



G-BiACK

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GROW BIOINTENSIVE AGRICULTURE CENTER OF KENYA

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



ABOUT US

The GROW BIOINTENSIVE Agriculture Centre of Kenya G-BIACK is a registered Nongovernmental not for profit organization founded in 2008 with the goal of reducing extreme poverty and improving the living standards of resource poor communities by promoting ecologically viable development strategies for sustainable and quality livelihoods.

Located on highway A3, G-BIACK occupies two acres, with facilities consisting of training halls, a library, offices, dressmaking classrooms, and all-purpose classrooms with a kitchen and hostels to provide with on-site housing for the organizations beneficiaries.

G-BIACK's agricultural and vocational training programs provide rural and urban dwellers and their communities with opportunities to learn sustainable methods of living, as well as other solutions to the regional issues of food security, health, and poverty. An action-oriented, practical, and visionary organization, G-BIACK has already helped many Kenyan communities and small-scale farmers to raise their own food using highly productive, sustainable agriculture techniques.

In addition to its general training programs, G-BIACK also provides separate programs to specifically help an often-marginalized group in this society: women and girls, including widows impoverished by the effects of HIV/AIDS in a program that provides hands on skills in different areas including, cloth making, bead work, soap- making and general life skills and kitchen gardening.



Photo: Sam Nderitu
Master Gardener, Founder and Director | G-BIACK



Photo

GROW BIOINTENSIVE AGRICULTURE CENTRE OF KENYA, SCOPED POSITION ONE, DURING THE 2023 INDEGENOUSE SEEDS AND FOOD CULTURE HARVEST FAIR

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To seed a sense of empowerment and self-reliance in communities that lead to improved food sovereignty and livelihoods and a healthier improving environment

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Communities in which there is healthy environment and healthy people who are gainfully employed and leads fulfilled lives

WHERE WE WORK

G-BIACK's main geographical operational space is in Kiambu, Muranga and Machakos counties. It is headquartered in Thika Sub County where a training centre has been established.

OUR CORE VALUES

- **Self-reliance, self-respect, and self determination**
- **Communities' capacity to empower and to transform their own lives**
- **Recognize, Respect, appreciate and embrace communities' diversity and indigenous knowledge**
- **Exercise honesty, openness, accountability and transparency**



Photo:THE G-BIACK TEAM 2023

SUMMARY OF 2023 ACTIVITIES



Photo: Farmers from Machakos County training at the G-BIACK Centre

1) AGROECOLOGICAL AGRICULTURE TRAINING PROGRAMMES

The Agroecological Agriculture method we teach to farmers is based on soil regeneration in deeply loosened, “double-dug” beds nourished by fertilizer from organic biomatter residue returned to the soil in the form of compost after harvest. This allows biointensive (close-spaced) planting which typically doubles the harvest in the first year, and increases it further over the next two or three years up to six times the original yields. The method includes additional techniques that enhance the increase in production, such as diversifying crops, companion planting, planting for pest control, soil testing, and others. This method is called The GROW BIOINTENSIVE Agriculture technique.



Photo: Farmers from Isiolo training at the G-BIACK Centre

This year we trained **1,000** farmers in their communities, while over **500** came for 5-day training workshops at G-BIACK. We also trained **22** interns from Kenyan universities; **48** Community Resource Persons (CRPs); **41** school teachers and **234** students; **8** orphanage managers; **178** children from 4 orphanages; **128** NGO field extension officers; **60** young women in our 18-month Girls Empowerment Programme (GEP); **42** farmers in Mwanza, Tanzania. In addition, we continued our 3-year training commitment in 8 communities where we provide ongoing consulting and training sessions.



Photo: Building capacities of PELUM Kenya members in Agroecology

Community Resource Persons (CRPs) Programme

In 2022, G-BIACK trained **48** more Community Resource Persons (CRPs). There are now a total of **152** CRPs who help G-BIACK to mobilize and to train farmers. CRPs are enthusiastic farmers who receive special, more detailed training in GROW BIOINTENSIVE classes so they can support the success of fellow farmers in their communities even after we face out of the community



Photo: Satellite farm in Machakos County

Satellite Centres Biointensive Training Programme

G-BiACK has trained a total of **38** farmers from **38** different counties to establish a training demo farm on their farms. The goal is to have at least one working satellite centre in each of Kenya's **47** counties. This is a way to extend our training capacity to places beyond our means. This requires a lot of initiative and **28** are doing very well.



BIOINTENSIVE AGRICULTURE FOR SCHOOLS BAS

The following nine schools have been assisted to implement Biointensive gardens to grow food for their kitchens and to teach biointensive garden methods to their students:

Munyu Mixed Secondary School, Munyu Primary School, Maria Magdalene Special Needs School, Chania Primary School, Ngoima Academy, Ngoliba Primary School, Kilimambogo Primary School, Gatuanyaga Primary School, St. Paul Secondary School. We continue to provide training support to these programmes.



Photo: Primary school children learning about Agroecology



SEED COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

FARMER'S SEED EXCHANGE PLATFORM

Seed is a treasure to all farmers and are at the center of food systems in any given community. Farmer's seed exchange platform is an initiative led by four Kenyan grassroots organizations, G-BIACK, Bio gardening Innovations BIOGI, Community Sustainable Healthy Environment Programme CSHEP and Seed Savers Network SSN who are working with small holders farmers whose primary food resource is threatened by unfair policies and practices that favour industrial farming technologies.

The initiative aims at creating an online platform for sharing seeds; seed knowledge among stakeholders for strengthening farmers managed seed system. It further aims at promoting the practices of agro ecology as a modern approach towards community resilience against climate change.



Photo: Ferdinand, Daniel, Esther and Sam at Seed savers centre

SEED COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

FARMER'S SEED EXCHANGE PLATFORM

THIS INITIATIVE WAS STARTED IN 2019. THE MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT ARE TO:

1. Improve seed exchange platform by increasing seed information and adding analogue SMS format to cater for farmers without smart phones.
2. Development of organizational seed information hub for e-extension to link with the main portal.

The hub shall have the following information:

- a. Seed database with names of the farmers, contact and seed they grow, using computer program that trace seed records and availability.
- b. Booklets (catalogue) on seeds
- c. Stocking Seed library for the seed samples

3. Bulk and save seeds of rare varieties within each organizational areas of work. Each organizational area has a record of rare seeds and those facing extreme challenges for extinction. All 4 organizations and the participating farmers will have bulking plots and exchange models according to their needs in terms of quantities and varieties.
4. Conduct focused group discussions at hubs level to name and describe all the seeds posted online.
5. Recruit more farmers to join and use platform by conducting online seed fair. Each organization and farmers involved in the seed collaboration project will organize for online seed fair and engage media.
4. Conducting exchange visits for farmers to interact and learn from each other



Photo: Ferdinand, Daniel, Esther and Sam at BIOGI



Photo: Ferdinand, Daniel, Esther and Sam at G-BiACK's Seed learning centre

PLANET SAVERS PROGRAMME

Our Planet Savers Programme continue to grow seedlings and help G-BIACK distribute them to farmers and schools. In 2022, **820** Moringa tree seedlings were distributed to more than **500** farmers. Moringa is a special tree species which contains high amounts of vitamins A, B, and C, as well as proteins and minerals. All parts of the tree are edible and cake made from Moringa seeds is used to purify drinking water. Carefully managed Moringa trees can add a lot of nutrition to the family diet.



Photo:Mithini women group at their tree nursery



Photo:Mwihoko primary school children planting trees at the compound



Photo:Farmers during a lesson on tree propagation



Photo: The 2022-2022 GEP class at the garden.

2) GIRLS AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES

Severely impoverished orphaned girls live at G-BIACK for 18 months to learn life skills that can ensure they can live self-reliantly. We have a rolling enrollment of 60 students at all times. The girls learn the same organic soil regenerative agriculture methods that we teach to farmers. The GEP course includes a 3-month internship to prepare the students to initiate community projects introducing the GROW BIOINTENSIVE methods they have learned. They live in a special dorm at G-BIACK, and an addition to the dorm will be completed in December.

The young women also learn many other skills for income generation including sewing, bead work, baking, cookery, food preservation and value addition; computer skills, and accounting; as well as life skills covering health, hygiene, sick patient care, nutrition, and HIV/AIDS/STD awareness and prevention. Our students are being prepared to become competent farmers, tailors, bakers, cooks, and computer literates and when they leave G-BIACK they are expected to create employment for themselves and others. One of this year's GEP graduates, Velma Atieno, received a scholarship to attend Manor House Agricultural College (MHAC), an accredited two-year college.



Photo: GEP Students learning how to sew clothes



Photo: GEP students learning how to use computers

VALUE ADDED PRODUCTS FOR THE WOMEN

The Women Programme is teaching both women and men farmers how to add value to the food crops that they produce, such as sweet potatoes, cassava, bananas, sorghum, and maize. The Women also learn how to add value to clothing and baskets using beads. These products can then be sold more profitably at the marketplace.



Photo: Baskets



Photo: Doughnuts made from soybeans flour



Photo: Students of cooking and baking

COMPUTER LAB

Over 30 computer students from nearby communities and from GEP completed the full computer literacy course this year and received the government certified G-BIACK certificate. All Girls Empowerment Programme (GEP) girls take this course



Photos: Students of the GEP programme learning how to use computers



GRANDMOTHER'S PROJECT

In Kenya, it is estimated that there are **1.8 million** children orphaned from AIDS related illnesses alone. Typically their care falls to their grandmothers. This year we worked with **20** grandmothers who have formed a group called "Hope." They have learned the GROW BIOINTENSIVE practices, established kitchen gardens, and received nutritional counselling. We have provided them with chickens, rabbits, or goats for nutrition and income generation. We also provided shoes and school uniforms for the children.



Photos: Grandmothers from Gatwanyaga community who have benefited from the project

3) INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AT THE G-BIACK CENTRE

Our new hostels are fully completed. The centre can now host **37** people comfortably. However, the center lacks a spacious training hall, a dining hall and a kitchen. We are in the process of fundraising for this and we hope that by the end of the year, we shall have acquired a partner who would be willing to support any of these infrastructures.



Photos: The farmers hostels.



Photos: The G-BIACK Hostels can accommodate up to 37 farmers



Photos: Dedication service of our new dining hall and a kitchen

NEW TRUCK

MIVA Switzerland in partnership with Kilili Self Help Project supported the purchase of a field truck. This is double cab Ford Ranger which will help us to travel in the rural areas that have not been easy for us to reach with motor bikes. The truck will also help us to ferry materials like seeds, manure etc



Photos: G-BIACK's new truck

AGRICULTURE-BASED COLLABORATIONS WITH OTHER NGOS AND WITH UNIVERSITIES

G-BIACK continues to partner with both local and international NGOs and organizations, namely:

1. Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM, Kenya) – National Network
2. The Biodiversity and Biosafety Association of Kenya (BIBA Kenya)
3. Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN) – National Network
4. Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) - International Network
5. Regional Schools and Colleges Program (ReScope) – International Network
6. Manor House Agricultural College (MHAC)
7. Fastenopfer Foundation
8. Caritas international
9. Association of Sisterhoods of Kenya (AOSK) – Catholic organization
10. Community Sustainable Development Program (COSDEP)
11. Organic Agriculture Centre of Kenya (OACK)
12. Bio-gardening Innovations
13. Seed Savers Kenya
14. Mt. Kenya University,
15. Kenyatta University,
16. JKUAT University, and
17. Egerton University.

Our collaborating communities

KILIMAMBOGO ZONE

MACHAKOS COUNTY

1. KITAMBASYE
2. KWA MWAURA
3. MITHINI
4. MWANGA
5. MWALA

GATUANYAGA ZONE

KIAMBU COUNTY

1. GATUANYAGA
2. MUNYU

GATUNDU ZONE KIAMBU COUNTY

1. KARIBARIBI
2. MANGU
3. KAMWANGI

KANGEMA ZONE MURANGA COUNTY

1. MURUKA
2. GATUMBO

WORK PLAN FOR JANUARY – DECEMBER 2024

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Activity												
Scouting of new communities												
Farmer's training programmes												
GEP Training												
New CRP's training												
Follow up and monitoring for both new and old communities												
establishment of seed banks												
Establishment of demo farms												
Farmer to farmer visits												
Inter and intra community exchange visits												
Evaluation exercise												
Reporting												

OUR PARTNERS



Amistad
INTERNATIONAL

the
Tudortrust

THE KILILI SELF HELP PROJECT



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MULTINATIONAL EXCHANGE
FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



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