

Biochar Projects Survey

WELCOME TO THE IBI BIOCHAR PROJECTS SURVEY

Page description:

The International Biochar Initiative (IBI) is conducting this survey to collect data on biochar projects being carried out by universities, non-profits, commercial enterprises, community-based organizations, and other entities. Here we define biochar projects as those being conducted with the participation of local stakeholders (e.g., farmers) with the goal of establishing operational biochar systems—from feedstock sourcing to biochar production and application.

IBI will be using the data collected in this survey to highlight the worldwide breadth of biochar projects—to look at trends in geography, feedstocks, technology, financing, project stages, and utilization. The data will be shared with the global biochar community in aggregated form that will allow us all to continue to share the benefits and need for sustainable biochar deployment at all scales. **We will not release any personal or confidential information or identify specific individuals or organizations in the survey results (other than project website, location, etc) nor will we share the specifics of financial or economic data connected to any project.**

THE DEADLINE FOR INPUT IS JUNE 3, 2013.

The survey is divided into three (3) short sections of roughly 10 questions each: **contact and basic project information, biochar production and application information, and economic data.** This survey should take 15-20 minutes to complete.

CONTACT & BASIC PROJECT INFORMATION

Page description:

In this section we request contact information and basic details on project location, organization(s) involved, and phase of implementation. Note that items marked with an * indicate required fields.

Important: Please do not hit "enter" while filling out the survey as it may interrupt the survey. If this happens, click on the "back" button on your browser to get back to the survey. Make sure that you click "submit" when you are finished.

1. Please fill in your contact information.

First Name *

Last Name *

Title

Organization *

Street Address

City/District/Village *

State/Province/Region *

Postal Code

Country *

Email Address *

Website URL

2. Did you complete the World Bank survey in December, 2010? *

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

3. What is the location of the biochar project that you are reporting? If you wish to report on more than one biochar project, please fill out a new survey for each project.

Note: Click on this link <http://itouchmap.com/latlong.html> to easily find the latitude and longitude of your project.

City/District/Village *

State/Province/Region *

Country *

Latitude

Longitude

Please check the box that best describes the location of this biochar project. *

- Rural area
- Small town or peri-urban area
- Urban area

4. What type of organization is leading this project? *

- Commercial (products and services)
- Community Group, Cooperative, or Network
- Financial (investment and lending)
- Government
- Individual or Family
- NGO (registered Non-Governmental Organization)
- Philanthropic
- Public-Private Partnership
- Research (with academic or institutional affiliation)
- Youth Group or School
- Other: please describe *

5. Please list any partner organizations involved in this biochar project.

6. What is the **primary goal** of this project? *

- Community-based project – training for local stakeholders and biochar advocacy
- Research project – collect data for analysis
- Income for farmers – increased revenue from sale of produce
- Income for the biochar producer – sale of biochar or biochar production equipment
- Sequester carbon to mitigate climate change
- Other: please describe *

7. Please expand on the goals of your biochar project. Check all that apply. *

- Skills, training and education for project participants
- Public education and advocacy for biochar
- Research on soil and agronomic functions of biochar
- Research on biochar product development
- Research on pyrolysis equipment engineering/optimization
- Research on greenhouse gas impacts and Life Cycle Analysis
- Sales, marketing and distribution of agricultural goods grown with biochar
- Sales, marketing and distribution of biochar
- Sales, marketing and distribution of biochar production equipment
- Biochar use for commercial farming
- Biochar use for home garden/subsistence farming
- Biochar use for land remediation
- Sequester carbon to mitigate climate change
- Access carbon offset/credit markets
- Other: please describe *

8. Currently, in what stage of implementation is your project? *

- Phase 1 - still putting together ideas, partnerships and funding
- Phase 2 - a pilot project is on the ground
- Phase 3 - the project has its first measurable results
- Phase 4 - the project is mature: it has become integrated into the local economy and is financially self-sufficient
- Phase 5 - the mature project has begun to seed other projects

BIOCHAR PRODUCTION & APPLICATION INFORMATION

Page description:

In this section we request information on stakeholders involved, feedstocks utilized, how biochar is produced, and how it is utilized.

9. Approximately how many people are directly participating in this biochar project? *

- 1-5
- 6-15
- 16-25
- More than 25

10. Please check all types of stakeholders that are participating in the project *

- Farmers/farmer groups
- Community-based organizations/cooperatives
- Academic researchers
- For-profit entities
- Students – university/higher education
- Students – primary school/schoolchildren
- Other: please describe *

11. Please check all feedstocks that are used in your project. *

- Rice hulls or straw
- Maize (corn) cobs or stover
- Cereal (non-maize) straws
- Sugar cane bagasse or trash
- Coconut coir, hulls or shells
- Bamboo
- Woody biomass – hardwoods
- Woody biomass – softwoods (conifers, monocots)
- Animal manure
- Food waste
- Biosolids (sewage sludge)
- Other *

12. Are there competing uses for these feedstocks? *

- Yes, for cooking
- Yes, for energy production (other than cooking)
- Yes, for direct soil amendments or composting
- Yes, for livestock fodder
- Yes, other: please explain *
- No

13. Are any of these feedstocks dedicated biochar crops i.e., produced for the primary purpose of making biochar? *

- Yes: please list by name *
- No

14. What type of biochar production process are you using? *

- Batch retort pyrolysis kiln
- Continuous pyrolysis kiln
- Cook stove - top-lit updraft gasifier (TLUD)
- Cook stove - Anila, or annular retort design
- Small gasifier, including TLUD units not used as cook stoves such as ovens
- Larger gasifier
- Traditional pit, mound, or brick kiln
- Other: Please describe *
- Not applicable - project is purchasing biochar

15. What is the scale of the biochar production system? *

- Household/family
- Farm
- Village
- Cooperative
- Regional
- Other: please describe *

16. How many biochar production systems are, or will be, used? *

- 1
- 2-5
- 6-25
- 26-100
- More than 100

17. Is your biochar production process a batch process or a continuous process? *

- Batch
- Continuous
- Not applicable

18. If your biochar production unit is a **batch process**, what is the capacity? *Approximately **how many kilograms** (1 kg = ~2.2 pounds) of biomass feedstock are **processed per batch**?*

19. If your biochar production unit is a batch process, how many batches can be processed per day?

- 1
- 2
- 3 or more

20. If your biochar production unit is a **continuous process**, what is the capacity? *Approximately **how many kilograms** (1 kg = ~2.2 pounds) of biomass feedstock are **processed per hour**?*

21. If energy from the pyrolysis/gasification process is captured or utilized, how is it utilized? Check all that apply. *

- Cooking - household
- Cooking - commercial
- Food, fuel or crop drying
- Space heating
- Electricity generation - internal combustion engine
- Electricity generation - thermo-electric generator
- Gas collection, cleanup and storage
- Oil collection and refining
- Other: Please describe *
- Energy is not utilized

22. How is or will the biochar product be(ing) used in this project? Check all that apply. *

- Home kitchen garden/subsistence farming
- Field crop for market
- Fuel
- For sale as fuel
- For sale as soil amendment
- For sale as a component of another product e.g., growing media
- Sanitation
- Land remediation
- Other: Please describe *

23. If your biochar is being used for agriculture, please indicate whether any additional amendments or treatments are being used with the biochar. Please check all that apply.

- Biochar is added to soil by itself with no other inputs.
- Biochar is composted with plant material (crop waste, food waste or wood chips) before application
- Biochar is composted with animal manure before application
- Biochar is composted with human waste before application
- Human urine is added to biochar before application
- Biochar is inoculated with beneficial micro-organisms like Bokashi before application
- Manure is added along with biochar to soil
- Chemical fertilizer (NPK) is added along with biochar to soil
- Minerals such as lime are added along with biochar to soil
- Other: please describe *

24. Please list all the crops and/or crop combinations that your project participants are growing or plan to grow in biochar-amended soils.

25. Has your project documented any of the following soil health or crop responses from biochar application to soil? Check all boxes that apply.

- reduced leaching
- enhanced nutrient utilization
- enhanced soil moisture retention
- enhanced microbial activity
- increased crop survival
- increased crop (marketable) yield
- other: please explain *
- not applicable

26. How important are biochar carbon sequestration benefits for your project? *

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| very important | somewhat
important | not important | N/A |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

27. If carbon sequestration benefits are important, do you plan to access carbon offset/credit markets?

- yes: please describe *
- no

You are almost finished! Only 7 more questions to go on the next page.

Page description:

In this section we request information on the economic impact of your project. **Please note that IBI will NOT share any economic details on individual projects. Rather, all responses will be aggregated to identify trends.**

28. Which output of the production process produces the largest revenue stream? *

- Biochar
- Biogas
- Bio-oil
- None of the above – no current revenues

29. How many, if any, livelihoods are supported via the project?

- 0
- 1-5
- 6-15
- 16-25
- More than 25

30. What are the funding sources for this project? *

	0%	<25%	25-50%	50-75%	75-100%
Public/government grant *	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Private/individual financing *	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Revenue from sales *	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Carbon credit payments *	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Other *	<input type="checkbox"/>				

31. If you answered Other for funding sources above, please explain.

32. What is the operating budget for your project in US Dollars? *

- <5,000
- 5,000-25,000
- 25,000-100,000
- >100,000
- I do not wish to share this information

33. What is the financial status of the project? *

- Financially self-sufficient – revenues fully support the project
- Generating income but still primarily supported by external funding
- Fully dependent on external funding to maintain activities
- Other: please describe *
- I do not wish to share this information

34. Please add any additional comments here, in particular any challenges or obstacles faced in advancing the project, and next steps.

NOTE: If you would like to enter information for a separate project please hit "Submit" below and then re-click on the survey link to complete another survey.

Thank You!

IBI THANKS YOU FOR YOUR TIME!

We will compile and analyze survey results and share them with you, IBI's membership, and the global biochar community.

If you have any questions please contact us at
info@biochar-international.org