

The Charcoal Problem

A Bio One Investments Intervention



A Bio One Investments "Moringa Project" goes a long way towards helping to solve the real and imminent problem that Africa faces, namely the problem of deforestation to produce charcoal. This, of course, leads to the removal of nearly 5 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

The following few articles are but a few that tries to highlight this real and imminent catastrophe that is in the making.

Africa's burning charcoal problem

"Once upon a time, Africa boasted seven million square kilometres of forest but a third of that has been lost - most of it to charcoal."

Problem - Charcoal (2018). *BBC NEWS | World | Africa | Africa's burning charcoal problem*. [online] News.bbc.co.uk. Available at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8272603.stm> [Accessed 10 Aug. 2018].

Africa's Charcoal Economy Is Cooking. The Trees Are Paying.

As Africa's population is expected to swell and urbanize at an even faster rate over the next decades, the continent's demand for charcoal is likely to double or triple by 2050, according to the United Nations Environment Program.

The charcoal business, along with the expanding use of land for farming, is expected to increase deforestation and worsen the effects of climate change on a continent poorly equipped to adapt to it.

Problem - Charcoal (2018). *Africa's Charcoal Economy Is Cooking. The Trees Are Paying..* [online] Nytimes.com. Available at: https://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/26/world/africa/africas-charcoal-economy-is-cooking-the-trees-are-paying.html?_r=0 [Accessed 10 Aug. 2018].

How A Bio One "Moringa Project" Helps To Solve The Problem

A Bio One "Moringa Projects" adds millions of trees to the carbon dioxide stock in Africa in the form of perennial "forests" with a lifespan of up to 15 years. This fast growing tree is harvested to make charcoal in a renewable way, and grows back to preserve the carbon stock in a very short space of time.

The proof?

"Climate-Smart" Agriculture and Moringa

According to a Japanese study (Villafuerte, and Villafurte-Abonal, 2009) the rate of absorption or assimilation of carbon dioxide by the moringa tree is twenty times (20x) higher than that of general vegetation and fifty times (50x) higher when compared to the Japanese cedar tree.

The moringa tree therefore will be a useful tool in the prevention of global warming in that, one (1) moringa tree will be equivalent to the effectiveness of fifty (50) Japanese cedar tree in absorbing carbon dioxide (Villafuerte, and Villafurte-Abonal 2009). For example, If we expanded moringa from one hundred thousand (100,000) hectares worldwide to one million (1,000,000) hectares, that would equate to five (5) gigatonnes of CO₂e being sequestered.

Solution - Climate Change Mitigation (2018). *Moringa as a Climate Change Mitigation Strategy*. [online] Miracletrees.org. Available at: <https://miracletrees.org/climatechange.html> [Accessed 10 Aug. 2018].

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