

Iranian Researchers Produce Fertilizer From Sludge



TEHRAN -- Researchers at Urmia University in northwest Iran have successfully produced biochar/struvite composite as a fertilizer after treating wastewater.

“Struvite in the presence of biochar as a slow-release phosphate fertilizer from wastewater” is the title of a post-doctoral research conducted by Marziyeh Piri under supervision of Ebrahim Sepehr at Urmia University that was sponsored by Iran National Science Foundation (INSF).

Biochar is a carbon-enriched biomaterial generated by combustion of the biomass through a process called pyrolysis. Phosphorus such as struvite is used as a fertilizer in soils because it contains some of the major nutrients.

“Studies have shown that urban wastewater contains a large amount of phosphorus which is removed in treatment plants before releasing the wastewater into the environment given the irreparable effects of phosphorus on the surface waters through the enrichment process,” said Piri, who has a PhD from Urmia University in soil science.

“Due to the limited resources of phosphate rock in the world, recycling phosphorus from wastewater to produce phosphate fertilizer is a promising

path. Struvite crystal mineral is one of the poorly soluble phosphorus minerals, which contains three essential plant nutrients, including nitrogen, phosphorus and magnesium,” she added.

“Since this phosphorus fertilizer has low solubility, this fertilizer is considered a slow-release fertilizer in scientific sources that can gradually provide phosphorus to the plant and help to reduce waste, stabilize it in the soil, and increase the recycling of phosphorus fertilizers in the country’s soils,” the research added.

“Because the effluents are rich in phosphorus, they have to be refined before entering the environment in treatment plants after going through different processes. In recent years, in different countries in the world, special attention has been paid to the recovery of elements to produce fertilizers from unnatural sources, especially wastewater and effluents rich in phosphorus. Moreover, given the abundance of grape pruning residues in West Azarbaijan province [where Urmia University is located], converting them into biochar is an opportunity to improve fertility of the soil for the long-term use of elements,” the Urmia University researcher explained.

‘Tehran Paris Tehran’ Announced as Best-Selling Show



TEHRAN – The drama “Tehran Paris Tehran” has been announced as the best-selling show of the year by selling tickets worth seventy billion rials (around \$140,000).

Directed by Saeed Dashti and produced by Sam Beheshtyar, the drama has been shown for the last five months of the year

without reproduction, IRNA reported.

It tells the story of a young girl named Sara, who travels from Tehran to Paris to seek revenge for her father’s murder. Upon returning to Tehran, she becomes entangled in a complicated drama.

President Raisi Visits Africa’s Largest Mosque

ALGIERS (Dispatches) -- Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has paid a visit to Africa’s largest mosque, which was officially inaugurated in Algeria last week.

The president, who traveled to Algiers at the head of a high-ranking political and economic delegation to attend the 7th summit of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), was accompanied by Algeria’s education ministry during the tour of the mosque on Saturday.

He was briefed on the features of the large place of worship and the process of its construction.

The Great Mosque of Algiers features the world’s tallest minaret, measuring at 869 feet (265 meters). The third largest mosque in the world after the Grand Mosque in Mecca and the Prophet’s Mosque in Medina, its prayer room accommodates 120,000 people.

Its modernist design contains Arab and North African flourishes to honor Algerian tradition and culture as well as a helicopter landing pad and a library that can house up to 1 million books.

Raisi also performed the Maghrib prayers in congregation at the mosque.



Speaking with the prayer leader of the mosque before leaving, the Iranian president referred to the promotion of the teachings of the Qur’an, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and Ahl-ul-Bayt (AS) and raising awareness about the conditions of Muslims all over the world as some of the main functions of mosques.

Today, raising awareness about what the oppressed people of Palestine in the Gaza Strip are going through is the main issue in the Muslim world and for humani-

ty as a whole and should be part of mosques’ activities in Muslim countries, he stressed.

The president hailed the shared view that Iran and Algeria hold on the issue of Palestine and said if that was the case in all Muslim countries, the Zionists would not dare commit so many atrocities against the oppressed people of Palestine.

Raisi also described unity as a major necessity in the Muslim world today and stressed the im-

portant role that mosques can play in enhancing Islamic unity.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Iranian president highlighted the role of mosques in Algeria in mobilizing popular forces during the era of colonialism.

The prayer leader of the Great Mosque of Algiers, for his part, praised the Islamic Republic of Iran’s courageous and historic stances on the issue of Palestine and hoped other Muslim countries would follow the same path.

Greek Actress Says Surprised by Iranian Cinema



TEHRAN -- Greek actress Christina Sotiriou, who is featuring in the Iranian TV series ‘Salman Farsi’, has termed the Iranian cinema industry as surprising and very good.

Sotiriou shared her experience of presenting in Iran and playing a role in the Iranian TV series “Salman Farsi” during an interview with IRNA on Saturday.

Referring to the experience of working with Davoud Mirbagheri, one of the Iranian most eminent directors, she said, “It was a great experience. He is a great director and a great person. He helped me a lot because it was after two years that I graduated from my drama school, so I did not have much experience in the cinema industry. But he helped me a lot and I learned many things from him, like acting in front of the camera. I am grateful for working with him because we also had very good communication during filming. Sometimes I could understand what he wanted for me to perform for his expressions and

was surprised by the way they are working. A lot of people, around one hundred people, work behind the cameras. I was really excited to work on projects like this. I knew about Iranian cinema and the quality of it. They have great artists. But after I collaborated on this project, I watched many Iranian films and they are artistically very good.”

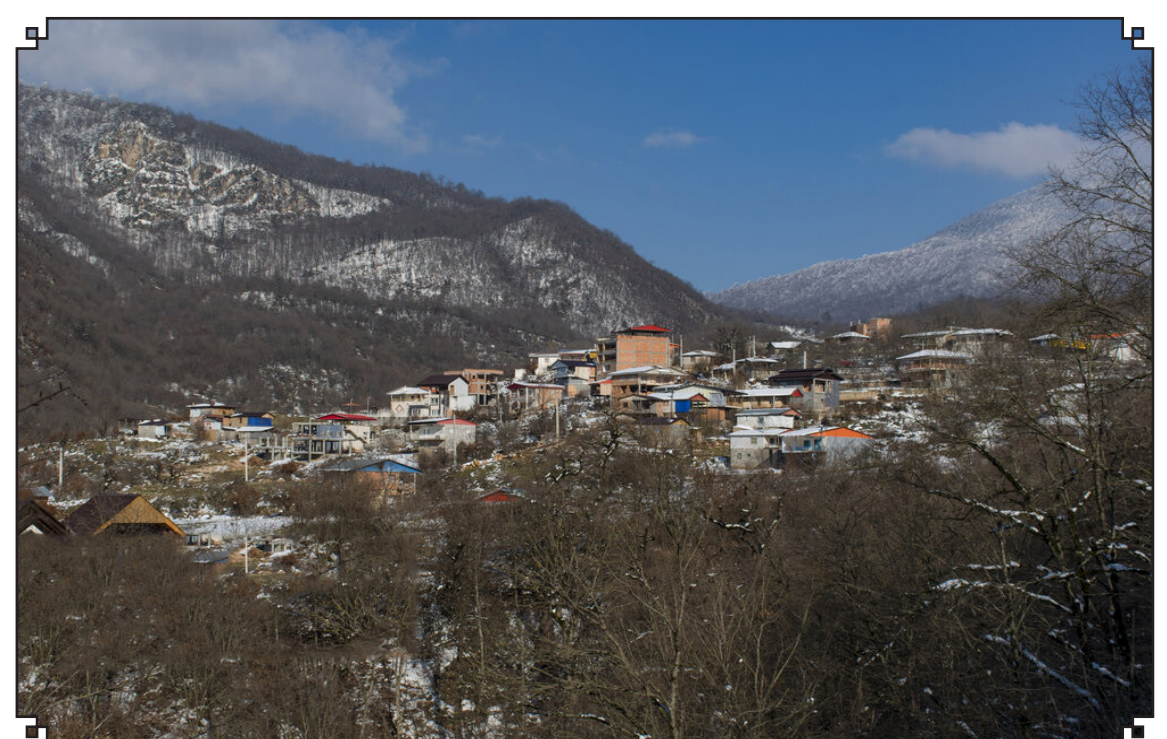
The project is very well organized, so “we did not have any problems even if there were so many people” in the project, Sotiriou noted.

By describing the ‘Salman Farsi’ series as a world-class series, she expressed hope that the European market will buy this project, because there are many actors from other countries that will draw attention from other markets too, not only from Iran.

Mirbagheri started shooting “Salman the Persian” in the deserts of Kerman province in late December 2019.

The story of the series is narrated over three seasons starting with ancient Iran, followed by the Byzantine Empire, and finally early Islam.

Picture of the Day



Balacheli is one of the tourist villages of Golestan province. It is located 20 kilometers south of Fazel Abad city. Photo by ISNA