Uganda Martyrs University
Institutional Repository
(UMU IR)

Living Together, Growing Together: Just Agroecological and Energy Transitions in Uganda's Farmlands

Author(s): Vincent Ferrer Bukenya, Joseph Ssekandi, Jimmy Spire Ssentongo

Abstract:

Renewable energy and agroecology live in contested spaces. Deep agroecologists argue for 'going slow on energy.' Agroecology is then the timely challenge to, among others, unsustainable agricultural models that prioritize yield over sustainable farmlands. Uganda is instead way below acceptable energy thresholds for household and productive use of energy in farmlands. A key question is how to balance energy needs with sustainable practices. This study places at the centre of energy justice households of refugee and host communities at the margins in the populous Bidibidi, northwestern Uganda. It unpacks realties and lived experiences of energy deprivation, with respect to energy access, source protection, and alternatives. Using a qualitative case study, data was gathered through a household survey, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and spatial analysis. Findings reveal four overarching aspects: Shrinking sources of wood; dirty access to dirty fuel; low appetite for energy source protection, and; dicey access to alternative energy sources. Renewable energy calls for integrating energy in agroecological pursuits to optimize farming systems. This is echoed in Laudato Si given that agroecology is a foundational operationalization of integral ecology. It is a call for alternative worldviews or rethinking processes that underlie present-day policy and practice.

Date of Publication: Jan, 2026

Publisher: Springer Nature Link

Book Title: Integral Ecology in the Anthropocene: Africa and Beyond, Volume 49, 2026

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-32125-1_16

ISBN: 978-3-032-32125-1

Item Type: Book Chapter

Keywords: Agroecology, Energy, Cookstoves, Migrants, Farming

Rights: All rights reserved

Telegram - UMU LIB Help Desk @umu_library umu.library library@umu.ac.ug