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Sung-Wook Yun, Dong-Hyeon Kim, Dong-Hyeon Kang, Jinkwan Son, Si-Young Lee, Chung-Keun Lee, Sang-Hwan Lee, Won-Hyun Ji, Philippe C. Baveye, Chan Yu

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Sung-Wook Yun [a], Dong-Hyeon Kim [a], Dong-Hyeon Kang [a], Jinkwan Son [a], Si-Young Lee [a], Chung-Keun Lee [a], Sang-Hwan Lee [b], Won-Hyun Ji [b], Philippe C. Baveye [c], Chan Yu [d,*]

[a] Department of Agricultural Engineering, National Institute of Agricultural Sciences, RDA, Wanju, Jeonbuk 54875, Republic of Korea

[b] Institute of Mine Reclamation Technology, Mine Reclamation Corp., 2 Segyero, Wonju, 26464, Republic of Korea.

[c] Unité ECOSYS, AgroParisTech, Université Paris-Saclay, avenue Lucien Brétignières, 78850 Thiverval-Grignon, France.

[d] Department of Agricultural Engineering, Gyeongsang National University (Institute of Agriculture and Life Science), 900 Gazwa, Jinju, Gyeongnam 52828, Republic of Korea

*Corresponding author: Tel.: +82 55 772 1932, Fax: +82 55 772 1939

E-mail address: chanyu@gnu.ac.kr (Chan Yu)

Abstract

In many parts of the world, metal(loid)s resulting from mining activities are causing significant environmental concern, in particular because they are contaminating agricultural lands. In this respect, a previous study in South Korea suggested that a specific agricultural practice, associated with the growing of rice in paddy fields, could contribute specifically to the geographic spread of metal(loid)s contamination away from mine sites. The purpose of the research described in this article was to confirm this hypothesis at a different site. Samples from the surface soil of agricultural lands were collected from 374 sites (267 paddy soils and 107 dry field soils). The concentrations of As, Pb, Cd, Cu and Zn from the samples