

IMPORTANCE OF INTRODUCING A BIOCHAR SYSTEM AMONG FARMERS IN SRI LANKA: A SOCIOLOGICAL POINT OF VIEW

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ABSTRACT

In contemporary Sri Lanka use of chemical fertilizer has become an integral part of agriculture leading to many health, environmental, and economic problems. One such is the rise of incidents of chronic kidney diseases in the agricultural areas. Therefore it is necessary to bring those practices like biochar which can be used as a soil amendment and as a soil conditioner to protect the human life from negative effects arising from improper use of chemical output in cultivation. Various agricultural institutes tried to introduce this technology to Sri Lanka but still those are in experimental level.

This paper discusses the sociological aspects of importance of introducing sustainable Biochar system to vegetable cultivation in Sri Lanka. The study was conducted in two areas where vegetables are grown extensively and other crops in small scales under two different climate conditions. The use of chemicals is very high in the study areas. The farmers use chemicals in many stages of the crop from planting to harvest. They do not use their own agriculture wastes which are abundantly available as soil amendments in cultivation.

This situation resulted in the damage to agricultural lands, environment hence threat to life of people. Therefore sustainable biochar can be considered as one of most effective but simple solution to the most urgent environmental and some health problems of the Sri Lanka is facing.

KEY WORDS; *Boichar, Vegetable Cultivation, Chemical Fertilizer, Sustainability, Health & Environmental Problems.*