MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Organic carbon enhancer from pyrolysis added to fertilizer order

S.O. 6170(E) of November 11, 2026 sets a biochar standard: at least 30% organic carbon, at most 20% moisture, pH 6.5 to 9.5 and eight heavy metal limits.

THE MINISTRY OF Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has added "Organic Carbon Enhancer manufactured by pyrolysis" to the Fertiliser (Inorganic, Organic or Mixed) (Control) Order, 1985, with a standard for biochar. It did this by order S.O. 6170(E), dated November 11, 2026, the Fertiliser (Inorganic, Organic or Mixed) (Control) Eleventh Amendment Order, 2026. The order is published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 5931, dated November 12, 2026 (CG-DL-E-17112026-277972). It "shall come into force from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette". The Central Government made it under section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, and it is signed by Franklin L. Khobung, Joint Secretary, under F. No. 2-2/2026-FLU.

KEY FACTS

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Order S.O. 6170(E), the Fertiliser (Inorganic, Organic or Mixed) (Control) Eleventh Amendment Order, 2026

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Ministry of Agriculture · November 11, 2026

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A new Explanation 2 in clause 2 says that "Organic carbon enhancer manufactured by pyrolysis" means "any organic material produced by pyrolysis method". The definition applies to sub-clause (h) and item (xi) of sub-clause (q) of clause 2, clause 27B, sub-clause (1E) of clause 29, clause 29D and Parts D, E and F of Schedule VIII. In sub-clause (h), the words "and Biogas plants" become ", Biogas plants and Organic Carbon Enhancer manufactured by pyrolysis". A new item (xi) in sub-clause (q) says that, for this product, the standard is the one set out in Part D of Schedule VIII.

Part D of Schedule VIII sets the standard for "1. Biochar". Moisture is at most 20 per cent by weight and organic carbon at least 30 per cent by weight. The H:C org ratio is 0.7 at most, pH is 6.5 to 9.5 and electrical conductivity is printed as "<4", with no unit. The maximum heavy metal content, in mg per kg, is 10 for arsenic (as As2O3), 5 for cadmium, 50 for chromium, 300 for copper, 1000 for zinc, 100 for lead, 0.15 for mercury and 50 for nickel.

The order adds the product to two clauses that already named other organic inputs. In clause 27B, the marginal heading, the main text and para 2 now name "Organic Carbon Enhancer derived from Compressed Bio Gas Plant or Bio Gas unit" and "Organic Carbon Enhancer manufactured by pyrolysis" next to non-edible de-oiled cake fertiliser. In clause 29D, the marginal heading now names "Organic Carbon Enhancer from Compressed Bio Gas Plant or Bio Gas Plants and Organic Carbon Enhancer manufactured by pyrolysis", and sub-clause (1) names "Organic Carbon Enhancer from Compressed Bio Gas Plants or Bio Gas Plant and Organic Carbon Enhancer manufactured by pyrolysis". The order changes only these words and doesn't reprint the rest of either clause.

Samples are drawn under the method in Part A of Schedule II (new Part E of Schedule VIII). Under a new sub-clause (1E) of clause 29, samples drawn by an inspector are analyzed under Part F of Schedule VIII at the Regional Centre of Natural and Organic Farming at Bengaluru, Bhubaneshwar, Ghaziabad, Imphal and Nagpur, or in any laboratory notified by the Central Government or a State Government.

Part F gives five methods. Moisture is found by heating about 5 g in an oven at 65°C ±1°C for about 5 hours to constant weight. Organic carbon is found by igniting 10 g in a muffle furnace at 650 to 700°C for 6 to 8 hours, then dividing total organic matter by 1.724. H:C org uses a CNH analyzer, with inorganic carbon through ASTM D 4373. pH is read from 25 g of biochar shaken in 500 ml of distilled water for 2 hours and filtered. Heavy metals follow serial numbers 10, 11 and 12 of Part D of Schedule IV.

Schedule VIII also gets a "Part A" heading before its existing heading for organic carbon enhancer from compressed biogas plants, and the new Parts D, E and F go after Part C. The order names no date other than the date of publication. The principal Order was last amended by S.O. 5294(E) of September 24, 2026.

Issued by	Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Document	Order S.O. 6170(E), the Fertiliser (Inorganic, Organic or Mixed) (Control) Eleventh Amendment Order, 2026
Dated	November 11, 2026
Published	Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 5931, November 12, 2026 (CG-DL-E-17112026-277972)
Legal basis	Section 3, Essential Commodities Act, 1955
Takes effect	From the date of its publication in the Official Gazette
Product	Organic Carbon Enhancer manufactured by pyrolysis: "any organic material produced by pyrolysis method"
Standard	Part D of Schedule VIII, for biochar
Clauses changed	Clause 2 (sub-clauses (h) and (q)), clause 27B, clause 29 (new sub-clause (1E)), clause 29D, Schedule VIII (Part A heading; new Parts D, E and F)
Sampling	As per Part A of Schedule II (Part E of Schedule VIII)
Testing laboratories	Regional Centre of Natural and Organic Farming at Bengaluru, Bhubaneshwar, Ghaziabad, Imphal and Nagpur, or any laboratory notified by the Central Government or a State Government
Signed by	Franklin L. Khobung, Joint Secretary, F. No. 2-2/2026-FLU
Last earlier amendment	S.O. 5294(E), September 24, 2026

Part D of Schedule VIII: Biochar

Parameter	Specification
Moisture per cent by weight, maximum	20
Organic carbon per cent by weight, minimum	30
H:C org	0.7 maximum
pH	6.5-9.5
Electrical conductivity	<4
Arsenic (as As2O3), mg/kg, maximum	10
Cadmium (as Cd), mg/kg, maximum	5
Chromium (as Cr), mg/kg, maximum	50
Copper (as Cu), mg/kg, maximum	300
Zinc (as Zn), mg/kg, maximum	1000
Lead (as Pb), mg/kg, maximum	100
Mercury (as Hg), mg/kg, maximum	0.15
Nickel (as Ni), mg/kg, maximum	50

The order (PDF, 659 KB)

Source: Gazette of India, CG-DL-E-17112026-277972.

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