

# Seedlings for Zambia

## 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.

As climate change increases food insecurity around the country, people are coming up with different ways to get the most nutrition from their food. Most people dry their vegetables in the sun, but using a homemade solar dryer has many advantages, including locking in nutrition that the sun bakes out. The solar dryer is made by building a wooden frame with shelves for removable wire mesh trays where the vegetables are placed. A clear plastic sheet is attached to the frame on the outside. With a solar dryer, no one has to stay home while the vegetables are drying to keep animals and insects away or move the vegetables when it rains because the plastic protects the food. This plastic cover also means that the dried food is more hygienic and the dryer can be left out overnight. Vegetables dry faster because the inside of the dryer is warmer than the air outside. Dryers can be shared between community members to prepare large amounts of produce to sell, or portable versions can be built for individual use.



### 2. This is Seedlings.

About 20% of our country is made up of wetlands like Barotse Floodplain, Lake Bangweulu, and Kafue Flats, but these areas are drying up quickly. Some of this is due to natural processes, but much of the problem is human activity: road construction, mining, water pollution, digging drains, overplanting, and overgrazing. Wetlands play a crucial role in our environment by purifying our water supply and protecting us from flooding. They work like sponges, soaking up rainwater and runoff, absorbing harmful chemicals and pollutants, then releasing that water back to us over time. We rely on wetlands to do these jobs as well as provide rich, moist land to grow our crops and graze our animals. As we lose marshland, we also lose the water it holds for us. We can make a difference in our own communities by forming groups that protect the wetlands so that we can all continue to benefit from them.



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### 3. This is Seedlings.

Now we will read a poem by Ogwana Anna, a Japanese poet. She is also an environmental activist, and is known for her leadership in a 1969 campaign to stop a power plant being built that would have caused environmental damage near her home.

#### The Real Being of Ducks

If the world is like glass,  
today its mirror surface is utterly dark blue.

The sandbank with withered reeds burning yellow,  
flocks and flocks of ducks swim about,  
Prussian blue, green-gold.  
In the distance gulls dance a rondo,  
inlaying paradise.

Suddenly, however, the ducks fly up,  
fly up glitteringly  
from the dark-blue mirror surface,  
betting on a moment's shattering.

In the deep void peering out of what has dropped away, the cave,  
was the inner side of the world.



### 4. This is Seedlings.

Eighty percent of people in our country use pesticides as part of their livelihood. Farmers use them to kill weeds and harmful insects and to keep diseases at bay, but many people don't realize that pesticides can also be dangerous. When handling pesticides, farmers should treat it as a poison and be careful not to get it on their skin or inhale fumes. Never reuse old pesticide containers to store food, even for animals, since leftovers in the container could make them sick. Many kinds of pesticide need to be diluted with water before they are used on crops, and the bottle should tell you how much water to add. If you cannot read the bottle, ask the person you bought it from or other farmers in your community for advice. Pesticides can be dangerous in other ways, too. Once they are sprayed on crops, they begin to travel through an ecosystem when insects eat sprayed plants, and other animals eat those insects. Pesticides can poison fish and birds, and even animals that are important for crop growth like pollinating insects and predators of pests. It is much safer to use organic pesticides or traditional methods of keeping pests away.



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# Seedlings ....from Developing Radio Partners

## 5. This is Seedlings.

Now we will read a poem by Grace Cavalieri, an American poet. She is the author of fifteen books of poetry, and often writes about environmental topics.

### Walking the Property

I don't know  
what to say  
about music  
when I hear  
the bluebird  
crack grief  
out of sound  
like this.

The rain is not mine and it is not yours.  
I walk in the woods as if the soul  
could work here  
but first I must give up even this leaf  
as if it belonged to me  
and also the wind  
which once knew me  
or sounded like it did.  
Where do things go when we forget them –  
That's where we go too  
following our names.

Smart spider, building a web  
by the blue bug-light,  
attracting his fair share  
of what flies there.

The cows know when to come home at dinner time.  
They always come home.

How does hearing a poem or a song that describes nature in beautiful ways make you feel? Does it make you see the environment you live in differently?



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