OUR NEW SEED BANK

The GROW BIOINTENSIVE AGRICULTURE Centre of Kenya has a new operational seed bank. A larger structure has been built to enable us to accommodate more endangered seed species collected from the different parts of Kenya. Our aim is to collect open pollinated seeds, multiply them and later share them with small holder farmers. Most of the indigenous seeds that we have are drought resistant and disease and pest tolerant.

The seed bank measures 15ft by 30ft and has three sections:

1. The root cellar is a cool underground room where we can store bulk seeds as well as fresh vegetables which are meant to stay longer before they are used. Post harvest pests don’t thrive in cold places. Seeds are stored in airtight large containers and bags.
2. The seed bank (upper room) will store seeds that will be distributed within a short period of time. These seeds are stored in smaller airtight containers.
3. The Lath House will store seeds that are yet to be processed. This house allows air in and out and so the seeds will mature and later dry up in a conducive environment before they are processed.

Our seed bank has more than 1000 different varieties of open pollinated dry seeds which have been collected from the farmers and tested to determine their viability and cleanliness. There are also 26 species of vegetable seeds that have been collected and have been planted at our centre for multiplication.