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Xiujun Wang · Zhitong Yu Jiaping Wang · Juan Zhang Editors

Carbon Cycle in the Changing Arid Land of China

Yanqi Basin and Bosten Lake



Editors Xiujun Wang College of Global Change and Earth System Science Beijing Normal University Beijing China

Zhitong Yu College of Global Change and Earth System Science Beijing Normal University Beijing China Jiaping Wang Agricultural College Shihezi University Shihezi China

Juan Zhang College of Resources and Environment Northeast Agricultural University Harbin China

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Foreword

This book, "Carbon cycle in the changing arid land: Yanqi Basin and Bosten Lake," comes at a time when countries are seriously looking for ways to offset CO_2 emissions. Arid and semiarid regions make up about one-third of the Earth's land surface, yet these drylands are generally overlooked as places for carbon seques-tration because (1) soil organic carbon is low compared to more humid soils and (2) soil inorganic carbon is widely considered to be an inert carbon reservoir rather than an active pool that can be manipulated by land management techniques.

This book provides examples suggesting that soil inorganic carbon is more dynamic and complicated than traditionally thought. In addition, readers of this book will learn about carbon in the interesting geological and climatic setting of northwest China. Perhaps its most important contribution, this book can stimulate carbon research in rangeland and irrigated agricultural settings in other arid land regions of the world.

Las Cruces, USA

H. Curtis Monger, Ph.D. Professor Emeritus, New Mexico State University

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Contributors

Hang Fan College of Global Change and Earth System Science, Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China

Yang Guo College of Global Change and Earth System Science, Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China

Fengqing Jiang State Key Laboratory of Desert and Oasis Ecology, Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Urumqi, Xinjiang, China

Tongping Lu College of Global Change and Earth System Science, Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China

Qingfeng Meng School of Resources and Environment, Northeast Agricultural University, Harbin, China

Huijin Shi College of Global Change and Earth System Science, Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China

Changyan Tian State Key Laboratory of Desert and Oasis Ecology, Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Urumqi, Xinjiang, China

Jiaping Wang College of Agriculture, Shihezi University, Shihezi, China

Junyi Wang College of Global Change and Earth System Science, Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China

Xiujun Wang College of Global Change and Earth System Science, Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China

Zhitong Yu College of Global Change and Earth System Science, Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China; Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Urumqi, China

Juan Zhang School of Resources and Environment, Northeast Agricultural University, Harbin, China

Lei Zhang State Key Laboratory of Desert and Oasis Ecology, Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Urumqi, Xinjiang, China

Shuai Zhao State Key Laboratory of Desert and Oasis Ecology, Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Urumqi, Xinjiang, China