



AF SA

ALLIANCE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN AFRICA

HEALTHY SOIL HEALTHY FOOD & AGROECOLOGY SUCCESS STORIES

Francis Ngiri (trainer) and Mungai Gathingu demonstrating to farmers on the scouting of pests on the farm.

BIBA Kenya champions sustainable agriculture in Nakuru: A beacon of hope and resilience amidst challenges



Farmers preparing Ash brew at Mungai Farm for practical demonstrations

The initiative had an ambitious agenda of sensitizing the populace to the detrimental effects of agrochemical usage and championing safer and more beneficial alternatives.

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

structured in several phases. Initially, stalwarts from the farming community were handpicked to drive this transformative journey. These designated 'farmer champions' took the reins in organizing educational forums that illuminated the myriad benefits of nurturing soil health and adopting agroecology practices. In addition to this educational facet, a concerted effort was undertaken to scrutinize soil health meticulously and adopt agroecological interventions to amend 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



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

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 a 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.



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

STORY BY:
Anne Maina
anne.maina@bibakenya.org
+254 722 386 263 Biodiversity and Biosafety
Association of Kenya (BIBA Kenya)

WHO IS AFSA?

AFSA brings small-scale farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk, indigenous peoples, faith groups, consumers, youth and activists from across the continent of Africa to create a united and louder voice for food sovereignty. AFSA encourages the use and reproduction of this case study for non-commercial use provided that appropriate acknowledgment of the source is given.



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