

GROW BIOINTENSIVE AGRICULTURE CENTRE, Kenya (G-BIACK)

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PO Box: 4171 01002 Madaraka Thika

Tel: 254 720-323-134 Email: growbiointensivecenterkenya@gmail.com

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel & Peris Nderitu, Directors

Staff: Fredrick Onyango, John Kibet, Moses Mbugua, Mary Wanjiku, Beatrice Mbugua, Grace Mutindi, Collins Chibole, Damaris Wanjiku, Agnes Khanizer, Grace Mwikali, Verah Anyango

OUR WORK WITH THE FARMERS DESPITE THE COVID 19 EPIDEMIC



Ann Nyambura, a G-BIACK farmer



G-BIACK staff Damaris (left) talking to Judy Wangari, a young farmer.

A Brief Report:

Coronavirus outbreak was first confirmed in Nairobi Kenya on the 12th March 2020, quite a long time after the disease was detected in Wuhan city in late December 2019. Now more than 700 cases have been confirmed in Kenya. The government immediately closed the county borders and this was a wise move but it has brought lots of chaos in the country. Many residents have decided to stay indoors to avoid contracting the virus. There have also been partial lockdowns in a few hotspot areas, especially in the cities of Nairobi and Mombasa.

Agriculture is the greatest contributor to the country's gross domestic income in Kenya. It is key to Kenya's economy, contributing 26 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and another 27 per cent of GDP indirectly through linkages with other sectors. The sector involves more than 40 per cent of the total population and more than 70 per cent of Kenya's rural people. The food producers, distributors and retailers have been severely affected. Traveling from one region to another has not been possible. The prices of agricultural inputs have been hiked. Most of the farmers markets have been closed down and so farmers are not able to sell their produce.

Agricultural officers from NGOs like G-BIACK cannot make visits outside their counties to visit farmers to help them cope. We are however happy to inform our friends and partners that in the midst of this crisis, G-BIACK staff have been visiting farmers in our county of Kiambu, as well as using social media platforms to stay in touch with them. This is a critical time for the farmers to be able to use our resources to solve problems and get advice. We are making sure that we are following all the directives that the ministry of health is issuing, and we are helping to educate people about Coronavirus precautions such as washing hands many time a day, wearing masks, and social distancing. With this kind of support always available to them, we remain optimistic that our farmers will continue growing food for their families and for the Kenyan population. We were forced to close our girls school but we have been using the same means of communication to support them in dealing with the crisis. We are glad that they have learned a lot of skills at G-BIACK and this gives them confidence and resilience.

Visit our website: www.g-biack.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