

Project Green Challenge – Day 15 Greenest

Submission Name: AWUNGAFAC_ASONGU_DAY15_GREENEST_2025

Username: GREENVENTI

School: University of Buea, Cameroon

LINK TO INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT:

🌐 **Greenhouse on Instagram:** "Why Synthetic Pesticides Are Dangerous To Soil: They kill e..."

MY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

MY REFLECTION AND CAMPAIGN GOAL

I grew up watching my parents turn soil into food. Back then, I didn't realize that every seed depended on a living world beneath our feet — microbes, fungi, and earthworms working silently to keep us alive.

Today, as a student at the **University of Buea**, I've learned that this living system is under attack — not from drought or floods alone, but from **synthetic pesticides** that kill soil life and poison our future.

Research from the [Center for Biological Diversity](#) shows that these chemicals destroy beneficial bacteria and fungi, reduce soil fertility, and pollute water sources.

Meanwhile, [Re:Wild Your Campus](#) proves that change is possible — universities across the U.S. are switching to **organic land care** and saving both ecosystems and student health.

Why Synthetic Pesticides Are Dangerous

- **To Soil:** They kill essential microbes and fungi, leaving the soil sterile and **unable to regenerate**.
- **To Biodiversity:** Bees, butterflies, and pollinators disappear, disrupting entire food webs.
- **To Human Health:** Studies link pesticide exposure to **cancers, hormonal imbalance, and nervous system disorders** — especially for farm workers and children near sprayed fields.
- **To Climate:** Damaged soils lose their ability to **store carbon, worsening global warming**.

Safer, Regenerative Alternatives

Instead of fighting nature, we can work with it:

1. **Use Organic Pest Control:** Natural solutions like *neem oil*, *chili-garlic spray*, and *companion planting* protect crops without killing soil life.
2. **Composting & Mulching:** Turn organic waste into fertilizer; this feeds beneficial microbes and restores nutrients naturally.
3. **Plant Biodiverse Gardens:** Include pollinator-friendly species such as lemongrass, basil, and marigold to maintain balance.
4. **Encourage Campus “Rewilding Zones”:** Let certain areas grow wild to support birds, bees, and butterflies.
5. **Soil Testing & Education:** Train groundskeepers to understand soil health, not just weed control.

Action Steps for Campuses & Communities

<u>For University Grounds Office</u>	<u>For Students & Locals</u>
• Phase out glyphosate and synthetic pesticide use.	• Join cleanup and composting drives.
• Train staff in organic landscaping methods.	• Help monitor biodiversity and soil quality.
• Replace chemical fertilizers with compost and green manures.	• Grow small “Rewild Corners” in homes or balconies.
• Collaborate with agricultural departments to test soil life.	• Educate others via posters, Instagram, and WhatsApp groups.

How My Community Can Get Involved

In **Lebialem**, families rely on the soil for survival. Through local schools, youth groups, and church meetings, I plan to:

- Share this campaign during environmental awareness days.
- Post the **poster** in the city of Buea and WhatsApp.
- Start a small **#Rewildoursoils initiative** — using compost and companion planting to replace chemical pesticides.

Because soil is not dirt — it’s *our shared memory and our future*.

THE EFFECTS OF SYNTHETIC PESTICIDES



HARMFUL TO SOIL LIFE

These chemicals disrupt the balance of soil microbes

LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY

Synthetic pesticides harm bees, butterflies, and other wildlife



CHOOSE ORGANIC LAND CARE!

- Use compost to nourish the soil
- Attract beneficial insects like ladybugs
- Prevent runoff with native plants



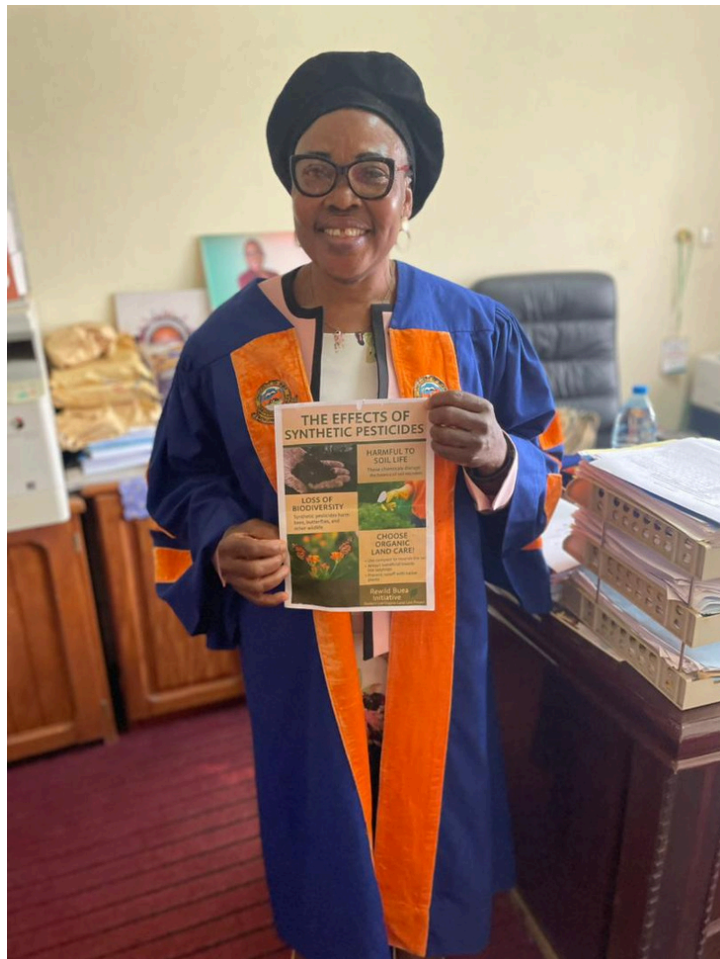
Rewild Buea Initiative



Student-Led Organic Land Care Project



SHARED WITH A PROFESSOR /VICE DEAN OF STUDIES INCHARGE OF THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION

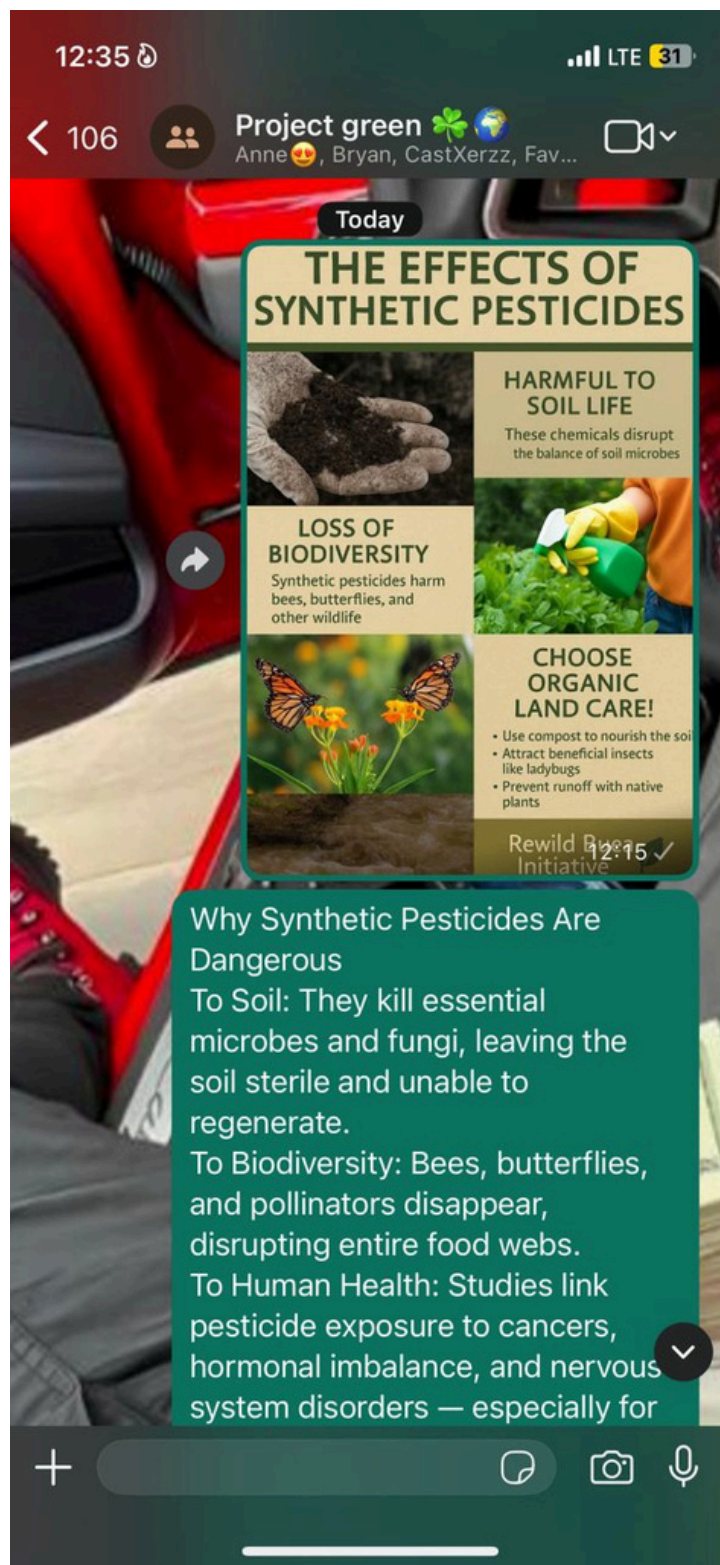


Posted on university of buea campus in multiple places





SHARED ON WHATSAPP



EMAIL SENT

Subject: Transitioning to Organic Land Care for a Healthier Campus

Dear University Grounds Team,

I am Asongu Cyriel, a student at the University of Buea and a participant in the global *Project Green Challenge 2025*.

Growing up in Lebialem, I learned that healthy soil is life itself — but through my research with *Re:Wild Your Campus* and the *Center for Biological Diversity*, I discovered how synthetic pesticides are silently destroying that life. These chemicals kill the beneficial microbes that make our soils fertile and endanger both pollinators and human health.

Across universities in the U.S., organic land care has proven successful — safer for the environment, healthier for students, and more sustainable long-term. I believe our university can lead this change in Cameroon.

I humbly request that the Grounds Department consider:

- Gradually phasing out synthetic pesticides and fertilizers.
- Training staff in organic pest management.
- Launching a pilot “Rewild Buea Garden” where students can volunteer and learn.

This initiative aligns with our shared vision of education that heals — not harms — our environment. Together, we can make the University of Buea a living model of regeneration.

Respectfully,

Asongu Cyriel

Student | University of Buea, Cameroon

12:28



Transitioning to Organic Land Care for a Healthier Campus



me 12:28 PM

to davew7351@gmail.com ▾



Dear University Grounds Team,

I am Asongu Cyriel, a student at the University of Buea and a participant in the global Project Green Challenge 2025.

Growing up in Lebialem, I learned that healthy soil is life itself — but through my research with Re:Wild Your Campus and the Center for Biological Diversity, I discovered how synthetic pesticides are silently destroying that life. These chemicals kill the beneficial microbes that make our soils fertile and endanger both pollinators and human health. Across universities in the U.S., organic land care has proven successful — safer for the environment, healthier for students, and more sustainable long-term. I believe our university can lead this change in Cameroon.

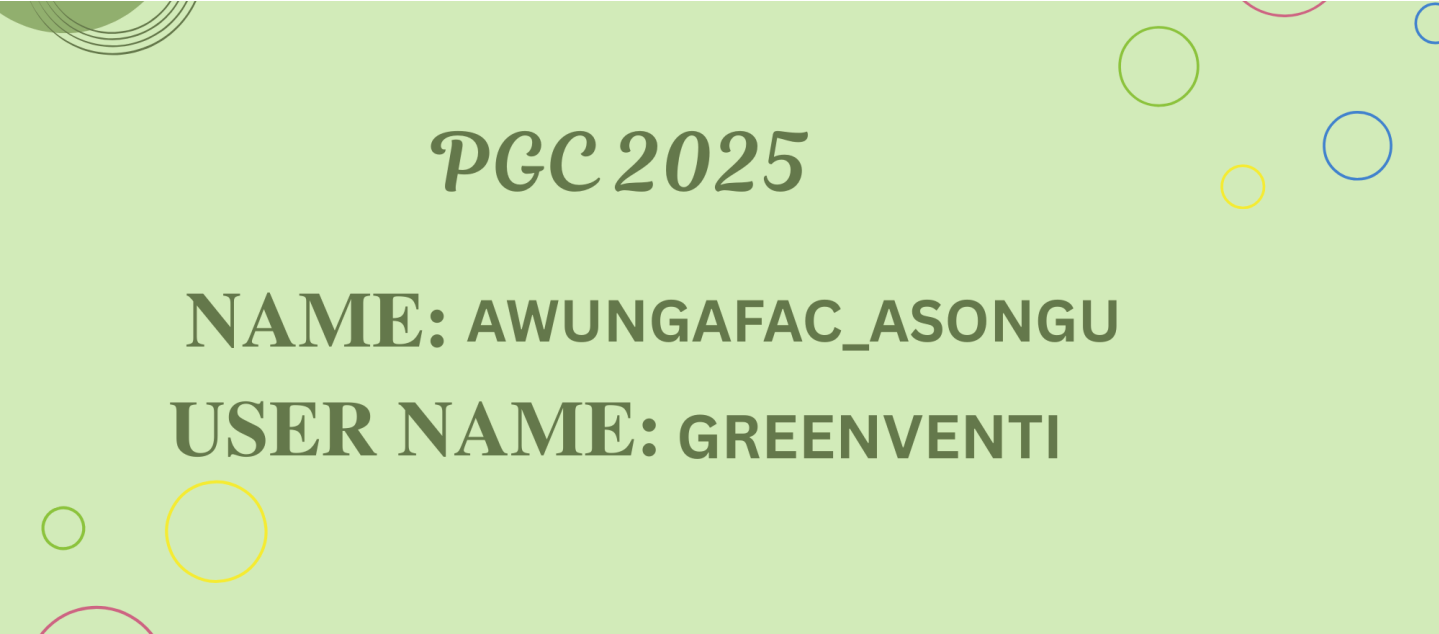
I humbly request that the Grounds Department consider:

- Gradually phasing out synthetic pesticides and fertilizers.
- Training staff in organic pest management.
- Launching a pilot "Rewild Buea Garden" where students can volunteer and learn.

↩ Reply

➦ Forward





PGC 2025

NAME: AWUNGAFAC_ASONGU

USER NAME: GREENVENTI