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Local Income Solution



**BIOCHAR
FERTILIZER**



John Lutaya

SOLUTION ENTREPRENEUR

MALE • 25 YEARS • NAMAYUMBA, UGANDA

John is a friendly and happy farmer. He intercropped coffee with maize on two acres of land. At a young age, he lost his mom and had to be raised by his aunt. Unfortunately, she did not have enough money to pay for his education, so he started working with his aunt on the farm to help him get income, but it was never enough.

He had a dream of becoming a mechanical engineer and soon started learning how to repair bicycle and motorcycle parts. He took on the skill and started earning some pocket money from it. He also joined the Kisasira Youth Group in his community to learn different employment skills. Together with his group members, they learned how to make biochar fertilizer (from coffee husks) from the Wakiso District Farmers Association (WADFA) and started a business in the eco-friendly fertilizer.

Now, John, together with his group members, regularly make biochar and have trained 35 other youth in surrounding villages. He is widely respected in his community for his business venture.

HIS FAVOURITE QUOTE

💡 *Hard work pays off.*



INCOME FACTS

- Startup cost: 40,000 UGX (9.21 Euros)
- Selling price: 1 kg for 2,500 UGX (0.60 Euros)
- Income potential (monthly): 150,000 UGX (34.51 Euros)



SALE TIPS

- Believe in your idea
- Believe in yourself
- Be willing to establish a successful business



POTENTIAL CHALLENGES

- Making biochar fertilizer manually is physically intensive
- Biochar may not contain all the nutrients required
- May be difficult to transport materials to customers

5-YEAR VISION

Owning several real estate properties.



LEARNING VIDEO

Click the video and learn how to do this income solution.



7 Steps TO MAKE BIOCHAR FERTILIZER

MATERIALS

This can make up to 50 kg of biochar fertilizer

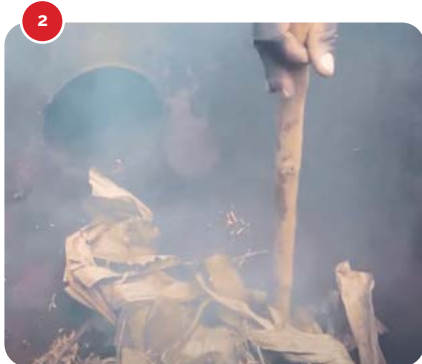
- Coffee husks or maize husks, bean husks 1 bag
- Gardening bags 5
- Chicken droppings or cow dung, pig droppings 1 bag
- Banana peelings or Irish potato peelings 1 bag
- Metallic drum 1
- Fine mesh strainer (for sieving)..... 1
- Stick (steering the organic waste) 1
- Jerry can/ water (to put fire out) 1
- Maize cobs 1
- Tree branches 1

Benefits

- Increases soil fertility thus better yield
- Helps conserve the environment



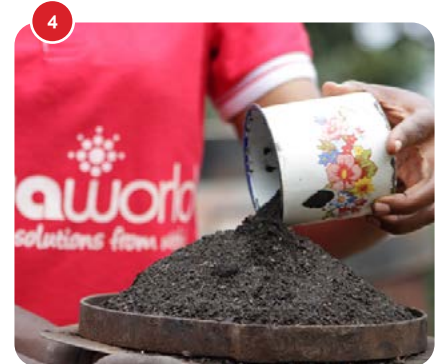
Dry the organic waste. These include coffee husks, animal droppings, banana peelings and others.¹



Start burning the dry organic waste (start with dry grass) in a metallic drum. Light with hot charcoal or a match. Add any other organic waste that can quickly light then add chicken or cow droppings.²



Continue burning the organic waste to make a charcoal-like carbon-based material. Keep mixing all the waste to ensure that it all burns.³



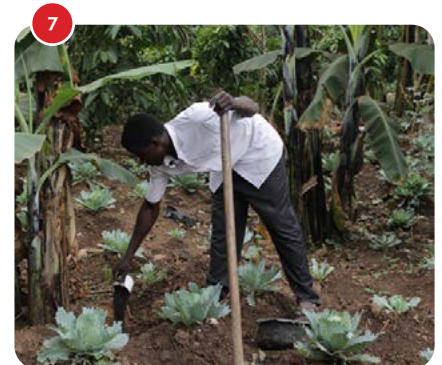
Remove the carbon-like material and sieve it using a mesh strainer. Fine particles can be separated from the residues.



Place the residue in a gardening bag and use a stick to crush it further into fine particles. After crushing, sieve the material again with a net for fine particles to get biochar fertilizer.



Pack the biochar fertilizer into gardening bags.



This is now ready to be taken into the garden to increase soil fertility.

TIPS

1. Do not use wet organic waste since it will not burn.
2. While burning, ensure that a flame is not created as it will cause the waste to burn into ash.
3. Cool carbon-like material by sprinkling little amounts of water.