

Environment



Embracing Green Environment: Have you heard about

'The Coco Pot?'

Kaleem Adamjee, 13 a student at Aga Khan Academy in Mombasa holding a young coconut husk with a seedling during an interview with Juniorspot on his winning project.

Youngest competitor at the international science fair competition won a Silver award with his 'Coco Pot' Project. 13 year old Kaleem Adamjee represented Agakhan Academy.

The Madafu 'pot' which Kaleem Adamjee uses to grow seedlings (Second Photo). PHOTOS | DIANA

My name is Kaleem Adamjee. I am 13 years old and a year seven student at Aga Khan Academy, Mombasa. I am enthusiastic about green environment and I help my father to plant trees. When the country took the brave step of effecting the

plastic ban from August 28, 2017, eco-friendly bags replaced the plastic ones to save our environment.

We all know how plastic bags are hazardous to both human beings and animals.

I came up with a project using the biodegradable 'madafu'-young coconut husks to plant seedlings

instead of of plastic bags.

On April 5, I represented my school in the international science fair competition -Golden Climate International Environmental Project Olympiad held in Nairobi. This is an annual event that attracts students from about 30 countries from all around the world every year. My project, 'The Coco Pot,' earned me a Silver prize at the competition.

I was the youngest competitor.

Coconut husks can be used to plant seedlings in flower nurseries in Kenya and all other tropical countries. They are easy to get in Mombasa.

Before the plastic paper ban, gardeners planted seedlings in black plastic bags or milk packets.

Using the young coconut husks benefit the environment.

Young coconut supplements the nutrients in the soil to seedlings. It has Potassium, Phosphorus, Calcium, Magnesium, Sodium and other minerals. Therefore, the seed-



'MADAFU' MENACE

In Mombasa where I live, a lot of 'madafu' are sold by the road side. Stalls also stock the fruit.

After customers buy and drink the coconut juice, they throw the husks away, often by the roadside where they pile up making the town dirty. I refer to this as the 'madafu menace.' This is what made my project, 'The Coco Pot' popular.

lings will look ever green.

I have spoken to various florists around Nyali, Mombasa and they are embracing the project.

In my room, I have planted three flowers in the young coconut and I love them.

My hobby is playing guitar and singing. I also participate in debates and planting trees.

Compiled by Diana Mutheu

Health Safety

