**Bello Kayla Tolulope**

**IF I COULD INVENT SOMETHING NEW**

Technology is here to stay. This is a common and true saying. Technology and invention are two words that could be linked to Siamese twin connected by brain.

Invention is a word used to describe the designing or manufacturing of something that has not existed before. Technology on the other hand is the use of knowledge to invent new devices or tools inventions and innovations are possible through the use of technology.

Invention can be traced back to the stone age somewhere around 3000 B.C.E when the stone age people learned to use stones as weapons of tools and to make pottery from clay. Today, modern inventions have transformed human lives and made life better and easier around the world with inventions such as smartphones, tablets, artificial intelligence, computers blockchain, genetic engineering, plastics, light bulbs, airplanes, rockets, solar energy and the list goes on.

A useful invention should be something that can change the way we live and interact with the world. If I could invent something new, it would be “carbon-eating crops”. As a student with interest and love for agriculture, it would be satisfying to apply my knowledge of agriculture towards helping our endangered climate. One major cause of climate change is “carbon”. Carbon that affects the atmosphere comes from the burning of fossil fuels for energy. Fossil fuels contain carbon and release carbon dioxide when they burn. Examples are coal, petroleum, natural gas, bitumen, tar sand and heavy oils. Although carbon is the chemical backbone of all life on earth and is regulated by the carbon, cycle, when there is excess of it being released into the atmosphere then this changes our climate by increasing global temperatures which leads to health hazards flooding, water pollution, acid rain, air pollution, global warming and overall disrupts the planets ecosystems.

So, the question now would be: “how can carbon-eating crops with climate change”? Carbon is the main culprit of climate change, I would love to research and invent as it were, weeds that grow especially large, deep sturdy roots that take a lot of time to decompose and take carbon from the atmosphere and therefore keep carbon in the ground (roots of these crops) for decades. All green plants photosynthesize by absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Therefore, with the aid of advancing technology like the gene-altering technology, I can insert a gene like CRISPR-Cas 9 into crops that take up more than half of Earth’s arable land like corn, cotton, soybean and canola. By so doing, carbon would be kept in the ground for decades causing no harm to the climate and ecosystem and also the farmers of these carbon-eating crops would also gain as the research would develop ways for farmers to document how much carbon their crops are removing from the atmosphere to, they can be compensated with carbon credits that they can sell on the open market. This carbon-eating crop invention would be a win-win kind of invention for all.

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