



PRESS RELEASE

NetZero accelerates its development in Brazil with the construction of a second biochar factory, three months after the first one

- Just three months after inaugurating its first Brazilian site, French greentech NetZero launches the construction of a new biochar factory in the country.
- Located 25 kilometers away from the previous one, this factory will annually remove over 6,500 tonnes of CO₂ from the atmosphere while sustainably improving crop yields of nearly 200 farmers.
- This new step demonstrates NetZero's ability to rapidly deploy its industrial model, in line with its ambitious plan to make biochar a climate and agricultural solution at scale.
- NetZero thus strengthens its leading position, currently being the only industrial biochar player to operate in the tropics.

Paris (France) & Brejetuba (Brazil), 31 July 2023 – NetZero, a French greentech start-up pioneering the valorisation of agricultural waste into biochar, is accelerating its development in Brazil by announcing today the construction launch of a second factory in the country, just three months after inaugurating its first Brazilian site.

NetZero strategically chose to locate this new factory in Brejetuba, in the state of Espírito Santo, just 25 kilometers away from the previous site, with a triple objective. First, leveraging proximity to facilitate the work of the R&D team in order to accelerate technological iterations. Second, expanding its cooperation with Coocafé, the cooperative already partner on the first site, in order to quickly onboard new coffee farmers using the existing partnership. Last, demonstrating the relevance of NetZero's model, which is based on the implementation of mid-sized production units in the immediate vicinity of biomass sources, in order to reduce the carbon footprint of biochar's value chain and simplify operations logistics.

This new factory, to be operational in early 2024, will produce 4,500 tonnes of biochar per year, allowing to remove over 6,500 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent from the atmosphere while providing a sustainable soil amendment for agriculture. The latter is a key reason for the renewal of the partnership between NetZero and Coocafé, which brings together more than 10,000 coffee farmers. Coocafé's role is to facilitate the recovery of thousands of tonnes of residues generated by the dehusking process of coffee to turn them into biochar. The same farmers will then use the biochar to improve crop yields while reducing the use of chemical fertilisers.

Similar to small charcoal particles, biochar is obtained by extracting the carbon contained in plant residues using a pyrolysis process. This allows the carbon initially captured by plants in the atmosphere through photosynthesis to be stabilised for hundreds of years. Beyond its climate benefits recognised by the IPCC, biochar offers remarkable agronomic properties. It notably acts in the soil as a sponge that retains water and nutrients, thereby allowing to durably reduce the use of fertilizers while increasing crop productivity, hence also raising the standard of living of farmers.

This rapid development comes a few months after three new industrial shareholders, all leaders in their respective sectors – Stellantis, L'Oréal, and CMA CGM – joined NetZero's capital. This momentum started in 2022 when NetZero was recognised as one of the world's 15 most promising carbon removal projects in the XPRIZE Carbon Removal competition launched by the Musk Foundation, based on NetZero's pilot site located in Cameroon.

Pedro de Figueiredo, Co-founder of NetZero & CEO of NetZero Brazil, said: *“This new factory confirms the interest biochar is generating among our first partners: farmers. Our model is fit to local needs and realities, which is a key element in our scale-up strategy. We are delighted to continue our partnership with Coocafé and their innovative coffee growers, who are indeed pioneers in the large-scale use of biochar.”*

Axel Reinaud, Co-founder & CEO of NetZero: *“The decision to reinforce our presence in Brazil reflects the importance of this country in NetZero’s development strategy. Brazil has all the assets to scale up our model: large amounts of unused crop residues, soils that can greatly benefit from carbon addition, top technical competencies, good infrastructure, and a great spirit of innovation. We also appreciate the very strong local support from all stakeholders, which exceeds our expectations and reflects the very positive impact that NetZero brings to local communities.”*

ABOUT NETZERO

NetZero was founded in 2021 by Axel Reinaud, Prof. Jean Jouzel, Aimé Njiakin, Olivier Reinaud, and Pedro de Figueiredo. Its mission is to bring at scale biochar, one of the few climate solutions that can durably remove carbon from the atmosphere, as well as one of the few agricultural solutions allowing to reconcile productivity and sustainability.

By leveraging biochar in the tropics along a unique model, NetZero simultaneously tackles three pressing challenges in developing countries: climate change, sustainable agriculture, and overall rural development. The company currently has two operational sites: a full-scale pilot plant in Cameroon and a commercial factory in Brazil.

NetZero is a Milestone Award winner of Musk Foundation’s XPRIZE Carbon Removal competition, a recipient of the ‘Efficient Solution’ label from Solar Impulse Foundation, a Green Tech prize winner of the Tech for Good Awards, and a certified carbon-removal project under the Puro Standard. NetZero’s mid-term objective is to reach an annual removal capacity of 2 million tonnes of CO₂ by 2030 while improving the standard of living of tens of thousands of farmers.

Learn more at: www.netzero.green

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