

Food For Thought, 6-to-1 Project 2017

The Food For Thought project is based in six schools in Mubende District in central Uganda, and six in Tororo District in eastern Uganda. It is supported by Exeter Local Meeting.

Most of the children in these areas will follow their parents into subsistence farming. Learning skills and new ways to grow food successfully, trying different varieties of vegetables and fruits to improve their diet, gaining a positive interest in farming and knowing who might be able to give them more advice in future, will help them improve their lives and health, and those of their families.

Twelve rural primary schools worked with two Key Farmer Trainers – one in each region – for 12 months. The pupils received training in sustainable organic agriculture, acquiring the necessary skills to grow more, better and a greater variety of crops.

The project has meant that half of pupils' food is now grown in the school gardens and any surplus produce is sold. The training in organic skills has reduced the cost of buying factory-made pesticides and pupils have learned to enjoy farming for the health and financial benefits it can bring, rather than seeing it as a punishment, as it used to be before.

The project has also included tree planting, which has improved the environment of the schools, providing a place for pupils to learn and study their books in the shade.

In future the project will help schools to find ways to generate additional income, for example, keeping hens, goats or pigs, developing 'tree lots' for firewood, to be used by the school and sold to local people. There are also plans to run a training course for schools in bee-keeping, as honey and other products from bees are highly valued in Uganda.

