

Informal biochar trials at the Coconut
Technology Centre (CTC) 2019

Honiara, Solomon Islands

Biochar



Baking the wood.

We decided to use a Kon-tiki cone kiln because it was easy to use, had a large capacity (1,000L) and it allowed demonstrations of the principles of 'baking' the wood. We loaded it with split coconut logs. Twice, heavy storms put out the fire. Each time we were able to restart the process on top of the existing wood.

It took four days to complete the task. Each evening we sealed the baking wood with some pieces of metal, banana leaves and some soil. This allowed the wood to continue to bake but not burn.



Activating the Biochar.

To 'activate' the biochar we added water and chicken manure to make up a slurry. The next day we drained the water and used that to water some vegetables. The activated biochar was bagged for later use.



From seed.

Two weeks later, the biochar was added to some soil to form the potting mix for the seeds of these plants which were then planted out.





Success.

The plants did very well. Unfortunately no 'control' planting was made without the biochar.