



Parengarenga BioChar Project



Snapshot

Industry partner:
Parengarenga
Incorporation

Project length: 11 months

Start date: September 2019

Industry funding: \$163,228

MPI funding: \$100,000

Sustainable Food & Fibre Futures is co-investing with Parengarenga Incorporation to explore the use of BioChar in Northland soils.

The opportunity

BioChar is used overseas as an environmentally friendly soil conditioner. It is a form of organic matter charred under controlled high temperature conditions. The resulting product can be blended with natural organic matter and added to pasture. Parengarenga Incorporation is trialling the use of BioChar to identify a product best suited to Far North soil, and will report back on its level of effectiveness.

The solution

Parengarenga Incorporation is investigating the use of a carboniser machine to turn local forestry waste wood into BioChar. Adding BioChar to soil is expected to increase pasture growth and enrich topsoil. Combined with a tailored drainage programme, this may reduce and filter sediment run-off into waterways.

The benefits

If successful, this project is expected to benefit New Zealand by:

- mitigating climate change by storing carbon;
- making under-utilised land productive;
- enabling soil to retain important nutrients;
- positive use of organic waste;
- improving land quality and productivity in beef, lamb and horticulture.