

TOBASA COMPANY PROVIDING INDUSTRIES WITH BIOBASED RAW MATERIALS MADE FROM BABASSU COCONUT IN BRAZIL

June 2026

[Tobasa Bioindustrial is a Brazilian company, pioneer in developing technologies and processes for the comprehensive use of babassu coconut, providing bio-based raw materials for various industrial sectors.](#) Founded by Edmond Baruque in 1968 and based in Tocantinópolis, the company has been instrumental in developing innovative technologies and processes for the entire babassu coconut supply chain.

[In 2017 Tobasa became one of the first B Corp-certified companies in the Brazilian Amazon region.](#) This certification is awarded to businesses that balance purpose and profit, considering the impact of their decisions on their workers, customers, suppliers, community and the environment.

[In the Document *Unlocking Circular Economy Finance in Latin America and the Caribbean: The Catalyst for a Positive Change*, published in 2023 by the United Nations Environment Programme,](#) Tobasa is presented as an example of a company capable of reviewing its business model to meet international financial requirements and generate positive changes in economic, social and environmental aspects.

The document highlights that Tobasa indirectly supports a 200,000 hectares area of native forest sustainably managed by local communities, generating income for 1,500 babassu coconut extractives families and 200 factory employees. Tobasa maximizes the value of babassu coconut using proprietary technology while regenerating the natural ecosystem. It started with oil production from the babassu nut, which accounts for only 6% of the coconut. Over the years, with the implementation of innovative technology for the full use of the coconut, activated carbon has become its main product, enabling a zero-waste harvesting process while generating value-added products for several value chains. Today, Tobasa serves customers in different value chains, such as the hygiene and cleaning, agricultural, biofuels, chemicals, cosmetics and alcoholic beverages sectors. Tobasa is also the largest producer of coconut-based activated carbon in Latin America.

[An article published on \[climatechampions.net\]\(http://climatechampions.net\) tells the story of Tobasa.](#) Babassu (*Attalea speciosa*) is a species of palm tree that thrives on the edges of the three major types of Brazilian forest, covering about 20 million hectares of Brazilian territory, mainly in the states of Maranhão, Tocantins and Piauí. This hardy tree not only grows in dense closed forests, but also acts as a pioneer species that can help colonize



BABASSU PALM 



degraded and deforested areas, helping other species take root. Babassu is also an economic asset: its coconuts produce rich oil and strong plant fibre. From the late 1980s, however, babassu production has experienced a continuous decline. The spread of intensive agriculture and livestock production has destroyed the babassau forests, and the introduction of cheap, imported palm oil from Asian producers has replaced babassu oil as the key ingredient in Brazil's personal care, perfumery and cosmetics industries. Some local producers have closed down, threatening the livelihoods of people who depended on the babassu industry. Tobasa Bioindustrial de Babaçu was founded in the late 1960s with a mission to invest in new technologies to make babassu coconut production more efficient. Tobasa separates the various parts of the babassu coconut and finds a commercial use for each of its components. For Tobasa, less waste means more profit and a lower environmental impact.

Today, Tobasa is the only industrial complex of its kind in Brazil. The company produces activated carbon for use in residential and industrial water filters, bio alcohol for use in the cosmetic and beverage industries, and other babassu by-products such as meal, which is used for animal feed. To ensure that its supply is both high-quality and consistent, Tobasa works closely with the local communities that harvest babassu palms. Babassu harvesters formerly could only sell the valuable inner nut, which accounts for only 6 percent of the total mass of the coconut, but, thanks to technological innovation, Tobasa can now use the entire coconut to produce goods for the market. By buying the whole coconuts, both the nut and the shell, Tobasa ensures that farmers get the most out of what they harvest.

In 2016, Kaeté, through its Multi-Strategy Sustainable Investment Fund for the Amazon, invested US\$ 2.2 million in Tobasa's project, with the objective of improving the industrial process and increasing production capacity. This partnership has allowed Tobasa to expand its operations and the number of its babassu harvesters it works with. As of 2018, Tobasa buys babassu coconuts from over 120,000 hectares in the region, benefiting thousands of local producers. Since 2016 alone, its reach has expanded by 60 percent, and the company has begun to work with an additional 1,500 families. The more babassu that local communities produce, the more income they generate. In this way, Tobasa indirectly incentivizes farmers to plant trees and restore degraded land throughout the region. The area managed by the Tobasa-affiliated communities already stores more than 19 million tons of CO₂ and sequesters an additional 1 million tons per year. If more land is restored to meet growing domestic demand for plant oils, more carbon will be stored, and more communities will benefit.

Being a native species, the babassu does not require pesticides or agrochemicals. By increasing the value of the entire fruit, Tobasa not only considerably increases the income of fruit-pickers, but also establishes a partnership with them in protecting the trees. The relationship with the communities has been built and strengthened throughout the company's history, creating a virtuous cycle that integrates positive economic, environmental and social impact.

The company has been recognized in Brazil by the Brazilian Micro and Small Enterprise Support Service (SEBRAE), the National Intellectual Property Institute (INPI) and the Brazilian Biodiversity Fund (FUNBIO). The Tobasa company has also been recognized by the United Nations, in particular in publications by the UN Environment Programme, by the



Climatech Champions.net Initiative, by the *Regional Outlook on the 2030 Climate Solutions* Publication of the UNFCCC secretariat in 2023.

To know more

[Video Tobasa en jornadanacionalinovacao.com.br](https://jornadanacionalinovacao.com.br)

[Tobasa Bioindustrial de Babaçu Impact Report 2026](#)

[Tobasa in Youtube.com](#)

[Video Tobasa in Instagram.com](#)

[Unlocking Circular Economy Finance in Latin America and the Caribbean: The Catalyst for a Positive Change in UNEP website](#)

[Article in climatechchampions.net website](#)

[Tobasa Bioindustrial company case study in andeglobal.org](#)

[Article in initiative20x20.org](#)

[Regional Outlook on the 2033 Climate Solutions in unfccc.int](#)

[Article in corporation.net](#)

[Article in fundovale.org](#)

[Tobasa in Instagram.com](#)

[Article in rr10noticias.com.br](#)

[Elements for a national strategy to implement Biorefineries in Brazil. Article in gov.br](#)

[Bcorporation.net website](#)

[Article on babassu in fundobrasil.org.br](#)

[Article on babassu in theguardian.com](#)

[Article on babassu in Mongabay.com](#)

[Article on babassu in wwf.org.br](#)

