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G-BIACK uses Adaptive Research as a tool for technology transfer



Research plots at the GROW BIOINTENSIVE Agriculture Centre of Kenya

Research is the systematic process of collecting and analyzing information to increase our understanding of the phenomenon under study. It is a methodical investigation into a subject in order to discover facts, to establish or revise a theory, or to develop a plan of action based on the facts discovered.

The GROW BIOINTENSIVE Agriculture centre of Kenya in collaboration with 60 farmer collaborators is carrying out a research trial that is intended to compare **different planting methods** of maize and beans that different farmers use in Kenya. The aim of the study is to educate farmers through demonstrations and advice on the importance of plant population and soil fertility in crop production with special emphasis on maize and beans. Maize and beans are the major staple food crops that are grown by nearly every farmer. However the yield per unit area varies from farmer to farmer depending on the planting method and the fertilization strategy used.

The experimental plots of 4.5 m by 6m have been replicated 3 times with 5 treatments as follows;

1. Maize and beans planted on the same planting holes
2. Two lines of beans planted between the lines of maize
3. Beans planted at a random inside the maize crop
4. Pure stands of maize
5. Pure stands of beans.

The fertilization strategy used is high quality compost made from the same materials at the rate of 10 t/ha. The trial will be carried out in four cropping seasons.

So far, there is a significant difference in height, stem diameter and general vigor of both maize and beans on different treatments. The preliminary result will be documented in August 2011 and farmers will be expected to adopt the best practice that will give highest yields of both maize and beans.

Please visit us! We are located 10km east of Thika town along the Thika – Garissa Rd
(highway A3)

Donations of any amount help us to reach out to more vulnerable families. Checks payable to Kili Self Help Project and designated for G-BIACK may be mailed to 260 Marion Avenue, Mill Valley CA 94941 USA. Donations are tax deductible and 100% of the donated amount will be sent to G-BIACK for our programmes.

G-BIACK- Empowering the communities ~ Transforming Lives

(G-BIACK is a registered CBO in Kenya. Donations are tax-deductible)