

May 2011 Update: Biochar in Western Kenya and ACON

This brings income to the rural production in the biochar systems farming area and beyond. The wastes from homes are effectively utilized leaving the environment clean and safe. The dung from the different domestic animals are properly utilized for the production of the useful farmyard manure. Trash from sugar cane that is burnt without any benefit to human being by the fire is put to use while the by products of such waste is the much needed energy that is used for the different productive purposes. There is no environmental degradation when biochar systems are adopted.



The school science coordinators training for school teachers drawn from all the schools from Matungu location Matungu district was held as from 10th to 19st May 2011 brought together a total of 28 participants drawn from 10 schools. The objective of this two -week learning event was six - fold:

1. To promote good and sustainable farming techniques in schools
2. To build interest and commitment of schools in adapting child centred process in promoting sustainable farming practices
3. Integrate principles and elements of biochar systems in relation to participation of children in promoting community based biochar related programs
4. Develop capacity of schools in sustainable agriculture and promotion of safe environment
5. Promote appropriate farming technology interventions for schools inclusive of enhancing biochar systems and soil science options



6. Develop appropriate school biochar clubs implementation plan

The workshop facilitators adopted a two-pronged strategy to achieve the above objectives.

First, the workshop proper adapted a synergy of methods role plays small-group discussions, pairing and action-planning to allow for a critical interchange of ideas, to stimulate learning and to establish an ongoing follow up through the process.

Secondly, to initiate the school biochar clubs promotion with involvement of school task force committee with support of various head teachers and ministry of Education officials at the zonal level.

The outcome of this process has been the establishment of the core group of child to child resource persons who will remain in place as a team to consistently apply this very innovative approach

The end of workshop evaluation reveals that the workshop objectives were in majority achieved: -

- Participants have enhanced their appreciation of process-oriented approaches in promoting biochar systems and biochar initiatives activities within school and outside school by empowering children through the biochar clubs.
- The learning sessions have added the confidence of the workshop participants in the design, planning and facilitation and coordinating school biochar systems with child to child clubs using a menu of active learning methods i.e. songs, mimic, poems, role players/ drama, surveys, demonstrations and picketing
- This significant learning event has enabled participants develop specific plans that will facilitate child to child process in promoting biochar systems and biochar initiative promotion and then way forward

