

Farmers managed seed system under threat of extinction



Farmers visiting the G-BIACK seed banks to learn how to produce and to save seeds

Cultivation of indigenous crops has the potential to make agriculture climate-smart, genetically diverse and sustainable. Local landrace crops are resistant to different prime pest and diseases and are highly adapted to the climatic conditions an area. Studies have shown that 90 per cent of the seeds planted in Kenya are from informal seed systems and that 80 per cent of smallholder farmers in Kenya depended on informal seed systems which included sharing seeds with other farmers, selling and buying at the local markets.

However, the government of Kenya has brought up a punitive seed law which prohibits farmers from using their varieties which they have been sharing, exchanging and selling for generations. Criminalizing seed exchange and sharing will deny farmers their livelihoods, encourage biopiracy and reduce plant genetic diversity which affect the resilience of the farming communities at a time when we are experiencing the impacts of the climate change crisis.

The law says that any person going against it shall be guilty of an offence, and upon conviction, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one million Kenya shillings or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or to both.

Limiting the rights of farmers to share, exchange and sell seeds in the informal seed sector will reduce diverse seed access thus further aggravating food and nutritional insecurity in the country.

Visit our website: www.g-black.org.

Go to Google maps to see us from above by entering: G-BIACK, Thika, Kenya

Donations of any amount help us to reach out to vulnerable families.

G-BIACK is a registered NGO in Kenya, and donations are tax deductible.

Contributions may be made directly to G-BIACK or through Network for Good on our web site.

Or checks payable to Kilili Self Help Project may be written and sent to

260 Marion Ave., Mill Valley CA 94941 USA—no overhead will be deducted, meaning that 100% of every donation will be sent to G-BIACK for our programmes.

All contributions are tax-deductible