

VICARP R & D INFORMATION SHEETS

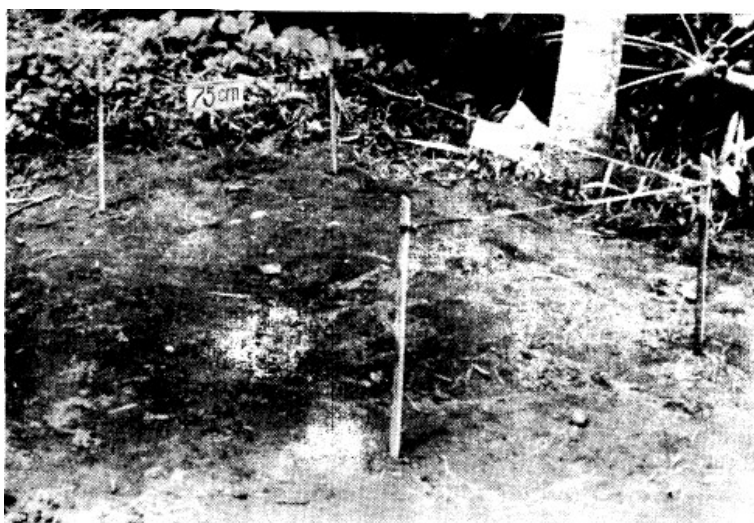
A SIMPLE WAY OF MAKING CHARCOAL FROM "BINUONGAN"

Charcoaling coconut by-products such as shell, husk, and "binuongan" (coconut halves from which the meat has been taken out) is an age-old practice. However, the traditional practice gives low charcoal recovery and poor quality charcoal.

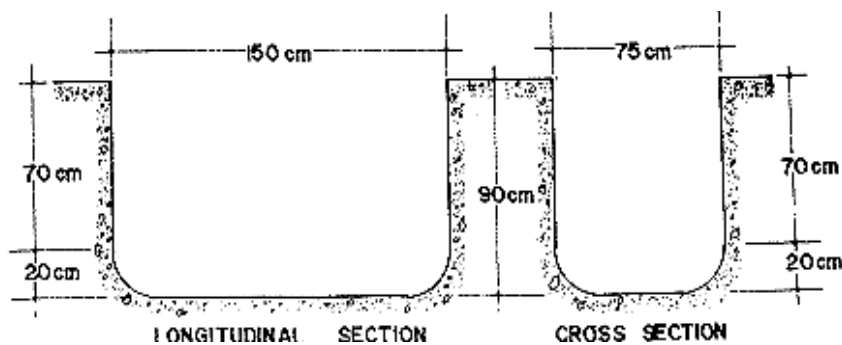
This bulletin describes the step-by-step procedure in charcoaling binuongan which, if followed properly, will give charcoal recovery and good quality charcoal.

This procedure is also applicable for the charcoaling of coconut husk or shell.

PREPARING THE PIT AND ITS COVER

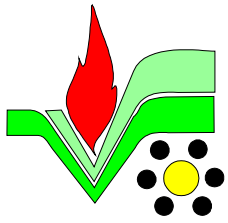


1. Clean the soil surface and stake the four corners to guide in digging. The pit's dimensions are 150 cm x 75 cm.

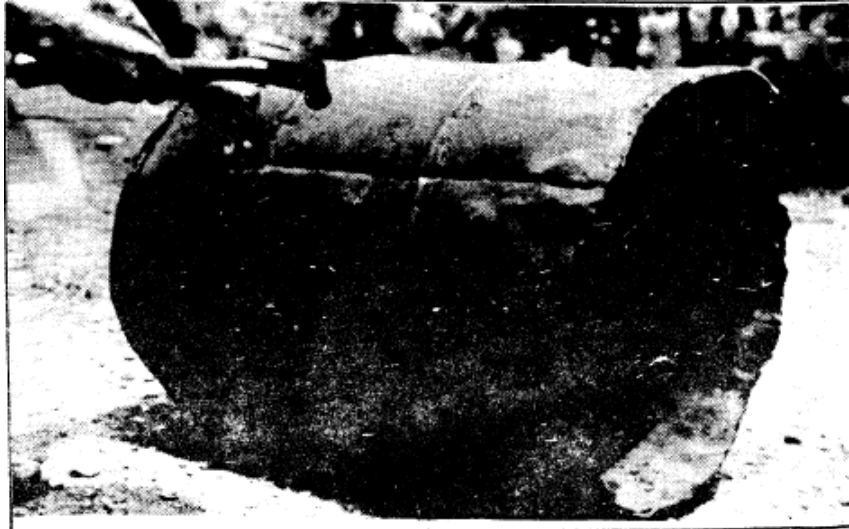


Excavate the soil down to the specified depth

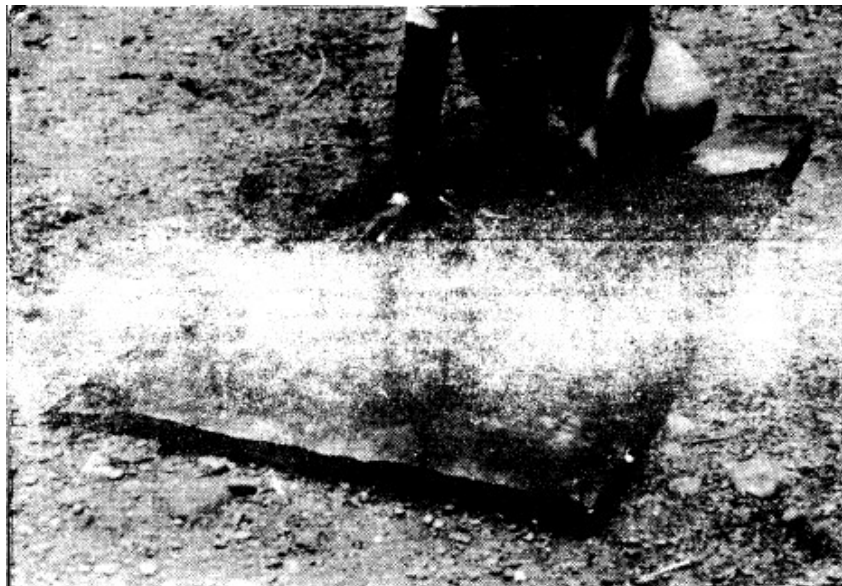
2. Excavate the soil down to a depth of 90 cm. The bottom corners of the pit should be curved.



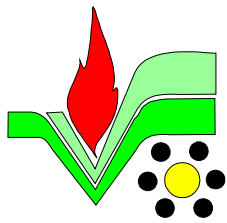
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3. Secure an empty oil drum of 200-liter capacity. Remove the bottom of the drum and cut along its length.



4. Flatten the material.

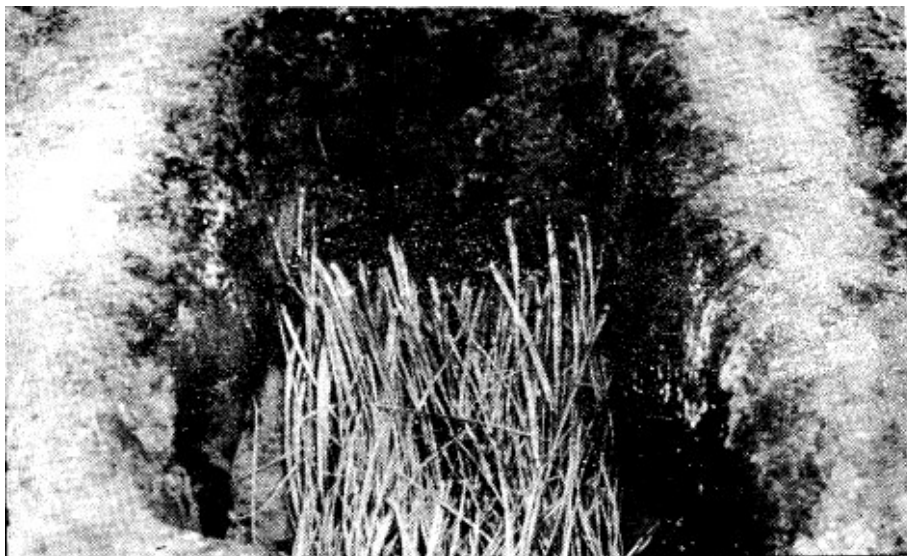


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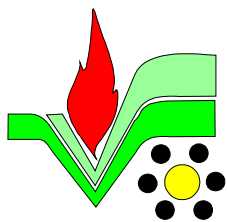
CHARCOALING "BINUONGAN"



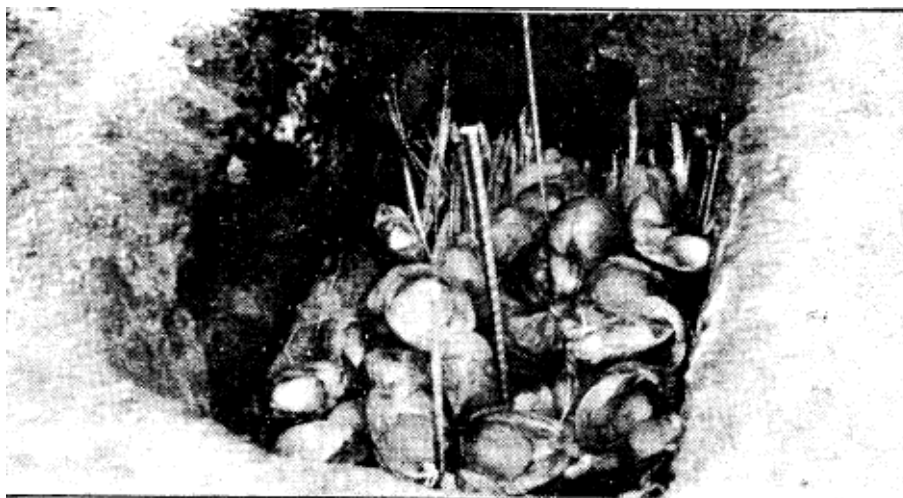
1. Gather thoroughly air-dried charcoaling material (binuongan) near the pit. (Wet material results in low charcoal recovery and poor quality of the product.)



2. Place dried leaflets (from about two coconut leaves) at the bottom of the pit.



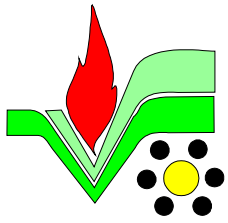
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3. Spread around 50 pieces of "binuongan" on top of the leaflets and start the fire gradually at 3 points. (The 3 vertical sticks indicate the 3 points where fire should be started.)



4. Gradually add pieces of "binuongan".



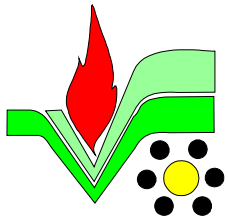
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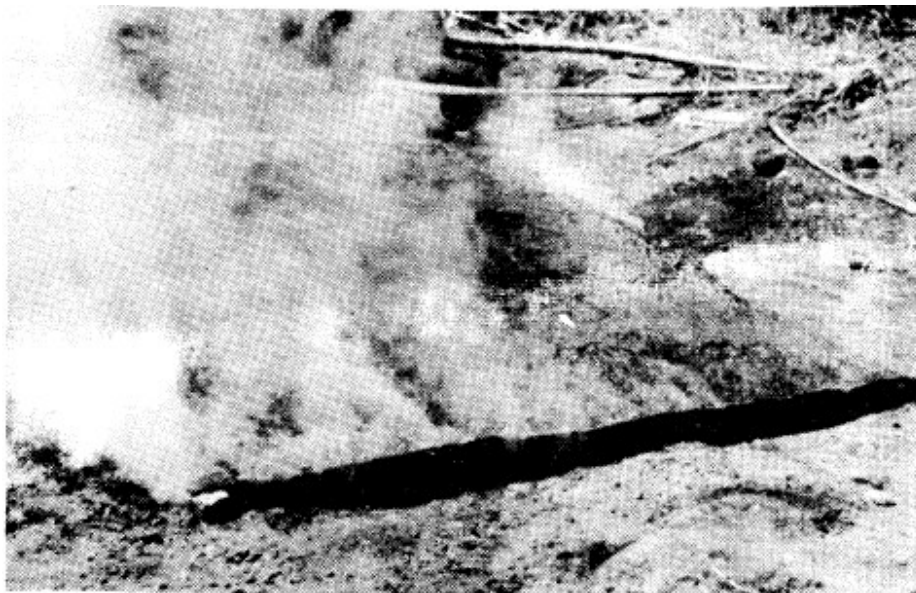
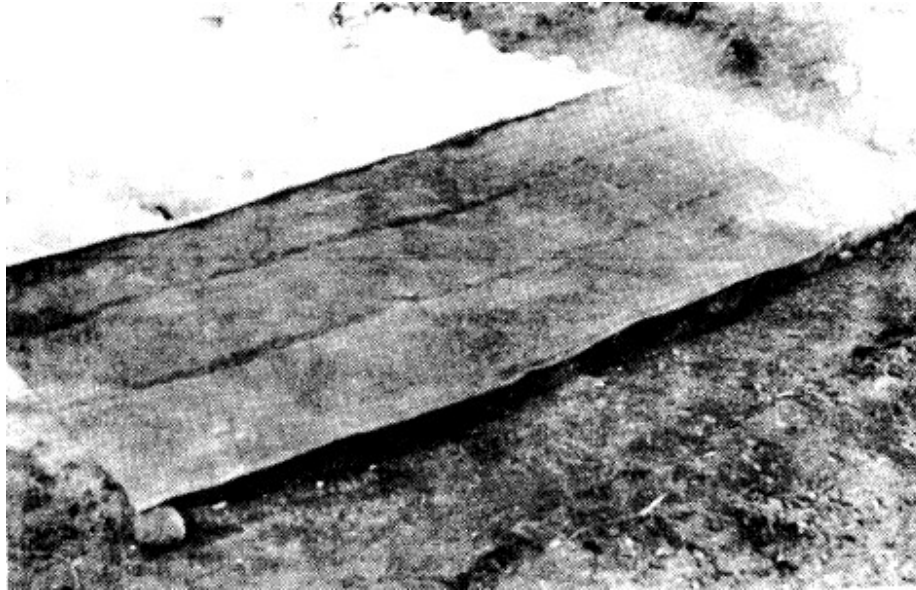
5. When the combustion is well underway, the pit can be filled up with more “binuongan”.



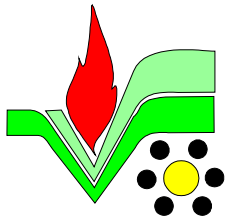
6. After filling up, cover the pit but provide a clearance of about 5 cm from the ground by supporting the cover at its corners with stones.



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7. Observe until the smoke changes from thick white (top) to thin gray (bottom) which is the right time to add more “binuongan” .

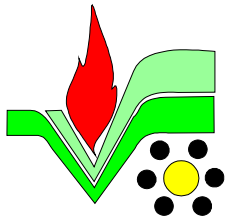


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8. Place back the cover, maintain the clearance and observe until very transparent smoke appears which indicates the right time to seal the pit.
9. Remove the stones used for clearance. Cover the edges with banana bracts, put soil on its top, completely seal the cover and leave it overnight.





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10. Uncover the pit on the following day. Charcoal from “binuongan” is ready to be harvested.

Source: RCRC Farm Bulletin No. 1
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