In a groundbreaking initiative aimed at fostering agroecology and promoting soil health in Nakuru, Kenya, the Biodiversity and Biosafety Association of Kenya (BIBA Kenya) has spearheaded a remarkable project that underscores the need for adopting agroecology practices over conventional farming techniques.

The initiative, which originated in 2020, had an ambitious agenda of sensitizing the populace to the detrimental effects of agrochemical usage and championing safer and more beneficial alternatives. Not only did it aim to spotlight the merits of agroecology, but it also worked towards propelling policy alterations that would facilitate this transition.

This multi-faceted project was
Biodiversity and Biosafety Association of Kenya (BIBA Kenya) identified deficiencies, hence rejuvenating the land.

As per the available documentation, outcomes have been nothing short of inspiring. Farmers who embraced agroecology witnessed a surge in productivity coupled with a substantial reduction in expenditure, thereby establishing the economic feasibility of this approach. Furthermore, improvements in soil fertility facilitated enhanced crop diversity and resilience, creating a cycle of positive impacts.

Central to this transformation were the empowered change agents and farmer groups who have become ardent practitioners of agroecological farming methodologies. Their experiences and testimonies stand as a testament to the initiative’s success, which was catalyzed by a combination of factors including heightened consumer awareness towards safe food consumption and governmental endorsements encouraging secure food production methods. Moreover, collaborations with organizations such as Slow Food Kenya and the Seed Savers Network were vital cogs in this well-oiled machinery.

While the journey was punctuated with challenges including water scarcity and financial constraints, the project displayed remarkable tenacity, achieving its objectives and fostering a positive shift in the community’s agricultural dynamics.

To fortify the gains and carve pathways for future endeavours, BIBA Kenya emphasizes the necessity of heightened awareness about pesticide repercussions, governmental support, and advocating the gradual elimination of toxic agrochemicals from farming practices.

Elphas Masanga, Agronomist, taking soil samples for testing at Mungai’s farm in 2021.

Farmer to farmer exchange and learning visits at Mungai’s Farm

Elphas Masanga, Agronomist, taking soil samples for testing at Mungai’s farm in 2021.

Green Community Farmers group at Mzee Wanyama showing their Bokashi enterprise shop