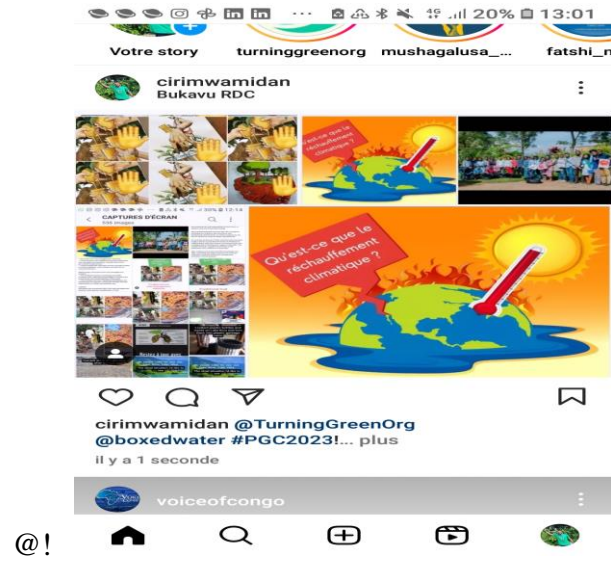


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- These include the selection of tree varieties suited to local conditions, crop rotation and the use of natural fertilizers.

Right image: Innovative fruit tree management method

- This method involves combining scientific research with traditional knowledge to improve the productivity and sustainability of fruit trees.

- This includes the use of grafting techniques, the introduction of disease-resistant varieties and the optimization of water and nutrient use.

Legend:

We chose the innovative DRC fruit tree management method involving the combination of TEK (Traditional Ecological Knowledge) and scientific research.

This method aims to address the specific problem of low productivity and vulnerability of fruit trees to disease and environmental change.

The method/example involves the use of grafting techniques to improve the resistance and productivity of fruit trees, as well as optimizing the use of resources such as water and nutrients.

An example of the use of this method is the research project carried out by the University of Kinshasa in collaboration with local farmers to improve fruit tree management in the Equateur region of the DRC. The results showed a significant increase in the production and resilience of fruit trees.

This method uses both scientific knowledge and TEK, combining the latest research on fruit tree cultivation with the traditional management practices of local farmers.

information on the ecological and cultural relationships that the indigenous community of South Kivu has with the forests, and the lessons that other cultures could learn from them.

### Ecological relationships :

1. Medicines: The community values traditional knowledge of the forest's medicinal plants, used to treat various ailments and diseases.
2. Natural resources: Forests provide essential resources such as firewood, building materials, plant fibers for handicrafts, as well as food from hunting and gathering.
3. Conservation: The community has developed techniques for sustainable management of forest resources, such as crop rotation and protection of sensitive areas.

### Cultural relations :

1. Spirituality: Forests are considered sacred, home to spirits and ancestors, and rituals and ceremonies are organized to honor these spiritual ties.
2. Crafts: Handicrafts, such as wood carvings, woven baskets and musical instruments, use forest materials and reflect the cultural links between the community and the forest.
3. Food: Culinary traditions incorporate forest products such as fruits, wild leaves and tubers, highlighting the diversity of resources available in the forest.

### Lessons for other cultures:

1. Respect for nature: Adopt a respectful perspective towards nature and value natural resources in a sustainable way.
2. Knowledge of medicinal plants: Learn ancestral knowledge of medicinal plants and their use in traditional medicine.
3. Spiritual connections with nature: Recognize and honor spiritual connections with the natural world around us.
4. Enhancing local resources: Promoting the responsible use and enhancement of local natural resources in handicrafts and culinary culture.

These cultural and ecological lessons can enrich the way other cultures and societies interact with and value their own forests, integrating a holistic vision and long-term sustainability.

