

100% BIODEGRADABLES DISHES PRODUCED RECYCLING LEAVES AND DARK OF BANANA TREES IN PERU

The [Chuwa Plant Group](#) of Perú, directed by Josué Martín Soto Cancino, manufactures biodegradable dishes made by leaves and dark of banana trees from the Peruvian Amazon.

The project for the production of the Bio Plant dishes has been awarded in the [Reto Bio 2019 Contest organized by the Innóvate Perú Programme](#) (Ministry of Production of the Peruvian Government).



In addition to the banana leaves and barks, the material of the dishes includes paper and cardboard cellulose. The adopted production process is capable to create organic dishes that will 100% naturally degrade before 60 days, whereas commonly used plates and containers made of polystyrene take 500 years or more, causing serious problems to the environment. The dishes are resistant to various temperatures and can be used for liquids and any type of food. The dishes are not carcinogenic because they do not contain styrene, a petroleum by-product that is found in other types of containers.



Another ecological advantage of the innovative production process is the use of banana crop residues. The Chuwa Plant Team works with small organic banana producers in the Peruvian Amazon to obtain the necessary material to produce the biodegradable dishes, paying the material at a fair price. The leaves are recovered when pickers remove the clusters of bananas from the tree, without damaging the trees. The Team directly provides producers with the necessary technical training to take advantage of the residues of banana cultivation.



With the co-financing of the *Innóvate Peru* Program (Ministry of Production) the Group has been able to design and manufacture specialized machinery (a press, a grinder, and a die cutter) for the production of the biodegradable dishes. With the new equipment, they are able to manufacture about 50,000 dishes monthly.



To date, the Group has managed to introduce the bio dishes in traditional celebrations in various regions of the country, reaching sales for more than 9 thousand soles (2656 USD) and planning to enter the market of natural restaurants and ecological wineries with their product.

The approximate current sale price is 100 to 120 soles (US\$30-35) for 100 dishes, depending on the thickness of

the sheet. The Group is working to made more accessible prices to all consumers expanding production and establishing an effective material recovery system, taking into account that in Peru the cultivation of bananas is carried out throughout the whole year. The Group is also currently working on the design and definition of procedures for the production of biodegradable cutlery.

The Chuwa Plant Team is committed to the care of the environment and the design of its innovative product is represents an important contribution to create alternatives to reduce environmental pollution caused by excessive use of single-use plastic.

This innovation falls within the policies of the Ministry of Production of Peru, which in 2019 launched an initiative to reduce the use of plastic and technopor containers (expanded polystyrene, derived from oil), through the [Resolución Ministerial N° 341-2019-PRODUCE](#).

In 12 years of operation, the *Innovate Perú* Programme of the Ministry of Production has co-financed more than 3,400 projects of which more than 500 work on biodiversity-related issues. The [Reto Bio Contest](#) is aimed at supporting the development of innovative solutions focused on the sustainable use of the resources of the country's biodiversity. *Reto Bio* was created in 2016 and to date it has managed to support 70 innovation and entrepreneurship projects, with an investment of more than 13 million soles.

To know more

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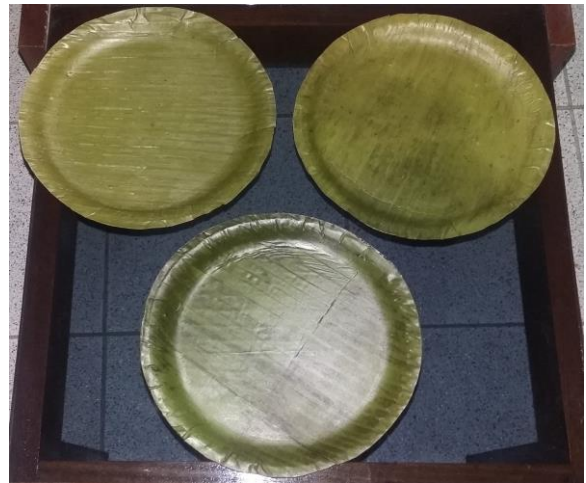
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