



PRESS RELEASE

ECOM and NetZero join forces with Nespresso in the first end-to-end biochar project at scale in Brazil

- Premium coffee brand Nespresso has joined forces with greentech NetZero and global coffee trader ECOM to support their programme of large-scale biochar deployment in coffee production in Brazil.
- This is the first time a biochar project brings together all players of a value chain, from farmers to end brand, reflecting the growing strategic interest around biochar in agricultural supply chains.
- Biochar is a one-off, highly efficient soil amendment made from residual biomass, also recognised by the IPCC as a major solution in the fight against climate change.
- This innovative project is announced following Nespresso's Sustainability Advisory Board meeting and intends to address the global challenge of decarbonising agriculture while maintaining high crop productivity and raising farmers' income.

Paris (France) and Pully (Switzerland), 19 April 2024 – NetZero, a French start-up pioneering the industrial production of biochar in the tropics, and ECOM Agroindustrial, one of the world's leading traders of agricultural commodities, are welcoming Nestlé Nespresso, the leading premium coffee brand, in a first-of-its-kind biochar project in the city of Machado, state of Minas Gerais, Brazil.

The project, located in one of the major coffee hubs of Brazil, will bring together hundreds of farmers, including farmers from Nespresso's AAA Sustainable Quality™ Programme. 16,000 tonnes of unused coffee-processing residues will be transformed into 4,000 tonnes of biochar every year, thus aiming to remove over 6,000 tonnes of CO₂ from the atmosphere. This biochar will then return to the same farmers having provided the initial biomass, along a fully local and circular model, to be used as a soil amendment.

In the soil, biochar acts as a "sponge" that durably retains water and nutrients at plant root level. This notably allows, with a one-off application, to increase coffee yields while significantly reducing the use of fertilisers, which currently contribute to a significant share of coffee's carbon footprint. Biochar also plays an important role in increasing the resilience of plants during droughts and other extreme weather events.

Beyond its agronomic benefits, biochar is also recognised by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as a one of the main carbon removal solutions needed to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. Indeed, the production process of biochar allows to extract and stabilize the carbon initially captured by plants in the atmosphere, then locking it in soils for millennia in a very stable form.

This project forms part of the Nespresso's sustainability roadmap to produce net-zero carbon coffee by 2030 within its AAA programme. It is the first time a biochar project brings together all players of a value chain, from farmers to cooperatives to traders to end brand, reflecting the growing strategic interest around biochar in agricultural supply chains. Nespresso also becomes the first customer-facing brand to promote biochar use at industrial scale.

The announcement is made following the yearly meeting of Nespresso's Sustainability Advisory Board in Paris, and comes after NetZero and ECOM announced in February their collaboration for scaling biochar in Brazil.

Jérôme Perez, Nespresso Chief Sustainability Officer said “Soil is critical in our commitment to regenerative agriculture. That’s why we are excited to support ECOM and NetZero with this innovative biochar facility, a charcoal-like natural solution that improves soil health and regeneration helping to neutralize carbon emissions, we will provide to AAA farmers from these regions the opportunity to valorize their coffee-farm byproducts and accelerate the regenerative transition.”

Axel Reinaud, Co-founder & CEO of NetZero, said: “We are proud to have been selected by Nespresso as their first industrial biochar partner, and are confident that this first project will be replicated in many other locations. This partnership further proves the relevance of biochar in the tropics and demonstrates the ability of our model to align the interests of all players in agri supply chains.”

Teddy Esteve, Head of Coffee and Chief Carbon Officer at ECOM, said: “Nespresso is a long-standing partner of ECOM and we are pleased to have them onboard in this exciting project with NetZero. The future of regenerative agriculture goes through biochar. Having a strategy around biochar solves waste circularity, carbon sequestration and fertilizer reduction while ensuring high yields for farmers.”

ABOUT NETZERO

NetZero was founded in 2021 by Axel Reinaud, Dr. 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 is present in Cameroon and Brazil, operating mid-size industrial plants and currently working with over 600 farmers.

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

ABOUT ECOM

ECOM is a world-leading soft commodity services group specialising in coffee, cocoa, and cotton.

We employ more than a thousand agronomists and field staff worldwide, running innovative on-the-ground operations and sustainability programmes to help our customers and farming communities worldwide.

Our global presence, unparalleled experience, and strong, trusted relationships allow us to create a valuable and profitable environment for our suppliers, customers, shareholders, and employees.

Learn more at: www.ecomtrading.com

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