



# Sustainability Perspectives

## *Terra Preta de Indo – Pre-historic curio or future landuse model?*

**Johannes Lehmann**, associate professor of Crop and Soil Sciences at Cornell University, will explain how a re-appreciation of traditional land use has inspired the design of sustainable management practices for smallholder farmers in the tropics. Relatively recent investigations of fertile soils in the central Amazon, called *Terra Preta de Indio*, suggested that Amerindian populations may have been not only much more numerous than previously thought, but also actively manipulate their soilscape to allow productive agriculture. The key ingredient appears to be large amounts of pyrogenic carbon or charcoal that motivated the development of what is now known as biochar soil management. This presentation will discuss the origin of the concept and evidence for its behavior in soil, as well as contemporary efforts to explore the synergy with bioenergy, waste management and climate change mitigation.



Monday, April 11, 2016 ~ 12:20 – 1:20PM  
Stratton Hall Room 209

All *Sustainability Perspectives* series events are free and open to the public.  
The series explores the concept of sustainability from a variety of viewpoints.

Wells is committed to providing access to all events; anyone needing assistance should contact Marian Brown, Center for Sustainability and the Environment, at 315-364-3304 or by email at [mbrown@wells.edu](mailto:mbrown@wells.edu), as soon as possible.



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