IBI Biochar Standards & Certification Program Overview

Presented by:

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The International Biochar Initiative

Who we are…
…a non-profit organization supporting researchers, commercial entities, policy makers, development agents, farmers and gardeners committed to sustainable biochar production and use.

Our mission…
…is to promote the development of sustainable biochar systems and to remove the barriers to production and utilization of biochar at all scales.
Why Build Standards?

- Improve product quality
- Enhance safety
- Facilitate market access and trade
- Build consumer confidence in biochar products
IBI’s Multi-Year Process

- A global, transparent, fully-documented process congruent with existing standard-setting bodies such as ISO

- Relied on existing research and knowledge and built on accepted methodologies, standards, regulations and tests

- Solicited and incorporated public input throughout the process
The IBI “Standardized Product Definition and Product Testing Guidelines for Biochar that is Used in Soil”, aka *IBI Biochar Standards*

- Provide the tools to universally and consistently define what biochar is
- Define relevant, reliable and repeatable tests to measure key biochar characteristics, and
- Provide quality and safety assurances to end users of biochar.
limited to the biochar product itself, not a blended product mixed with biochar,
testing occurs before mixing
NOT an end-use guideline
NOT a sustainability standard
NOT a production procedure guideline
- Feed stock must be biomass!
The IBI Biochar Standards...

- Are continuously revised and improved through user feedback and expert consultation; and
- Serve as the foundation for the IBI Biochar Certification Program.
Test Category A: Basic Utility Properties

- Measures basic properties to assess the utility of the material for use in soil (organic C, total N, pH, EC, ash content).

Test Category B: Toxicant Reporting

- Tests materials against Maximum Allowed Thresholds for potential toxicants.

Test Category C: Advanced Analysis (Optional)

- Biochar may be tested for soil enhancement properties (mineral N, available P, volatile matter)
Why do we need to test biochar for toxic compounds?

- If improperly produced, biochar can contain contaminants harmful to human health and the environment.
- Potential sources of contamination include:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Present in Feedstocks</th>
<th>Generated in Production</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- heavy metals (e.g. Hg, Zn, Cr)</td>
<td>- PAHs</td>
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<tr>
<td>- PCBs</td>
<td>- Dioxins</td>
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<td>- Noxious gases</td>
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1. Registration
   • Online form

2. Application
   • Online form with submittals (test results, chain of custody)

3. Review and Approval
   • Approval is dependent on passing test results and submitting required documentation

4. Period of Coverage
   • IBI Biochar Certification period is valid for 1 year from date of approval

5. Certification Renewal
   • Annually or with every material feedstock change or material change in production processes of greater than 10%

Up to 60 days allowed between registration and application

Up to 10 days

Good for 1 year
Producer and Consumer Benefits of the *IBI Biochar Certification Program*

- **Brand Value:** The IBI brand is important to biochar manufacturers and buyers alike.

- **Product Differentiation:** *IBI Biochar Certification* allows a biochar manufacturer to label biochar as certified by IBI and as having met the *IBI Biochar Standards*.

- **Standards Credibility:** The *IBI Biochar Standards* were developed in a global, transparent, inclusive process adhering to international standard-setting processes. IBI certified biochar meets these established standards.
Thanks for your attention

Questions?

Contact me at
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or

General inquires
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