

October 2000

Mother of seed

Sarah Kimakwa

Andrews University, kimakwa@andrews.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/library-pubs>



Part of the [Agriculture Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Kimakwa, Sarah, "Mother of seed" (2000). *Faculty Publications*. Paper 14.
<http://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/library-pubs/14>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Library Faculty at Digital Commons @ Andrews University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Andrews University. For more information, please contact repository@andrews.edu.



This Uganda farmer (not wholly on photograph) uses very simple technology of two small twigs to protect his mulched cabbage. 'The indigenous knowledge of the traditional African farmer never ceases to amaze.'

Spot the sticks

Since the creation of the world and that disastrous day when Adam and Eve took the fruit from the Tree of Life, farmers have been in a continuous battle against pests and diseases. For the affluent 'North' this has meant the continual development of more and more expensive and highly complex chemicals and even the alteration of life itself, through genetic modification. In the poorer 'South', such expense cannot be justified and is probably not even desired, by people who appreciate the intricate balance that nature depicts.

So, look carefully again at the picture and see what this farmer in Rakai District of Uganda has done to protect his well mulched cabbage seedlings. ...Can you see? Just in

front of his hand are two small twigs, stuck into the ground either side of his cabbage seedling and apparently the cutworms just crawl on by! And the cost of such technology? A little time and patience perhaps, but apart from that, ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!

The battle goes on, but don't think that the mighty scientific institutions have the only worthwhile weapons in the arsenal, as the indigenous knowledge of the traditional African farmer never ceases to amaze!

Perhaps you have other 'weapons' which you have used successfully in the farmers' battle? If you have, why not share your wisdom through the pages of the *Ground Up* magazine. — *Alastair Taylor, Technical Advisor, Kulika Charitable Trust, Uganda.*

pumping up a 25 degree slope up to between 50 and 100 metres?



TREADLE PUMP... *Small scale farmers find it handy for allpurposes.*

Magazine to share innovative ideas

Dear Sir — Your magazine *Ground Up* has drawn my better interest. Now there is a magazine that can share innovations and innovative ideas with the most prejudiced simple farmer. It's long been overdue.

I am looking forward to subscribing and becoming a full member of PELUM shortly. I am a small-scale farmer who has found your treadle pump very handy for my purposes. Please let me know how and where I can get this pump without delay. — *A Makota (Mr), Munyati Secondary School, Munyati.*

PS: What type would be most suitable for

Mother of seed

By Sarah Kimakwa

Seed
Complex seed
The end that beginnings need
Custodian to species you start
The source that is not a part
The multiplier that grows new from old
The needle-head that yields a million fold

Slippery seed
Mutilated by man's greed
Craving to optimise yields
Hybrid varieties research born
Your culture, your nature research torn
Empty handed we mourn
The loss of nature, the God given loan

Essential seed
Without you to death we bleed
You bear nature's green
Your purpose cures, concoctions your trees
Your fruit is produce, our food
Our fuel, ours to retake for good
Your Dead! Our salvation -firewood
You go, there'll be no trace of where we stood

Preservable seed
Let's revive you with speed
It is a survival skill
An investment to prevent a future bill
Security that assures life to man
Cure for the earth, hope to humankind

Assuring seed
Assist man to take heed
That for him you bear peace and sleep
You offer him security to hold and to keep
Witness Adam and Eve the first parents
Fruit of seed they partook and no other
For decades satisfied till they misled each other
New man toils to reap of seed's rich
Inspire man to conserve seed and be rich

WRONG NAME

IN THE previous issue of *Ground Up* we erroneously published an article under the name of Moses Chuma. It has come to our notice that the author is Wilson Chuma. We regret any inconvenience caused to Mr Chuma and FAO LINKS, the sponsors of the article.