

Food and Agriculture (FA)

Participating countries

AT, AU, BE, BG, CH, CZ, DE, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HU, IE, IL, IS, IT, LT, LV, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RU, SI, SK, SE, TR, UK

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<http://cost.european-biochar.org>

COST Action TD1107

Biochar as option for sustainable resource management

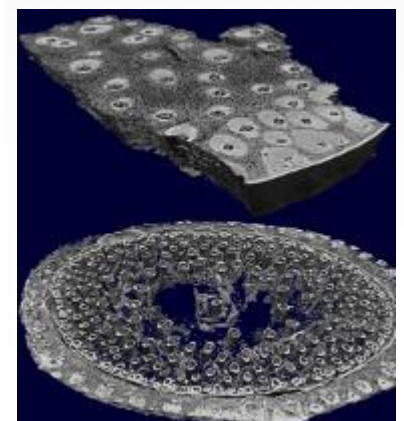
2012 | 2016

Objectives

- Harmonization of Biochar production and characterization
- Environmental impact: Evaluation of Biochar benefits versus risks
- Knowledge expansion and handling
- Life cycle analysis

Main Achievements

- 269 individual members(+92) of 28 COST countries plus 3 non-COST countries; 32% female participants; 43% ESRs.
- Biochar Ring Trial: 733 data sets received and currently in evaluation with robust statistical methods
- Knowledge exchange between COST network and REFERTIL Biochar EU27 standardization and law harmonization work platform.
- Establishment of an extended online Biochar database as basis for a meta-analysis of Biochar pot and field trials across Europe (results paper in progress)
- Expansion of the existing Biochar country report
- Report of Biochar EU27 standardization and law harmonization to the Commission September 30, 2013
- 1st Annual newsletter published in July 2013
- Creation of six thematic cross-link groups to identify and reach required levels of scientific understanding of Biochar effects on main soil processes
- 2 European Biochar Summer Schools held in Germany and Switzerland
- Involvement of 40 new stakeholders at 1st European Biochar Stakeholder Meeting (Hungary)
- Creation of an Organization for Scientifically Responsible Biochar (Kick-off meeting in June 2014)



X-ray CT scan images of raw Miscanthus biomass (upper image) and Biochar produced at 600° C (lower image)) (© Alessio Cibati)



COST is supported by the EU RTD Framework Programme



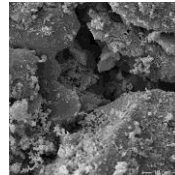
ESF provides the COST Office through a European Commission contract



Working Group activities

WG1: Production & Characterization

- *What is Biochar and how to make it?*
- Char archive (reference set) and sample exchange
- Harmonization in methods, properties and thresholds



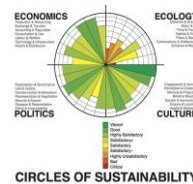
WG2: Land Use Management

- *How to use it?*
- Study site exchange and synergistic field trials
- Distribution of practical reports & recipes



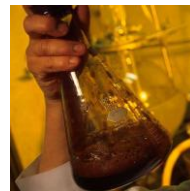
WG3: Economic & Life cycle analyses

- *Is it economic and efficient ?*
- Feedstock and Technology
- Model scenarios
- Implementation of SMEs
- Waste management



WG4: Environmental impact

- *How does it work ?*
- *Is it save ?*
- *How to legalize and communicate?*
- Biochar database
- Meta analysis
- Synthesis reports, review papers



Industry participation

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