

Food for Thought has several other projects with schools in Uganda

Parents & Pupils Together. Head teachers and Garden Teachers in Buwaata and Kalonga Primary Schools, Mubende, invited parents to come and work alongside their children in the school garden – and learn from FFT trainers too. Parents said they had learnt so much, including:

- making 'plant tea' fertiliser using local plants;
- using manure in compost to increase its effectiveness;
- making organic pesticides using ash (called ash brew);
- creating nursery beds for seeds/seedlings;
- digging contour trenches to conserve soil and rain water.

Their children were very keen for them to attend as they liked them coming to school to dig!

Also the children's attitude to gardening had changed and become very positive. That is a major accomplishment. Parents told us that sometimes, once children go to school and learn to read and write, they don't want to dig any more. But if the families don't grow food, they have nothing to eat.

Beekeeping. Ten schools have had beekeeper training and 6 beehives from FFT. Some honey is eaten by pupils and teachers, but most is sold and the funds used to buy seeds, tools or tree seedlings for the school compound. In one school, a storm blew off a classroom roof. They used the honey money to have it put back on, quickly, before everything inside was ruined.

Aims of the Food for Thought programme in UK and Uganda

In the UK today, many children do not have much contact with the land and do not understand where food comes from and how it grows. Especially now, as we face challenges of climate change and need to respond to its impact, it is very important for children to learn about these issues, especially in practical ways.

In Uganda, agriculture is the backbone of the economy. 70% of the population are small-scale farmers, living in rural areas. Almost 50% of the population of 49m are aged 14 or under; only a small number will complete primary and move on to secondary school. So, these young people have little choice but to join their family as farmers when they leave primary school.

FFT teaches them skills to give them an opportunity to be successful, profitable farmers. It also provides a 'window on the world' through their link with a school in the UK.



Food for Thought School Linking Programme
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Food *for* Thought



School Gardens Partnership Project



A food project with primary schools in UK and Uganda, growing food, finding out about the impact of climate change on food crops and how to respond to the changing climate. Would you like your school to be involved?

Food for Thought is a programme of Devon Development Education (DDE) and Kulika (Uganda)
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School Gardens Partnership Project

Do you have a school garden, growing fruit, vegetables and other crops? Would you and your pupils enjoy sharing the successes and challenges of your school garden with a rural school in Uganda? Then this project could be for you!

Background:

DDE set up the Food for Thought School Linking Programme with Kulika (Uganda) (www.kulika.org) in 2001. Now there are 60 rural government primary schools in Tororo and Mubende Districts of Uganda in the programme, all with food-growing gardens, learning to use sustainable organic methods – and struggling to cope with climate change.

All would love to have a link with a British primary school, to share experiences and learn about each other's lives.

To join the project or to find out more, contact Sue Errington at dde@globalcentred Devon.org.uk

Details about the project:

Each UK primary school will have a named link primary school in Uganda. The project's co-ordinator will help you establish and maintain contact with your link school and suggest ways to make it an exciting educational link. The project's Garden Teacher will visit your school to work with pupils and teachers on the growing aspects of the project. In Uganda, our co-ordinator will support your school link and train pupils and teachers about sustainable food growing.

We hope this link will continue for many months and years.

There is a £50 annual fee for UK schools, to ensure your school is fully committed to the project – and to avoid disappointing the Uganda school.

Project activities

In the CPD sessions, UK and Ugandan teachers will learn more about:

- growing food in schools
- the impact of climate change on food crops and steps to take to mitigate and to adapt to these.
- a window on the world for all pupils, learning about life for pupils in Uganda and UK
- methods to maintain contact between teachers in the link schools using WhatsApp, text message or email
- the principles and ethos of the partnership link, using British Council School Partnership and Global Citizenship resources.

'Linking schools between Devon and Uganda has undoubtedly brought a cultural awareness to many children in both countries and it has enabled them to understand the importance of growing food using sustainable farming methods.'

Alison Derrick, B.Ed, MAEd, 'Evaluation Report of FFT Programme in Devon', July 2007.

Shared activities by partner schools:

1. Contact schools at least once a month, by WhatsApp, texting, email or some other way.
2. Exchange information about the school gardens (and other aspects of school life).
3. Welcome a visitor from Uganda (or UK) to your school.
4. Plan a celebration event at the end of the project, including eating the crops!

