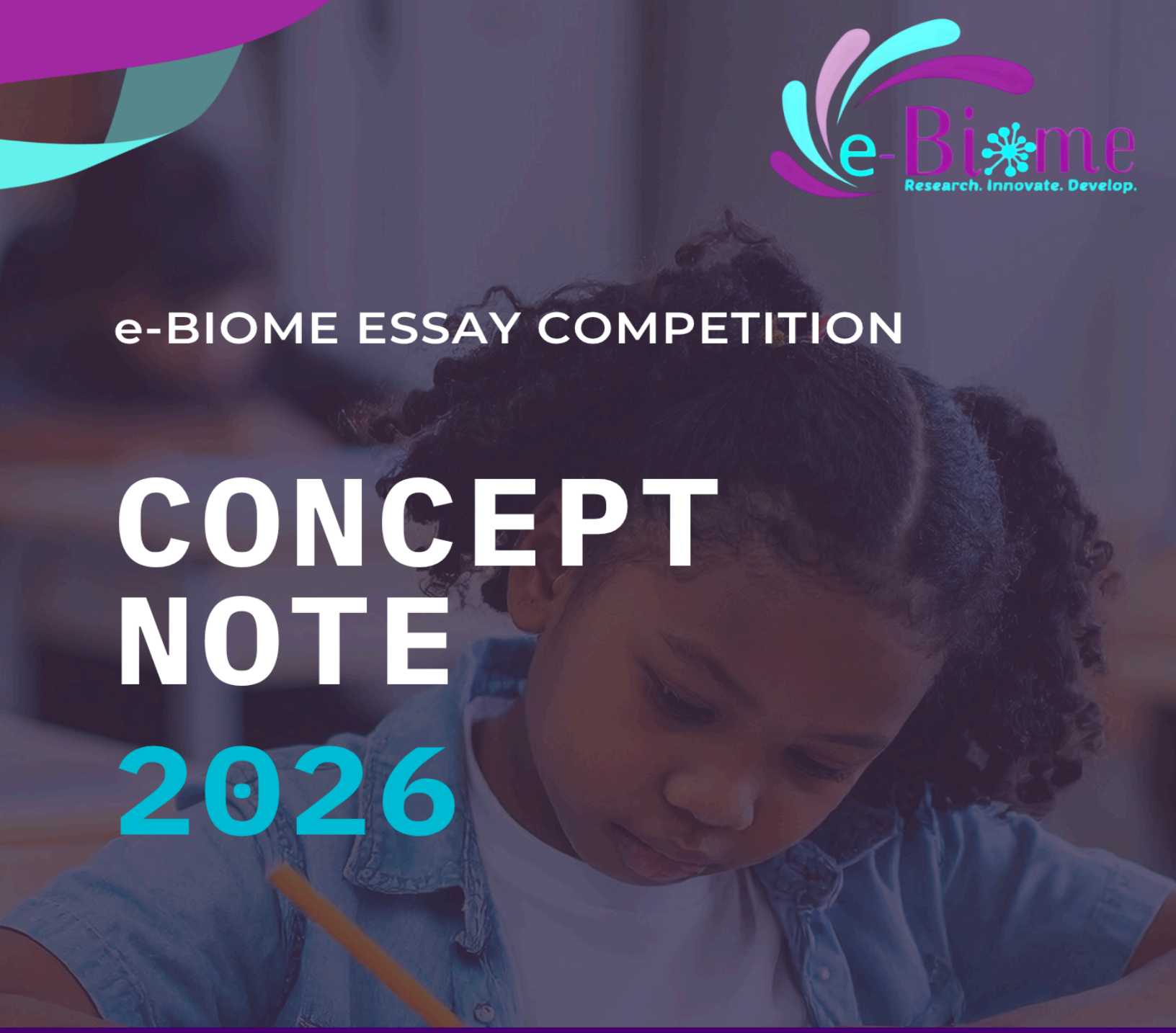
e-BIOME ESSAY COMPETITION

CONCEPT NOTE 2026



"Building Resilience and Innovation in Jamaica's Agricultural Sector"

www.e-biome.com

1.0 BACKGROUND

Jamaica's agricultural sector is among the most climate-exposed in the Caribbean. Smallholder farmers across the island face intensifying threats from stronger hurricanes, prolonged droughts, and erratic rainfall, which reduce yields, damage infrastructure, and deepen rural food insecurity. Recently, Category 5 Hurricane Melissa, which struck the island in October 2025, highlighted these climate vulnerabilities, caused widespread crop losses, and left tens of thousands of farming households in need of recovery support.

In March 2026, the Government of Jamaica secured a **US$50 million** investment from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for the **ADAPT Jamaica Programme**: Jamaica's first single-country GCF investment. Implementation will run over the next six years, with most activities scheduled to begin in 2027 and 2028. A key component of this programme is the training of **7, 800 farmers** in climate-resilient techniques, making 2026 a critical window to build awareness and inspire the next generation of climate innovators.

It is within this context that e-Biome launches its Essay Competition on the theme ***"Building Resilience and Innovation in Jamaica's Agricultural Sector."*** The competition focuses on climate-resilient farming techniques and therefore, engages secondary school students across Jamaica in the national dialogue on climate-resilient agriculture, encouraging them to explore practical farming solutions and propose ideas rooted in their own schools and communities. By channeling the creativity and thinking of Jamaica's young people, the competition supports the broader national goal of building a generation that is informed, engaged, and ready to contribute to Jamaica's agricultural future.

2.0 ABOUT e-Biome

e-Biome is an award-winning Scientific Research and Development Hub with a vested interest in using Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) to drive development in areas of Marine Biotechnological Research, Botanical studies, STEM Education, Grants and

Project Management, Ecosystem Management and Business Support Services. e-Biome provides scientific research and development consultations and employs innovative and creative strategies to discover new leading product ideas in the cosmetics and nutraceutical fields using marine and botanical resources.

With an interest that lies in shaping high-profile research on natural substances and herbal extracts from marine and terrestrial botanical resources to generate new products, e-Biome is critical about playing a vital role in enhancing the efficiency of human health, skincare, and the environment.

Through consulting with experienced scientists and global investors, e-Biome bridges the gap between science and business. e-Biome provides services such as project management, proposal development, and business development services to small to medium enterprises in the field of science and technology.

Vision

To make a difference in the field of STEM by thinking blue and employing innovation and creativity.

Mission

e-Biome aims to gain the highest recognition for research and development of scientific discoveries and sustainable products of the blue industry, through innovative scientific research and productive partnerships.

2026 e-Biome ESSAY COMPETITION

The e-Biome Essay Competition is designed to engage Jamaican secondary school students in structured, evidence-based thinking about climate-resilient agriculture. Students are challenged to go beyond awareness such as to research real farming techniques, connect them to Jamaica's national development goals, and propose tangible project ideas that could be realized in their own schools and communities.

4.0 ESSAY THEME

"Building Resilience and Innovation in Jamaica's Agricultural Sector"

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

Students must address all three of the following in their essay:

1. Describe **2–3 climate-resilient farming techniques** relevant to the Jamaican context, explaining how each technique works and why it builds resilience.
2. Explain how these farming techniques connect to **Vision 2030 Jamaica.**
3. Propose a **school or community project idea** that demonstrates **at least one** of the farming techniques discussed, explaining how it would work and what impact it would have.

5.0 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- **Increased Climate Literacy.** Students will improve their understanding of climate change impacts on Jamaican agriculture, climate-resilient techniques, and Vision 2030 national goals and outcomes.

- **Youth Engagement in National Recovery.** Secondary school students will actively participate in national discourse on Jamaica's agricultural recovery.
- **Innovation at the Community Level.** Students will innovate original, feasible school and community project ideas centered around climate-resilient agriculture.
- **Alignment with National Goals.** Participation will reinforce Vision 2030 Jamaica, National Outcome 14:
  Hazard Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation.

6.0 ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS & SPECIFICATIONS

On the e-Biome website, a downloadable competition template will be made available for participants to use as a reference. There are two submission categories: **Lower School** and **Upper School**.

1. Essays must be submitted using the official e-Biome competition template and as a pdf document **(.pdf)**.
2. Font: **Times New Roman, Size 12**. Line spacing: **double spaced**.
3. Word count:
   - **Lower School (Forms 7-9): 500-700 words**.
   - **Upper School (Forms 10-12): 800-1,000 words.**
4. A **Reference Page** listing all sources consulted must be included at the end of the essay. It does not count toward the word limit. Must be in **APA format**.
5. All participants must submit one entry only. Essays previously published or submitted to other competitions are not eligible.
6. **No plagiarism.** Any form of plagiarism will result in immediate disqualification. **No AI-generated content.**
7. The jury panel's decisions are final. Incomplete entries or entries that do not meet specifications will be automatically disqualified.

7.0 SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES

All entries must be submitted electronically via the e-Biome website at **https://www.e-biome.com/essaycompetition** . The essay must be attached in PDF format and submitted to ebiomemedical@gmail.com. Submission deadline: **May 30, 2026.**

8.0 ELIGIBILITY

The participant must meet all of the criteria below:

- Currently enrolled in a secondary school in Jamaica;
- In **Forms 7-9** (Lower School) or **Forms 10-Upper 6** (Upper School)

9.0 CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT

Essays will be evaluated using the official e-Biome Scoring Rubric, which is available on the e-Biome website. The rubric assesses the following five areas, totaling **54 marks**:

- **Introduction** - 5 marks
- **Climate-Resilient Farming Techniques** - 20 marks
- **Link to Vision 2030 Jamaica** - 5 marks
- **Community / School Project Idea** - 15 marks
- **Conclusion** - 5 marks
- **References** - 4 marks

10.0 IMPORTANT DATES

LAUNCH	DEADLINE	JUDGING PERIOD	WINNERS
April 30	**May 30**	**June**	**July**

11.0 PRIZES

Prizes are awarded per category and apply to both Lower School and Upper School:

- **1st Place -** Tablets
- **2nd Place -** Book Vouchers
- **3rd Place -** Gift Baskets

12.0 JURY PANEL & SELECTION OF WINNERS

All submitted essays will first be reviewed to confirm they meet the competition's formatting and submission requirements. Essays that do not comply will be disqualified.

A panel of **4–6 qualified judges** will evaluate all eligible essays using the official e-Biome Scoring Rubric. Winners from each category will be selected based on their final rubric scores. In the event of a tie, the judges' collective decision shall be final. The decision of the judges is final.

13.0 RIGHT OF PUBLICATION

By entering this competition, participants assign e-Biome the non-exclusive right to publish their essay in whole or in part on the e-Biome website, social media platforms, and associated publications for educational and promotional purposes.

CONTACT

For more information, please visit:

Website: www.e-biome.com

Social Media

Instagram: www.instagram.com/e_biome

Youtube: www.youtube.com/@e-biome

LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/e-biome

Facebook: facebook.com/ebiome