

Seedlings for Rwanda



Change begins with Knowledge

The word “broadcast” means “to scatter seeds.” With these programs, you can plant seedlings throughout your daily broadcast to become a Green Station. Seedlings are short pieces about climate change that can include facts, simple solutions, nature poems, songs, and listener ideas.

1. This is Seedlings,

a new, compact version of Seed to Grow, where we take a minute to think about our environment and what climate change means in our everyday lives. So what is climate change? Humans introduce large amounts of carbon dioxide gas into the atmosphere when we burn fuel for cars, factories, and even cooking stoves. This extra carbon dioxide has produced a “greenhouse effect,” where the gas traps heat from the sun, causing the average global temperature to rise. In the past 100 years, the Earth has warmed by 0.74 degrees Celsius, and it is still warming. This may not sound like a big change in temperature, but we are already able to feel the effects: drought, flooding, melting glaciers which cause the seas to rise, and extreme weather events. Listen for the next Seedlings segments, when we will hear more about the effects of global warming.



2. This is Seedlings.

Now we’ll take a look at how climate change is already causing a crisis in Kenya. As the Earth warms, changing weather patterns and seasonal temperatures can mean that local ecosystems are severely disrupted. In Kenya, this has meant an increase in insect pests like the stem borer that eat maize crops and spread maize lethal necrosis (MLN), a maize virus that also spreads through wind and soil. Farmers lost almost 30 billion RWF in maize last year, and the crisis has been ongoing since 2011. Scientists have suggested encouraging ants, spiders, and wasp larvae, natural enemies of the stem borer, by planting border crops like napier grass and desmodium. Napier grass attracts the stem borer’s predators and cannot be eaten by the pests, and desmodium will repel stem borer moths. There is no national program in Rwanda to combat stem borers and MLN, and a program will not be instituted unless Rwanda loses more than 10% of its maize yield to the pests. You can catch and treat a stem borer problem early if you look for small holes in straight lines across the newest leaves of young maize plants.



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

ACP/C
African Climate Policy Centre



910 17th St. NW, 7th Floor, Washington, DC 20006 • +1-215-836-7686 • www.developingradio.org • info@developingradio.org



www.facebook.com/devradiopartners



@drpradio



3. This is Seedlings.

In 2009, Paul Kagame made a speech at the World Forum on Enterprise and the Environment in Oxford about the delicacy of Africa’s environment. He said:

Our environment deserves urgent and greater attention with concrete actions on the part of the whole global community. From the African perspective, the call for action to save the environment is critical because our continent remains the most vulnerable landmass to the effects of climate change. The main challenge for us in Africa is to become more active in the global discussion on the environment, and become part of the solution.

Since then, Rwanda has made environmental progress, most recently in a November pledge to cut importation of ozone-damaging gases by 30% over the next year. Dr. Rose Mukankomeje, the director-general of the Rwanda Environment Management Authority which issued the pledge, has placed emphasis on protecting the ozone layer, a sheet of ozone gas 10 km above the Earth that protects us from the sun’s cancer-causing ultraviolet radiation. The ozone layer is susceptible to holes and thinning when exposed to certain man-made chemicals.

4. This is Seedlings.

Rwanda has seen a number of extreme floods and droughts in recent years, and climate change means that these events are likely to become more common. Incidences of malaria are also on the rise, expected to increase up to 150% in rural areas by 2050. Now is the time for Rwanda to invest in measures to adapt to a changing climate. We have relatively low greenhouse gas emissions at present, but they are expected to double between 2005 and 2020 as transport and agricultural sectors grow. Rwanda has a great environmental and economic opportunity to pioneer green technology where much of our energy infrastructure is being built from scratch. We are already a regional leader in hydropower, but our energy security depends on branching out into solar and wind, a move that could help us trade in carbon credits to strengthen our economy.



Seedlingsfrom Developing Radio Partners

5. This is Seedlings.

Mary Oliver is an American poet known for writing about nature. Here is a poem of hers, titled "Little Summer Poem Touching the Subject of Faith"

Every summer
I listen and look
under the sun's brass and even
into the moonlight, but I can't hear

anything, I can't see anything -
not the pale roots digging down, nor
the green stalks muscling up,
nor the leaves
deepening their damp pleats,

nor the tassels making,
nor the shucks, nor the cobs.
And still,
every day,

the leafy fields
grow taller and thicker -
green gowns lofting up in the night,
showered with silk.

And so, every summer,
I fail as a witness, seeing nothing -
I am deaf too
to the tick of the leaves,

the tapping of downwardness from
the banyan feet -
all of it
happening
beyond any seeable proof, or
hearable hum.

And, therefore, let the
immeasurable come.
Let the unknowable touch the
buckle of my spine.
Let the wind turn in the trees,
and the mystery hidden in the dirt

swing through the air.
How could I look at anything in this
world
and tremble, and grip my hands
over my heart?
What should I fear?

One morning
in the leafy green ocean
the honeycomb of the corn's
beautiful body
is sure to be there.



If you're inspired to write a poem about nature or climate change, we would love to hear it. [Instructions for sending it in] We'll pick our favorite submissions and read them on air.



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

ACP/C
African Climate Policy Centre

ClimDev-Africa



DEVELOPING RADIO PARTNERS

910 17th St. NW, 7th Floor, Washington, DC 20006 • +1-215-836-7686 • www.developingradio.org • info@developingradio.org



www.facebook.com/devradiopartners



@drpradio