

**e - News 15/3/17 GROW BIOINTENSIVE AGRICULTURE CENTRE, Kenya  
(G-BIACK)**

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**We are saying no to chemicals: We are returning to Ecological Agriculture**



*Many farmers are now embracing ecological farming*

During one of our farmer's evaluation exercises recently, a farmer narrated a story to us and said that synthetic industrial fertilizers and other agricultural chemicals were illegal in his region until the late 60's. The area chiefs would not allow any of them to be used in their region. There were no chemical selling shops (Agrovets) in the rural areas. Soil fertility and food productivity was not a problem then and there was abundant food. There was not much human disease and people lived long. However, after Kenya attained independence in 1963, farmers were introduced to the use of chemical fertilizers and these chemicals started flooding the region.

After about 20 years of continuous use of chemicals and chemical fertilizers, food productivity had declined tremendously. Crop and animal disease had increased and soils had become very infertile. Mr. Kimotho who is now 72 years old was very bitter when he was narrating this to us. According to him, chemicals brought more harm than good and that is why they are facing food shortage and many human diseases.

Now, many farmers are embracing chemical free agriculture. After testing their soils and finding out that they were very acidic with a PH typically below 5.0, they have started going back to their old ways of farming and rebuilding the fertility of their soil organically. Mr. Kimotho said, "I am very happy that organizations like G-BIACK have come to bring back the lost glory of our farming systems."

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Visit our website: [www.g-black.org](http://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, but to enable G-BIACK to receive the full amount, 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.

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