



Eastern and Southern Africa  
Small Scale Farmers' Forum  
**ESAFF - UGANDA**



1<sup>ST</sup> EDITION

**SCHOOLS**

**AGROECOLOGY**

*POEM-WRITING*

**COMPETITION**

**2023**

**AGROECOLOGY**  
**POEM BOOKLET**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Page No.	<b>i</b>	<b>ABOUT ESAFF UGANDA</b>
Page No.	<b>ii</b>	<b>ABOUT THE AGROECOLOGY CLUBS</b>
Page No.	<b>iii</b>	<b>BACKGROUND OF THE 1ST SCHOOLS AGROECOLOGY POEM WRITING COMPETITION</b>
Page No.	<b>iv</b>	<b>ABOUT THE BOOKLET</b>
Page No.	<b>1</b>	<b>AGROECOLOGY POEMS</b>
Page No.	1	Risks of Chemical Substances in Farming
Page No.	2.	Deforestation A Lament
Page No.	3.	A Snake Kiss
Page No.	4.	Water Pollution
Page No.	5.	Let Us Embrace Organic Farming
Page No.	6.	Ode to Agroecology
Page No.	7.	Agroecology's Splendor
Page No.	8.	Farm Yard Manure: A Blessing for Organic Farmers
Page No.	10.	Human Urine: A Gift to Organic Farming
Page No.	12.	Nothing Compares to the Beauty of Organic Farming
Page No.	13.	Fighting Against the Scary Monster
Page No.	14.	In the Fields of Green
Page No.	16.	Dystopia (Unanswered Questions)
Page No.	18.	Community Seed Banks: Sowing Our Future
Page No.	20.	Deforestation: A Troubling Issue
Page No.	22.	A Growing Concern
Page No.	23.	Organic Farming: Nature's Way
Page No.	25.	Embrace Organic Farming
Page No.	26.	An Inclusive Household
Page No.	27.	Deforestation: A Call for Action
Page No.	29.	Agroecology: Nurturing Our World
Page No.	31	Organic Farming: A Path to Sustainable Agriculture
Page No.	32	Climate Change and Climate Justice: A Call to Action
Page No.	<b>34</b>	<b>WINNERS OF THE 1ST EDITION OF THE SCHOOLS AGROECOLOGY POEM WRITING COMPETITION 2023</b>
Page No.	<b>35</b>	<b>A CALL FOR THE 2ND POEM-WRITING COMPETITION 2024 PARTICIPANTS</b>

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*About*

## **ESAFF UGANDA**

Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) was formed in 2002 during the World Summit on Sustainable Agriculture which was being held in Johannesburg, South Africa by small-scale farmers. The main aim was to make small-scale farmers, pastoralists and fisher folk, who are central to sustainable natural resource management and development more visible.

Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) was operationalised in Uganda in 2008 as a direct response to the need to create a regional Forum to bring together small-scale farmers into a farmer-led advocacy movement to influence policies and practices at global, continental, regional, national and local levels.

ESAFF Uganda is a small-scale farmer-led advocacy movement formed to facilitate processes through which small scale farmers' development concerns can be solicited, articulated and ultimately addressed through policies and programs. ESAFF Uganda focuses on advancing economic empowerment, agroecology and food sovereignty. ESAFF Uganda is currently having a membership of 12,543 farmer groups with 384,056 individual small-scale farmers of which 64 per cent are women in 54 districts (under the administration of 30 historical districts' forums).

ESAFF Uganda is also part of a bigger network of small-scale farmers in the other 15 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa including South Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, South Africa, Lesotho, DR Congo, Madagascar, Seychelles and Mozambique.



*About*

## **THE AGROECOLOGY CLUBS**

The Agroecology Clubs are communities within academic institutions where pupils and students learn hands-on knowledge about sustainable food systems. These clubs aim to prepare the next generation to value agroecology as a production mechanism that can address the challenges in the current food systems and empower them to challenge the current way agriculture is taught in schools. Agroecology Clubs also respects the notion that the next generation's role in promoting a sustainable food system can't be downplayed.

Agroecology Clubs ensure that learners are equipped with diverse knowledge of the different agroecological practices and offer young people the chance to learn and understand more about agroecology in their academic institutions. The clubs ensure that the members share the knowledge learnt in their club with school mates and other members in the community.



## *Background of*

# **THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SCHOOLS AGROECOLOGY POEM WRITING COMPETITION**

ESAFF Uganda launched the 1st edition of the Schools Agroecology Poem Writing Competition 2023 on 5th June, 2023 in Mbale district. After the launch, a call was put up inviting the pupils and students from the Agroecology Clubs to take part in the competition with the of creating a broader awareness and appreciation of agroecology in secondary and primary schools in all regions of Uganda and most importantly members of Agroecology Clubs.

The competition had two levels that included the internal competition among members of the Agroecology Clubs where the best three from each school were selected to take part in the national competition against members from the different districts in the country.

The poems were examined and marked by an independent team of Poets and literature teachers where the best schools and students in the competition were selected and awarded prizes.



*About*  
**THE BOOKLET**

The Agroecology Poem Booklet presents selected poems from the different schools and Agroecology Clubs. Out of the 150 poems received, a few were selected for publication as a representation of how much literature received from the poems.

Please enjoy reading the book as it depicts the knowledge and skills on agroecology and poem writing abilities from the members of Agroecology Clubs in primary and secondary schools in Uganda.

This Agroecology Poem Booklet was produced by ESAFF Uganda with support from Humundi and Agroecology Fund.

**In the subsequent pages are the selected poems from pupils and students that participated in the 1st Schools Agroecology Poem Writing Competition 2023.**



## Risks of Chemical Substances in Farming

In days of yore, my proud grandmother's lore,  
They tilled the earth, yams, Cassava galore,  
Herbicides, Fungicides, Insecticides unknown,  
Unlearned they called them, in nature's zone.

With wisdom and beauty, tactics were grand,  
Yam yields in question, they'd take a stand,  
Another season brought forth plantains anew,  
To calm Earth's fury, a tradition they'd pursue.

Surprisingly, it worked, like magic they'd find,  
Yet, in the present, a different tale unwinds,  
Soil, water, and humans, all face contamination,  
Death lurks in cycles, a haunting revelation.

Perhaps in their dreams, they saw the strife,  
But today, my grandchild, a changed life,  
Only yesterday, I learned with concern,  
Oranges without seeds, a strange fruit's return.

Yesu... Shiibaala silikhutsa wa, my dear,  
Plastic rice, an odd meal, we now fear,  
Crops, modified for human consumption,  
In our time, seen as pure presumption.

Mwituuskhuklulu wase, a curse from the past,  
From gods, crops, and humans, the shadows cast,  
To fall ill was a sign, a shared lament,  
Today, if crops thrive, it's a rare event.

So, my son, the old days had their grace,  
Crops shifted with seasons, in a harmonious embrace,  
Maize with beloved beans, cassava with cabbages,  
A life so beautiful, free from future ravages.

NanyanyaaCids... the threat of tomorrow, so clear,  
A word to the wise, hold it close, my dear,  
Says my grandma, proud and wise in her station,  
"The old days were better," her firm declaration.

By Namuwenge Shamim, S.3, Vision High School - Mbale







## Deforestation A Lament

You, a peril to human habitation's stead,  
Soil erosion you sow, where life once spread,  
Oh, deforestation, your harm is widespread,  
Bringing floods to lands where nature once led.

Deforestation Deforestation Deforestation  
You, the agent of environmental strife,  
Drought you bring, claiming livelihoods and life,  
People and their homes fall victim to your knife,  
Rain's formation falters in your shadowy rife.

Oh, deforestation, a menace that's rife,  
Endangering people's hopes, their very life.

By Farida James, P.6,  
Rock View Nursery and Primary School - Adjumani





## A Snake Kiss

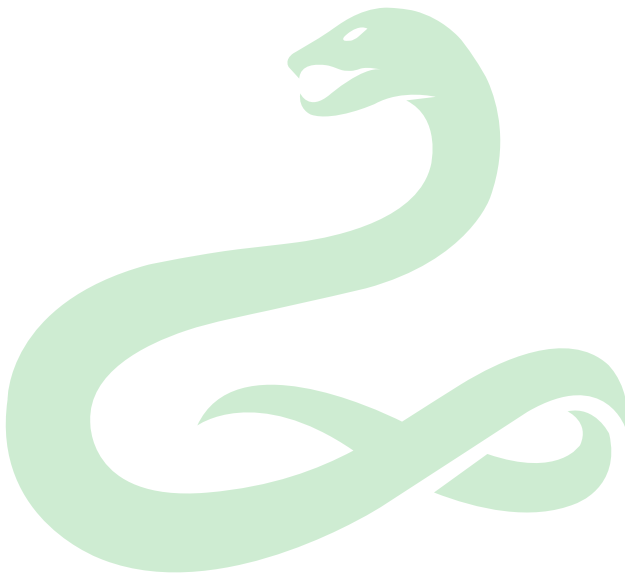
Deforestation, a looming disaster we face,  
Let's unite, people of goodwill, embrace,  
Together, we'll stand and boldly declare,  
To preserve our beauty, we're fully aware.

For it robs the earth of roots, stems, and leaves,  
Clears the world's treasures, nature bereaves,  
So hand in hand, let's all loudly say,  
"No to deforestation," our fervent way.

Say no, my people, when a suitor appears,  
Bold as the devil, with fox-like veneers,  
Sweet words conceal a virus, it's true,  
Say no to their bait, lest degradation ensue.

My dear Ugandans, heed the call to resist,  
Wages of this act, neither wealth nor bliss,  
But poverty and misery, a harsh twist,  
Say no to the kiss from the serpent's kiss.

By Namboya Pretty Pauline, P.6,  
Pagak Primary School - Amuru





## Water Pollution

Theorists, scholars, comedians, all agree,  
Water is life, a vital decree,  
In Ugandan and African homes, we see,  
Water's role in our growth, it's the key.

From mornings to nights, we quench our thirst,  
Safe water's a must, in that, we're immersed,  
Boil, filter, and store, our safety rehearsed,  
Proper storage at home and school, well-versed.

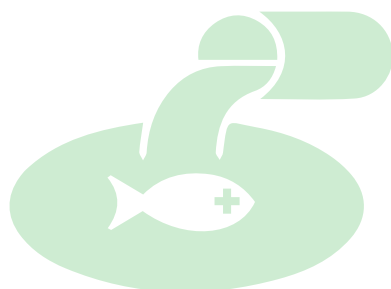
Spread this message far and wide, we implore,  
Water pollution's the act we abhor,  
Safe water usage, a healthful chore,  
Prevent pollution, let's settle the score.

From dead rant oils to chemicals unknown,  
Dirty containers, wells, a danger prone,  
All of the above, to mankind, we've shown,  
Polluted water affects all, it's well-known.

Plants suffer too, in the tainted stream,  
Aquatic species, in polluted waters, gleam,  
Ecology destroyed, it's not a dream,  
In this environment, elements must beam.

Living things must support, not degrade,  
Guard against pollution, let it fade,  
A better life, with our efforts made,  
For water unspoiled, let's all crusade.

By Ijiang Dorcus, P.6,  
Otubet Primary School - Amuria





## Let Us Embrace Organic Farming

Organic farming, organic farming, we proclaim,  
Also known as ecological farming, its aim,  
Rooted in nature, where principles lay,  
Organic origin fertilizers, knowledge to sway,  
Preparation and application, anyone can say.

Organic farming, the solution we embrace,  
Green manure, composite manure in its grace,  
Farmyard treasures like chicken, goats, and more,  
Droppings, cow dung, the wealth we explore,  
Human and animal urine, for pests' uproar,  
Fertilizers they become, without much uproar.

Let's tread the path of organic ways,  
Sustainability for our land, in all its days,  
For crop and animal production, we yearn,  
Our health, it safeguards, we discern,  
Qualitative, sustainable yields we discern,  
In organic farming, lessons to learn.

Crop rotation and mulching, don't forget,  
For quality, sustainability, a solid bet,  
Let us, united, the organic path set,  
Embrace this change, no more to fret.

By Kasowole Sharifa, P.7,  
Nakulyaku Primary School - Kamuli





## Ode to Agroecology

Agroecology, a beacon of light you are,  
For men and women, youth near and far,  
You teach us to cultivate and afforest with grace,  
For our betterment, in this vast open space.

We dry seeds, in cool, dry embrace,  
To secure seed sovereignty, a noble chase,  
With community seed banks, a prized charity,  
Empowering farmers, their legacy in clarity.

Food sovereignty, you bestow with grace,  
Empowering communities to govern their space,  
Without you, we're adrift, a ship at sea,  
Agroecology, you hold the key.

How admirable you are, source of employment true,  
You've shaped this world, in vibrant hue,  
Without you, life's balance would sway,  
We cherish you as the light of day.

You've adorned the world, made it pristine,  
In beauty and sustenance, your reign is seen,  
Oh, how wonderful you are, our guiding star,  
Upon your wisdom, we all depend, near and far.

Agroecology, a friend to soil's vitality,  
Organic farming, your noble reality,  
Discouraging the bush with care and finesse,  
Managing our land, we are truly blessed.

Wildlife conservation, poaching's nemesis,  
Strict laws enforced, nature's emissary,  
Promoting tourism, preserving our Earth's heart,  
Guarding against climate change from the start.

Water, the essence of life, you utilize with grace,  
Keeping it clean, a noble embrace,  
Proudly we stand, for you lead the way,  
Agroecology, we celebrate you today.

By Nyirahabimana Olivia, S.3,  
St. Gertrude Girls' Vocational Secondary School - Kisoro



## Agroecology's Splendor

Agroecology, your brilliance does shine,  
For men, for women, both young and in prime,  
Cultivate the land, embrace afforestation's rhyme,  
For a brighter future, our precious paradigm.

Dry seeds we store, in cool, dry grace,  
Promoting sovereignty, our sacred space,  
Community seed banks, a generous place,  
Empowering farmers in this noble chase.

Food sovereignty, you bestow with grace,  
Empowering all, in every single place,  
Without you, we're but shadows in the night,  
Agroecology, you bring our dreams to light.

Organic farming, soil's fertility we tend,  
Discouraging bush-burning, a message to send,  
With bush following, we diligently mend,  
Conserving wildlife, nature's true friend.

Strict laws against poaching, we defend,  
Promoting tourism, on which we depend,  
Climate change and justice, we comprehend,  
Agroecology, our guiding hand, our trend.

Water resources like lakes, rivers so wide,  
By keeping them clean, we take pride,  
Grafting blooms, plant kinds multiplied,  
Through your wisdom, our needs supplied.

Yet, the use of chemicals, a practice so dire,  
They scorch plants, soil's essence they mire,  
Plastics pollute, raising a chorus of concern,  
Deforestation fuels global warming's burn.

In the grand tapestry of Earth's creation,  
Agroecology, you're our foundation,  
For a sustainable world, our inspiration,  
Your beauty shines, our hearts' elation.

By Nyirambabariye Peruth, S.3,  
St. Gertrude Girls' Vocational Secondary School - Kisoro



## Farm Yard Manure: A Blessing for Organic Farmers

In the realm of organic farming, a sacred art,  
Manure is the key, it plays a vital part,  
Derived from dung and droppings, pure and prime,  
From farm animals and birds, a treasure in its time.

Cattle, goats, pigs, rabbits, and chickens in the mix,  
This blend is baptized as farm yard manure, a fix,  
Simple to prepare, yet its use is a nuanced brew,  
Dig a pit, deep and wide, to unlock its virtue.

Collect all kinds of farmyard manure, diverse,  
Regularly deposit them in the pit, a universe,  
There it rots and heaps, transforming in due course,  
Into rich manure, nature's endless force.

Farm animal dung and droppings, nature's gold,  
After decomposition, crops they truly uphold,  
Apply it with care, a seasonal endeavor,  
On the surface of the land, not the crops, however.

Any weather before planting, it's best to spread,  
Evenly distributed, as the seasons thread,  
Till your land, plant seeds when rains descend,  
Weed diligently, let no manure go to waste, my friend.

Farm animal droppings, a nitrate-rich delight,  
With Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium so bright,  
Crops relish these nutrients, with all their might,  
Bearing sweet, healthy fruits, a pure delight.

In the banana plantation, please take heed,  
Dig feeding pots, where bananas succeed,  
Fill them with manure, with diligent care,  
Nourish their roots, let them thrive and bear.

Never apply it directly to plant stools, you see,  
In organic farming, let nature's course be,  
Direct application may invite more than zest,  
Pests and vitamins, creating an organic fest.



Fresh manure, avoid when applying this art,  
Plants may wilt, wither, a painful depart,  
Organic farming, a practice both wise and cheap,  
With knowledge and Care, our bounty will reap.

By Ngobi Simon, P.7,  
Nakulyaku Primary School - Kamuli







## Human Urine: A Gift to Organic Farming

In the realm of farming, a transformation we embrace,  
Giving rise to organic farming, nature's honored space,  
Organic or ecological, it's a harmonious trace,  
The use of urine, a precious, natural grace.

Farm animal urine, from cattle and goats it flows,  
Rabbits, too, have urine, a unique repose,  
Yet on small scales, and in humble abodes,  
Collecting their bounty, as our story goes.

Human urine, a treasure, little known,  
Both manure and pesticide, its secrets shown,  
Some choose to urinate in the quiet night alone,  
In a bucket designated, their offering sown.

A jerry can kept, behind the latrine's door,  
Urine collected, a resource to explore,  
Whenever needed, a choice to restore,  
Manure or pesticide, both to adore.

Neem tree leaves, red pepper, tobacco leaves' grace,  
Boiling ash, a vital ingredient we embrace,  
Preparation's akin, both in time and space,  
Though their periods of readiness do pace.

Human urine, a potent manure's delight,  
For all crops, be they seasonal or with annual flight,  
Urine as pesticide, after days, we sight,  
Urine as manure, after a week's insight.

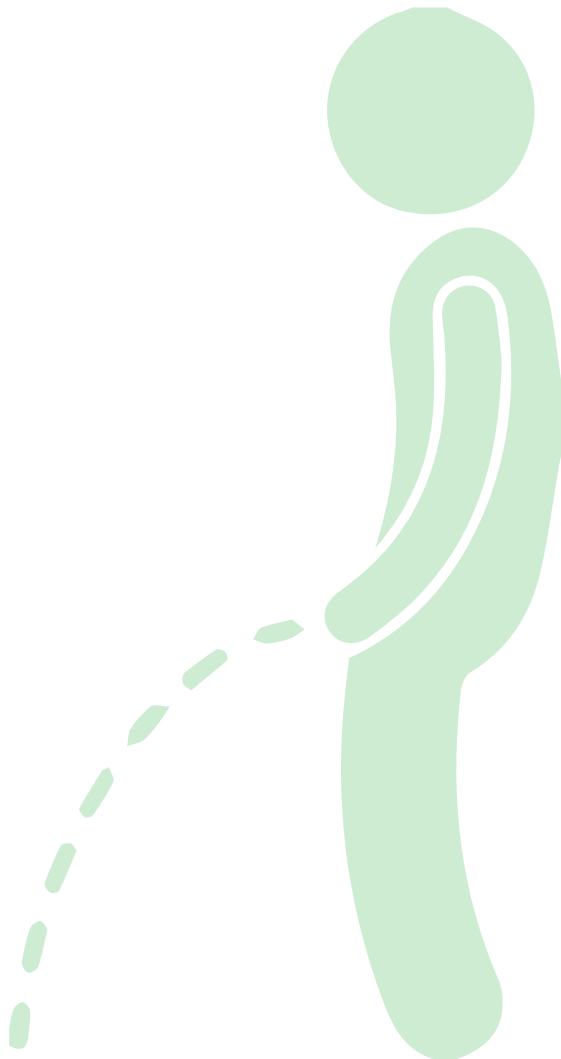
Mixing the ingredients, a meticulous chore,  
A measure of urine, ash, in waters to pour,  
In a ten-liter jerry can, their fusion to store,  
For pesticide, a shield, against pests that explore.

Organic farming, a path to sustainability's grace,  
Biological farming, in nature's loving embrace,  
The sole practice for land's enduring base,  
For healthy produce, a steady, wholesome race.



The assurance of authentic goods we find,  
Quality seeds, resilient to each season's grind,  
Stored produce enduring, without poison's bind,  
With organic farming, our pledge of a kind.

By Kasowole Sharifa, P.7,  
Nakulyaku Primary School - Kamuli.





## Nothing Compares to the Beauty of Organic Farming

There's no sweeter food than organically grown fare,  
In its embrace, I find liveliness and riches rare.  
A steady bounty of grains and seeds, it bestows,  
Oh, organic farming, our guardian of the earth it shows.

There's no farming that mirrors feminism's grace,  
A sanctuary for women's hands and hearts to embrace.  
Where safety and solace, I unreservedly glean,  
No moments squandered, it's a harmonious scene.  
Oh, organic farming, you preserve my pristine sheen.

There's nothing as profound as ancestral lore's decree,  
Within its wisdom, we share grains so healthy and free.  
Exchanging vibrant seeds, with inputs frugal and keen,  
Oh, organic farming, you keep our treasures unseen,  
And in thriftiness, you nurture our wealth, it's been.

There's nothing more enchanting, the soil's rebirth,  
A sanctuary for health, flourishing and mirth.  
In symbiosis with farmers, and buyers in line,  
Organic farming, our sole health design.  
Organic farming, the path we'll forever define.

By Ayubu Babra, P.7,  
Pagak Primary School - Amuru





## Fighting Against the Scary Monster

We must stand up and say "No" ,  
To farmers with weird seeds that grow.  
They don't care 'bout me and you,  
Just making money, it's sadly true.

They trade our friends, they trade our kin,  
Don't care 'bout the mess they're in.  
Our health doesn't matter to them at all,  
They just want to get rich, stand tall.

Let's wake up and say "No" real loud,  
Stop the bad things, we must be proud.  
Protect our land, let's take the chance,  
Save our world with a caring stance.

We need to stop these scary guys,  
With rules and laws, we'll make them wise.  
Put them in jail if they do wrong,  
Teach them a lesson, make them strong.

We need organic food, that's clear,  
Fruits and juice that we hold dear.  
It helps us grow, healthy and bright,  
In school, we'll shine, with all our might.

Remember, things that grow too fast,  
Don't always last, they don't quite last.  
So, let's be smart, say "No" today,  
To the scary monster, we'll find our way.

By Nomboya Pretty Pauline, P.6,  
Pagak Primary School - Amuru





## In the Fields of Green

In fields so green, where nature thrives,  
A story of harmony, in our lives.  
Organic farming, a gentle art,  
Nature's dance, each plays their part.

ESAFF Uganda leads the way,  
Helping clubs, day by day,  
Planting knowledge, pure and clear,  
Caring for Earth, with hearts sincere.

With sunny skies and soil so rich,  
Organic farming's a magic pitch.  
No harmful chemicals, harm the land,  
With nature's touch, we lend a hand.

Urine and ash, their roles they play,  
In companion planting, a joyful day.  
Different crops, together stand,  
Marigolds protect, on this fertile land.

Ladybugs, with spots so neat,  
Keep pests away, it's quite a feat.  
Earthworms work beneath the soil's embrace,  
With gentle moves, they keep the pace.

Raindrops fall from the sky so high,  
Quenching thirst, where life does lie.  
We cherish each drop, no waste in sight,  
Conserving water, day and night.

Compost heaps, like treasures found,  
Turn food scraps into soil's sweet ground.  
The circle of life, a wondrous chase,  
From decay to growth, a harmonious space.

Through seasons' dance, with sun and rain,  
Farmers toil on this fertile terrain.  
With love and care, they tend each row,  
Sharing Earth's secrets as they go.



In orchards green, where fruit trees grow,  
Whispers of secrets in the breezes flow.  
The joy of harvest, the fruits so sweet,  
A reward for neighbors, it's quite a treat.

So let's learn from nature's tune,  
With ESAFF Uganda, under the moon.  
Caring for Earth with a warm embrace,  
Organic farming finds its place.

In this tale of green, shining so bright,  
Our future looks promising and right.  
With agroecology clubs in full bloom,  
We nurture harmony, dispel any gloom.

By Tumwijukye Victor, P.6,  
Rock Primary School, Kasese.





## Dystopia (Unanswered Questions)

They believe they can trick  
every single one of us, oh so slick.  
Sit and hear what I must say,  
From Leviticus, Chapter 19; 19's display.  
"Do not mix the seeds," it's clearly said,  
Cross-breeding animals, it's also spread.  
In the holy book, these words are found,  
But they say, "Yes!" with a curious sound.

Weigh the good and bad, they claim it's smart,  
But are we, like God, playing our part?  
Isn't this what God deems as wrong?  
Oh, you devil! Yes, you! So strong!  
Emerging from your pit, insatiable, it seems,  
All for science, in the name of dreams.

To consume mankind, you silently plot,  
"Genetically mobilized illnesses," you've brought.  
I mean Genetic... Oh! GMOs, it's clear,  
A warning for a future we all fear,  
A complete dystopia, a troubling view,  
Flashback to the '70s, let's see if it's true.  
Did cancer haunt our days back then?

The dreaded "contamination," where and when?  
Global warming soaring to the skies,  
Did our ancestors see it with their eyes?  
I'm asking you, answer me true,  
Before GMOs, did cancer ensue?  
They label us "laymen," so unkind,  
Saying our education lags behind.

Why does it always have to be "America" in sight?  
New world order, America's might!  
GMOs, America's claim to fame,  
World wars, and new diseases, it's all the same.  
While I savor my fresh pumpkin's taste,  
News spreads, and it's such a waste,  
"Americans have found a new gene," they proclaim,  
New gene, new problems, it's all the same!



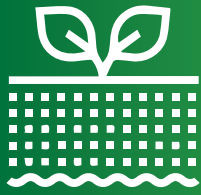
My brothers and sisters, I'm with you here,  
There are pros and cons, let's be clear.

But the risk in the cons is hard to deny,  
Greater than the pros, that's no lie.  
Even they admit, through scientific creed,  
"GMOs aren't inherently safe," we must heed.  
Let's halt the gamble, prevent the fall,  
Avoid a dystopia, for the good of all!

By Wanyenya Esther S.2,  
Vision High Secondary School - Mbale







## Community Seed Banks: Sowing Our Future

Oh, how I yearn for folks to realize,  
The marvel of Community Seed Banks that lies,  
A treasure trove for the ages, we must retain,  
To safeguard our seeds, break free from the chain.

Seed Banks, guardians of genetic diversity's grace,  
Preserving our heritage for the future to embrace.  
Okra, ladies' finger, and garden peas in their fold,  
Historical sites of wonder, their stories to be told.

These banks, not just dusty repositories we see,  
But havens for research, where knowledge sets us free.  
Drawing tourists near, with currency in their hands,  
Fueling development, across our fertile lands.

In these Seed Banks, imagine seeds aligned,  
Chronologically arranged, a sight so refined.  
A place for managers, coordinators in their role,  
Promoting a high standard of living, a collective goal.

They form mountains unyielding, against food's scarcity,  
With abundant seeds, a lifeline of generosity.  
Rescuing families from the anguish of strife,  
Nourishing generations, enhancing their life.

Envision a society freed from illness's chain,  
Herbal seeds in abundance, releasing health's gain.  
Students and farmers, knowledge they amass,  
In Agroecology, they thrive and surpass.

Farmers rejoicing as pests and diseases retreat,  
Their seeds secure, their harvests complete.  
Homes filled with delights, treasures that roam,  
With seeds that blossom, wherever they roam.

Communities ecstatic, bidding hunger adieu,  
Seeds as food, vegetables, medicines too.  
Scurvy, Beriberi, and Kwashiorkor in retreat,  
With seeds rich in nutrients, a balanced feat.



Oh, Banks of seeds, so vital to our quest,  
Bestowing farmers with each season's bequest.  
Enriching our environment, a role so grand,  
Beautifying, stabilizing, and nurturing our land.

Baroda Banks of Seeds, our heartfelt cheer,  
Together we stand, united and near.  
To conserve these treasures, our collective might,  
For health, abundance, and a future so bright.

Seed Banks! Seed Banks! Seed Banks, we sing,  
Congratulations to ESAFF Uganda to them, we cling.  
In their vision, our world shines anew,  
With Community Seed Banks, dreams come true.

By Aceng Leah S.5,  
Maruzi Seed Secondary School - Apac





## Deforestation: A Troubling Issue

Deforestation, who are you, we wonder?  
Cutting trees down, a large-scale blunder.  
For various needs, they say you're done,  
But we must understand the harm you've spun.

Deforestation, you come in many ways,  
Poles for power, wood for heat's blaze,  
Timber for structures, and more, it's true,  
Causing problems that affect me and you.

Deforestation, you bring troubles near,  
Soil erosion, houses that disappear.  
Leaving the land bare, crops struggle, you see,  
Reducing the yields we used to be.

Deforestation, it's not just one place,  
Nations cry out, your impact they face.  
Less rain falls down on the land's floor,  
Trees, once transpiring, help rain no more.

Deforestation, life's now quite hard,  
People seeking shade in every yard.  
Animals suffer, with no pasture to graze,  
Drought you've caused, in many ways.

Deforestation, where did you start?  
Trees are gone, windbreaks fall apart.  
But we'll rise up, take a stand today,  
By planting more trees, we'll find a way.

Deforestation, a practice so unkind,  
Harms the Earth, leaves troubles behind.  
Farmers, teachers, children, all unite,  
Let's fight deforestation with all our might.

Deforestation, we'll stand up tall,  
Together we'll work to stop your fall.  
Join hands, plant trees, let's make a stand,  
Deforestation, no place in our land.



Deforestation, we say it loud and clear,  
A practice that the Earth should not bear.  
Farmers, teachers, lawyers, children unite,  
Against deforestation, we'll shine our light.

Deforestation, we'll shout your name,  
But not in praise, for you bring us shame.  
It's time to act, it's time to restore,  
The Earth's beauty, forevermore.

By Akec Loyce S.3,  
Maruzi Seed Secondary School - Apac





## A Growing Concern

Chemicals, chemicals, they're all around,  
Every crop and creature, chemicals abound.  
From planting to harvest, they're widely seen,  
In soils, on stems, leaves, and in between.

Oh, what a growing concern, chemicals so vast,  
Some in powder form, others liquid, unsurpassed.  
Injected into stems and fruits, without a second thought,  
Sown unknowingly, high yields being sought.

But what's the cost, do we really see?  
On soils and human health, the impact, you and me?  
It's time to reflect, to be more aware,  
Of the chemicals we use, with greater care.

Jordan James Naigambi, sings, shouts and  
Raises a voice of reason, a story to be told.  
For a healthier world, let's heed the call,  
Less chemicals, more wisdom, for one and all.

By Jordan James Naigambi,  
Nakulyako Primary School - Kamuli





## Organic Farming: Nature's Way

Organic farming, oh, organic farming!  
A farming practice with nature's Charming,  
It uses plants, animals, and kitchen waste,  
To boost the soil and crop taste.  
No fertilizers, pesticides, or sprays,  
Just nature's wisdom in its own ways.

Organic farming, it's the way we grow,  
With crop rotation, we keep things in the flow.  
Ley farming and intercropping, you see,  
Creating harmony in every veggie.  
Animal waste like cow dung and more,  
Turns into organic manure galore.

Organic farming, it's all about care,  
Benefits outweigh the negatives, fair and square.  
Crop rotation, a shield against soil erosion,  
Preserving the fertile soil's true devotion.  
Legumes like beans in the mix,  
Fix nitrogen, a soil nutrient fix.

Organic farming, let's not forget,  
Animal waste and kitchen scraps, no regret.  
They break down, releasing nutrients, it's clear,  
Feeding the soil, making it dear.  
Banana fibers, great for mulching,  
Keeping the soil moist, not budging.

Biopesticides, a natural way to fight pests,  
Neem extract, wood ash, among the best.  
Biological agents, like ducks, they play a role,  
Controlling locusts, it's nature's goal.  
Weeding early, mulching the land,  
A variety of crops, all so grand.

Environmentally friendly, organic's the name,  
No harm to the soil, it's not the same.  
Animals and crops, both in their prime,  
Nourished and healthy, it's a real climb.  
Higher vitamins and minerals, it's true,  
Longer shelf life, making us feel anew.



Compared to chemicals, what a difference it makes,  
Protecting the soil from chemicals' bad stakes.  
Some chemicals non-selective, they harm the soil,  
Affecting organisms, disrupting the toil.  
DDT's long-lasting, a danger, you see,  
Threatening species in the food chain spree.

So let's embrace organic, nature's best friend,  
Friendly to soil, plants, and animals to no end.  
It's contamination-free, safe from chemical haze,  
Tastes better, with sweetness that amazes.  
For a greener world, let's make the vow,  
Organic farming, the way we plow.

Organic farming's something we all should cheer.  
Government, farmers, everyone in the land,  
Join hands for nature's farming, hand in hand,  
For better conservation, let's take a stand,  
With organic farming, we protect our land.

By Akullu Mirriam, S.3,  
Maruzi Seed Secondary School - Apac





## Embrace Organic Farming

Organic farming, organic farming,  
Nature's way, it's truly Charming.  
Fertilizers from nature's own hand,  
Knowledge freely shared across the land.

Organic farming, the answer we seek,  
Green manure, Compost, not too mystique.  
Chicken, goats, rabbits, and cows,  
Their droppings, a gift that arouses.  
Urine from folks and animals, too,  
Aids pest control and helps plants to grow.

Let us go organic, let's make the choice,  
For sustainable land, let's raise our voice.  
Crops and animals, health in our sight,  
Organic farming, it feels just right.  
Quality and quantity, it's the way,  
Crop rotation and mulching, day by day.

Embrace organic farming, hear the call,  
For a brighter future, for one and all.  
Sustainable land, crops, and health we'll gain,  
In the world of organic, let's sustain.

Organic farming, a story to tell.  
For land, for crops, for health, we stand,  
Let's go organic, hand in hand.

By Kasowole Sharifa, P.7,  
Nakulyaku Primary School - Kamuli







## An Inclusive Household

Gender equality, our assurance, true,  
A partnership between a man and woman, too.  
They both share decisions, rights to uphold,  
Equal access to resources, benefits untold.  
Applies to all, girls, boys, women, and men,  
Inclusive homes, let's say it again.

In an inclusive home, where farming thrives,  
No single owner, it's how we derive.  
Father and mother, together they stand,  
Taking care of gardens, hand in hand,  
Respecting gender roles, it's understood,  
Harmony in farming, for the common good.

In gender equality, the harvest's fair,  
A woman reaps, a man helps with care.  
"No cause for alarm," the woman insists,  
We're all responsible, as love persists.  
Meaningful work, no matter the task,  
In an equal home, it's all we ask.

For boys and girls, the same playing field,  
Transparency and fairness, it's all revealed.  
Equal access to resources, benefits in sight,  
In an integrated home, things are just right.  
Let's all embrace this equal view,  
In a household where dreams come true.

An inclusive home, we all hold dear.  
With gender equality, we unite,  
For a better world, shining so bright.

By Ngobi Simon, P.7,  
Nakulyaku Primary School - Kamuli





## Deforestation: A Call for Action

Deforestation, oh, deforestation,  
Where will your journey find its foundation?  
At each stage, you carry out your plan,  
Massive tree felling, with no care to span.  
Affecting the flora and fauna, it's clear,  
In the great Pearl of Africa, we hold dear.

You come into existence through various means,  
Mainly human influence, in various scenes.  
Industrialization, political unrest,  
The quest for wood fuel, they put you to the test.  
You bring about changes, both wide and tall,  
Environmental and physical, affecting all.  
Reduced rainfall, soil erosion's increase,  
Global warming's threat, we need release.

You, deforestation, are widely infamous,  
Affecting us today and those coming behind us.  
But we, the upcoming productive generation,  
Are ready to take action, with determination.  
Policies and measures, we'll put in place,  
No more disasters, we'll embrace the grace.  
Regazetting forest boundaries, we'll ensure,  
Evicting squatters, a step to secure.  
Afforestation programs, trees we'll plant,  
Sensitization campaigns, for the forest we'll enchant.

All these efforts to preserve our green Uganda's grace,  
Politically, socially, and economically, it's a winning race.  
Generating jobs, raw materials, industries to feed,  
Climate modification, a paramount need.  
Forestry, oh, how beneficial you are,  
Without you, our lives bear a scar.  
With your protection, we can strive,  
To conserve our Pearl of Africa, for life to thrive.

A call for action,  
Highlights the path to satisfaction.  
Deforestation, we'll take a stand,  
To protect our precious forested land.



This is our plea, a Call to adhere,  
For a greener future, for all to hold dear.

By Dukuze Marion S.5,  
St. Gertrude Girls Vocational Secondary School - Kisoro





## Agroecology: Nurturing Our World

Agroecology, oh, what a splendid art,  
You touch the lives of every age, every heart.  
From the young to the old, the women and youth,  
You sow the seeds of knowledge and truth.  
Cultivating the land, we plough and toil,  
Afforestation, a practice that we cherish, not spoil.  
Drying seeds before storage, in a cool, dry space,  
Promoting seed sovereignty, our sacred grace.

With community seed banks, we stand strong,  
Agriculturalists empowered, where we belong.  
Food sovereignty, in your presence, thrives,  
Agroecology, the source of our lives.  
Without you, we're nothing, we confess,  
In your embrace, we find success.

Employment opportunities, you generously provide,  
You've crafted all that makes Earth thrive.  
Without you, survival would be tough,  
For all your blessings, we can't thank enough.  
You've adorned our world with beauty and grace,  
But it's people who protect this precious place.  
Oh, Agroecology, how we adore you so,  
In your embrace, we watch things grow.

Through organic farming, soil fertility we sustain,  
Bush burning discouraged, we follow the terrain.  
Wildlife conservation, strict laws against poaching,  
Promoting tourism, the earth's heart approaching.  
Water resources cherished, for life they stand,  
Clean and pure, they nourish the land.  
With you, we're safe, we feel secure,  
You supply food to the rich and the poor.

You create jobs, you're the heart of agriculture,  
Animals and nature in a harmonious sculpture.  
Through tourism, industries find their claim,  
Raw materials from your gifts, they aim.  
Capital flows, markets thrive because of you,  
Oh, Agroecology, our gratitude is true.



A marvel you are, in every way,  
In your presence, we prosper day by day.

By Nyiramutuzo Phionah S.3,  
St. Gertrude Girls Vocational Secondary School - Kisoro





## Organic Farming: A Path to Sustainable Agriculture

Oh, citizens of our nation, let us celebrate,  
The healthful foods, with purity innate.  
Organic farming, the beacon of our quest,  
No fertilizers or chemicals, we're truly blessed.  
It controls soil erosion through methods profound,  
Crop rotation and agro-forestry, the solutions we've found.

Cover cropping, a practice we fully endorse,  
Suppressing weeds and preventing their course.  
Our farmers rely on you, organic farming dear,  
For high-quality yields and products so clear.  
Recycling agricultural waste, a cycle so grand,  
In your embrace, our fertile lands stand.

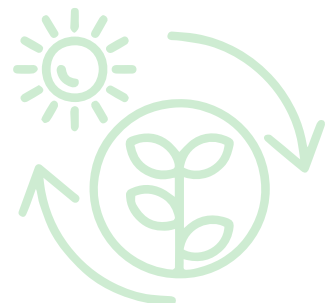
Oh, organic farming, you enrich our soil,  
With nutrients aplenty, a farmer's loyal foil.  
Manure's addition, nature's humble gift,  
Preferred by many, their spirits uplifted.  
Raw materials sourced from our local terrain,  
The basis of our life, our fruitful gain.

People of our nation, let us wisely steer,  
Our agricultural methods, make them clear.  
Pest control through reducing predators' might,  
In unity, we'll find the path that's right.  
Practicing organic farming, our beacon of hope,  
With government support, we surely will cope.

Oh, citizens of our nation, farmers worldwide,  
Together we thrive, with nature as our guide.  
Efforts combined, we enjoy the fruits of our toil,  
High-quality produce, our hands in the soil.  
With every harvest, we reap what we've sown,  
Organic farming's legacy, brightly shone.

In praise of organic farming, we renew.  
A sustainable path, for a future so bright,  
In unity, we'll continue our organic farming fight.

By Cyimpaye Flavia S.6,  
St. Gertrude Girls Vocational Secondary School - Kisoro





## Climate Change and Climate Justice: A Call to Action

Gone are the days of predictable seasons,  
Now, they elude us for unknown reasons.  
Farmers toil on their vast fields, tending to seeds,  
Yet plants struggle, showing signs of dire needs.  
They once thrived, healthy and robust,  
Now, they falter, their growth lost in mistrust.  
Production's serenity, now a distant dream,  
As the world changes, or so it may seem.

Seeds germinate, but their luster dims,  
Burning brighter than the sun's own whims.  
Farmers' efforts turn to dust, hopes in despair,  
They look to the heavens, cries filling the air.  
Oh, the plants, once sturdy, now frail and slender,  
Yellowish hue, a sign of their surrender.  
Famine storms sweep villages and towns,  
Leaving hunger and malnutrition, wearing heavy crowns.

Dry seasons were once a time of leisure,  
Now, it drizzles endlessly, without measure.  
Landslides and floods ravage homes so dear,  
People displaced, living in constant fear.  
Is this the world we're forging, a new era?  
Trading timber for momentary chimera.  
Over-exploiting minerals, destroying the land,  
Altering the climate with a heavy hand.

Industries' fumes pollute the atmosphere,  
Global warming looms, we must make it clear.

Let us open our eyes, see the truth,  
Take action to reclaim our vanishing youth.  
Control deforestation, plant trees anew,  
Mitigate landslides, there's much we can do.  
Dispose of industrial waste with care,  
Prevent air pollution, the planet's burden to bear.  
Together, let's strive for a cleaner scene,  
For climate justice, where we intervene.

A call to action, a world we can aspire.



Climate change, a challenge we face,  
With unity and resolve, we'll find our place.  
To secure our environment, a precious space,  
For a future where climate justice we embrace.

By Tumuhimbise Juliet S.5,  
St. Gertrude Girls Vocational Secondary School - Kisoro







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**Tumwijekye Victor, Rock Primary School - Kasese District  
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**Wanyenya Esther, Vision High Secondary School - Mbale District  
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