

Youth turns kitchen waste into fertiliser



Josette Kiarie of Aga Khan Academy displays her trophy.
[Gideon Maundu, Standard]

“When you are exposed to challenges at childhood, you always assume that everyone else around you has done a better job.”

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These were the words uttered by Josette Kiarie after she overcame strong opposition to win the 2017 Young Farmers' Club top award at the Agricultural Society of Kenya Mombasa trade fair.

Josette's creativity, colourfulness and captivating exhibition on homemade fertiliser was judged the best work to receive a glittering trophy from the Cabinet Secretary in charge of Gender and Youth, Sicily Kariuki.

The young girl was recognised after showcasing her talent in controlling emissions into the atmosphere. The exhibition showed how she provided enough microorganisms to bring about

effective decomposition of kitchen waste.

“I have decided to be more creative. When kitchen waste is left in the open on land-fills, it slowly decomposes to release methane into the atmosphere. Methane has a global warming potential of 21 per cent, which is greater than most greenhouse gases,” Josette told *Hashtag* in Mombasa.

“I'm in negotiations with some leading beach hotels to use their kitchen waste to decompose as fertiliser that can be used for gardening purposes rather than having them thrown to landfills,” adds Josette after beating 11 entries to win the overall award.

For her effort, Josette was also declared the best youth exhibitor and selected to attend the Nairobi International Trade Fair.

The Mombasa-based Aga Khan Academy student who is also a triathlon athlete says the competition was stiff as students displayed different varieties of their

art works. “My combination of exhibition work was coupled with ingenuity and inventiveness thus winning the hearts of the judges. My win was a major achievement and recognition as well,” adds Josette.

Aga Khan Academy Mombasa's Young Farmers' Patron Henry Nyaga says Young Farmer's club helps the youth in developing leadership and empowerment.

“Our exhibition at this year's Mombasa International clearly showed our students are equally good in creativity as they are in class. At our institution, children are given an opportunity to develop their own ideas and create unique works,” says Nyaga.

Mombasa ASK Chairlady Anisa Abdalla says Young Farmers' Club gives students' opportunity to learn from other schools and get new ideas.

“There was a lot of creativity and innovation of colourful works on display at this year's Mombasa International show,” added Anisa.