NEWS BRIEF

Leave our Food out of modernity; children demand during a debate at the annual indigenous food Festival

“Modernise infrastructure, technology and telecommunication development not our food”, school children demanded during a debate at the annual indigenous food Festival in Ruteete Sub-county, Kabarole District. The Debate was one of the main activities of the Annual indigenous food Festival organized by Kabarole Research and Resource Centre(KRC) in partnership with Ruteete Sub-county local Government with financial support from Hivos and Broederlijk Delen.

Indigenous food is better than exotic food was the motion for the School Debate. Two rural primary schools namely; Kasiisi and Kigarama primary participated in the debate. During the debate children brought out key issues that challenged exotic foods. “Feed us on indigenous food for a long life expectancy like our great grandparents”, said Kamaria Eunice a pupil from Kigarama primary school.

Our parents are dying of cancer, diabetes and high blood pressure living us as orphans due to poor feeding habits, we must go back to our indigenous foods that are nutritious, medicinal and are free of chemicals. Who among you wishes to keep burying their loved ones because of cancer and other dietary related diseases? Katusabe Hope a pupil from Kasisi primary School asked the audience.

The debate excited and challenged participants of the food festival to reflect on their feeding habits including political leaders who promised to take action on promoting healthy diets in their areas of jurisdiction. The food Festival was attended by over 1000 participants including, school children, farmers, political leaders, technocrats, CBOs, NGOs, religious leaders, media and the general public. Among the key dignitaries were; the Assistant Commissioner for Nutrition from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal, Industry and fisheries Mr. Alex Bambona, the LCV Chairperson, RDC of Kabarole District, the Executive Director of KRC among others.

At the event, various indigenous foods, seeds, products and energy saving cooking technologies were exhibited, a mobile nutrition clinic conducted, a community seed bank and a saving bag for children’s food (Omwana atarara enjara) launched. An indigenous food festival crowned the event. The indigenous food Festival is an annual event organized by Kabarole Research and Resource (KRC) in partnership with Local Government and other partners.