

Global Artisan C-Sink Standard
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Smallholder farmer biochar project Orissa/ Assam - India

Dutch Carboneers develops decentralized biochar projects with the aim to provide in the much needed carbon dioxide compensation. With the conversion from biomass to biochar, an inert carbonized material is created that is a stable carbon sink for over a thousand years. Besides being a direct and stable carbon sink, biochar offers great beneficial characteristics in tropical agriculture. It stores nutrients, increasing crop yields. It increases the water holding capacity, aiding in climate adaptivity. And it houses microorganisms, raising the organic carbon content of soils. With project development in tropical areas, Dutch Carboneers is contributing to that massive yearly goal of 3,8 billion tons. Just as a forest starts with one small tree, Dutch Carboneers has started with a smallholder farmer biochar project in India that at the moment permanently stores 50.000 tons of carbon on a yearly basis. By 2030, the aim is to remove 1 million tons of carbon on a yearly basis, expanding towards 2050, where 1 billion tons of carbon need to be removed on a yearly basis. To fund the project development, for each ton of carbon removal, a carbon credit is issued and sold on the voluntary carbon credit market to companies that pledge to compensate their carbon footprint in order to become netzero by 2050.

Decentralized with Sustainable Development Goals

Often, biochar is made with million-dollar installations, but in rural decentralized agricultural areas in the global south, this is not feasible. However, biochar has been used by farmers to enhance their soils over thousands of years around the world. Dutch Carboneers focuses on decentralized biochar project development in which the farmers benefit from crop yield increase as well as financial benefits that are derived from the sales of carbon credits. Dutch Carboneers, together with its local partners, provides farmers with the right tools, training, technology and certification to create biochar in a sustainable manner. Local supervisors and managers are implemented in the system. They are provided with a mobile application in which all necessary information is uploaded which is needed for traceability and transparency. Biochar is produced according to the Global Artisan C-Sink Guidelines, and audited by third party auditors. Biochar carbon credits are registered within the C-Sink Registry of Carbon Standards International. Where centralized and large scale biochar production focuses mostly on the product and the climate action perspective, it is in Dutch Carboneers' decentralized biochar projects with smallholder farmers important that multiple Sustainable Development Goals are complied with.

