

Resilient Soft Clay Ground Enhancement with Eggshell Lime and Rice Husk Ash

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Soft clay soils, characterized by their low shear strength and high moisture variation. This method not only offers an eco-friendly solution by utilizing readily available, low-cost materials. Field applications demonstrate the practical benefits of this approach, making it a promising technique for sustainable soil improvement in various construction contexts.

Keywords: Soft clay; Soil stabilization; Eggshell lime; Rice husk ash; Pozzolanic reaction; Soil strength Enhancement; Environmental impact

Introduction

In civil engineering and construction, the challenge of stabilizing soft clay soils is a well-known issue that impacts the safety, durability, and cost-effectiveness of structures. Soft clay often suffers from poor load-bearing capacity, high compressibility, and susceptibility to seasonal moisture variations. Innovative and sustainable methods for ground improvement are crucial to addressing these challenges. One promising approach involves using eggshell lime and rice husk ash—two readily available and eco-friendly materials. This article explores how these materials can enhance the resilience of soft clay soils [1].

Understanding soft clay challenges

Soft clay soils are characterized by their low shear strength and high compressibility, which can lead to excessive settlement and instability when subjected to construction loads. Traditional methods for improving these soils often involve chemical stabilizers, mechanical treatments, or replacement of the soil. However, these methods can be expensive and environmentally taxing [2].

The role of eggshell lime

Eggshells, which are typically discarded as waste, are rich in calcium carbonate. When processed and calcined, eggshells produce lime (calcium oxide), a material known for its soil stabilization properties. The transformation process involves heating eggshells to high temperatures, which converts calcium carbonate into calcium oxide. When this lime is mixed with soil, it reacts with clay particles to form stable compounds, enhancing the soil's strength and reducing its plasticity.

Chemical stabilization: Lime stabilizes clay soils through a process known as pozzolanic reaction. This chemical reaction between lime and clay minerals results in the formation of cementitious compounds, which bind soil particles together and improve soil strength.

Durability: Lime-stabilized soils exhibit improved resistance to moisture variations, reducing the risk of swelling and shrinkage. This enhances the long-term stability of the soil under varying

environmental conditions [3].

Benefits of rice husk ash

Rice husk ash (RHA) is a by-product of rice milling and is often underutilized. When rice husks are burned, they produce ash rich in silica. This ash can be used as a supplementary soil stabilizer due to its pozzolanic properties.

Pozzolanic activity: Silica in RHA reacts with lime to form additional cementitious compounds. This reaction further improves the strength and durability of the stabilized soil.

Environmental impact: Using RHA not only reuses an agricultural by-product but also reduces the environmental impact associated with rice milling waste disposal.

Combining eggshell lime and rice husk ash

The combination of eggshell lime and rice husk ash offers a synergistic effect, enhancing the overall stabilization of soft clay soils. The dual pozzolanic reactions with both lime and silica provide a more comprehensive improvement compared to using either material alone.

Enhanced strength: The combined use of both materials offers a more significant improvement in soil strength compared to using either material alone.

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