

# GROWERS “FORCING” PINEAPPLES TO MEET MARKET DEMAND IN GHANA

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## INNOVATION

The flowering process of pineapple plant can be initiated at a certain stage of maturity to ensure flowering and fruit production at required times, called “forcing”. This will allow the producers to supply the market with required quantities depending on the market demand.

In Ghana, two pineapple cooperatives of small holder farmers have achieved this using materials permitted under organic agriculture. GIZ and AFC Consultants supported the initiative of the pineapple cooperatives.

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## DESCRIPTION

“Forcing” the flowering process of pineapples to ensure fruit production at required times will allow the farmers to supply the market with required quantities based on demand. Conventionally, this is done with chemicals. The challenge for organic certified farmers is to find acceptable alternatives to initiate the “forcing”.

Two cooperatives built a small plant to saturate activated charcoal with ethylene gas, which is allowed under organic standards.



Cooperative members in certification training

The product works very reliably. The small production plant is made from simple, locally available materials and operated by the local farmers. Currently the farmers are experimenting with the use of bamboo charcoal. Bamboo charcoal has very fine particles, and appears to be a promising substitute for activated wood charcoal.

## RELEVANCE

The cooperatives sell the charcoal to member farmers and other organic pineapple farmers. The sale brings in additional income for the cooperatives and the product works very reliably.

The small plant is made from simple, locally available materials and operated by the local farmers.

This innovation allows for more planned and directed organic pineapple production of smallholder farmers in Ghana and neighbouring countries.



Pineapples for sale in a market

Bamboo charcoal is produced in the Western Region of Ghana in an attempt to reduce the use of rain forest trees for charcoal production. Bamboo is easily available, is fast growing, and its use will prevent felling rain forest trees for charcoal. If the farmers find bamboo charcoal effective, the switch from wood charcoal would help save forests and further increase the sustainability of the operations.