Make Your Own Bokashi Starter (Inoculant)

What you will need:
- 1 bag of cow manure
- 3 bags of rice bran
- 1 bag of rice straw biochar or crushed corn cob biochar
- 10 liters of warm water
- 200 milliliters (ml) of EM solution (14 tablespoons)
- 200 milliliters (ml) of molasses (14 tablespoons)
- A large, flat, smooth, dry surface for mixing
- Water
- A hoe
- Large, heavy duty plastic bags (enough to be able to hold everything above when you have mixed them all together)

What to do:
- Dump the cow manure, rice bran and biochar into a big pile
- Mix everything together well and spread the pile
- Mix the warm water, EM solution and molasses in a watering can, stir well
- Sprinkle the water/EM/molasses mix on the pile of manure, rice bran and biochar, mixing with your hoe the whole time so that everything gets damp
- Pick up a handful of the mix and squeeze. If you cannot form a ball that does not fall apart the moment you open your hand, sprinkle on more water.
- Sprinkle and mix. Sprinkle and mix. Do this slowly! You can always add more water. You cannot take water out!
- You have added enough water when you can pick up a handful of the mix, squeeze it and make a soft ball that holds together. You do not want to be able to squeeze water out of this ball! If you can – too much water!
- Shovel the completed mix into the plastic bags. Do not overfill. Sit on the bags to get all of the air out. Tie the bags shut to ensure that no air can get in.
- Inspect the bags to make sure that there are no holes – even tiny ones – and that there is no air left inside.
- Put the bags in a warm place that is out of the direct sun for two weeks.
- After two weeks, your bokashi starter (inoculant) is ready to use.

What to do next:
- You can use the bokashi starter as is in compost, garbage, the field.
- If you want to store it for future use, spread it out in the sun on a dry surface for two or three days until it is absolutely dry.
- Seal in plastic bags until ready to use.

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1 Thanks to Keith Mikkelson, *Sustainable Agriculture in the Tropics: A Natural Farming System*, 2011.