

## **Project Update: May 2011**

Since January, Ho Avy has been assessing how residual charcoal improves soil fertility, forest regeneration, and crop yields. In the forest, we surveyed 30 fresh (< 1 year) and 30 old pits, and collected residual charcoal pieces and soil for nutrient analyses. We seeded 15+ native tree species and have been monitoring seeding recruitment and survival.

We harvested soil from the charcoal pits for a nursery trial. Our new nursery holds over 5000 pots, half of them filled with sand and the rest with sand mixed with charcoal soil, mulched with charcoal fragments.

Charcoal fragments mixed with residual biogas water for 3 months have been applied as a nutrient tea for half of a vegetable garden for the effect of increased nutrients on vegetable production.

We now keep these trials going and monitored by the community.



Left: Gardening with charcoal biogas nutrient tea. Right: Nursery charcoal soil mulch.