



Regenerative Agriculture

July 2, 2024

Corus International is an ensemble of faith-based organizations working together in the world's most fragile settings to deliver the holistic, lasting solutions needed to overcome the interconnected challenges of poverty, health care access and climate change.

CORUS INTERNATIONAL

- IMA WORLD HEALTH
- LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF
- CGA TECHNOLOGIES
- GROUND UP INVESTING



Biochar

Is a substance rich in carbon created through thermal decomposition, i.e., organic matter is heated and broken down in conditions with restricted oxygen amount (pyrolysis).

It is added to soil to:

- Enhance water retention
- Support land reclamation
- Carbon sequestration
- Soil amendment – improve plant health and carbon storage

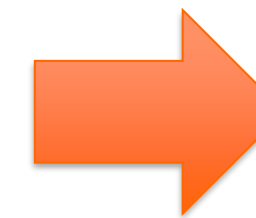


Production Systems

Production in Togo



Production in Kenya



Deep Dive into Why Biochar *a case of Kenya*



The concern/challenge:

- . The spread of parasitic weed Striga hermonthica and depletion of soil nutrient stocks
- . 20m+ ha of crop land in sub-SA is Striga-infested,
- . Resulting into \$ 1 billion in annual yield loss,
- . Affects more than 100 million people.
- . 1.4m+ ha of EA's farmland is affected by Striga,
- . 340,000+ ha of farmland affected in Kenya

Implication of this challenge:

- . In the project area 2019 – 2020, maize yields would go to as low as 62Kgs per acre or 0 in seriously impacted farms

Farmers coping mechanism:

- . Increased use of organic fertilizer
- . Opening of new farms (for those who could)
- . Trials with the various maize varieties
- . Abandonment of crops – esp Maize and Sorghum

The solution; the produced biochar

- . Mixed with soil while ploughing and/or land preparation
- . Mixed with FYM or compost (ratios of 1:1 or 1:4)
- . As a top dress mixture on plants around the stems/soil

Results

- . Highest yields recorded thus far are at 720Kgs (average range currently is 200Kg) per acre

What Next For Corus



- We have developed a Business Model for upscaling Biochar use into our Ag work (in partnership with George Washington University)
- We are exploring entry points for farmer organizations – graduating from farmer groups (in partnership with Biochar Life)
- Need to re-link our experiences to enhance access and entry into market systems (LWR's core focus)



Questions for Consideration

- What production/productivity challenges are you facing – tied to the soil
- Any analysis that you have done to determine the cause of the chemical and mineral imbalances to the soil
- Do you see an opportunity to trial biochar in your project areas
- How would you include Farmer Organizations and FI's into your work



Asante Sana



Thank you



Merci Beaucoup



Muchas Gracias

