

## Supporting Information

# Quantum Confinement vs. Mesoporosity in SnO<sub>2</sub>: Oxygen Vacancies Dictate Dominant Formate Selectivity in Hybrid CO<sub>2</sub> Electrolysis with Unprecedented 480 mV Energy Savings

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## Chemicals

Stannic chloride pentahydrate ( $\text{SnCl}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), Hydrazine hydrate ( $\text{NH}_2\text{NH}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), ethylene diamine – all were purchased from Sigma Aldrich. All chemicals were used as received without any further purification. Solvents viz. Iso-propyl alcohol (99%, synthesis) and Ethanol ( $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ) were purchased from Loba Chemie. Water used for cleaning the electrode and electrochemical measurement was De-ionised water.

## Electrochemical characterisation

### Ink & Working Electrode Preparation:

Catalyst inks for the electrochemical experiments were prepared by well dispersing the mixture of 1 mg of blended as-synthesized catalyst in 100  $\mu\text{L}$  Nafion solution (from, 1 mL of isopropanol, 75  $\mu\text{L}$  of 5% Nafion solution) followed by sonication for 30 mins. Working electrodes were prepared by drop-casting 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of catalyst ink onto a conducting Carbon Cloth and were dried in room temperature overnight. Electrochemical experiments were performed in 1 M NaOH solution using the standard three-electrode system taking Ag/AgCl and graphite rod as a reference and counter electrode, respectively.

$\text{CO}_2$  electroreduction experiments were further conducted in a commercial GDE flow-cell configuration comprising separate compartments for the anolyte, catholyte, and gas phase. The anodic and cathodic chambers were isolated by a proton-exchange membrane (Nafion 117).  $\text{CO}_2$  was continuously supplied to the system at a controlled rate using a mass flow controller, and electrolyte circulation in the cell was maintained by a peristaltic pump operating under steady-flow conditions.

Polarization curves were recorded on a CHI-600E instrument and analysed using the CHI – 600e program. All measurements were referred to the RHE using the relationship:

$$E_{(\text{RHE})} = E_{(\text{Ag}/\text{AgCl})} + E^0_{(\text{Ag}/\text{AgCl})} + 0.059\text{V} \times \text{pH}, \text{ where, } E^0_{(\text{Ag}/\text{AgCl})} = + 0.197 \text{ V, at } T = 25 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}.$$

All electrochemical measurements were repeated at least three times using independently prepared electrodes unless otherwise stated. Reported values correspond to the mean, and error bars represent the standard deviation of independent measurements.

## Material Synthesis

### Synthesis of $\text{SnO}_2$ nanoflower:

In the typical synthesis,<sup>1</sup> a  $3 \times 1.5 \text{ cm}^2$  tin (Sn) foil was initially treated with 0.1 N hydrochloric acid (HCl) for a few minutes to remove surface oxides and impurities. Subsequently, the foil underwent sequential sonication in acetone and ethanol to eliminate any remaining organic residues, followed by rinsing with deionized (DI) water and drying under a nitrogen stream. The pretreated Sn foil was then introduced into a 50 mL Teflon-lined stainless steel autoclave containing an aqueous solution of 0.01 N sodium hydroxide (NaOH), hydrazine hydrate ( $\text{NH}_2\text{NH}_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), and ethylenediamine in a molar ratio of 1:0.5:0.5. The autoclave was hermetically sealed and

maintained at 200 °C for 24 hours in a convection oven. Upon cooling to room temperature, the resultant product was collected via centrifugation, extensively washed with DI water, acetone, and ethanol to remove unreacted species and byproducts, and finally dried under vacuum overnight to yield the desired powder material.

#### Synthesis of SnO<sub>2</sub> quantum dots:

In the typical synthesis of SnO<sub>2</sub> quantum dots,<sup>2</sup> a total of 5.83 mmol of SnCl<sub>4</sub>·5H<sub>2</sub>O was dissolved in a solvent mixture composed of 18.5 mL ethanol and 9.28 mL ethylenediamine under continuous magnetic stirring for 1 hour. Following this, 58.32 mmol of urea—pre-dissolved in 18.5 mL of deionized (DI) water—was added to the reaction mixture and stirred further for an additional 30 minutes to ensure homogeneity. The resulting white suspension was then transferred into a 50 mL Teflon-lined stainless-steel autoclave and heated at 90 °C for 8 hours in a laboratory oven. Upon naturally cooling to ambient temperature, the solid product was isolated by centrifugation and thoroughly washed several times with DI water and ethanol to remove residual impurities. Finally, the obtained material was dried under vacuum overnight to yield the final powdered product.

#### **Material Characterisations:**

*XRD*: X-ray powder diffraction data spanning 20° to 80° were collected using an XRD Rigaku SmartLab diffractometer with Cu-K $\alpha$  radiation (1.54Å).

*TEM*: UHR – FEG transmission electron microscope (TEM) was used for structural and morphology study of the nano-catalysts, including high-resolution TEM (HRTEM), high-angle annular dark-field scanning transmission electron microscopy (HAADF-STEM) and energy-dispersive spectra (EDS) for elemental mapping.

*XPS*: X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS), carried out using an Omicron instrument (model: 1712-62-11), utilized Al-K $\alpha$  radiation source at 15 kV voltage and 5 mA current to discern the valence states of the constituents. The XPS data were further deconvoluted with XPSPEAK 41 software.

*EPR*: Bruker EMX Plus series instrument was used for the EPR (X – band and Q – band) study.

*NMR*: Bruker Advance-II (400 MHz) NMR instrument was used for detection of the electrocatalytically oxidised and reduced products. The products were quantified from known amount of tetramethyl ammonium chloride (TMACl) as an internal standard in D<sub>2</sub>O. 500  $\mu$ l of each of solution was mixed with 100  $\mu$ l of 0.01 M solution of TMACl in D<sub>2</sub>O.

*GC*: Thermo scientific trace 1000 GC instrument was used to analyse gases generated from water splitting.

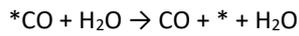
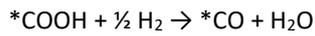
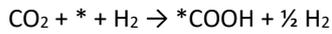
#### **Computational details**

The first-principles calculations have been performed using Vienna Ab Initio Simulation Package<sup>3</sup> to study CO<sub>2</sub>RR and HER on Sn based surfaces. Projector-augmented wave potentials were employed to replace the inner cores of the atoms with all-electron, frozen cores. The Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof (PBE) exchange-correlation functional

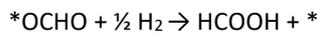
was used to account for exchange and correlation effects<sup>4</sup>. The calculations were carried out on a Monkhorst-Pack grid centered around the  $\Gamma$ -point. The energy convergence threshold for the relaxation of energies was set to  $10^{-5}$  eV, ensuring the accuracy of the results. Furthermore, atomic forces were converged to  $0.01$  eV/Å for stable atomic positions. We investigated the reaction energetics of CO<sub>2</sub>RR and the competing hydrogen evolution reaction (HER) on Sn, SnO<sub>2</sub>, SnO, SnO<sub>2</sub>/SnO. For this, Sn (211), SnO (011), SnO<sub>2</sub>(110) surface without and with an O-vacancy, SnO(011)/SnO<sub>2</sub>(110) and SnO(001)/SnO<sub>2</sub>(110) heterostructures were modeled with a slab of 4 atomic layers, in which the bottom two layers were frozen, and a vacuum layer of about 15 Å along the z-axis was built. The slabs were optimized using a  $4 \times 4 \times 1$  Monkhorst-Pack grid, with a cutoff energy set at 500 eV.

The reaction steps considered for the electrochemical reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> to formic acid, CO, and the competing HER are as follows:

**1. Formation of CO:**



**2. Formation of HCOOH:**



**3. Hydrogen Evolution Reaction:**



The Gibbs free energies at 298.15 K and 1 atm for each step along the CO<sub>2</sub> RR and HER pathway were computed using equation:

$$G = H - TS = E_{DFT} + E_{ZPE} + \int_0^{298.15K} C_V dT - TS$$

To ensure accurate Gibbs free energy calculations, we included both zero-point energies (ZPE) and entropy corrections (TS). The ZPE and TS values aligned well with the previous reports<sup>5, 6</sup>. To address known inaccuracies in DFT, particularly the overbinding of O<sub>2</sub> and self-interaction errors, we applied a correction scheme where the DFT energy of O<sub>2</sub>(g) is referenced to experimental formation enthalpy of water and hydrogen<sup>7, 8</sup>. The computational hydrogen electrode (CHE) model<sup>9</sup> was used to calculate the free energy of electrocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub>RR.

### **Calculation of % product conversion of oxidation and reduction of the substrates:**

6 ml electrolyte, undivided three electrode electrochemical cell (and H-type cell separated with Nafion 117 membrane for paired electrolysis), graphite rod as counter electrode, Ag/AgCl as reference electrode, 1.0 mg catalyst deposited over 1x1 cm<sup>2</sup> carbon cloth.

The electrolyte solution after the chronoamperometry studies were analysed and quantified from <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy using TMACl (Tetramethyl Ammonium chloride) as internal standard and D<sub>2</sub>O as locking agent.

### **Product Analysis:**

**The % product conversion was calculated as follows:**

500 μL of analyte + 100 μL of 0.1 M TMACl => Conc. of TMACl in the (600 μL) solution = 16.6 mM.

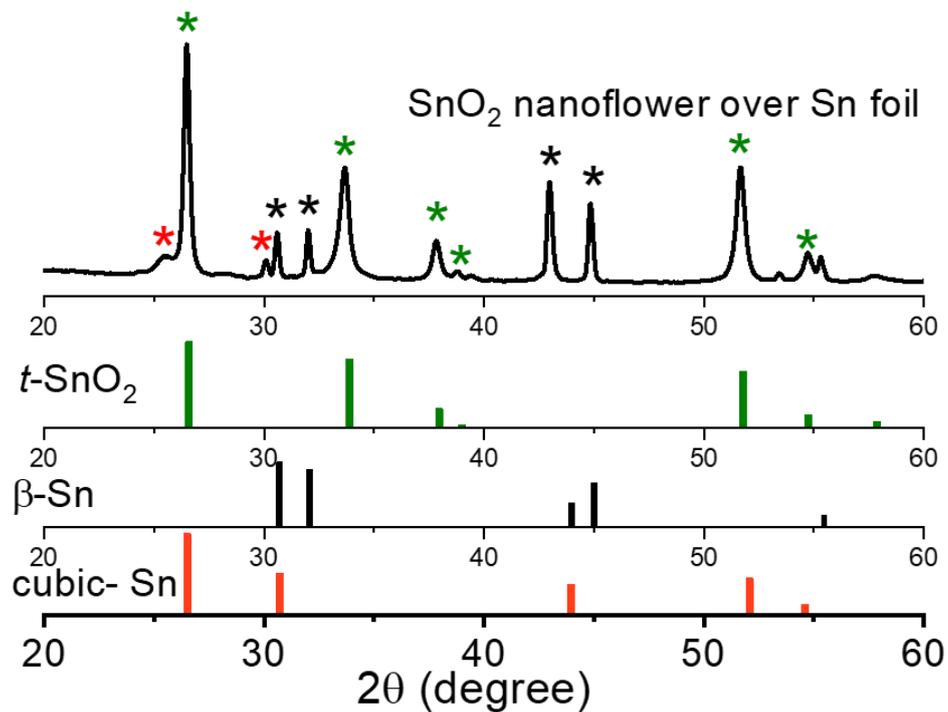
Now, TMACl consists of 12 H atom. Thus, the conc. of H ([H]) could be determined with respect to the integration of 1 equivalent TMACl corresponding to 12 H.

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore [\text{H}] &\equiv \text{integration of} \equiv 16.6 \times 12 \text{ mM } [\text{H}] \\ &= 200 \text{ mM } [\text{H}]. \end{aligned}$$

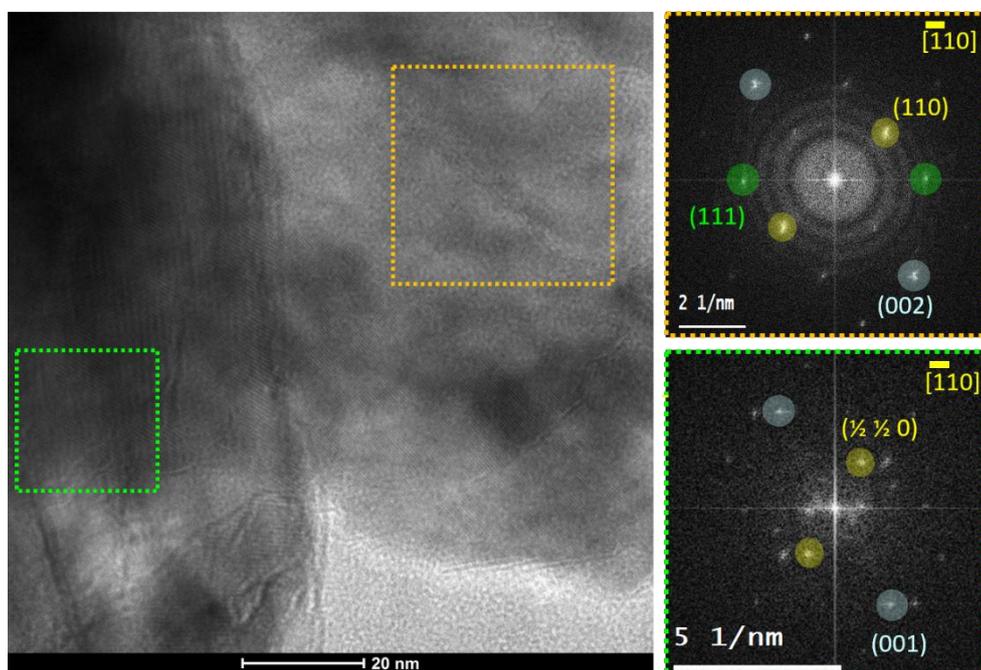
The Faradaic efficiency (FE) toward formate formation was calculated using the following equation:

$$\text{FE (\%)} = (n \cdot z \cdot F / Q) \times 100$$

Here,  $n$  is the quantity of formate produced (mol),  $z$  is the number of electrons transferred per mole of product ( $z = 3$  for EGOR and  $z = 2$  for CO<sub>2</sub>RR),  $Q$  denotes the total charge consumed during electrolysis (C), and  $F$  is the Faraday constant (96,485 C mol<sup>-1</sup>).



**Fig. S1.** XRD pattern of SnO<sub>2</sub> NF grown over Sn foil along with standard pattern for different phases of Sn and SnO<sub>2</sub>.



**Fig. S2.** HRTEM image and corresponding FFT patterns of two adjacent nano-petals showing single crystalline nature of each petal.

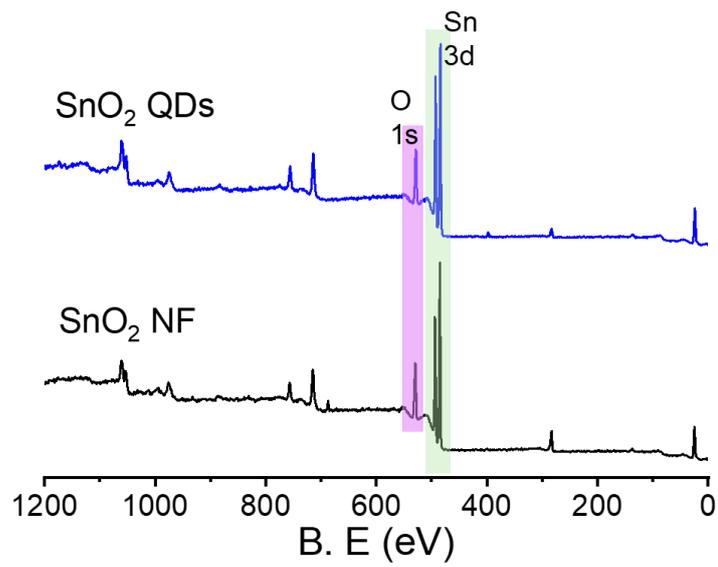


Fig. S3. Survey XPS spectra of SnO<sub>2</sub> QDs and NF.

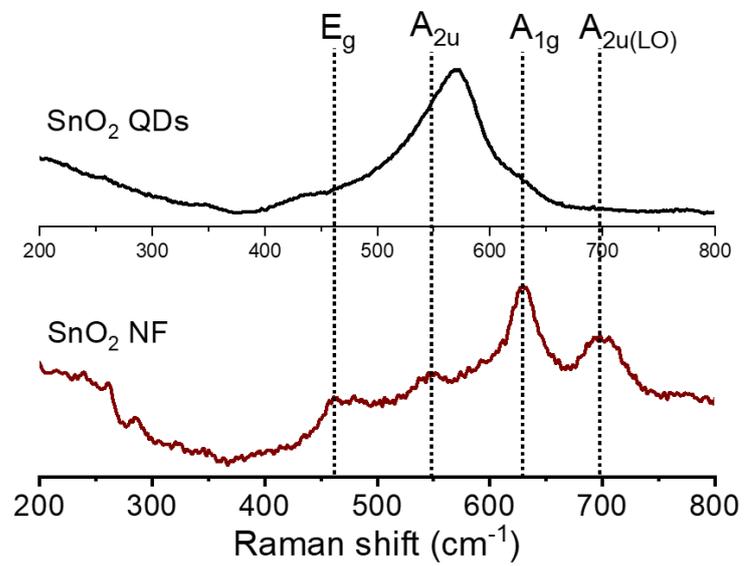
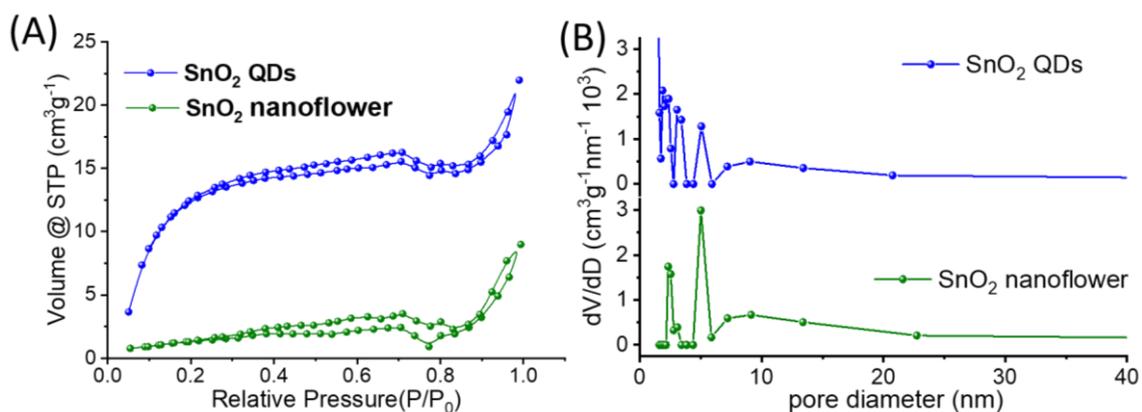
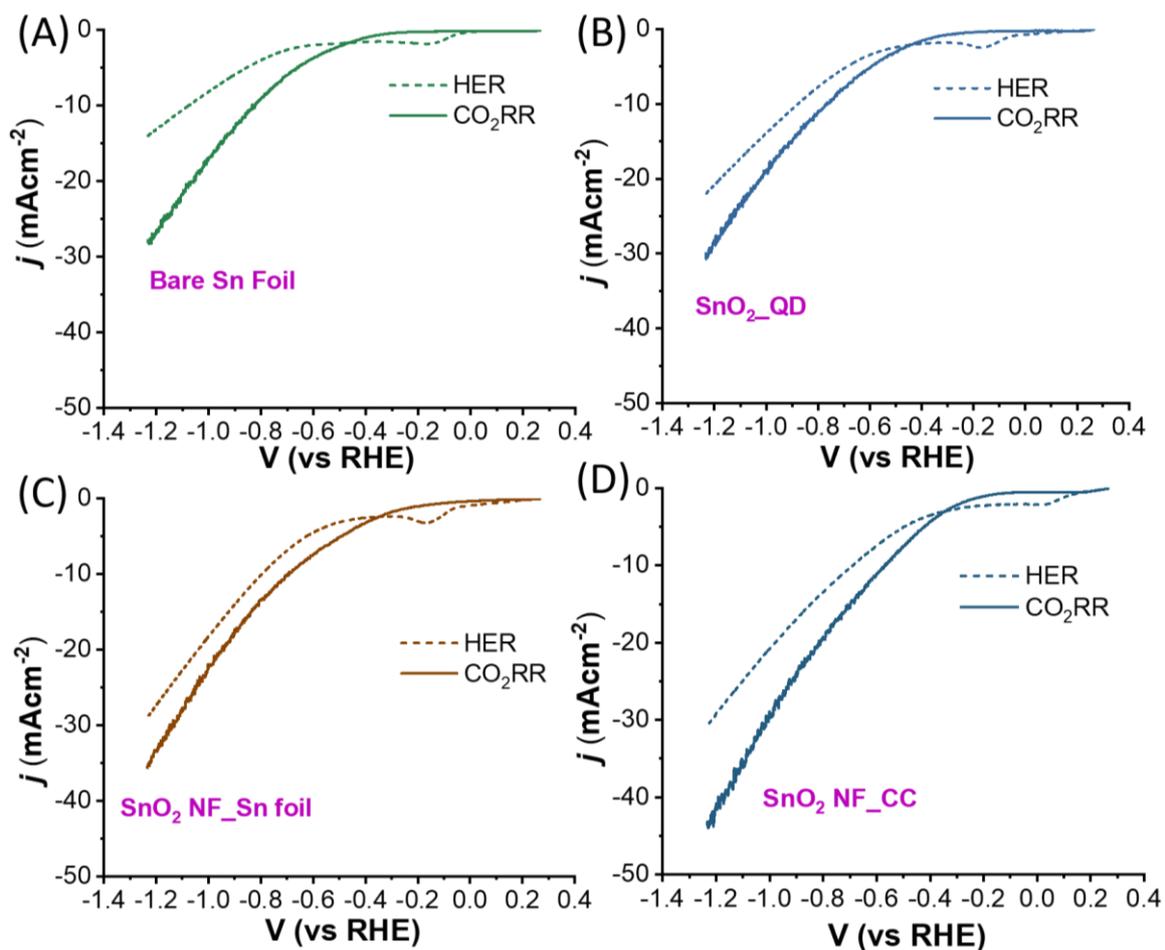


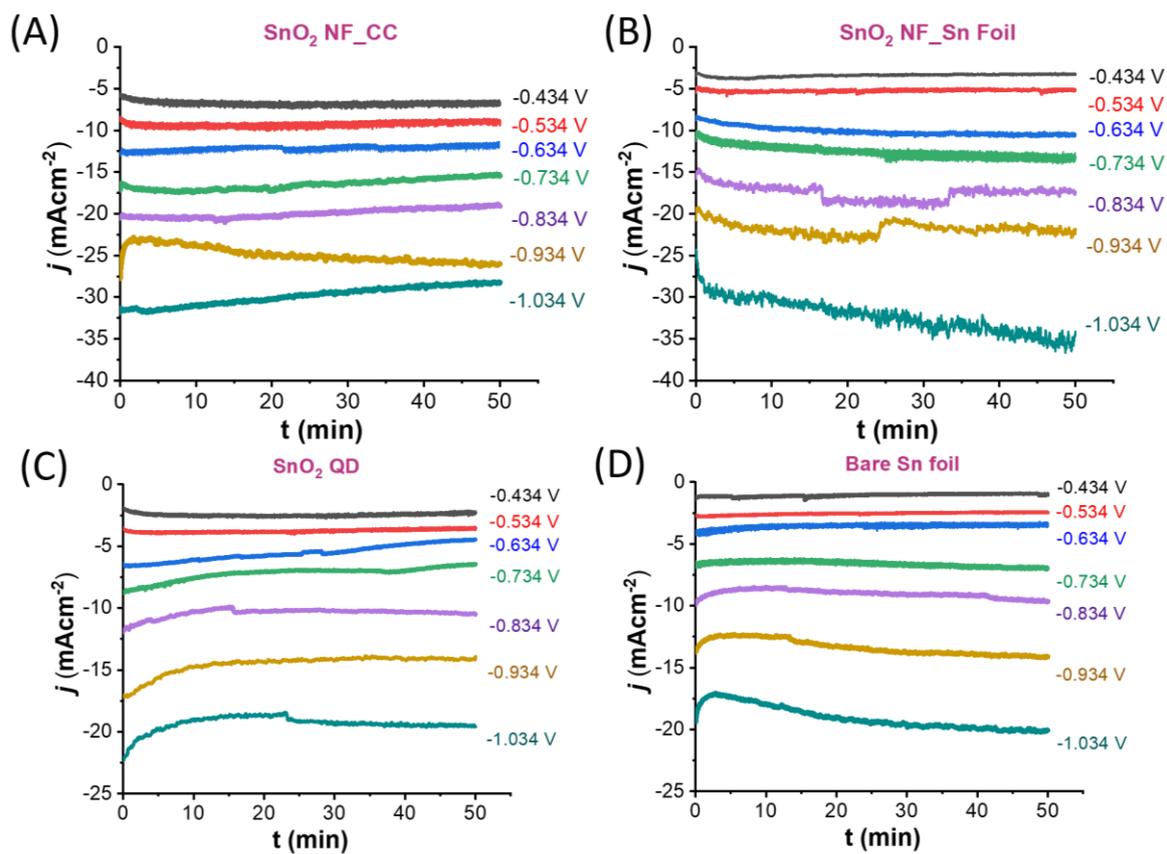
Fig. S4. Raman spectra of SnO<sub>2</sub> QDs and NF.



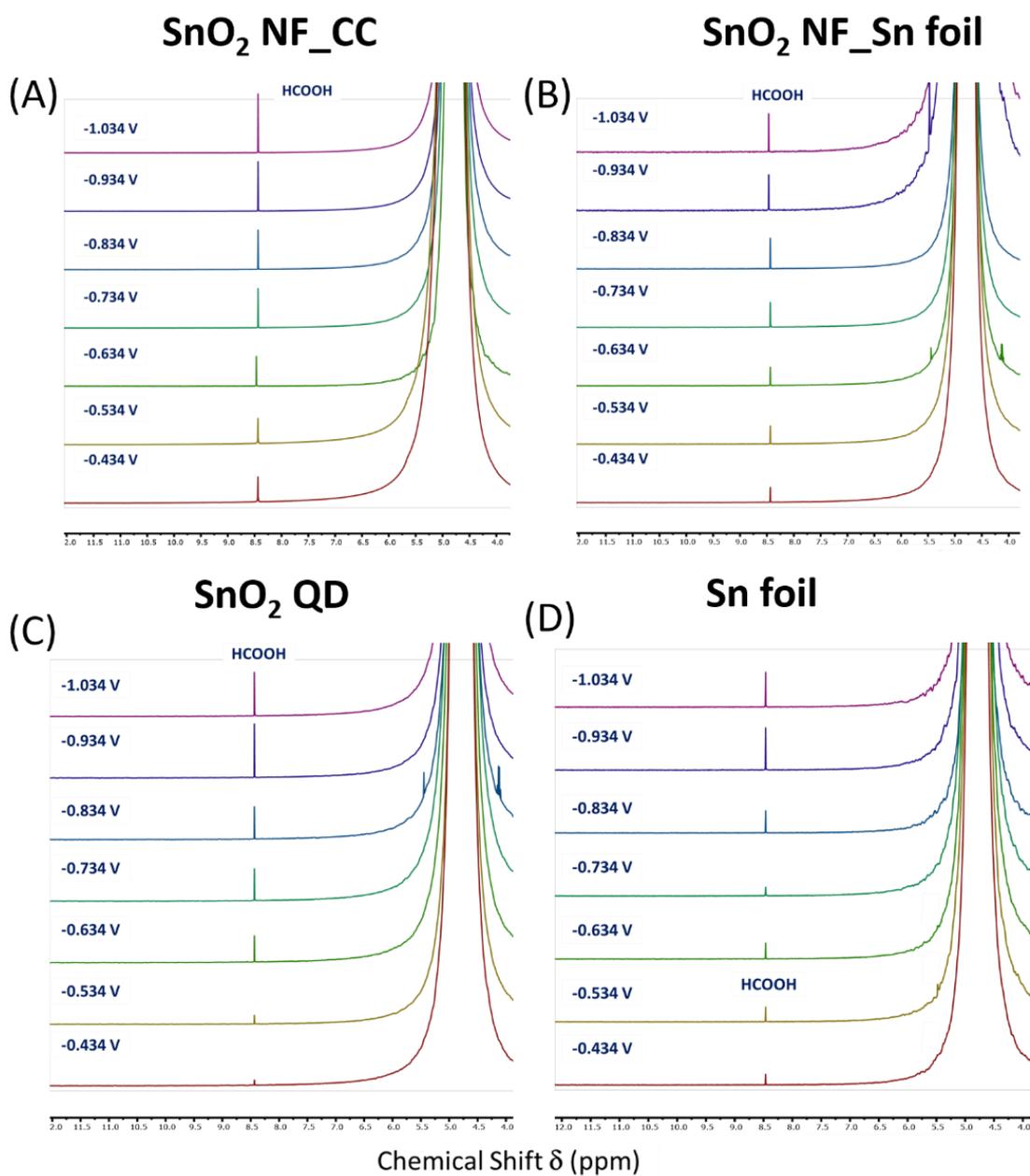
**Fig. S5.** (A) Nitrogen adsorption–desorption isotherms of NF and QDs at 77 K. (B) Pore size distributions of QDs and NF.



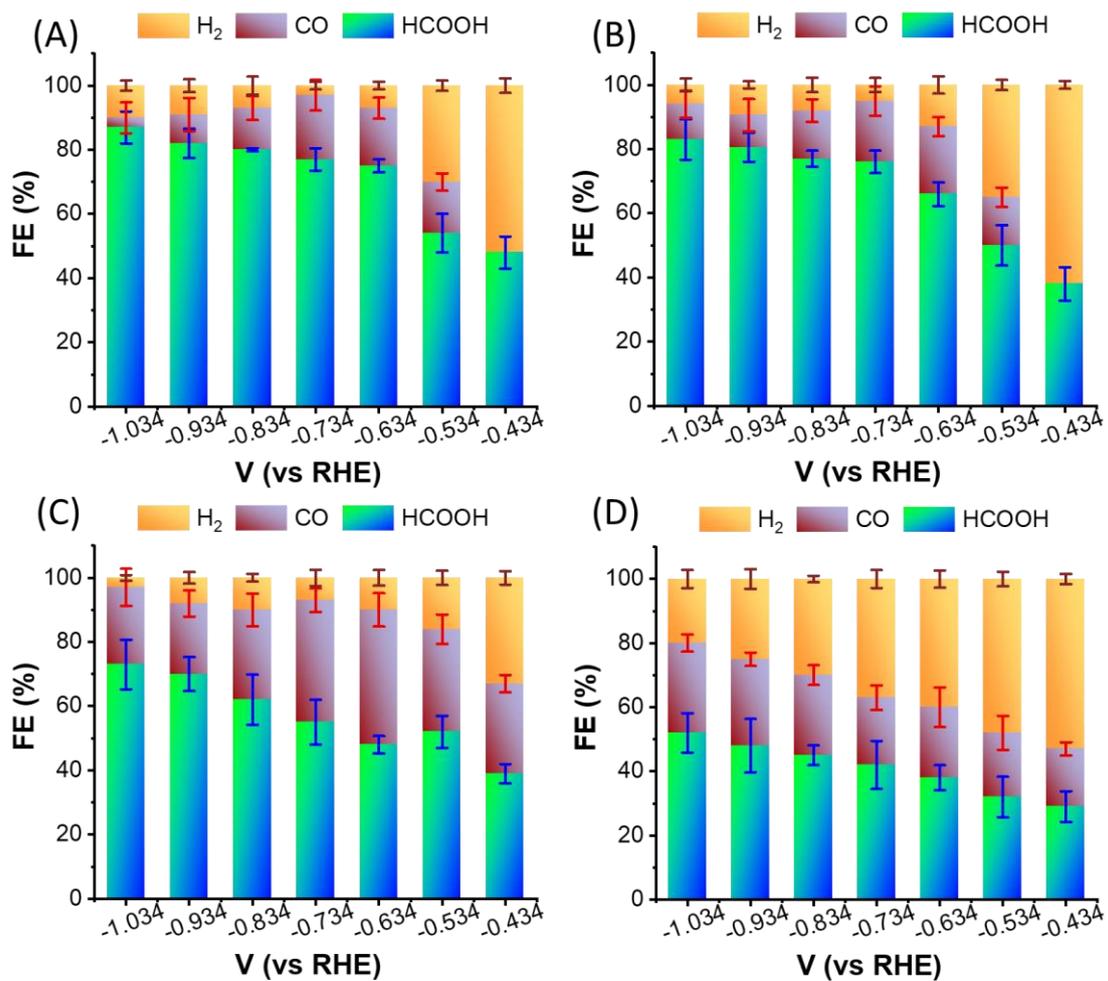
**Fig. S6.** LSV curves in Ar (HER) or CO<sub>2</sub>-saturated 0.5 M NaHCO<sub>3</sub> at a scan rate of 10 mVs<sup>-1</sup> for (A) bare Sn foil, (B) SnO<sub>2</sub> QDs, (C) SnO<sub>2</sub> NF over Sn foil and (D) SnO<sub>2</sub> NF over carbon cloth.



**Fig. S7.** Chronoamperometry studies of (A) SnO<sub>2</sub> NF deposited over CC, (B) SnO<sub>2</sub> NF grown over Sn foil, (C) SnO<sub>2</sub> QDs deposited over CC and (D) bare cleaned Sn -foil for CO<sub>2</sub>RR at variable potentials.



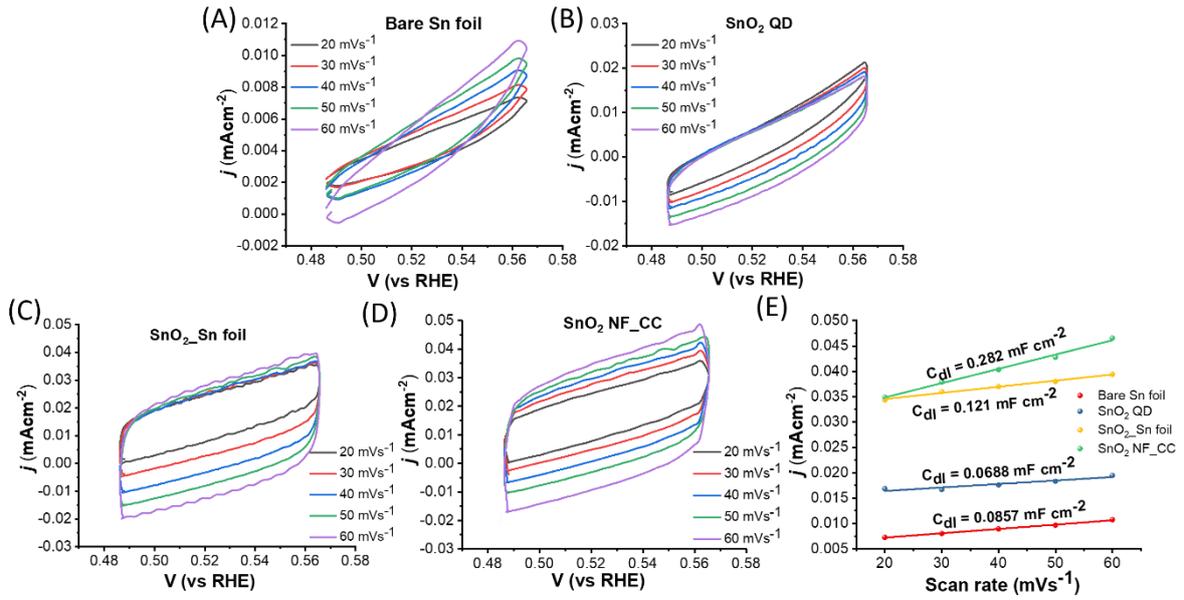
**Fig. S8.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of products formed after chronoamperometry studies during  $\text{CO}_2\text{RR}$  with various electrocatalysts.



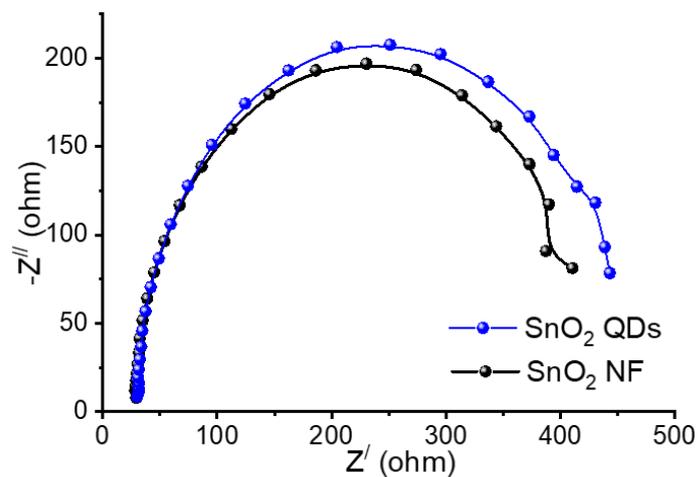
**Fig. S9.** FE of all products over (A) SnO<sub>2</sub> NF\_CC, (B) SnO<sub>2</sub> NF\_Sn Foil, (C) SnO<sub>2</sub> QD, (D) Bare Sn Foil.

**Table S1. Comparison of the Sn – based CO<sub>2</sub>RR electrocatalysts for formate production**

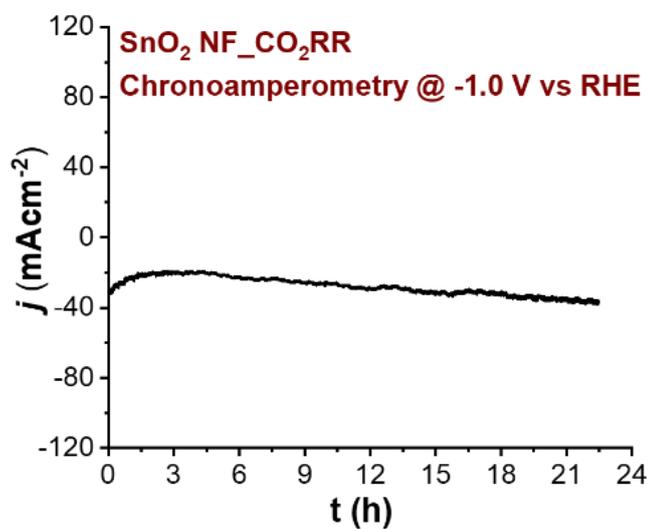
| Catalysts                             | Potential (vs RHE) @ current density           | Electrolyte  | Durability | FE <sub>HCOO<sup>-</sup></sub> | Cell Type                    | Ref.      |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| SnO <sub>2</sub> NF                   | -1.2 V @ 45 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>                | 0.5 M NaHCO <sub>3</sub>   | 24 h       | ~90%                           | 3-electrode H-type Cell      | This Work |
| P-Sn/SnO <sub>x</sub>                 | -0.97 V @ 315.0 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>            | 1.0 M KOH  | 120 h      | 90 %                           | GDE Flow Cell                | 10        |
| π-SnS                                 | -1.5 V @ 730 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>               | 0.5 M K <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> +H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> | 12 h       | 92.15 %                        | GDE Flow Cell                | 11        |
| Sn-Cu/SnO <sub>x</sub>                | -0.7 V @ 406.7 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>             | 1.0 M KOH  | 40 h       | 94 %                           | GDE Flow Cell                | 12        |
| Bi <sub>1</sub> -O-Sn <sub>1</sub> @C | -1.5 V @ 310 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>               | 1.0 m KHCO <sub>3</sub>  | 5 h        | 93 %                           | Flow Cell                    | 13        |
| SnO/Cu <sub>x</sub> O/CF/ CDL         | -1.2 V @ 1152 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>              | 1.0 M KOH  | 20 h       | 99 %                           | Flow Cell                    | 14        |
| Cu-SnO <sub>2</sub>                   | -0.8 V @ 500 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>               | 1.0 M KOH  | 50 min     | 91%                            | GDE Flow Cell                | 15        |
| Cu <sub>6</sub> Sn <sub>5</sub>       | -1.8 V @ 1500 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>              | 3 M KCl +0.05 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>                       | 300 h      | 91%                            | Flow Cell                    | 16        |
| Sn(S)/Au                              | -0.75 V @ 55 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>               | 0.1 M KHCO <sub>3</sub>  | -          | 93.3%                          | 3 – electrode undivided Cell | 17        |
| AgSn/SnO <sub>x</sub>                 | -0.8 V @ 16 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>                | 0.5 M KHCO <sub>3</sub>  | 25 h       | 80 %                           | 3 – electrode H – type Cell  | 18        |
| Sn <sub>56.3</sub> Pb <sub>43.7</sub> | -2.0 V (vs Ag/AgCl) @ 45.7 mA cm <sup>-2</sup> | 0.5 M KHCO <sub>3</sub>  | 2 h        | 79.8 %                         | 3 – electrode H – type Cell  | 19        |



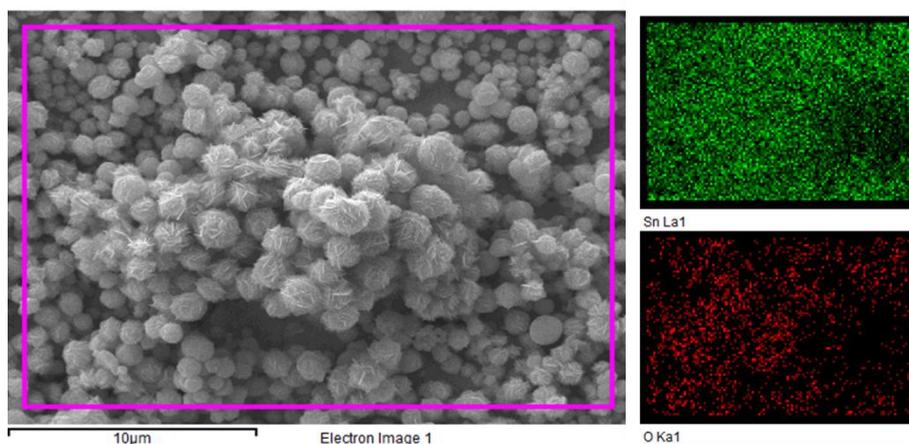
**Fig. S10.** Cyclic voltammograms (CVs) in non-Faradaic region of catalysis at scan rate of 20, 30, 40, 50 and 60 mVs<sup>-1</sup> in CO<sub>2</sub> saturated 0.5 M NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution of (A) bare Sn-foil, (B) SnO<sub>2</sub> QDs, (C) SnO<sub>2</sub> NF over Sn foil and (D) SnO<sub>2</sub> NF deposited over carbon cloth. (E) The linear fit of  $\frac{\Delta j}{2}$  vs scan rate plot of all the catalysts. The slopes give double layer capacitance (C<sub>dl</sub>) values of corresponding catalysts. The following equation was used to derive the ECSA values form C<sub>dl</sub> values:  $ECSA = \frac{C_{dl}}{0.04}$



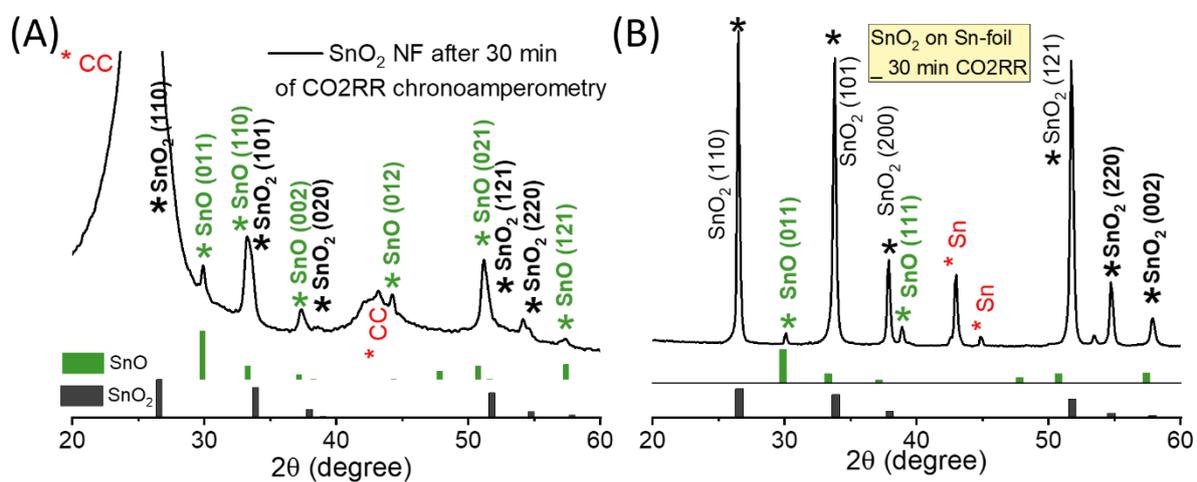
**Fig. S11.** Nyquist plots of the SnO<sub>2</sub> QDs and NFs at a potential of -1.6 V vs Ag/AgCl in CO<sub>2</sub> saturated 0.5 M NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution.



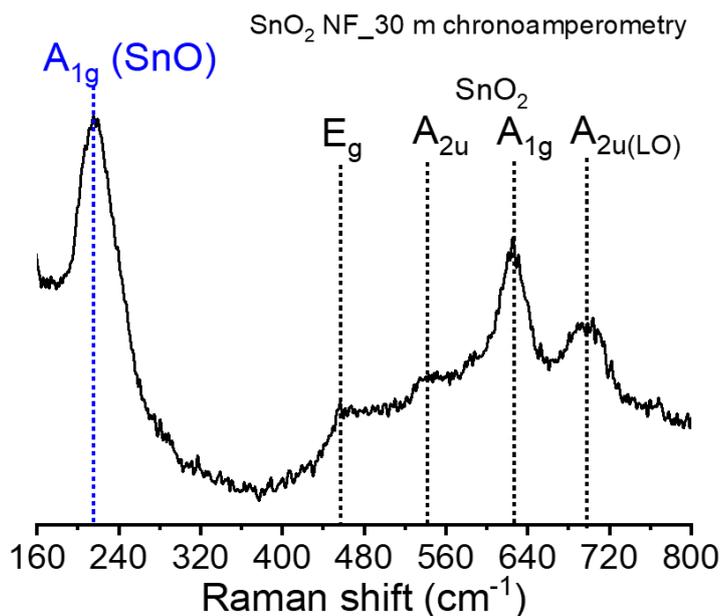
**Fig. S12.** Chronoamperometry curve of SnO<sub>2</sub> NF deposited over CC for 22h at -1.0 V vs RHE potential in presence of continuous CO<sub>2</sub> purging.



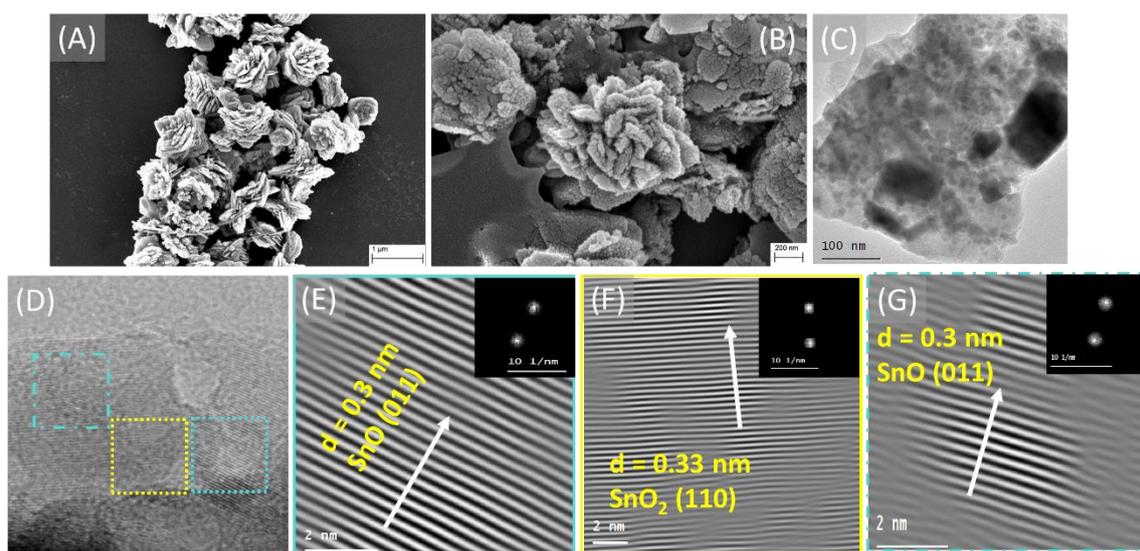
**Fig. S13.** SEM image and corresponding element mapping showing some degradation of flower morphology after 22 h of electrolysis.



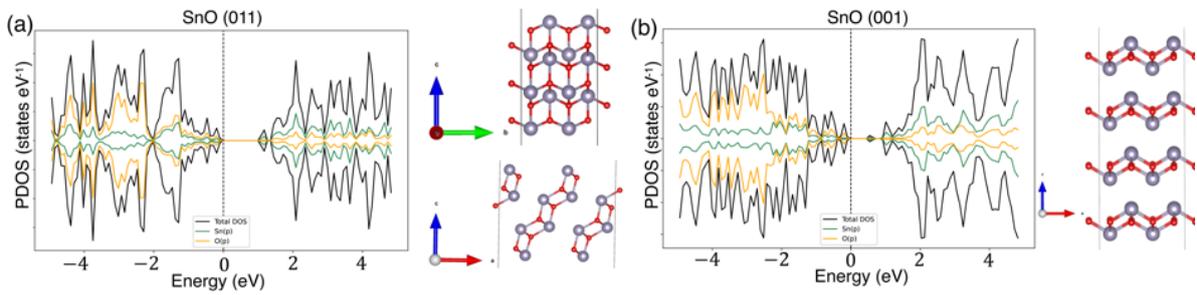
**Fig. S14:** XRD pattern of (A) SnO<sub>2</sub> NF deposited over carbon cloth and (B) SnO<sub>2</sub> NF grown over Sn-foil after 30 min of chronoamperometry study in CO<sub>2</sub>RR condition.



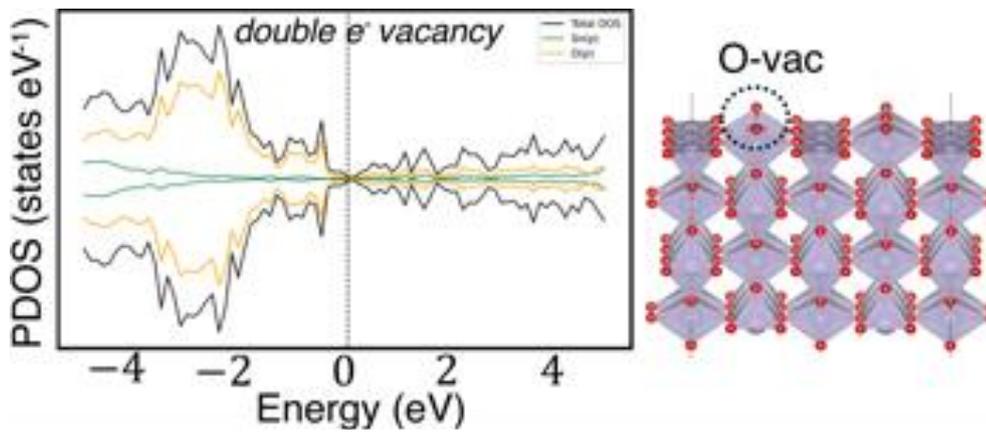
**Fig. S15.** Raman spectrum of SnO<sub>2</sub> NF after 30 m chronoamperometry study in CO<sub>2</sub>RR condition.



**Fig. S16:** SEM image of (A) SnO<sub>2</sub> nanoflowers and (B) a single nanoflower after 30 min of chronoamperometry study. (C) TEM image of a single nano-petal shows polycrystallinity with formation of multiple grain boundary. (D) HRTEM image of corner of single nanopetal. (E) HRTEM image with corresponding FFT from cyan squared area in Fig. (D) showing presence of (011) plane of SnO. (F) HRTEM image with FFT from yellow squared area in Fig. (D) showing presence of (110) plane of SnO<sub>2</sub>. (G) HRTEM image with FFT from dashed cyan square area in Fig. (D) showing the presence of (011) plane of SnO.



**Fig. S17:** Partial density of states of a) SnO (011) b) SnO (001) and their optimized surface.



**Fig. S18:** Partial density of states of SnO<sub>2</sub> with O-vacancy (double electrons), and their optimized surface.

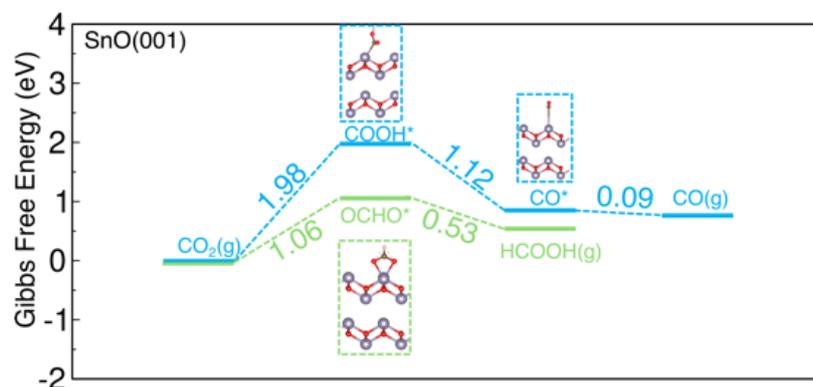


Fig. S19: Gibbs free energy profile for SnO (001) surface for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction reaction.

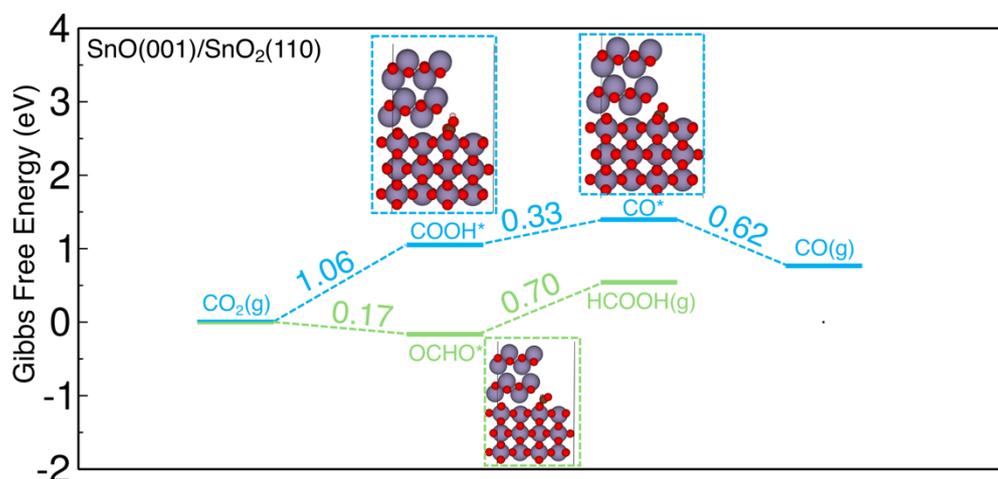
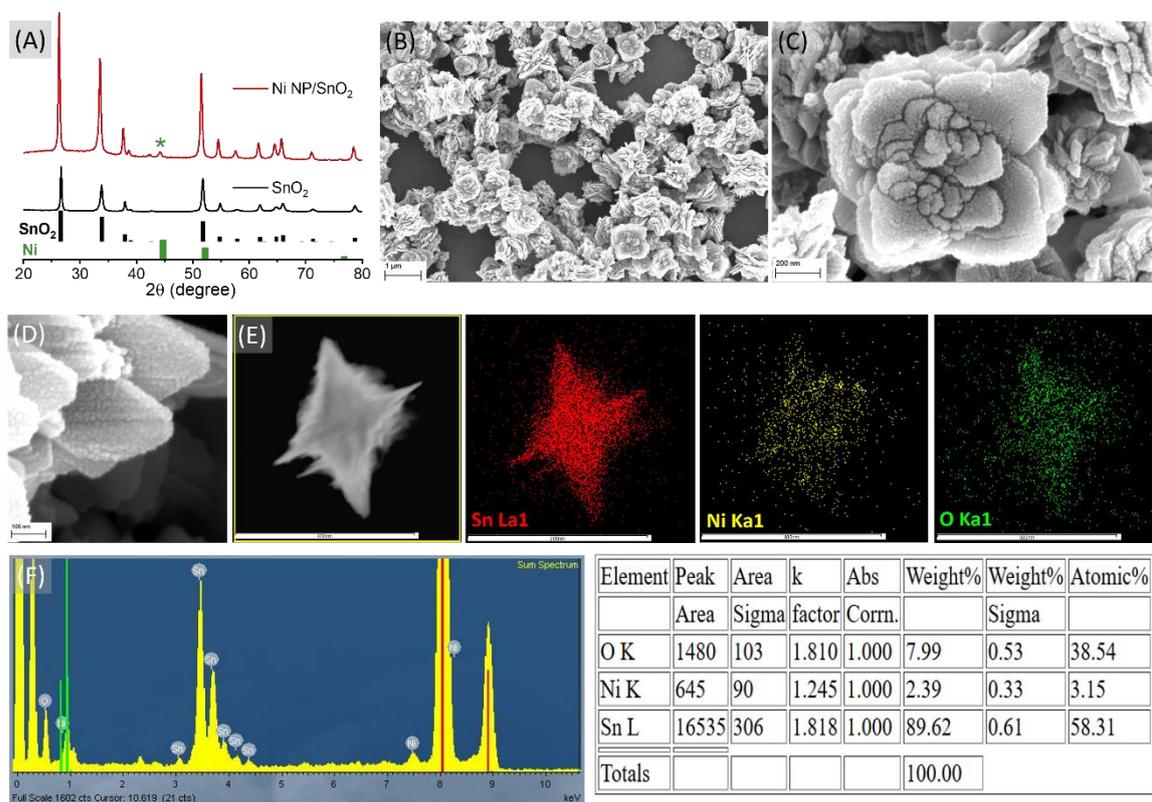
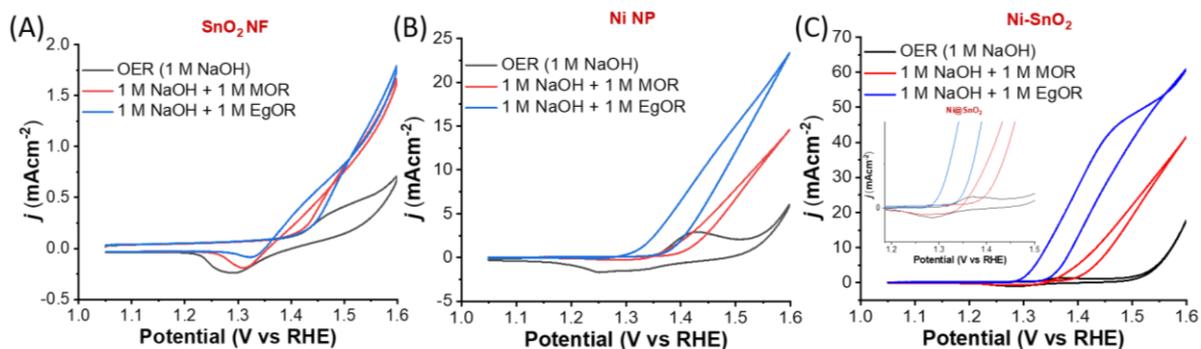


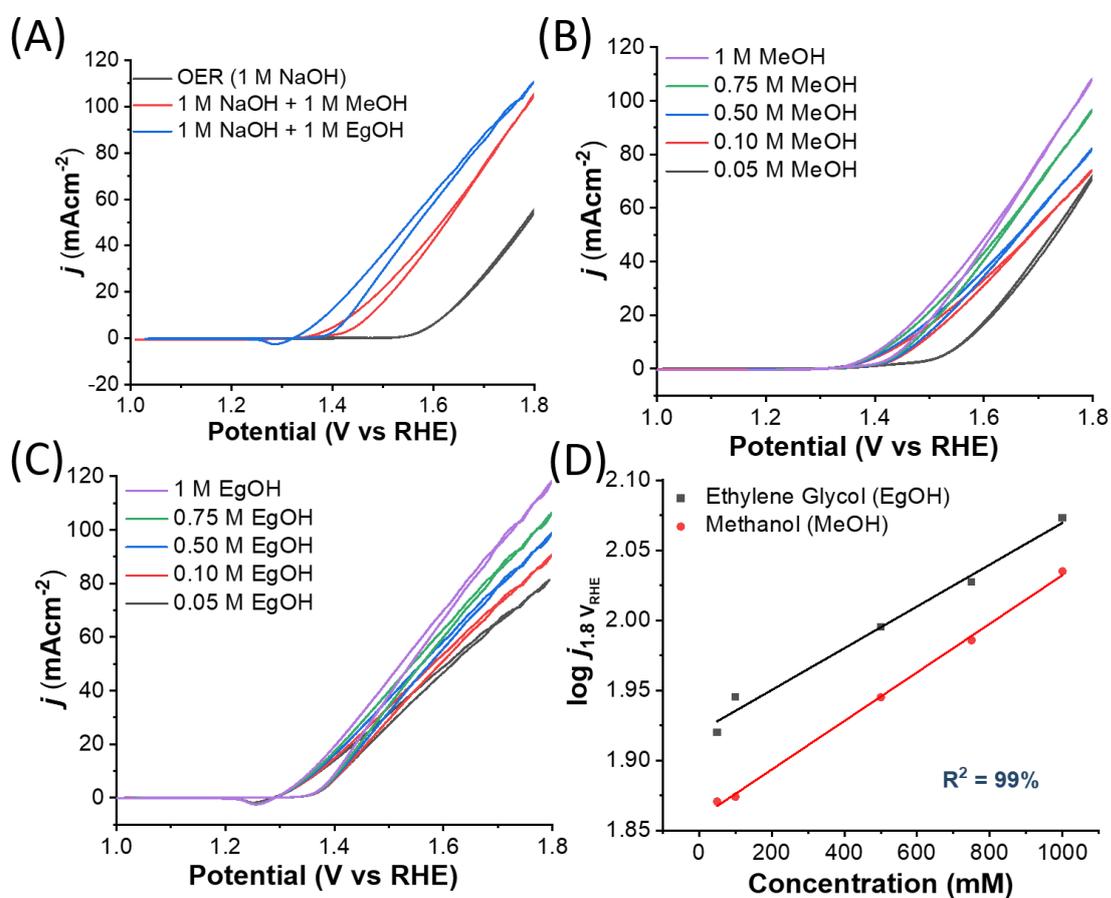
Fig. S20: Gibbs free energy profile for SnO(001)/SnO<sub>2</sub>(110) surface for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction reaction.



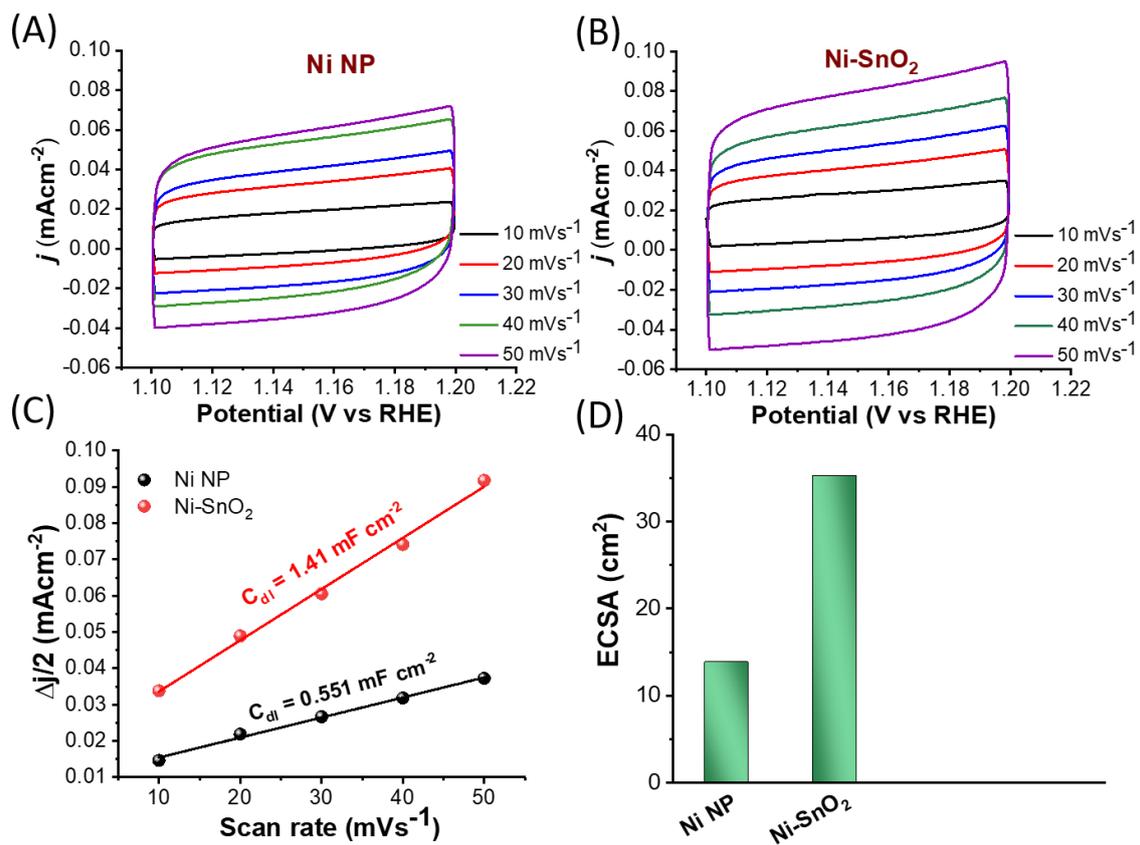
**Fig. S21.** (A) XRD pattern of Ni-SnO<sub>2</sub> heterostructures showing diffraction peaks corresponding to both Ni and SnO<sub>2</sub>. (B) SEM image of Ni-decorated SnO<sub>2</sub> nanoflowers on Sn foil. (C) SEM image of a single nanoflower, and (D) magnified view of nanopetals, confirming the presence of Ni on SnO<sub>2</sub>. (E) STEM image of an individual nanoflower with corresponding elemental maps of Sn, Ni, and O. (F) EDS spectrum revealing the presence of Ni in the nanoflowers, with an atomic percentage of 3.15%.



**Fig. S22.** Electrocatalytic oxidation activity (CV curves) for (A) SnO<sub>2</sub> NFs, (B) Ni nanoparticles NPs, and (C) Ni-SnO<sub>2</sub> heterostructures toward water oxidation (OER), methanol oxidation (MOR), and ethylene glycol oxidation (EgOR) in 1 M NaOH. The inset in (C) highlights the overlap of MOR and EgOR onset potentials with the Ni<sup>2+</sup> → Ni<sup>3+</sup> redox peak.



**Fig. S23.** (A) CV curves of Ni-SnO<sub>2</sub> NFs in 1 M NaOH, 1 M NaOH + 1 M CH<sub>3</sub>OH, and 1 M NaOH + 1 M ethylene glycol. (B) CV profiles of Ni-SnO<sub>2</sub> NFs at a scan rate of 10 mVs<sup>-1</sup> in 1 M NaOH with (B) varying methanol concentrations and (C) varying ethylene glycol concentrations. (D) Logarithmic current density ( $\log j$ ) versus concentration plot for methanol and ethylene glycol oxidation on the Ni-SnO<sub>2</sub> anode.

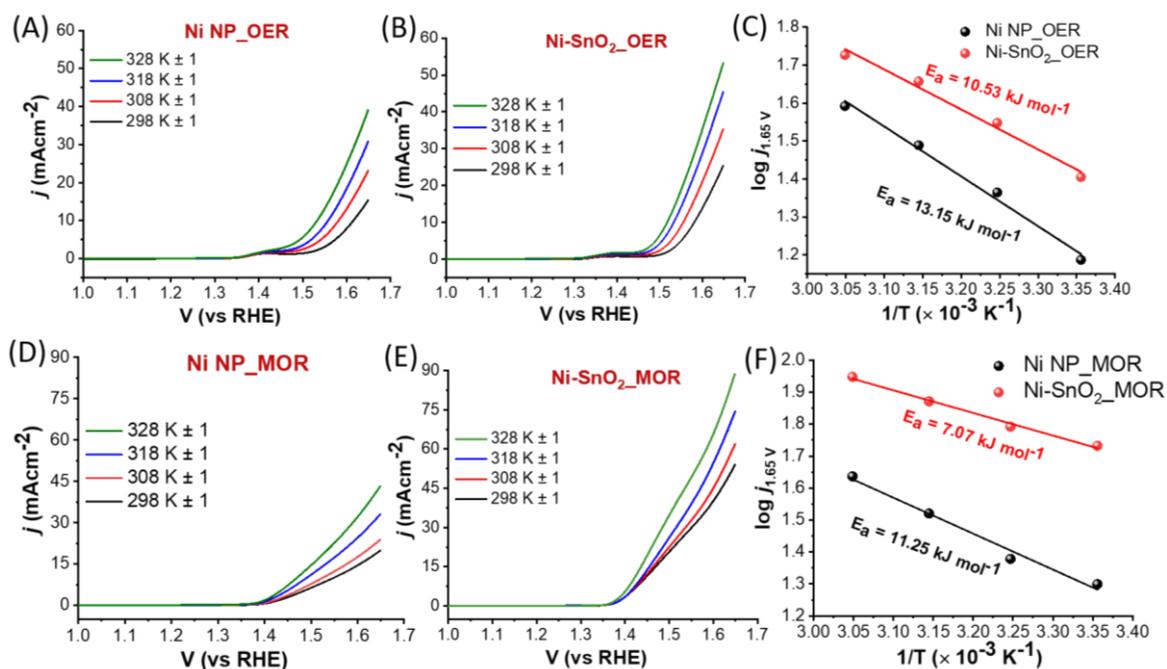


**Fig. S24.** (A, B) CV curves at varying scan rates in the non-Faradaic region for (A) Ni NPs and (B) the Ni-SnO<sub>2</sub> heterostructure. (C) Linear fitting of the  $\Delta j$  (anodic vs. cathodic current difference) versus scan rate to determine the double-layer capacitance ( $C_{dl}$ ). (D) Comparative bar plots of the electrochemical active surface area (ECSA) values.

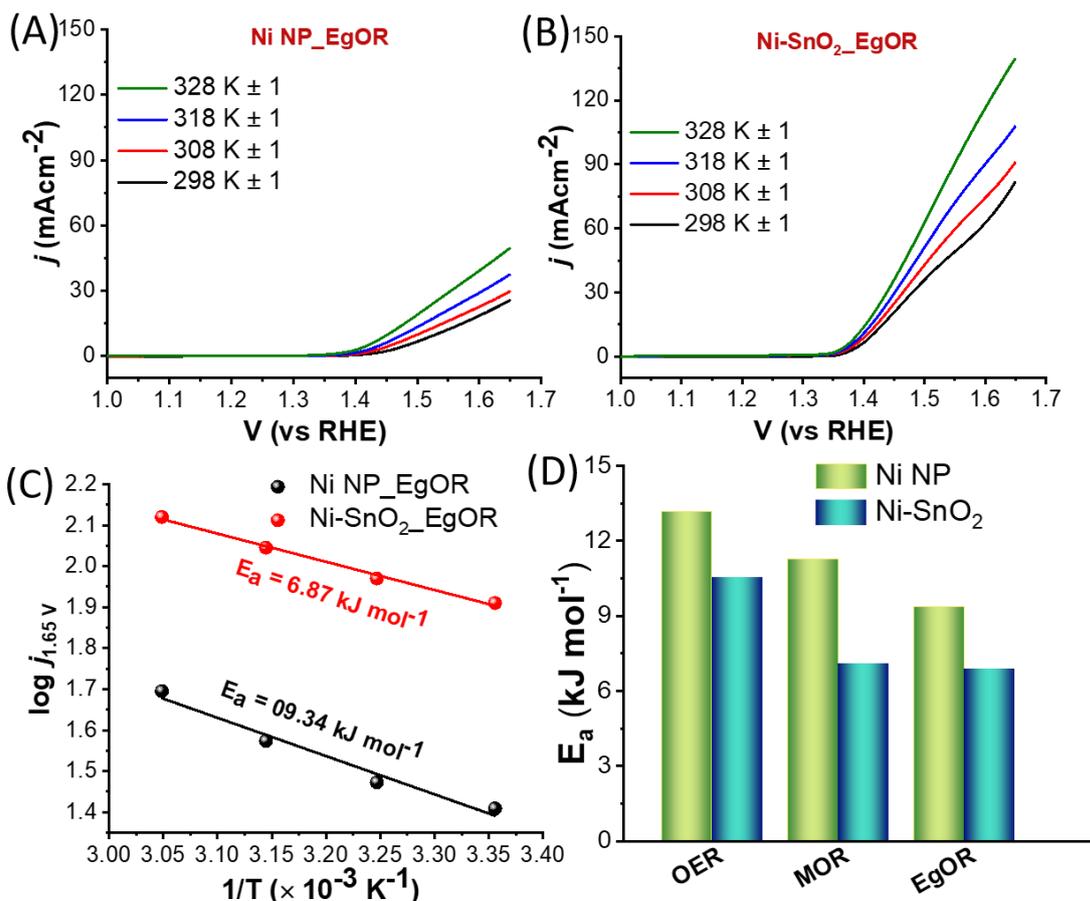
**Table S2.** Charge redistribution before and after adsorption for methanol and ethylene glycol on Ni, SnO<sub>2</sub>, and Ni-SnO<sub>2</sub> surfaces.

| System  | O ( $\Delta Q$ )   | H (OH) ( $\Delta Q$ )                              | C ( $\Delta Q$ )                            | Other H ( $\Delta Q$ )  | Surface Metal $\Delta Q$                       |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Methanol on Ni</b>                             | -1.25 – (-1.10)<br>= -0.15 e                                   | 0.70 – 0.59 =<br>+0.11 e                           | 0.19 – 0.37 = -<br>0.18 e                   | +0.05 to +0.10<br>e each  | Ni: ~-0.01 to -<br>0.02 e                      |
| <b>Ethylene Glycol on Ni</b>                      | -1.36 – (-1.15)<br>= -0.21 e; -<br>1.23 – (-1.10)<br>= -0.13 e | 0.83 – 0.61 =<br>+0.22 e; 0.67 –<br>0.58 = +0.09 e | 0.33/0.35 –<br>0.46/0.44 = ~-<br>0.11 e avg | +0.02 to +0.07<br>e each  | Ni: ~-0.03 e                                   |
| <b>Methanol on SnO<sub>2</sub></b>                | -1.17 – (-1.10)<br>= -0.07 e                                   | 0.57 – 0.59 = -<br>0.02 e                          | 0.07 – 0.37 = -<br>0.30 e                   | 0.12, 0.18,<br>0.24 – 0.04 –<br>0.06 = ~+0.10<br>to +0.20 e<br>each | Sn: 2.04, 2.14<br>– 2.10 = ~-<br>0.06, +0.04 e |
| <b>Ethylene Glycol on SnO<sub>2</sub></b>         | -1.15 – (-1.15)<br>= 0 e; -0.95 –<br>(-1.10) = +0.15<br>e      | 0.71 – 0.61 =<br>+0.10 e; 0.64 –<br>0.58 = +0.06 e | 0.32/0.34 –<br>0.46/0.44 = ~-<br>0.12 e avg | +0.02 to +0.06<br>e each  | Sn: +0.13 and<br>+0.08 e                       |
| <b>Methanol on Ni (Ni/SnO<sub>2</sub>)</b>        | -1.25 – (-1.10)<br>= -0.15 e                                   | 0.75 – 0.59 =<br>+0.16 e                           | 0.17 – 0.37 = -<br>0.20 e                   | +0.05 to +0.10<br>e each  | Ni: 0.03 →<br>0.17 = +0.14 e<br>lost           |
| <b>Ethylene Glycol on Ni (Ni/SnO<sub>2</sub>)</b> | -1.26 – (-1.15)<br>= -0.11 e; -<br>1.23 – (-1.10)<br>= -0.13 e | 0.74 – 0.61 =<br>+0.13 e; 0.69 –<br>0.58 = +0.11 e | 0.32/0.34 –<br>0.46/0.44 = ~-<br>0.12 e avg | +0.02 to +0.08<br>e each  | Ni: 0.03 →<br>0.19 and 0.10<br>= ~+0.16 e lost |

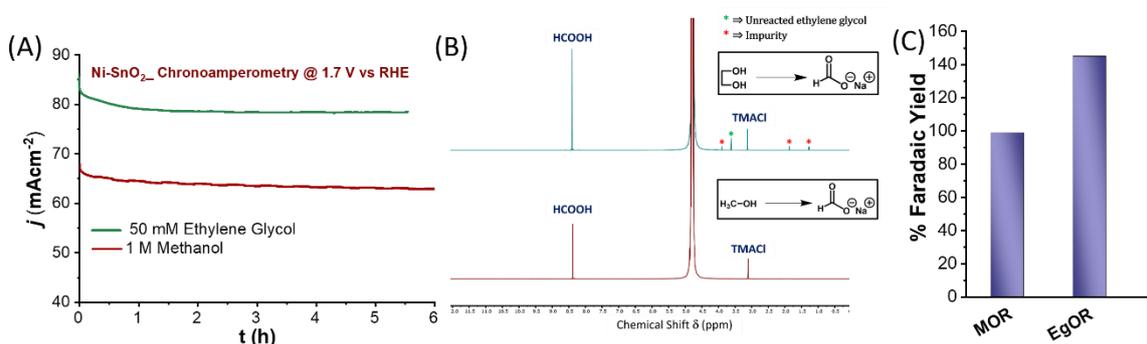
Bader charge analysis reveals distinct charge redistribution patterns for methanol and ethylene glycol adsorbed on Ni, SnO<sub>2</sub>, and Ni-SnO<sub>2</sub> surfaces. On pure Ni, methanol adsorption leads to a charge gain of ~0.15 e on the oxygen atom, with nearby Ni atoms donating a modest ~0.01–0.02 e. Ethylene glycol binds more strongly via both hydroxyl groups, with the two oxygen atoms gaining a total of ~0.34 e and the Ni surface donating ~0.03 e, consistent with a bidentate interaction. On SnO<sub>2</sub>, methanol shows minimal charge redistribution, while ethylene glycol transfers ~0.15 e from one oxygen atom to the surface, and nearby Sn atoms gain a total of ~0.2 e. In contrast, the Ni-SnO<sub>2</sub> heterostructure exhibits enhanced interfacial charge transfer. When methanol is adsorbed, the oxygen atom gains ~0.15 e and Ni atoms at the interface lose ~0.14 e. For ethylene glycol, the two oxygen atoms gain ~0.24 e in total, while interfacial Ni atoms donate ~0.16 e. Although the net charge gain on ethylene glycol is slightly lower than on pure Ni, the significantly higher electron donation from Ni-SnO<sub>2</sub> indicates stronger electronic activation at the interface. These results support the DFT-calculated adsorption energies and highlight the synergistic effect of the oxide support in modulating surface reactivity.



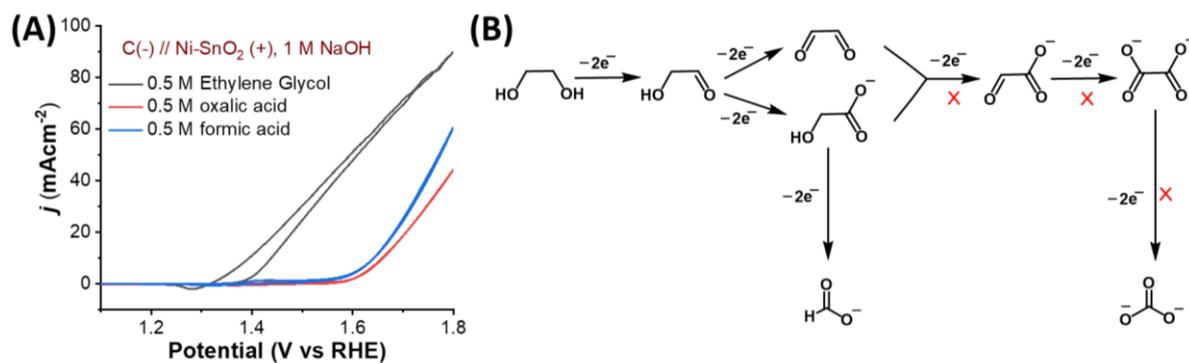
**Fig. S25.** Linear sweep voltammetry (LSV) curves recorded at various temperatures for (A) Ni nanoparticles (Ni NP) and (B) Ni-SnO<sub>2</sub> heterostructure in 1 M NaOH at a scan rate of 10 mVs<sup>-1</sup> for the oxygen evolution reaction (OER). (C) Corresponding Arrhenius plots ( $\log j$  vs.  $1/T$ ) for the OER activity of the catalysts. LSV curves obtained at different temperatures for (D) Ni NP and (E) Ni-SnO<sub>2</sub> heterostructure in 1 M NaOH at a scan rate of 10 mVs<sup>-1</sup> for the methanol electrooxidation reaction (MOR). (F) Corresponding Arrhenius plots ( $\log j$  vs.  $1/T$ ) for MOR performance.



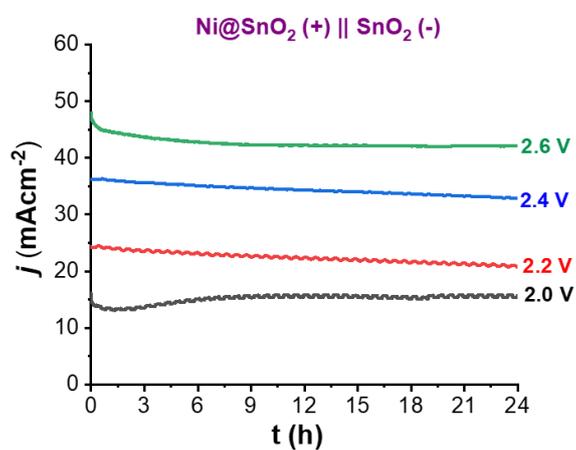
**Fig. S26.** LSV curves at different temperatures for (A) Ni NP and (B) Ni-SnO<sub>2</sub> heterostructure in 1M NaOH at a scan rate of 10 mVs<sup>-1</sup> for EgOR. (C) The corresponding Arrhenius comparison plot ( $\log j$  Vs  $1/T$ ) of the catalysts. (D) Comparative activation energy plots of OER, MOR and EgOR.



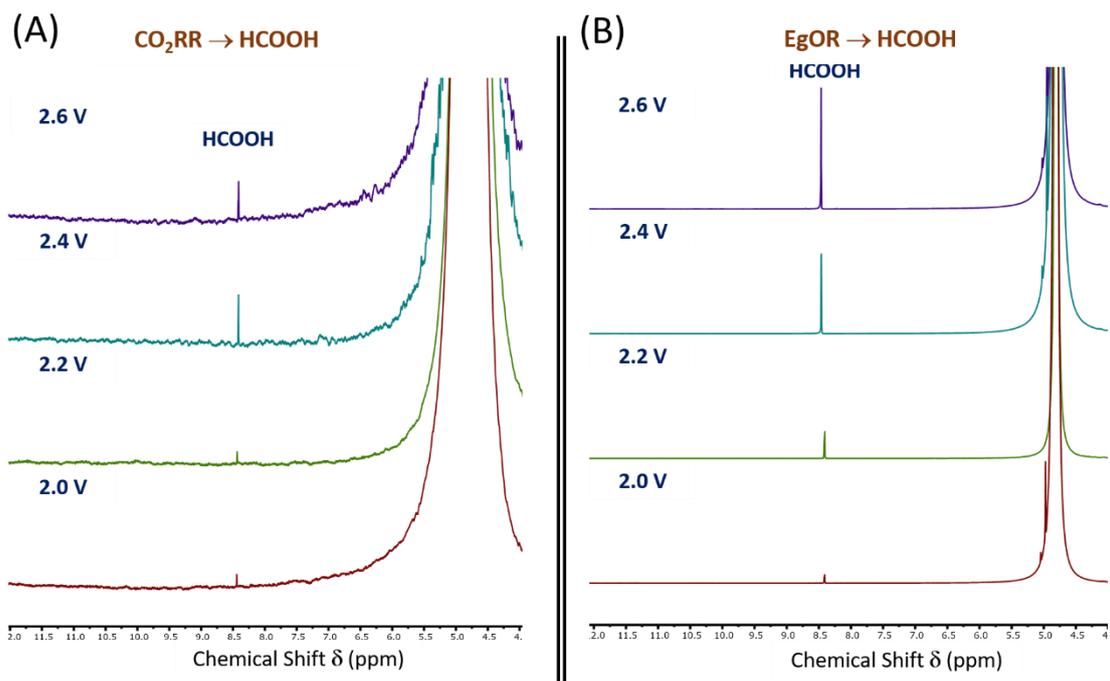
**Fig. S27.** (A) Chronoamperometry curves recorded during bulk electrolysis of ethylene glycol oxidation (EgOR) and methanol oxidation (MOR) in 6 mL of 1 M NaOH containing 50 mM ethylene glycol and 1 M methanol, respectively, at 1.7 V vs. RHE using the Ni-SnO<sub>2</sub> electrocatalyst. (B) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (500 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O-locked) of the post-electrolysis solution, showing the formation of formic acid from both ethylene glycol and methanol. (C) Faradaic yield (%) of formic acid produced via MOR and EgOR at high current density.



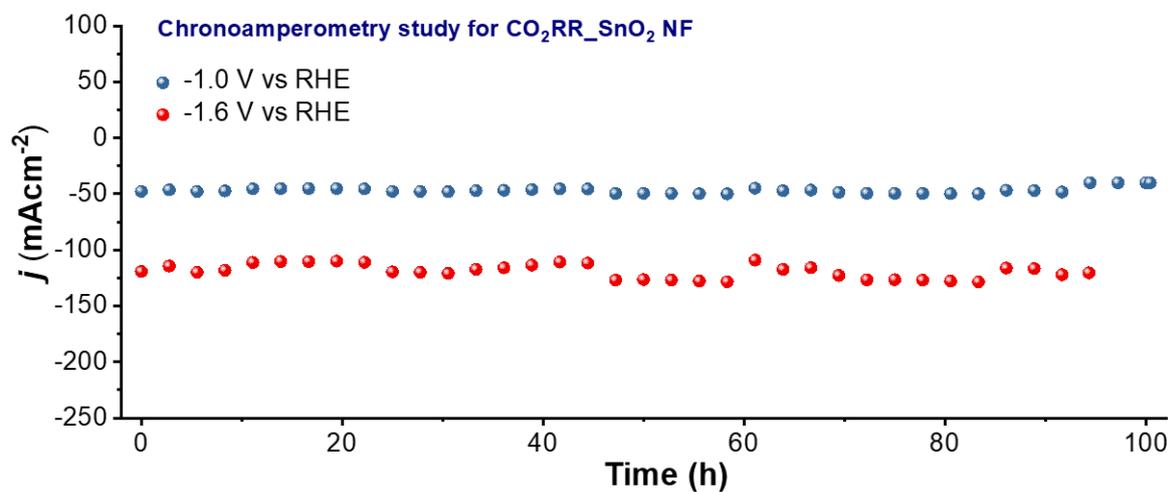
**Fig. S28.** (A) Cyclic voltammetry (CV) curves showing the electro-oxidation of ethylene glycol (EgOR), oxalic acid, and formic acid using Ni-SnO<sub>2</sub> as the anode electrocatalyst. (B) Proposed reaction pathways derived from the CV data presented in panel (A).



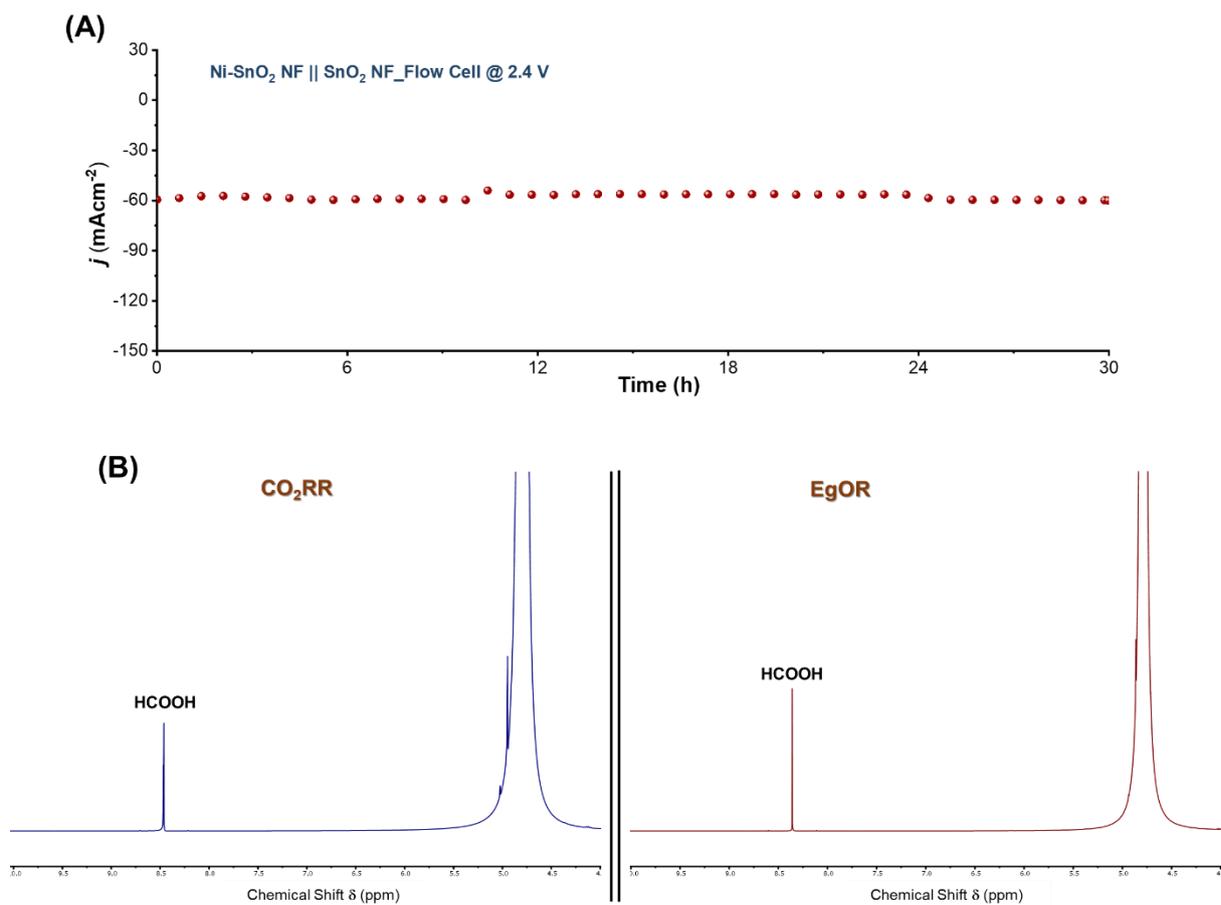
**Fig. S29.** Chronoamperometric curves recorded during bulk hybrid CO<sub>2</sub>RR electrolysis coupled with EgOR at various applied potentials.



**Fig. S30.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of the post electrolytic solution of hybrid  $\text{CO}_2\text{RR}$  where cathode reaction was  $\text{CO}_2\text{RR}$  and anode reaction EgOR. The NMR spectra show the formation of formic acid both from cathodic (A) and anodic (B) reaction when bulk electrolysis were performed at four different potentials.



**Fig. S31.** Chronoamperometry plot at different potential for  $\text{CO}_2\text{RR} | \text{OER}$  system with  $\text{SnO}_2$  NF in a GDL based flow cell electrolyzer for 100h.



**Fig. S32.** (A) Chronoamperometric plot of the hybrid CO<sub>2</sub>RR | EgOR system in a flow cell configuration at 2.4 V. (B) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of the post catholyte and anolyte solutions (from left to right) of hybrid CO<sub>2</sub>RR flow cell.

**Table:3. Comparison of the electrocatalysts for the coproduction of formate from paired CO<sub>2</sub>RR- MOR, EgOR electrolysis.**

| Cell Configuration<br>Anode (+)    Cathode (-)  | Cell Type                           | Anodic<br>reaction/<br>Product  | Cathodic<br>reaction/<br>Product | Cell<br>Potential @<br>current<br>density | Potential<br>Advantage<br>compared to<br>OER    CO <sub>2</sub> RR | FE <sub>HCOO<sup>-</sup></sub><br>(Anode /<br>Cathode) | Ref.         |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|--|--------------|
| Ni-SnO <sub>2</sub> NF    SnO <sub>2</sub> NF   | H-type Cell                         | EgOH/<br>Formate                | CO <sub>2</sub> RR/<br>Formate   | 2.083 V @<br>20 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>       | 430 mV @<br>10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>                                 | 93 % /<br>85 %   | This<br>Work |
| Ni-SnO <sub>2</sub> NF    SnO <sub>2</sub> NF   | GDE Flow<br>Cell                    | EgOH/<br>Formate                | CO <sub>2</sub> RR/<br>Formate   | 1.91 V @<br>20 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>        | 480 mV @<br>20 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>                                 | 95 % /<br>88 %   | This<br>Work |
| NiCo <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>    SnO <sub>2</sub>                                  | Homemade<br>H- type<br>electrolyzer | PET-derived<br>EgOH/<br>Formate | CO <sub>2</sub> RR/<br>Formate   | 1.9 V @<br>20 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>         | 180 mV @<br>20 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>                                 | 90 % /<br>82 %   | 20           |
| Ni(OH) <sub>2</sub> – V <sub>0</sub>    Bi/Bi <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>             | Solar driven<br>flow reactor        | PET-derived<br>EgOH/<br>Formate | CO <sub>2</sub> RR/<br>Formate   | 2.7 V @<br>100 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>        | -  | 86 % /<br>91 %   | 21           |
| CuCoO@rGO   <br>BOC@rGO   | H-type Cell                         | PET-derived<br>EgOH/<br>Formate | CO <sub>2</sub> RR/<br>Formate   | 1.9 V @<br>10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>         | 230 mV @<br>10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>                                 | 85.5 % /<br>97.4 %                                     | 22           |
| Cu(F)@CuO@Ni(OH) <sub>2</sub>   <br>Cu(F)@Pd-SnO                                      | H-type Cell                         | EgOH/<br>Formate                | CO <sub>2</sub> RR/<br>Formate   | 1.63 V @<br>10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>        | 180 mV @<br>10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>                                 | 75 % /<br>89 %   | 23           |
| NiCo <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -NF    BiOI-C  | MEA<br>electrolyzer                 | PET-derived<br>EgOH/<br>Formate | CO <sub>2</sub> RR/<br>Formate   | 2.7 V @<br>250 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>        | 240 mV @<br>30 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>                                 | 90 % /<br>92.3 %                                       | 24           |
| Au/Ni(OH) <sub>2</sub>    Bi  | MEA<br>electrolyzer                 | PET-derived<br>EgOH/<br>Formate | CO <sub>2</sub> RR/<br>Formate   | 2.18 V @<br>100 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>       | -  | 98 % /<br>90 %   | 25           |
| Vo-BOC-NS    Ni <sub>3</sub> N-Co <sub>3</sub> N                                      | Flow Cell                           | MeOH/<br>Formate                | CO <sub>2</sub> RR/<br>Formate   | 2.27 V @ 50<br>mA cm <sup>-2</sup>        | -  | 100 % /<br>90 %  | 26           |
| Bi <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> -SnO@CuO   <br>Bi <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> -SnO@CuO | H-type Cell                         | MeOH/<br>Formate                | CO <sub>2</sub> RR/<br>Formate   | 1.45 V @ 30<br>mA cm <sup>-2</sup>        | >200 mV @<br>10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>                                | 97.5 % /<br>94.7 %                                     | 27           |
| CuSn    CuSn  | H-type Cell                         | MeOH/<br>Formate                | CO <sub>2</sub> RR/<br>Formate   | 3.23 V @<br>100 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>       | 610 mV @<br>100 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>                                | 99.9 % /<br>87.3 %                                     | 28           |
| Ni-BDC/NF    Bi-<br>BDC/GDL   | Flow Cell                           | MeOH/<br>Formate                | CO <sub>2</sub> RR/<br>Formate   | 3.23 V @<br>100 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>       | 430 mV @<br>10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>                                 | 95 % /<br>94 %   | 29           |
| Mn/CoOOH    Ov-rich<br>BOC  | Flow Cell                           | EgOH/<br>Formate                | CO <sub>2</sub> RR/<br>Formate   | 2.2 V @ 150<br>mA cm <sup>-2</sup>        | -  | 94.2 % /<br>95.3 %                                     | 30           |
| 3D Ni foam    Bi <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>   | Flow Cell                           | EgOH/<br>Formate                | CO <sub>2</sub> RR/<br>Formate   | 2.91 V @<br>1 A cm <sup>-2</sup>          | -  | 93.7 % /<br>86 %                                       | 31           |
| NiOOH <sub>5</sub> /NF    Bi <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>                             | Flow Cell                           | EgOH/<br>Formate                | CO <sub>2</sub> RR/<br>Formate   | ~2.45 V @<br>100 A cm <sup>-2</sup>       | -  | 90 % /<br>70 %   | 32           |
| Mo-Ni <sub>2</sub> P/NF    RC-Bi/CP   | Flow Cell                           | EgOH/<br>Formate                | CO <sub>2</sub> RR/<br>Formate   | ~2.0 V @<br>100 A cm <sup>-2</sup>        | 259 mV @<br>100 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>                                | 94 % /<br>92 %   | 33           |

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