

CONVERSATORIO	SUMMARY
<p data-bbox="129 527 532 646"> <a href="#">CONVERSATORIO VIRTUAL VETIVER #17 June 2024. Vetiver System - Sowing Water &amp; Preventing Forest Fires</a> </p>	<p data-bbox="569 196 2182 224">Rafael Luque Mirabal presents a proposal to prevent forest fires in Venezuela's Henri Pittier National Park by using the Vetiver System to "sow water."</p> <p data-bbox="569 232 731 256"><b>The Problem:</b></p> <ul data-bbox="618 264 2037 326" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest fires are a recurring problem in the park, with thousands of hectares burning annually, often due to human activity.</li> <li>• Traditional reforestation efforts are insufficient as the fires repeatedly destroy newly planted trees, allowing pasture to take over.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="569 334 1069 358"><b>The Solution: "Sowing Water" with Vetiver</b></p> <ul data-bbox="618 367 2206 464" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Luque proposes using Vetiver grass to increase water infiltration and retention in the soil.</li> <li>• Vetiver's deep roots and dense foliage help to slow down runoff, capture sediment, and create terraces, effectively "sowing water" in the ground.</li> <li>• This increased soil moisture would make the area less susceptible to fires and support the growth of trees.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="569 472 731 496"><b>The Proposal:</b></p> <ul data-bbox="618 505 2241 602" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a pilot area within the park and plant Vetiver barriers at different distances to determine the optimal spacing for maintaining soil moisture.</li> <li>• Combine Vetiver with Keyline Design, a technique for maximizing water infiltration, to further enhance the system's effectiveness.</li> <li>• Use Vetiver as a "sacrificial pawn" to support reforestation efforts; once trees are established and provide shade, the Vetiver will naturally die back.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="569 610 919 634"><b>Benefits of the Vetiver System:</b></p> <ul data-bbox="618 643 1212 773" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slows down runoff and erosion.</li> <li>• Increases water infiltration and recharges aquifers.</li> <li>• Stabilizes slopes and reduces the risk of landslides.</li> <li>• Creates a more resilient environment.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="569 781 881 805"><b>Challenges and Next Steps:</b></p> <ul data-bbox="618 813 1435 911" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Securing governmental support and funding for the project.</li> <li>• Propagating sufficient Vetiver plants for the large-scale implementation.</li> <li>• Adapting the project to the specific conditions of the park.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="569 919 2564 980">The presentation concludes with a Q&amp;A session, addressing concerns about Vetiver's invasiveness and its suitability for different soil types. Luque emphasizes the urgency of the situation and the potential of the Vetiver System to provide a sustainable solution for preventing forest fires and restoring the park's ecosystem.</p>
<p data-bbox="129 1177 532 1295"> <a href="#">CONVERSATORIO VIRTUAL VETIVER #16 May 2024. Infiltration Lines: erosion control &amp; water harvesting</a> </p>	<p data-bbox="569 1018 2564 1079">José María Agüero, an agronomist with extensive international experience, presents a compelling case for using "infiltration lines" as a method for water conservation and erosion control, particularly in large-scale agricultural projects.</p> <p data-bbox="569 1088 2564 1149">Agüero begins by highlighting the urgent need to address water scarcity and soil degradation, drawing on his experience in various countries. He introduces the concept of infiltration lines, which are shallow, graded furrows created across the landscape to capture and infiltrate rainwater, thereby recharging groundwater and preventing runoff.</p> <p data-bbox="569 1157 2564 1219">He explains how these lines are designed using GPS technology and specialized equipment to ensure precise grading and optimal water infiltration. He also shows examples of successful projects where infiltration lines have been implemented, demonstrating their effectiveness in restoring degraded land and improving agricultural productivity.</p> <p data-bbox="569 1227 2564 1289">Agüero emphasizes the importance of integrating infiltration lines with other soil and water conservation techniques, such as Vetiver grass planting. He sees Vetiver as a complementary tool that can further enhance the benefits of infiltration lines, particularly in stabilizing slopes and preventing erosion.</p> <p data-bbox="569 1297 2564 1359">The presentation is followed by a lively discussion with participants, who raise questions about the technical aspects of infiltration lines, their suitability for different terrains, and their potential for mitigating the effects of natural disasters. Agüero provides detailed answers based on his experience and knowledge, encouraging participants to explore the potential of this technique in their own contexts.</p> <p data-bbox="569 1367 2564 1429">Overall, the video highlights the importance of innovative approaches to water management and land restoration, particularly in the face of climate change and increasing water scarcity. Agüero's passion for sustainable agriculture and his willingness to share his knowledge make this presentation both informative and inspiring.</p>

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<p data-bbox="129 347 537 467"> <a href="#">CONVERSATORIO VIRTUAL VETIVER #15, March 2024. Wastewater treatment for small coffee producers</a> </p>	<p data-bbox="569 194 2360 256">           Patricia Tello Reategui, an environmental management expert from TechnoServe Peru, discusses using vetiver grass to treat wastewater from coffee production in Peru. Here's a breakdown of the key points:         </p> <ul data-bbox="612 263 2575 526" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Problem:</b> Coffee wastewater is high in organic matter and often contaminates water sources and soil due to improper disposal by small coffee farmers in Peru.</li> <li>• <b>Traditional Solution (and its shortcomings):</b> Sedimentation pits using gravel and sand are expensive, require yearly maintenance, and are often ineffective in the long run.</li> <li>• <b>Vetiver System:</b> Patricia's team researched and implemented a vetiver-based infiltration system. Shallow pits are dug and planted with vetiver grass. The dense vetiver roots filter and clean the wastewater. This system is cheaper, requires less maintenance, and is highly effective in removing pollutants.</li> <li>• <b>Research Findings:</b> Studies showed significant improvement in water quality parameters after using the vetiver system. The treated water was classified as "non-contaminating" according to the Water Quality Index.</li> <li>• <b>Benefits:</b> This vetiver system is cost-effective, easy to implement, adaptable to small farms, and environmentally friendly. It also helps improve soil quality.</li> <li>• <b>Recognition:</b> After 3 years of research, Rainforest Alliance validated this technology.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="569 532 2537 620">           The presentation includes a video demonstrating the construction of a vetiver infiltration pit and a testimonial from a coffee farmer who successfully uses this system. The presentation concludes with a Q&amp;A session where Patricia addresses questions about the system's effectiveness, comparison with other methods, and potential applications in other countries and for different types of wastewater.         </p>
<p data-bbox="129 815 537 902"> <a href="#">CONVERSATORIO VIRTUAL VETIVER #14 February 2024. Climate Change vs The Vetiver System</a> </p>	<p data-bbox="569 659 2591 743">           Claudio Rubén, the speaker, starts by highlighting the devastating effects of climate change, such as droughts and the drying up of water sources. He emphasizes the urgency of the situation and the need for immediate action. Rubén then introduces the Vetiver System, a natural solution for carbon capture and sequestration. He explains that Vetiver grass is highly effective at absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing it in its extensive root system.         </p> <p data-bbox="569 750 2575 808">           Rubén compares Vetiver to other plants and systems, such as eucalyptus and Brachiaria grass, and shows how Vetiver outperforms them in terms of carbon capture and oxygen production. He also discusses the economic benefits of using Vetiver for carbon sequestration, particularly through carbon credits.         </p> <p data-bbox="569 815 2591 902">           The webinar then delves into the causes of global warming, including industrial pollution and the use of fossil fuels. Rubén emphasizes the importance of reducing carbon emissions and the role Vetiver can play in achieving this goal. He also discusses the broader environmental benefits of Vetiver, such as its ability to prevent soil erosion, stabilize slopes, and remediate polluted land.         </p> <p data-bbox="569 909 2591 997">           The webinar concludes with a call to action, urging viewers to get involved in Vetiver-based projects and contribute to the fight against climate change. Rubén proposes several objectives, including conducting further research on Vetiver's carbon capture capabilities, securing funding for large-scale Vetiver projects, and promoting the use of Vetiver in rural areas to create jobs and improve livelihoods.         </p> <p data-bbox="569 1003 2580 1062">           Throughout the webinar, viewers are encouraged to ask questions and share their thoughts on the topics discussed. The webinar serves as a platform for raising awareness about the Vetiver System and its potential to address the challenges of climate change.         </p>
<p data-bbox="129 1218 537 1338"> <a href="#">CONVERSATORIO VIRTUAL VETIVER #13 January 2024. Vetiver Applications In Brazil &amp; ICV-7 Impressions</a> </p>	<p data-bbox="569 1101 1790 1127">           Paula Leo Rodriguez, an expert in bioengineering and erosion control from Brazil, is the guest speaker. Summary:         </p> <ul data-bbox="612 1133 2591 1451" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Paula's Background:</b> Paula has an impressive background in civil engineering and safety engineering. She is the director of DEFLOR in Brazil, a company specializing in erosion and sediment control using vetiver grass.</li> <li>• <b>Vetiver Applications:</b> Paula showcases various vetiver applications in Brazil, including slope stabilization, road embankment protection, mine rehabilitation, and water treatment. She highlights the versatility and effectiveness of vetiver in diverse projects.</li> <li>• <b>International Experience:</b> Paula shares her experiences attending international vetiver conferences (ICV) and workshops in countries like Australia, India, and Thailand. She emphasizes the global knowledge sharing and collaboration within the vetiver community.</li> <li>• <b>Vetiver Products:</b> In addition to live vetiver plants, DEFLOR produces various vetiver-based products like bioblankets and mats for erosion control. They also utilize vetiver for handicrafts and are exploring essential oil production.</li> <li>• <b>Q&amp;A Session:</b> The presentation is followed by a lively Q&amp;A session where participants from different countries ask questions about specific vetiver applications, research findings, and practical challenges.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Key Takeaways:</b> The conversatorio highlights the growing interest and successful implementation of vetiver systems across Latin America. It emphasizes the importance of knowledge sharing, research, and innovation in promoting vetiver for sustainable land management and environmental protection. The video provides a valuable overview of vetiver applications in Brazil and encourages further collaboration and knowledge exchange within the Latin American vetiver community.</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>CONVERSATORIO VIRTUAL LATINOAMERICANO #12 Dec. 2023. iNaturalist - a tutorial for Vetiver tracking</u></a></p>	<p>Guillermo Fadul, explains that iNaturalist is a citizen science tool that allows anyone to record observations of biodiversity, including plants like Vetiver grass. This data is then compiled and used by scientists for research and conservation efforts.</p> <p>Fadul explains how to use the iNaturalist app, including how to create an account, upload observations, and identify species. He also discusses the importance of taking clear photos and providing accurate location information.</p> <p>The goal of the project is to create a comprehensive database of Vetiver grass observations in Latin America and the Caribbean. This data will be used to track the growth and spread of Vetiver, as well as to monitor its impact on the environment.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>CONVERSATORIO VIRTUAL LATINOAMERICANO #11 Nov. 2023. Ingenio Magdalena SA - Vetiver Experiences</u></a></p>	<p>Sarai Lindo Guzmán and Marco Aurelio Gip Velázquez, both engineers from Ingenio Magdalena, a large sugar mill in Guatemala, discuss Ingenio Magdalena's experience with Vetiver grass. Marco begins by giving an overview of the company, highlighting their commitment to innovation and environmental sustainability. He explains how they are using Vetiver for soil conservation, erosion control, and water quality improvement. Dilia then shares more details about their Vetiver projects, including how they are using it to stabilize riverbanks and prevent erosion.</p> <p>The conversation also touches on the potential of Vetiver for carbon sequestration and the production of biofuels. Participants ask questions about the practical aspects of using Vetiver, such as planting methods and maintenance. The speakers emphasize the importance of collaboration and knowledge sharing in promoting the use of Vetiver.</p> <p>The roundtable concludes with a discussion of future Vetiver projects and initiatives in Latin America. Overall, the video provides valuable insights into the practical applications and benefits of Vetiver grass, particularly in the context of sustainable agriculture and environmental management.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>CONVERSATORIO VIRTUAL VETIVER #10 October 2023 Vetiver Grass use in urban areas</u></a></p>	<p>Alois Kennerknecht, shares his extensive experience promoting and implementing Vetiver systems in urban areas of Peru. He discusses his journey with Vetiver, starting with his initial discovery of the plant in 2007. He highlights the various applications of Vetiver in urban environments, including erosion control, wastewater treatment, landscaping, and even as a noise barrier. He shows numerous examples of successful Vetiver projects in different locations, including schools, parks, and residential areas.</p> <p>A key part of his approach is community involvement. Alois emphasizes the importance of engaging with local residents, especially children, to educate them about the benefits of Vetiver and encourage them to participate in planting and maintenance. He shares anecdotes about how he convinced people to adopt Vetiver, often by simply demonstrating its effectiveness through practical applications.</p> <p>The presentation also covers challenges he faced, such as bureaucratic hurdles and skepticism from officials. However, Alois emphasizes that the support from local communities and the visible success of his projects have kept him motivated. He also discusses the potential of Vetiver for income generation through crafts and other applications.</p> <p>The roundtable concludes with a Q&amp;A session, where participants ask questions about various aspects of Vetiver use, including its application in biodigesters, its potential as animal feed, and the use of Vetiver rope for erosion control. Alois provides detailed answers based on his experience and knowledge.</p> <p>Overall, the video showcases the versatility and effectiveness of Vetiver in urban settings and highlights the importance of community engagement in promoting its adoption. Alois's passion for Vetiver and his dedication to sharing his knowledge are evident throughout the presentation.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>CONVERSATORIO VIRTUAL VETIVER #9 September 2023 Vetiver System In Times of Global Over-exploitation</u></a></p>	<p>Piet Sabbe, Ecuador, discusses the role of the Vetiver System in the context of global over-exploitation and environmental degradation.</p> <p>Sabbe begins by highlighting the urgent need for ecological restoration and sustainable land management practices. He emphasizes the interconnectedness of environmental issues, such as deforestation, soil erosion, and climate change, and argues that Vetiver can play a crucial role in addressing these challenges.</p> <p>He then presents a case study of his own farm in Ecuador, where he has successfully used Vetiver to restore degraded land and create a biodiverse food forest. He explains how Vetiver helps to stabilize slopes, prevent erosion, and improve soil fertility.</p> <p>Sabbe also discusses the broader context of global overshoot, where human consumption exceeds the Earth's carrying capacity. He argues that Vetiver can contribute to a more sustainable future by promoting local, nature-based solutions and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.</p>

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	<p>The presentation is followed by a lively discussion with participants from various countries. They share their experiences with Vetiver, discuss the challenges of promoting sustainable practices, and explore the potential of Vetiver for addressing various environmental and social issues.</p> <p>Overall, the webinar highlights the importance of Vetiver as a versatile and effective tool for ecological restoration and sustainable development. It also emphasizes the need for collective action and a shift towards a more holistic and regenerative approach to land management.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>CONVERSATORIO VIRTUAL VETIVER #8 August 2023 Vetiver in Colombian Agroindustry</u></a></p>	<p>Jaime Ramírez Donoso, an agronomist from Colombia, shares his 23 years of experience working with Vetiver grass. He emphasizes the importance of treating Vetiver as a strategic asset for combating climate change, ensuring food security, and recovering degraded soils. He advocates for a technical and research-based approach to Vetiver implementation, highlighting its versatility and adaptability to various environments.</p> <p>He discusses the potential of Vetiver for carbon sequestration, exceeding even forests in its capacity to capture CO2. He also details the economic benefits of Vetiver, particularly in producing biofuels and biomass for industrial use. Ramírez shares his experience developing a Vetiver-based agroindustrial model, achieving high yields of biomass suitable for both domestic and international markets.</p> <p>The presentation also covers the challenges of promoting Vetiver, including overcoming skepticism and bureaucratic hurdles. Ramírez stresses the need for greater political support and public awareness to fully utilize Vetiver's potential in mitigating climate change and achieving environmental sustainability.</p> <p>The roundtable concludes with a Q&amp;A session, where participants discuss various topics, including Vetiver's ability to remediate oil-contaminated soil and water, the methodology for calculating carbon capture, and the importance of international collaboration in promoting Vetiver.</p> <p>Overall, the video provides a comprehensive overview of Vetiver's potential and its various applications in addressing environmental challenges. Ramírez's expertise and passion for Vetiver are evident throughout the presentation, inspiring viewers to consider the possibilities of this versatile plant.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>CONVERSATORIO VIRTUAL VETIVER #7 July 2023. Reflections on 7th International Vetiver Conference</u></a></p>	<p>Antonio Carrillo Bolea, Mexico, shares his experiences and reflections from the 7th International Vetiver Conference in Thailand. He was awarded the King of Thailand Award for his work on the Vetiver System and had the opportunity to present his work to the Princess of Thailand.</p> <p><b>Key takeaways from the conference:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Vetiver's role in climate-smart agriculture:</b> The conference highlighted Vetiver's potential in building climate-smart agriculture and its role in carbon sequestration and climate regulation.</li> <li>• <b>Technological advancements:</b> New technologies like the Vetiver Tracking System were presented, offering tools for monitoring and managing Vetiver projects.</li> <li>• <b>Diverse applications:</b> The conference showcased the diverse applications of Vetiver, from erosion control and water purification to handicrafts and biofuel production.</li> <li>• <b>Community engagement:</b> The importance of community involvement in Vetiver projects was emphasized, with examples of successful initiatives involving local farmers and artisans.</li> <li>• <b>Policy and research:</b> Discussions on policy and research highlighted the need for greater support and collaboration to promote Vetiver adoption and innovation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Personal reflections:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inspiration from Thailand's experience:</b> Antonio was impressed by Thailand's success in integrating Vetiver into its agricultural practices and its strong community engagement.</li> <li>• <b>Importance of international cooperation:</b> He stressed the need for international cooperation to address common challenges and promote knowledge sharing.</li> <li>• <b>Call to action:</b> He urged participants to continue exploring and implementing Vetiver systems, emphasizing their potential for building a more sustainable and resilient future.</li> </ul> <p>The roundtable concluded with a Q&amp;A session, where participants discussed various aspects of Vetiver, including its potential for livestock feed, carbon sequestration, and the challenges of promoting its adoption. The session highlighted the enthusiasm and dedication of the Vetiver community in Latin America and their commitment to utilizing this versatile plant for a better future.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>CONVERSATORIO VIRTUAL VETIVER #6. June 2023. Ethnobotanical Characterization of Vetiver in Colombia</u></a></p>	<p>Iván Alexis Rangel Godoy, also known as "Profe Vetiver," presents his research on the adaptability of Vetiver grass in different climates and altitudes in Colombia, specifically in the dry tropical forest of Barrancabermeja and the cooler highlands of Pamplona.</p> <p><b>Key points from the presentation:</b></p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Adaptability:</b> Rangel demonstrates Vetiver's remarkable adaptability by showcasing its growth in two contrasting environments: Barrancabermeja at 78 meters above sea level with high temperatures, and Pamplona at 2400 meters with cooler temperatures. He shows how the plant thrives in both locations, highlighting its resilience and versatility.</li> <li>• <b>Morphology:</b> He analyzes the morphological differences in Vetiver grown at different altitudes. He observes variations in leaf length, root depth, and aroma concentration, suggesting that environmental factors influence the plant's physical characteristics.</li> <li>• <b>Applications:</b> Rangel discusses various applications of Vetiver, including erosion control, water purification, handicrafts, and as a biofuel source. He emphasizes its potential for carbon sequestration and its contribution to sustainable agriculture.</li> <li>• <b>Community engagement:</b> He highlights the importance of community involvement in Vetiver projects, sharing his experience working with local artisans who use Vetiver fibers for handicrafts, generating income and promoting sustainable practices.</li> <li>• <b>Research findings:</b> He shares his research findings on Vetiver's growth in different substrates, hydroponics, and its resistance to pests and diseases. He also discusses the plant's potential for phytoremediation, particularly in absorbing heavy metals from contaminated soil and water.</li> </ul> <p>The presentation is followed by a Q&amp;A session where participants ask questions about Vetiver's uses, benefits, and challenges. Rangel provides detailed answers based on his research and experience, encouraging further exploration and implementation of Vetiver systems.</p> <p>Overall, the video showcases the versatility and adaptability of Vetiver grass, highlighting its potential for addressing various environmental and social challenges. Rangel's passion for Vetiver and his dedication to research and community engagement are evident throughout the presentation.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>CONVERSATORIO VIRTUAL VETIVER #5 MAY 2023 - The Vetiver Biofilter System (VBS)</u></a></p>	<p>Osvaldo Luque Mireval, an agronomist with extensive experience in soil science and waste management, presents his innovative Vetiver System for bioremediation of non-hazardous organic waste at an industrial level in Venezuela.</p> <p>Luque begins by highlighting the challenge industries face in disposing of non-hazardous organic waste, which is often not accepted in landfills. He introduces his solution: the Vetiver Biofilter System (VBS), a combination of bioremediation and phytoremediation using Vetiver grass. This system has been recognized with awards and effectively addresses the issue of organic waste disposal while also treating contaminated water.</p> <p>He shares a case study from Cervecería de Oriente, a brewery that produced 40 tons of residual sludge daily. Through research and experimentation, Luque developed a composting system that transformed this sludge into a valuable resource. This system, implemented on a 3.5-hectare site, produced 1,500 tons of compost annually, used for gardening and even golf course recovery.</p> <p>Luque explains the VBS process, which involves spreading a layer of compost, applying the organic waste, and aerating it with a harrow. This method effectively controls odors and prevents contaminated water from seeping into deeper soil layers. He provides data and examples of successful VBS implementations at various industries, including a brewery, a soft drink company, and a food processing plant.</p> <p>The VBS has proven effective in biodegrading various organic wastes, including brewery sludge, expired soft drinks, and corn processing byproducts. It offers a sustainable solution for industries to manage their waste, reduce their environmental impact, and even generate valuable compost.</p> <p>Luque emphasizes the system's adaptability and potential for wider application, including treating wastewater from palm oil extraction. He concludes by highlighting the VBS's proven track record over 20 years and its potential to replace conventional wastewater treatment plants in various industries.</p> <p>The presentation is followed by a Q&amp;A session where participants raise questions about specific applications, challenges, and the potential for collaboration. Luque provides detailed answers and expresses his willingness to share his knowledge and expertise to promote the wider adoption of the Vetiver Biofilter System.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>CONVERSATORIO VIRTUAL VETIVER #4 April, 2023 - Climate Risk Reduction and Soil Conservation Tool</u></a></p>	<p>Antonio Carrillo Bolea, presents his work on combining the Vetiver System with Keyline Design for soil conservation and climate risk mitigation, which earned him the King of Thailand Award.</p> <p>Carrillo begins by sharing his journey with Vetiver, from his initial introduction to its use in large-scale projects in sugar cane fields and tobacco farms. He emphasizes the importance of integrating Vetiver with Keyline Design, a technique for maximizing water infiltration and retention in the landscape. This combination, he argues, offers a powerful tool for addressing soil erosion, water scarcity, and climate change impacts.</p> <p>He presents a case study from a tobacco farm where this integrated approach led to significant improvements in soil health and crop yields. He also discusses the potential of this technology for broader applications, such as restoring degraded landscapes and protecting infrastructure.</p>

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	<p>Carrillo emphasizes the need for further research and collaboration to refine and promote this integrated approach. He calls for developing a standardized implementation protocol, drawing on best practices and lessons learned from various projects. He also highlights the importance of engaging with policymakers and stakeholders to create an enabling environment for wider adoption.</p> <p>The presentation is followed by a lively discussion with participants, who raise questions about technical aspects, cost-effectiveness, and potential applications in different contexts. Carrillo provides detailed answers and encourages participants to share their experiences and contribute to the ongoing development of this promising technology.</p> <p>Overall, the video showcases the potential of combining Vetiver and Keyline Design as a nature-based solution for addressing critical environmental challenges. Carrillo's passion for sustainable land management and his dedication to knowledge sharing inspire viewers to explore the possibilities of this integrated approach.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>CONVERSATORIO VIRTUAL VETIVER #3 March 2023. The VEEP Model for Community Development</u></a></p>	<p>Jonathan Barcant, a civil engineer and environmentalist from Trinidad and Tobago, shares his experience promoting Vetiver and introduces the Vetiver Education and Empowerment Package (VEEP) model for community development.</p> <p>Barcant discusses his journey with Vetiver, starting with his work in the mining industry and his growing passion for environmental conservation. He highlights the challenges of promoting Vetiver in Trinidad and Tobago, a country heavily reliant on the oil industry. He also shares his experience with his NGO, "<a href="#"><u>IAMovement</u></a>," which has been active in raising awareness about climate change and promoting sustainable practices.</p> <p>The main focus of the presentation is the VEEP model, a comprehensive package designed to empower communities to adopt and utilize Vetiver. The model includes educational materials, training programs, and support for developing Vetiver-based livelihoods. Barcant emphasizes the importance of adapting the model to local contexts and involving communities in the process.</p> <p>He shares examples of successful VEEP implementations in different communities in Trinidad and Tobago, highlighting the positive impacts on livelihoods, environmental conservation, and climate change adaptation. He also discusses the importance of using social media and other communication tools to raise awareness and promote Vetiver.</p> <p>The presentation is followed by a lively discussion with participants, who share their experiences and insights on promoting Vetiver in their respective countries. The roundtable concludes with a call for further collaboration and knowledge sharing to advance the use of Vetiver for sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean.</p> <p>Overall, the video showcases the potential of the VEEP model for empowering communities and promoting the widespread adoption of Vetiver. Barcant's passion for Vetiver and his dedication to community engagement are evident throughout the presentation, inspiring viewers to explore the possibilities of this versatile plant for building a more sustainable future.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>CONVERSATORIO VIRTUAL VETIVER #2 February 2023. Vetiver: CO2 sinks to counter Global Warming</u></a></p>	<p>Claudio Rubén Daza, Colombia, focuses on Vetiver's potential for carbon capture and its implications for combating global warming. The discussion centers around a study conducted in Colombia, which found that Vetiver has a remarkable capacity to capture carbon, comparable to a native forest.</p> <p><b>Key takeaways:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Vetiver's Carbon Capture Potential:</b> The study, conducted by Colombian researchers in collaboration with Vetivercol, revealed that Vetiver can capture approximately 269 tons of carbon per hectare annually. This is comparable to the amount of carbon captured by a native forest over 30 years, highlighting Vetiver's significant potential in mitigating climate change.</li> <li>• <b>Study Methodology and Validation:</b> The research involved analyzing Vetiver plants of different ages and densities, with the analysis conducted by the Universidad Nacional and Universidad de los Andes in Colombia. The study's findings were validated by the Centro de Investigaciones Ecológicas La Macarena, lending credibility to the results.</li> <li>• <b>Implications for the Vetiver Industry:</b> The speakers discuss the potential implications of these findings for the Vetiver industry, including the possibility of using Vetiver as a carbon sink to offset greenhouse gas emissions. They also explore the potential for commercializing Vetiver for carbon capture purposes, such as incorporating it into bouquets and floral arrangements.</li> <li>• <b>Next Steps and Challenges:</b> The discussion also touches on the next steps for further research and development, including the need for peer review and publication in indexed journals. The speakers acknowledge the challenges of navigating bureaucratic processes for certification and emphasize the importance of continued research and collaboration to advance the use of Vetiver for carbon sequestration.</li> <li>• <b>Call to Action:</b> The roundtable concludes with a call to action for participants to collaborate on a regional project focused on Vetiver for carbon capture. The speakers emphasize the potential for Vetiver to contribute to economic development and environmental sustainability in Latin America.</li> </ul>

CONVERSATORIO	SUMMARY
	<p>Overall, the video highlights the exciting potential of Vetiver as a nature-based solution for climate change mitigation. The research findings presented in the roundtable underscore the importance of continued research and collaboration to unlock the full potential of Vetiver for carbon sequestration and sustainable development.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>CONVERSATORIO VIRTUAL VETIVER #1 January 2023. The Vetiver System &amp; the 2030 SDGs</u></a></p>	<p>Rafael Luque Mirabal, Venezuela, discusses the importance of re-energizing the Latin American Vetiver Network and of effective strategies for promoting the Vetiver System as a tool to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.</p> <p><b>Key takeaways:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Re-launching the Latin American Vetiver Network:</b> The roundtable marks a renewed effort to strengthen collaboration and knowledge sharing among Vetiver proponents in Latin America. They aim to create a more active network with regular virtual meetings and potentially in-person conferences.</li> <li>• <b>Vetiver and the SDGs:</b> The discussion highlights how Vetiver can contribute to achieving various SDGs, including clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, climate action, life on land, and partnerships for the goals.</li> <li>• <b>Addressing Challenges:</b> Participants identify challenges hindering Vetiver adoption, such as high nursery costs, inconsistent application methods, and the need for greater awareness among policymakers and the public.</li> <li>• <b>Proposed Solutions:</b> Suggestions include standardizing Vetiver nursery prices, developing clear technical specifications for Vetiver applications, and creating educational resources to promote wider understanding of the system's benefits.</li> <li>• <b>Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing:</b> The roundtable emphasizes the importance of collaboration and knowledge sharing among Vetiver practitioners, researchers, and policymakers to overcome challenges and maximize the impact of Vetiver projects.</li> </ul> <p><b>Call to Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Network Participation:</b> Participants are encouraged to actively participate in the network, share their experiences, and contribute to developing and implementing Vetiver projects.</li> <li>• <b>Information Sharing:</b> Attendees are asked to share their updated contact information to facilitate communication and collaboration.</li> <li>• <b>Future Meetings:</b> The group plans to hold regular virtual roundtables, with the next meeting scheduled for February 2023.</li> </ul> <p>Overall, the first Latin American Vetiver Virtual Roundtable served as a platform to re-launch the network, discuss the potential of Vetiver in achieving the SDGs, and identify strategies for overcoming challenges and promoting wider adoption of the Vetiver System. The enthusiasm and commitment of the participants suggest a promising future for the network and the use of Vetiver for sustainable development in Latin America.</p>