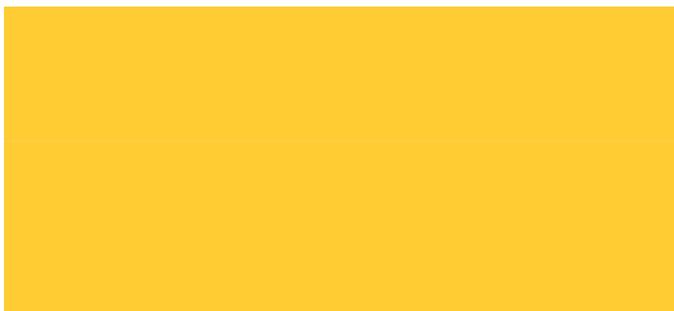


October 2008 International Biochar Initiative News



Thank you to those who attended the second conference of the International Biochar Initiative last month in Newcastle. The interest and attendance exceeded our expectations--the conference had over 225 attendees from 31 different countries. Attendees were able to listen to, read, and participate in over 70 presentations (both oral and poster) and the three full days of sessions had lively discussions, interactions, and music. The conference covered many topics and issues including a review of progress on biochar production and utilization; biochar research, development, and demonstration breakthroughs; policy and educational progress and gaps; and strategies for accelerating the development and deployment of biochar to help mitigate global warming. Additionally, breakout groups allowed participants to discuss the above topics and other issues in depth.

For the final conference agenda and to read copies of oral presentations and the breakout group discussions, go to:

<http://www.biochar-international.org/ibi2008conference/presentationsandagenda.html>

Links to poster presentations can be found at:

<http://www.biochar-international.org/ibi2008conference/ibiposterpresentations.html>

Additionally, Professor Tim Flannery spoke to a packed auditorium on "Charcoals to Newcastle: A Solution to the Climate Problem". Read Tim's open letter on biochar at: <http://www.biochar-international.org/timflannery.html>

IBI Is Pleased to Announce Upcoming Conferences

At Newcastle, IBI agreed that IBI international conferences will be held on an 18 month cycle with regional conferences in 6 month gaps in the interim. Upcoming planned conferences include:

May 2009: Regional Conference of the IBI (Asia-Pacific Region) Australia

August 2009: Regional Conference of the IBI (Americas Region) Boulder, CO USA

June 2010: International Conference of the IBI 2010, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

September 2011: International Conference of the IBI 2011, Kyoto, Japan (tentative)

Date TBD: Regional Conference of the IBI Rome, Italy

IBI will provide information and updates on these conferences as the dates near.

Seeking Input for International Biochar Initiative Six Country Project

IBI is developing a biochar production and utilization project to develop and evaluate cost effective approaches for the widespread introduction of biochar to developing countries. The major aims of the project are to introduce biochar and pyrolysis technologies at the household and village/neighborhood level; develop common schemes to evaluate the performance of the of pyrolysis units; develop common procedures to analyze biochar and monitor application and plant growth response; and to develop a methodology to assess the environmental, economic, social and cultural costs and benefits of introducing biochar technology and biochar to soils.

IBI is expecting to prepare proposals for foundations, international agencies, and other potential funders by late 2008 and are seeking country-based partners to join with us. We are looking for input and ideas for involvement covering all aspects of the work. If you are interested, please submit a short response by October 30, 2008. For more information and to submit a response for a project, go to:

<http://www.biochar-international.org/projectsandprograms.html>



Practitioner's Profile: Using Chicken Litter for Char at Frye Poultry

Josh Frye raises a lot of chickens in his West Virginia poultry operation - as many as 800,000 birds a year. A lot of chickens means a lot of chicken poop to dispose of, along with a lot of propane to keep the chicks warm in the winter - on the order of 30,000 gallons a year. So when a buddy of his suggested they take a road trip to Illinois to see a gasifier that would turn poop into heat, Josh was very interested.

The machine at Southern Illinois University made a good impression on Josh. The fixed bed gasifier there processed five tons of poultry litter an hour with "no smell, no smoke and no moving parts."

Josh set out to procure his own gasifier. He worked with a coalition of agencies to identify a technology that best met his needs, and settled on the fixed bed gasifier produced by Westside Energies of Canada. For more on Josh's story (and to submit a project write up), please see: <http://www.biochar-international.org/projectsandprograms/memberprojects.html>

Johannes Lehmann and Saran Sohi respond to recent Science Article by Wardle "*Fire-Derived Charcoal Causes Loss of Forest Humus*"

Wardle's article stated that fire-derived charcoal can promote loss of forest humus and below ground carbon (C). However, C loss from charcoal-humus mixtures can be explained not only by accelerated loss of humus but also by loss of charcoal. It is also unclear whether such loss is related to mineralization to carbon dioxide or to physical export.

[Click Here to go to the full article](#)

Coming Up in Next Month's Newsletter

Update on IBI's activities at the UNFCCC meeting in Poznan, Poland; 1-12 December, 2008

News, Articles, and More