**Table 1**

Properties of salt-affected soil and non-saline soil.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Soil parameters | Non-saline soil | Salt-affected Soil | Signification level |
| Soil texture (Sand / Silt / Clay) (%) | 23.12/62.32/14.57 | 23.45/64.21/12.34 | n.s. |
| Bulk density (g cm−3) | 1.34 | 1.36 | n.s. |
| Initial EC (dS m−1) | 0.25 | 1.04 | \*\* |
| pH | 7.66 | 7.73 | n.s. |
| Total C (g kg-1) | 3.54 | 2.37 | \* |
| Total N (g kg-1) | 0.35 | 0.19 | \* |
| NH4+–N (mg kg−1) | 4.61 | 3.76 | n.s. |
| NO3−–N (mg kg−1) | 3.46 | 3.27 | n.s. |
| NO2−–N (mg kg−1) | 0.27 | 0.32 | n.s. |

n.s., \* and \*\* represent no significance, significant differences at p<0.05 and p<0.01, respectively.

**Table 2**

Main properties of the biochar used in the experiment.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| biochar | pH | C content/% | Total N/% | Total P/% | Total K/% | CEC/cmol kg-1 | Special surface area/m2 g-1 | Total pore volume/cm3 g-1 |
| Rice straw biochar | 10.1 | 42.6 | 0.75 | 0.15 | 1.06 | 44.8 | 81.9 | 0.08 |