Frescobaldi Firenze, Tuscany (Italy)

EXPERIMENT GOALS

To assess in a long-term perspective the effectiveness of the biochar soil amendment in an olive grove, in terms of:

- soil carbon sequestration and soil fertility;
- increasing soil water retention;
- olive grove productivity.

DURATION OF THE EXPERIMENT

Started on 2019 - ongoing



SITE DESCRIPTION

The field experiment was done in an olive grove "Caldine" at the "Marchesi Frescobaldi – Sieci Estate" (Lat. 43°47′59″N; Long. 11°24′ 02″E; 240 m a.s.l.). The olive grove has plant density of 140 trees ha-¹ (6 x 6 m); the rows' orientation is East–West. The olive grove is not irrigated. A strip plot experiment, with two treatments and four replicates was setup in 2019. Each plot had a surface area of 864 m² (12 m in width and 72 m in length) including 3 olive rows and 2 inter-rows. The treatments were: a single biochar application at a rate of 30 ton ha-¹ in 2019 and a control. Biochar was applied in the inter-row space of the olive grove using a spreader and it was incorporated into the soil using a chisel plow tiller to 0.3 m depth.

BIOCHAR AND ITS APPLICATION IN THE FIELD

The biochar applied was a produced by Frescobaldi using wood, through a gassification process at temperature of 900°C. The biochar complies with Italian legislation on biochar.





MEASURED PARAMETERS

Field conditions: meteorological data.

Soil analysis and interactions with biochar: periodic soil analysis,

pH, water retention, soil biological index.

Biochar dynamics and matrices: soil carbon content.

Production data: quality and quantity of olives.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES OR POTENTIAL EXPERIMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Frescobaldi's long-term field experiment will be designed to represent an opportunity for the scientific community to test and verify the long-term effects of adding biochar to soil.





Presentation of the working group

The Frescobaldi field experiment was planned and done by the Biochar Group of the IBE-CNR in collaboration with Frescobaldi and the University of Florence.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

https://www.frescobaldi.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/IT Ecosostenibilita.pdf

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Logos







