

# Hands on approach for making rice husk\* biochar!

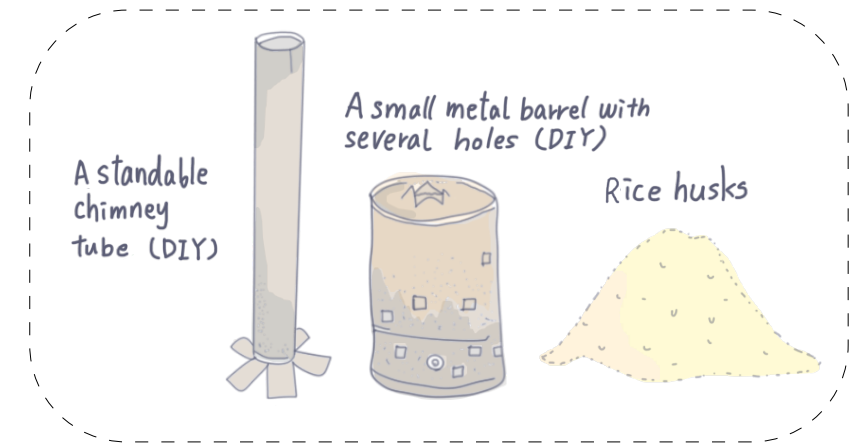
- A Japanese farmer's approach

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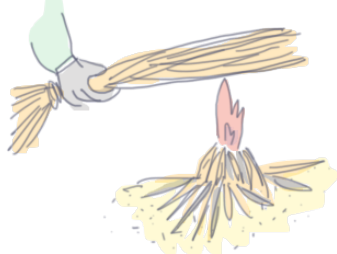
Illustration by Ayumi Matsuzaka

Discovered by farmer, Mr. Utsumi, Nagasaki, Japan; who himself learnt it from an old lady, who knew traditional methods.

\* Dried husk, and powdered form of carbon material: such as, rice husks, hemp stems, and bamboo powder, for example.



1



Stack the straw or burning materials in a mountain shape, and make a fire.



Wait until the fire stabilizes.

2

Put a can and a chimney on it. Make sure that the fire is still on.



3

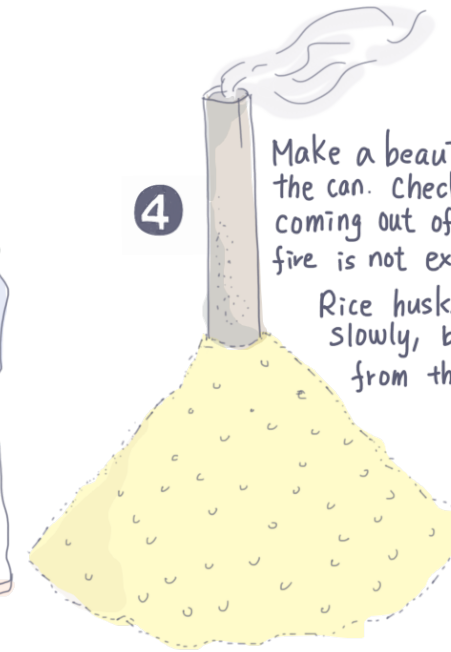
Spread the rice husks evenly.



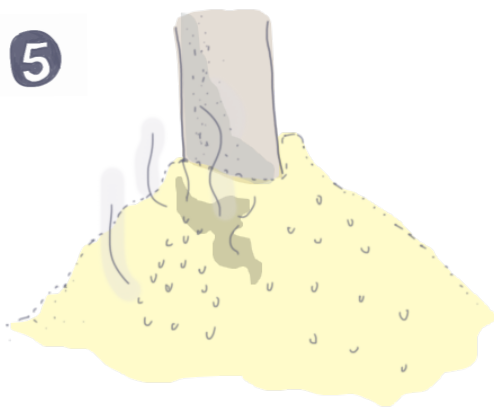
4

Make a beautiful mountain to cover the can. Check that white smoke coming out of the chimney. So that the fire is not extinguished.

Rice husks will be carbonized slowly, by the heat coming from the inside of the can.



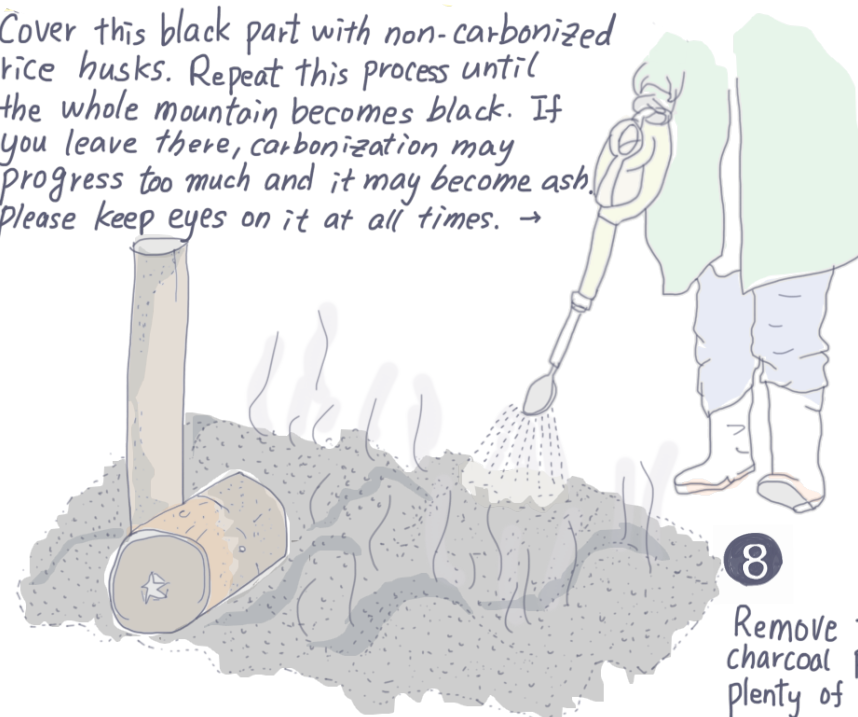
5



The upper part of the husk mountain becomes carbonized and black in colour.

7

Cover this black part with non-carbonized rice husks. Repeat this process until the whole mountain becomes black. If you leave there, carbonization may progress too much and it may become ash. Please keep eyes on it at all times. →



If you are experienced, a large portion of carbonization can be achieved. Cover it with a plastic sheet in order to prevent contact with oxygen.



6

→ Depending on the amount, carbon material, and the wind, rice husks may need 7 to 10 hours to complete the carbonizing process.

8

Remove the chimney and break the charcoal pile. Immediately sprinkle plenty of water over it. If you do not extinguish it well, it will potentially become a large fire, so be careful.

