



Module 2: Waste-to-Resource Strategies in Agro-Food Systems

Hands-On Activity: Biochar Vs. Pollution

Lab Report – Biochar vs. Pollution

Group Members:

Date(s):

Class/Period:

Location:

Objective

What are you trying to find out in this investigation?

(Write a short statement explaining the goal of this activity — e.g., to test whether biochar can remove pollutants from contaminated water more effectively than soil alone.)

Safety Precautions

List at least three safety or hygiene rules you followed during this activity.

1.

2.

3.

Materials Used

List all materials used during the experiment.

(Add any additional tools or materials used.)

Procedure Summary

Briefly describe the main steps your group followed to complete the experiment.

(Example: We labeled three cups for each treatment — control, soil, and soil + biochar. We added CuSO_4 solution, mixed in the materials, stirred, allowed time to settle, and then recorded observations for color change and pH.)

Data Collection Setup Table

Cup	Treatment	Materials Added	Starting Color	Starting pH
A	Control	10 mL CuSO_4 only	Blue	_____
B	Soil	10 mL CuSO_4 + 6.0 g soil	Blue	_____
C	Soil + Biochar	10 mL CuSO_4 + 4.0 g soil + 2.0 g biochar	Blue	_____

Observation Table (After Settling 7–8 min)

Cup	Final Color / Clarity	Final pH	Notes (odor, particles, etc.)
A (Control)			
B (Soil)			
C (Soil + Biochar)			

Guiding Questions

1. Which treatment showed the clearest water?
2. Did pH levels differ between treatments? If so, how?
3. What does the difference between Cups A, B, and C tell you about biochar's role in water purification?

4. What might be some real-world uses of biochar for water or soil cleanup?

Reflection and Analysis

1. Summary of Findings

Describe what you discovered from your experiment.

(Example: The cup with biochar had the clearest water, showing that biochar helps bind or filter contaminants.)

2. Environmental & Agricultural Impacts

Explain how using biochar could affect:

Water quality:

Soil health:

Farming sustainability:

3. Recommendations

If you were advising a farmer or environmental engineer, what two realistic actions would you recommend for using biochar effectively?

Recommendation 1:

Why would this help?

Recommendation 2:

Why would this help?

Conclusion

Summarize what you learned about how biochar helps remove pollutants and how this experiment connects to sustainable farming and circular economy practices.

Appendix

Attach:

- Photos or sketches of your setup
- Completed data tables
- Any pH readings, graphs, or summary charts
- Notes or additional observations