



4938

Special Release

11 August, 2025

UNITED KINGDOM RESEARCH INNOVATION (UKRI) PROJECT

African Agriculture Knowledge Transfer Partnership (AAKTP), United Kingdom Research Innovation (UKRI) Project, and University of Ibadan, Ibadan Nigeria

The African Agriculture Knowledge Transfer Partnership (AAKTP) research is funded by the United Kingdom Research Innovation (Innovate UK). The grant award is between University of Ibadan (African Knowledge Base), Niji Agro Solutions (Business Partner) Nigeria, and Teesside University United Kingdom (UK Knowledge Base) and the amount of the award is £241,834 to run for a period 24 months.

Project Aim

To contribute to the business development of Niji Agro Solutions through the valorisation of cassava waste. This includes reducing environmental pollution specifically release of carbon dioxide from cassava waste and producing biochar for carbon sequestration, improved soil fertility and water treatment.

Project Objectives

- (1) To valorise cassava peel waste through pyrolysis into biochar which can be used as a soil amendment to improve crop yield, soil fertility and water treatment.
- (2) To train farmers working in Niji farms in biochar production and application thereby improving soil quality, freeing up land previously used for waste decomposition and enhancing water quality.
- (3) To brand and package biochar in unique, accessible formats suitable for a broad market across Nigeria.
- (4) To facilitate business linkages between Niji group and other companies for the sales and distribution of biochar products in Nigeria.
- (5) To leverage Knowledge Transfer Partnership for interdisciplinary academic input across technical, operational and business-related aspects of biochar production and sales.

The University of Ibadan team comprises: Dr Olushola Ibiyemi (African Knowledge Base Team Leader); Mr Abel Ojewunmi (Research Associate); Professor Olugbenga Adeoluwa (African Knowledge Base Academic Supervisor); and Dr Siyanbola Omitoyin (African Knowledge Base Support Academic).

The Teesside University. UK team include: Dr Tannaz Pak (UK Academic Lead), Dr Tariq Ahmed, Professor Vida Zohoori, Dr Vahid Ghorbani Pashakolaie and Claire Adams.

Thank you.

G.O. Saliu, *fspsp, MANUPA, MNIM, MAUA*
Registrar and Secretary to Council