., 2009). Land  
65 degradation being burning challenges faced by humanity. There are several causes for  
66 land degradation; physical, chemical and biological processes which are directly or  
67 indirectly induced by human activities (Dlamini & Chaplot, 2016). Nepal is not an exception  
68 which is contributed by both the natural conditions and human activities (Acharya et al.,  
69 2008). Out of 11.6 million hectares(ha) of total agricultural land area, 3.3 million hectares  
70 (ha) of land is degraded, which means 28.24% of the agricultural land has been degraded  
71 in Nepal (MoEST, 2008). In case of Center of Nepal i.e. Kathmandu Valley; the leading  
72 causes of land degradation is due to the establishment of brick- industry and the effects  
73 of brick kilns on land are very distinct in Bhaktapur district of Nepal (Bisht & Neupane,  
74 2015).

75 Bhaktapur, being the smallest district of Nepal, occupies an area of 119 square  
76 kilometers (DCCO, 2021) and 11,106 hectares of land is suitable for agriculture though  
77 only 8,077 hectors have been cultivated (CBS, 2013). Out of 500 brick kilns in Kathmandu  
78 valley, the highest numbers of brick kilns (182) exist in Bhaktapur district, followed by  
79 173 in Lalitpur and 145 in Kathmandu district (MoEST, 2011). Generally, on an average 4  
80 ha land is used by each kiln and this area includes land on which kiln is constructed as  
81 well (Joshi & Dudani, 2008). Local people of Bhaktapur district are compelled to lease the  
82 land to the kiln owner as their neighboring land owner leased land to brick kiln owner  
83 (Neupane, 2008). Once topsoil is removed for brick manufacture, it takes 25 to 30 years  
84 to regain its fertility and after the land lose its topsoil, paddy production reduces by 50%  
85 (Jerin et al., 2017).

86 Use of organic matter amendments like farmyard manure (FYM), animal waste,  
87 poultry manure, vermi-compost, press mud and crop residues, etc. help in the  
88 rejuvenation process reviving biological activities in the excavated soils (Rajonee & Uddin,  
89 2018). It will improve soil structure and fertility status of soil, also helping to reduce bulk  
90 density, increase water holding capacity and hydraulic conductivity of excavated soil  
91 (Islam et al., 2015). Organic manure has a number of advantages, including a balanced  
92 supply of nutrients, higher soil nutrient availability due to increased soil microbial activity,  
93 the decomposition of hazardous substances, improved soil structure and root  
94 development, and greater soil water availability. (Han et al., 2016).

95 This study involves determination of the effect of organic manure as source to enrich  
96 degraded soil due excavation for brick manufacture process.

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## MATERIALS AND METHODS

99 Study Site: The site chosen for samples collection for this study is Changunarayan  
100 Municipality of Bhaktapur district (Figure 1). Nine composite soil samples were taken  
101 purposively from three different land forms: arable land, excavated land and brick kilns  
102 premises. Sample points were defined purposively based on higher production and  
103 marketing of agricultural products for arable land block, while major soil excavated area  
104 for excavated block and higher annual brick turnover area were selected for brick kiln  
105 premises block.

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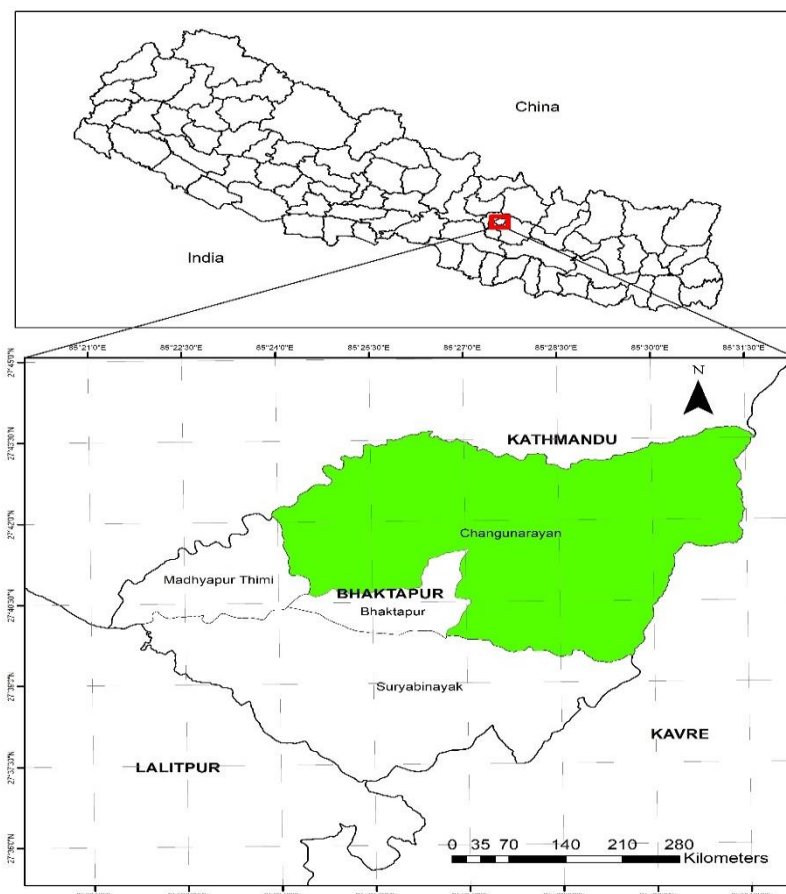
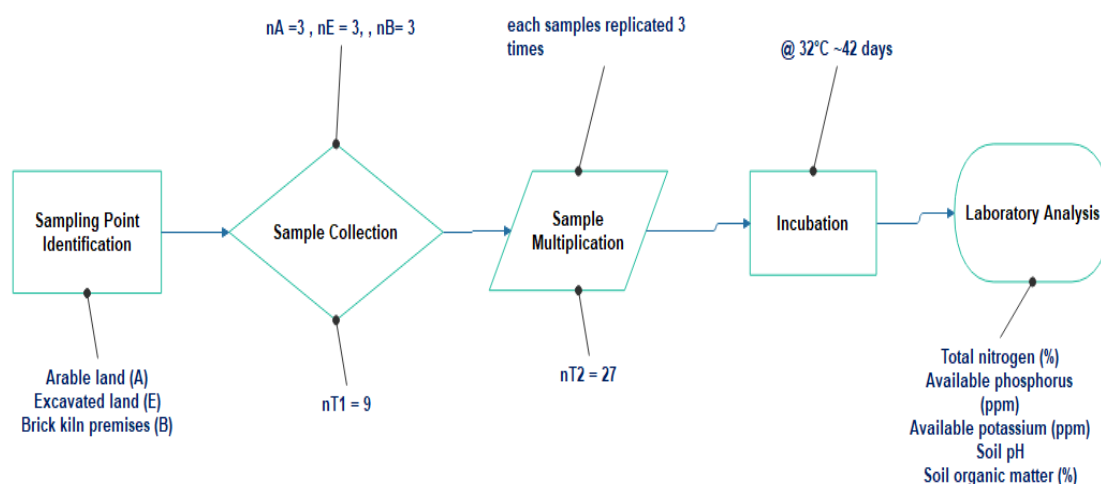


Figure 1: Map of study area

118 Research Design and Sample Preparation: Samples were replicated three times  
119 homogeneously to make 100g samples in each replicate (Figure 2). Out of three replication  
120 one was assigned as control in each land type while in remaining two one was added with

121 2% OM (2g OM/100g of soil) by weight and next one with 4% OM (4g OM/100g of soil) by  
 122 weigh. With allocated treatments (Table 1) samples were incubated in incubator at 32°C  
 123 for 45 days with timely addition of distilled water in each unit to maintain moisture level.  
 124 Applied organic manure was commercially available in the market with mean 2.5% N,  
 125 0.65% P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, 1.75% K<sub>2</sub>O, 48% organic matter and 25% moisture level.



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127 Figure 2: Schematic Diagram of Research Design

128 Laboratory Analysis: Laboratory analysis of the prepared soil samples was carried out  
 129 to find out the status of soil total nitrogen, available phosphorus, available potassium and  
 130 soil organic matter percentage (Table 2).

131 Statistical Analysis: Data for different parameters were tabulated in MS-Excel and  
 132 analyzed performing one way analysis of variance (ANOVA) with the help of R-studio  
 133 version 1.4.1106. Significant mean was tested with DMRT (Duncan Multiple Range Test)  
 134 at 5% level of significance. For the visualization of data Sigma plot 14.0 was used.

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138 Table 1: Soil processing and treatment details

	Secondary Codes	Treatments
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Land Forms	Total sample collected	Primary Codes	Replicated samples in laboratory	Control	2% OM by weight	4% OM by weight	OM by weight
Arable Land	3	AL1	3	AL1a	AL1b	AL1c	T1=AL1a, AL2a, AL3a
		AL2	3	AL2a	AL2b	AL2c	T2=AL1b, AL2b, AL3b
		AL3	3	AL3a	AL3b	AL3c	T3=AL1c, AL2c, AL3c
Excavated Land	3	EL1	3	EL1a	EL1b	EL1c	T4=EL1a, EL2a, EL3a
		EL2	3	EL2a	EL2b	EL2c	T5=EL1b, EL2b, EL3b
		EL3	3	EL3a	EL3b	EL3c	T6=EL1c, EL2c, EL3c
Brick Kiln Premises	3	BK1	3	BK1a	BK1b	BK1c	T7=BK1a, BK2a, BK3a
		BK2	3	BK2a	BK2b	BK2c	T8=BK1b, BK2b, BK3b
		BK3	3	BK3a	BK3b	BK3c	T9=BK1c, BK2c, BK3c
Total		9	21	9	9	9	21

139 (Note: T1=soil from arable land, T2=soil from arable land+2%OM, T3=soil from arable  
 140 land+4%OM, T4=soil from excavated land, T5= soil from excavated land+2%OM, T6=  
 141 soil from excavated land+4%OM, T7=soil from brick kiln premises, T8= soil from brick  
 142 kiln premises+2%OM, T9= soil from brick kiln premises+4%OM)

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147 Table 2: Laboratory analysis details

Parameters	Methods	Reference
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Total Nitrogen	Kjeldahl Method	Bremner & Mulvaney (Bremner & Mulvaney, 1982)
Available Phosphorus	Modified Olsen's bicarbonate method	Olsen et al (Olsen et al., 1954)
Available Potassium	Ammonium acetate method	Simard (Simard, 1993)
pH	Potentiometric method (1:2.5)	SMD (SMD, 2017)
Soil organic matter	Walkely and Black method	Walkley & Black (Walkley & Black, 1934)

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### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

149 Benchmark nutrient status of primary coded samples: The nitrogen content (%)  
 150 was found to be highest in the soil of arable land (0.13%) followed by the soil from  
 151 excavated land (0.03%) and least nitrogen content was found in the soil from the brick  
 152 kiln premises with the mean of 0.01% (Figure 3a). Similarly, we found the highest  
 153 phosphorus and potassium (ppm) content in the soil of arable land (17.84ppm,  
 154 38.85ppm), followed by the soil from excavated land (5.87ppm, 18.05ppm) and the least

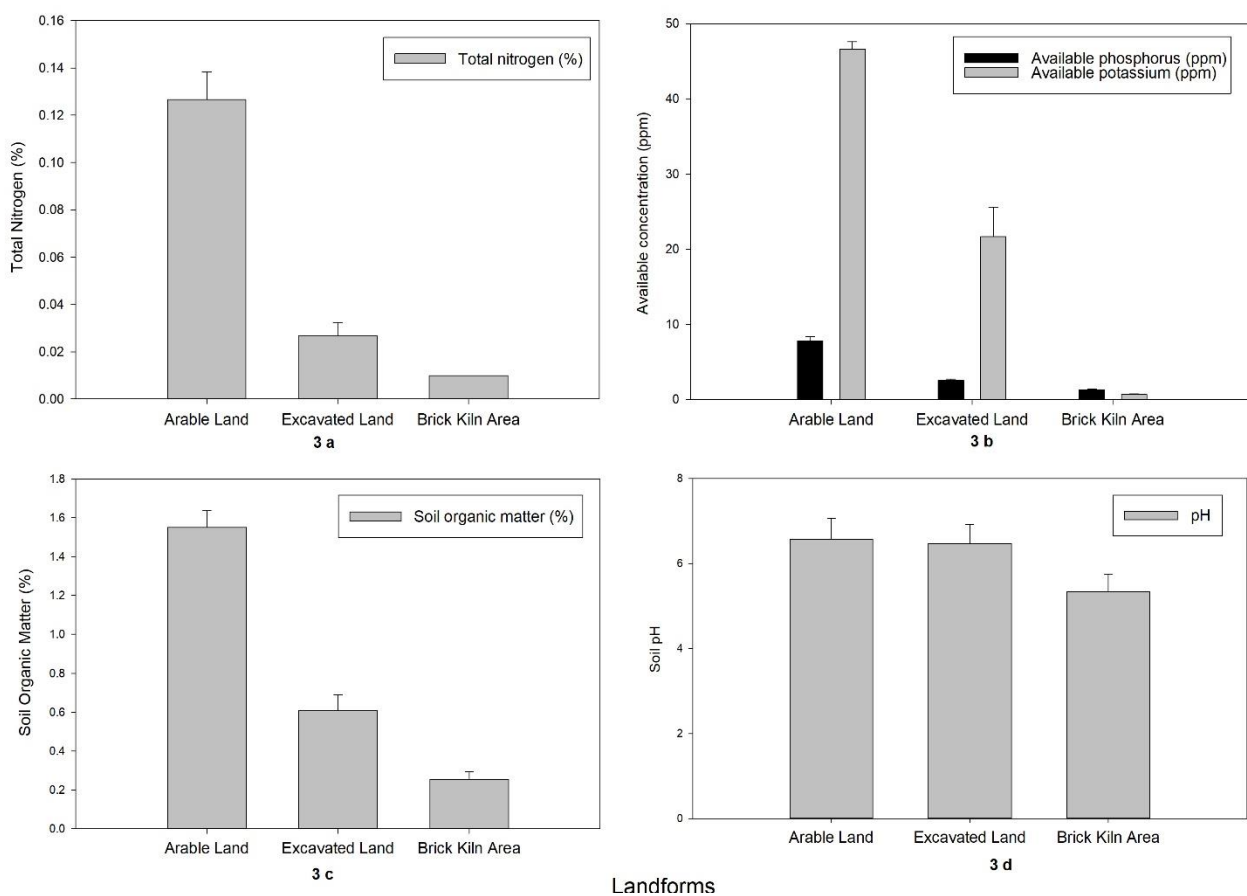


Figure 3: Benchmark nutrient status of different landforms soil

155 phosphorus and potassium content was found in the soil from the brick kiln premises  
156 (2.95ppm, 0.61ppm) (Figure 3b). Similarly, organic matter was found to be highest in  
157 arable land (1.55%) followed by soil from excavated land (0.61%) and least in the soil  
158 from brick kiln premises (0.25%) (Figure 3c). Soil pH was found nearly neutral in the soil  
159 of arable land (6.57) while it was slightly acidic in excavated land (6.47) and strongly  
160 acidic in brick kiln premises (5.33) (Figure 3d).

161 Das & Sarkar, (2020) conducted an experiment to evaluate the possible effect of  
162 brick manufacture on soil quality of agricultural land (arable land) within the study area of  
163 the Bhagirathi-Hugli River basin. They found value of organic carbon, nitrogen,  
164 phosphorus, and potassium were increasing with increasing distances from the brick kilns.  
165 Decreasing content of all nutrients nearby brick kiln premises might be due to the loss of  
166 organic carbon in soil which contains nitrogen and other essential nutrients and beneficial  
167 microbes. Also phosphorus in soil diverts to insoluble state in the soil due to lack of organic  
168 matter in soil and increased soil acidity (Rai et al., 2010). Excavation of soil destroys soil  
169 health by altering its composition and organic matter levels, exposing sub horizons (Singh  
170 et al., 2015a). The deeper soil excavation, (>0.3m) often resulted in a loss of soil fertility  
171 making the land agriculturally unproductive (Biswas et al., 2018). This might has caused  
172 lower nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium and organic matter content in excavated soil.  
173 According to Majumdar et al. (2018) the potassium contents were higher in agricultural  
174 field than that of brick field premises and they suggested that brick manufacturing  
175 processes responsible for decreasing potassium status in the soil of nearby premises. An  
176 experiment conducted by Bisht & Neupane (2015) also found that the pH of soil samples  
177 at 50m east and west showed slight acidic character which refers impact from brick kiln.  
178 They also found that the organic matter near to the brick kiln was low due to low organic  
179 carbon content and it gradually increased in soil with distance away from the kiln where  
180 agricultural area is dominant. Sikder et al. (2016) and Rajonee et al. (2018) also found  
181 lower pH with increase distance to brick kiln as we have found similar status of lower pH  
182 range in brick kiln premises. Emission of gases like sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) from kiln that  
183 adds to acid rain and dumping of SO<sub>2</sub> enriched wastes to soils might produce sulphuric  
184 acid on reaction with water to make soil more acidic (Maithel & Uma, 2012). Suwal (2018)  
185 also found that the soil was acidic near the kiln and was neutral farther away which means  
186 the quality of soil was comparatively improving with increasing distance from the brick kiln  
187 area.

188 Rajonee et al. (2018) in their study found that the moisture content and organic  
189 carbon increased with distance from brick kiln premises is unfavorable for plant growth.  
190 Singh et al. (2014) also found low organic carbon, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>O in the de-surfaced soil for  
191 brick kilns as compared to the normal soil which had resulted in poor wheat plant growth



192 in de-surfaced soils. Study from Islam et al. (2015) found that the total N, available P and  
 193 S were significantly less in the samples nearby brick kiln premises as compared to the soil  
 194 samples far from the premises.

195 Table 3: Effect of organic manure on chemical properties of degraded soil due to brick  
 196 manufacture industry at Changunarayan, Bhaktapur

Treatments	N%	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> (ppm)	K <sub>2</sub> O (ppm)	OM (%)	Soil pH
1. Arable Land	0.13 <sup>b</sup>	17.84 <sup>a</sup>	38.85 <sup>a</sup>	1.55 <sup>c</sup>	6.57 <sup>ab</sup>
2. Arable Land + 2% OM	0.15 <sup>a</sup>	17.15 <sup>a</sup>	38.88 <sup>a</sup>	1.78 <sup>b</sup>	6.80 <sup>a</sup>
3. Arable Land+ 4% OM	0.15 <sup>a</sup>	16.80 <sup>a</sup>	38.51 <sup>a</sup>	1.98 <sup>a</sup>	6.73 <sup>ab</sup>
4. Excavated Land	0.03 <sup>cd</sup>	5.87 <sup>b</sup>	18.05 <sup>b</sup>	0.61 <sup>e</sup>	6.47 <sup>ab</sup>
5. Excavated Land+ 2% OM	0.02 <sup>cd</sup>	5.79 <sup>b</sup>	18.05 <sup>b</sup>	0.63 <sup>de</sup>	6.23 <sup>ab</sup>
6. Excavated Land+ 4% OM	0.03 <sup>c</sup>	5.98 <sup>b</sup>	21.66 <sup>b</sup>	0.74 <sup>d</sup>	5.93 <sup>bc</sup>
7. Brick Kiln Premises	0.01 <sup>e</sup>	2.95 <sup>d</sup>	0.61 <sup>c</sup>	0.25 <sup>f</sup>	5.33 <sup>c</sup>
8. Brick Kiln Premises+ 2% OM	0.01 <sup>de</sup>	4.26 <sup>c</sup>	0.84 <sup>c</sup>	0.33 <sup>f</sup>	6.43 <sup>ab</sup>
9. Brick Kiln Premises+ 4% OM	0.02 <sup>cde</sup>	3.97 <sup>cd</sup>	0.84 <sup>c</sup>	0.53 <sup>e</sup>	6.17 <sup>abc</sup>
P- Value	*	*	*	*	0.02
LSD (α=5%)	0.009	1.05	3.94	0.12	0.74
CV (%)	9.16	6.78	11.92	7.42	6.81
Sem (±)	0.004	0.49	1.86	0.06	0.35

197 \* indicates significant p value

198

199 Effect of organic manure on chemical properties of degraded soil: Total soil nitrogen  
 200 content was found significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) with treatments of organic manure (OM) in soil  
 201 and was found that nitrogen content had increased with respect to the control treatments  
 202 of each landform. Total nitrogen content was found to increase with the application of OM  
 203 for both; soil from the excavated land and soil from brick kiln premises. Phosphorus  
 204 content in the soil from arable land and excavated land was found to be increased slightly  
 205 with the application of different treatments of OM, whereas in the soil from brick kiln  
 206 premises, the phosphorus content was found to be increased significantly with different  
 207 rate of OM incorporation (

208 ) Similarly, slight increment was seen in the potassium content in the soils of arable  
209 land, excavated land and soil from brick kiln premises with the application of different  
210 treatments of OM (

211 ). Application of organic manure at rate of 2% and 4%, arable soil did not show  
212 any significant increase in the soil pH but there was decrease in soil pH on the soil from  
213 excavated land while increase on soil from brick kiln premises. Organic matter was found  
214 significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) with the application of different treatments of OM and found to be  
215 increased with respect to the control treatment. Soil organic matter was highest with the  
216 application of 4% OM for both the soils from excavated land and brick kiln premises.

217 Menšík et al. (2018) shows that the use of organic manures resulted in lower  
218 acidity, higher soil organic carbon content and humic substance content, predomination of  
219 humic acid, and high content of available nutrients which was at par with the result from  
220 our research. Another field experiment performed by Zhao et al. (2009), found that after  
221 25 years cropping and fertilization, soil properties and crop yields were significantly  
222 affected by soil organic manure. They also included that the farmyard manure combined  
223 with chemical fertilizer management resulted in increase in soil organic carbon, available  
224 nitrogen, available phosphorus. A 4-year field trial was performed by Song et al. (2017)  
225 and found that the soil total phosphorus concentrations at the 0–20 cm depth increased  
226 under the organic manure (OM) and chemical fertilizer (CF) treatments by 12.11% and  
227 4.51%, respectively. Roy & Kashem (2014) performed a lab experiment and found that  
228 the effects of manures varied with manure type and incubation period and the soil pH  
229 slightly increased with the incubation period up to 30 days there after it declined with time  
230 significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ). Devkota et al. (2021) concluded that the combined effect of  
231 application of organic manures with inorganic fertilizers (NPK) was found to be better for  
232 soil health improvement. Since our result is based only on organic manure application,  
233 application of chemical fertilizer might have yielded more on soil properties. An experiment  
234 conducted by Kamal et al. (2016) with poultry manures and recommended dose of  
235 chemical fertilizers, significantly improved soil porosity, soil pH, field capacity, CEC, soil  
236 organic carbon (%), available P and total N along with highest value of mango yield. Beside  
237 organic manures as in our experiment such poultry manures along with chemical fertilizer  
238 can be an option to ameliorate degraded soil. Various processes for soil reclamation of the  
239 de-surfaced soils such as application of organic carbon rich sources such as poultry  
240 manure, animal waste, press mud, farm yard manure (FYM), crop residues, vermi-  
241 compost, biochar, etc., crop rotation, balanced micro and macro fertilization in the field  
242 and soil replacement were found effective (Singh et al., 2015b). The first process they  
243 suggested for soil amelioration and reclamation of de-surfaced soil was the use organic  
244 manure. Diacono & Montemurro (2010) performed a long-term field experiment on

245 effects of organic amendments on soil fertility and found that if the composted manures  
246 are applied repeatedly, it upgrades the soil organic nitrogen content by 90% and store it  
247 for mineralization in future cropping seasons without causing nitrate leaching to the  
248 groundwater.

249

## 250 CONCLUSION

251 Though the degree of change was minimal but improved result of soil nutrient status  
252 was found in soil with 4% OM. It means that if 80-100 tons/ha of organic manure is to be  
253 used continuously on the excavated land, which is 4-10 times more than the recommended  
254 dose; 10- 20 tons/ha for recovery. More dose of OM means more quick recovery of soil  
255 which ultimately hits financial affordability. Economic cost of enriching brick kiln areas soil  
256 and excavated area soil gets increased by 4-10-fold of organic manure only. Same input  
257 of organic manure cannot get same level enrichment in soil health as for arable land. Other  
258 method of degraded soil reclamation like application of poultry manure, FYM,  
259 vermicompost and organic carbon rich sources along with chemical fertilizers are best  
260 suited. Land is a limited entity and cannot be regenerated again and again in the way we  
261 wish, so serious steps should be taken about the establishment and management of the  
262 brick kilns so that the land degradation gets reduced resulting in the fertility restoration  
263 and increment in the agricultural production.

## 264 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

265 Authors would like to thank Himalayan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology  
266 (HICAST), Purbanchal University for creating environment to carry out this research. We  
267 also pay our sincere thanks to all the brick factory owners and workers of Changunarayan  
268 Municipality for their valuable time they gave during our research

269

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376 Received: 29<sup>th</sup> August 2021; Accepted: 09<sup>th</sup> September 2021; First distribution: 12<sup>th</sup> March  
377 2022.