

Carbon Sequestration Capacity Assessment of different Trees

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ABSTRACT

Carbon Sequestration is artificial or natural process by which carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere and held in solid or liquid form. It is also defined as the carbon sequestration is capture and conversion of atmospheric CO₂ into a different form, which will not increase the global warming. To achieve this plantation has been an inevitable process. To understand which tree sequester how much carbon is required to explore. The present study has been done on 10 different species of trees to know their carbon sequestration capacity. The above ground biomass and below ground biomass were calculated. Non-destructive technique was applied to determine the above ground biomass. The result obtained is used to predict the carbon storage capacity of individual tree.

Keywords: Carbon, Sequestration, Girth, Biomass

INTRODUCTION

Carbon Sequestration is artificial or natural process by which carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere and held in solid or liquid form. It is also defined as the carbon sequestration is capture and conversion of atmospheric CO₂ into a different form, which will not increase the global warming. Due to increase in the burning of fossil fuels the greenhouse gases are increasing that give rise to global surface temperature. At present, the global concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere is increasing. Greenhouse gases emissions are major contributor to the global warming. Greenhouse gases emissions contain about 77% of CO₂. [3] The permissible CO₂ concentration in atmosphere is 350ppm but the mean CO₂ concentration in atmosphere is 400ppm as per the Inter- governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) [3]. Increasingly convincing evidences show that the Earth is getting warmer and in the future warming could have serious effects on affect human. In perennial crops carbon sequestration is the inbuilt mechanism in which the trap CO₂ from atmosphere to transfers it into a range of products varying from flower, fruits, seeds, in doing, so they reduce the atmospheric carbon level. Storing CO₂ underground to curb is known as carbon sequestration process.

Now a days, deforestation and industries are increasing and it is major cause of increasing in CO₂. For decreasing the carbon content on the Earth, we can do plantation for carbon sequestration and minimizing land degradation. For effective utilization, Medicinal and local species can be used. This can also improve the quality of land. Photosynthesis and respiration are the main processes accounting for capture of carbon dioxide by trees. Using the energy of sunlight, photosynthesis converts water and carbon dioxide into carbohydrates and

oxygen which directly results in the reduction of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.[9] Mature trees do not absorb extra carbon dioxide, whereas young growing trees do capture carbon dioxide. Depending upon age, climate, type of region and soil, a hectare of trees capture 1-10 tons of carbon dioxide per year. Hence, there is a need to plant more trees and tree plantation need to promote on large scale.

METHODOLOGY

Collection of Data

Following parameters are required to compute the carbon sequestration capacity:

- ✓ Height of trees
- ✓ Girth of tree
- ✓ Temperature and Humidity
- ✓ Root Shoot Factor

Height of trees

By using tachometric surveying, Tree height was measured by Theodolite at DBH. The angle between the tree top and eye view at breast height angle (α) and angle of depression (β) is taken for the calculation of height of the trees.

Girth of tree

Girth is a measurement of the distance around the trunk of a tree measured perpendicular to the axis of the trunk. It is measured at breast height, or at 4 feet above ground level. Temperature and Humidity at the intervals of 1 hr were noted down temperature and humidity of atmosphere.

Root-Shoot Factor:

The root-shoot ratio is usually given as the ratio of the weight of the roots to the weight of the top of a plant. For most trees under normal conditions, the root-shoot ratio is 1:5 to 1:6 the top is 5 to 6 times heavier than the roots. If it were not for the weight of the trunk, however, the top and roots would weigh about the same

Calculations

Measurement of tree height and diameter at breast height (DBH)

To estimate biomass of different trees, non-destructive method was used. The biomass of tree was estimated based on DBH and tree height. DBH can be determined by measuring tree Girth at Breast Height (GBH), approximately 1 meter above the ground. The GBH of trees having diameter greater than 10 cm were measured directly by measuring tape.[1]

Above Ground Biomass (AGB) Of Tree:

The above ground biomass of tree includes the whole shoot, branches, leaves, flowers and fruits. It is calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{AGB (kg)} = \text{Volume of tree (m}^3\text{)} \times \text{wood density kg/m}^3 \quad (1)$$

$$V = \pi r^2 h \quad (2)$$

where,

V = volume of the cylindrical shaped tree in m^3

R = Radius of the tree in meters

H = Height of the tree in meter

Radius of the tree is calculated from GBH of tree wood density is used from Global density database. The standard average density is 0.6 gm/cm [1].

Estimation Of Below Ground Biomass (BGB)

The below ground biomass (BGB) includes all biomass of live roots excluding fine roots. The BGB has been calculated by multiplying AGB X 0.167 factors as the rootshoot ratio, BGB is calculated by following BGB (kg/tree) = AGB (kg/tree) X 0.167[1].

Estimation of Total Biomass:

Total biomass is the sum of the above and below ground biomass [1].

$$TB = AGB + BGB \text{ (kg/tree).}$$

Estimation of Carbon:

Generally, for any plant species 50% of its biomass is considered as carbon.

$$\text{Biomass} \times 50 \% [1]$$

Determination of the Weight of Carbon dioxide Sequestered in The Tree:

The weight of CO₂ is C + 2 X O = 44.01

Hence, the ratio of CO₂ to C is calculated as: 44.01/12.0107 = 3.664

Where, Weight of CO₂ is 44.01 g/mol Weight of C is 12.0107 g/mol

Therefore, in order to determine the weight of carbon dioxide sequestered in the tree, the weight of carbon in the tree is multiplied by 3.664[1].

Result

Table 1 shows the carbon stored by trees of 10 different species it has been found that Azadiractaindica (Neem) is tree species, which sequestrates carbon in large amount. In addition, it has been found that Mesuaferrea (Nag chafa) is sequestrating less amount of carbon.

SN	Name of Tree	Nos	Average Carbon Sequestration (Kg)	Density of Tree	Carbon Sequestration per m ²	Total CO ₂ Sequestration in tons
	Badam (Prunus dulcis)	9	7.16	0.000	0.001	0.580
	Nilgiri(Eucalyptus obliqua)	33	34.16	0.000	0.017	37.200
	Iron wood (Casuarine)	1	21.75	0.000	0.000	0.022
	Kavath (Limoniaacidissima)	17	0.346	0.000	0.000	0.100
	Bakayan (Melia azedarach linn)	1	13.78	0.000	0.000	0.014



Golden rain Tree (Golden rain tree (casio))	9	0.51	0.000	0.000	0.041
Madhumalti (Combretum indicum)	2	0.47	0.000	0.000	0.002
Nag Chafa (Mesua ferrea)	15	4.15	0.000	0.001	0.934
Areca palm (Dypsislutescens)	12	0.367	0.000	0.000	0.053
Saptaparni (Alstoniascholaris)	9	7.72	0.000	0.001	0.625

Table 1 Carbon sequestration

CONCLUSION

Plantation is a natural process of capturing carbon from the atmosphere. From this case study it has been found that Azadiractaindica (Neem) is sequestering maximum amount of carbon from the atmosphere. Therefore, it has been suggested that to plant more number of Azadiractaindica (Neem) tree to keep surrounding healthy.

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