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REPORT ON RABBIT FARMING INITIATIVE



Introduction

The Rabbit Farming Initiative was launched by the African Soul Initiative (ASI) to promote sustainable income generation and food security among urban households in Nansana Municipality. This report highlights the inception, progress, and impact of the project, which aims to empower families with a practical and manageable livestock farming option.



Inception and Objectives

The Rabbit Farming Initiative commenced on June 5th, 2021, with the introduction of three rabbits at the ASI center, serving as a model project for the community. The primary objectives of the initiative are:

1. To demonstrate the feasibility and affordability of rabbit farming in urban settings.
2. To empower at least 100 families with pairs of rabbits for income generation.
3. To promote sustainable livestock farming practices utilizing locally available resources.

Project Implementation

The initiative started with the distribution of rabbits and basic cages to selected households during the COVID-19 lockdown, providing families with an opportunity to engage in income-generating activities from home. As rabbits are prolific breeders, the need for modern cages arose within a month to accommodate the growing population.

Modern cages, constructed in an 8 feet by 12 feet backyard space, were established to serve as breeding areas for the project. These cages were designed to optimize space utilization and facilitate efficient rabbit management.





Community Engagement and Impact

The Rabbit Farming Initiative garnered significant community engagement and support. Notably, Mr. Bisaso Ignatius, a catechist at St. Andrew Catholic Church Kabumbi, embraced the project and expanded his rabbit farming operations. Starting with a pair of rabbits, Mr. Bisaso now manages over 20 rabbits in locally constructed cages, demonstrating the scalability and success of the initiative.



Other community members have also adopted rabbit farming, inspired by ASI's support and encouragement. Through the distribution of rabbits and provision of training on rabbit husbandry, families have embraced rabbit farming as a sustainable income-generating venture requiring minimal space, maintenance, and monitoring.



Challenges and Future Plans

While the Rabbit Farming Initiative has achieved notable success, challenges such as space constraints and material availability persist. Future plans include:

- Scaling up distribution to reach more households within Nansana Municipality.
- Providing ongoing training and support to participating families to optimize rabbit farming practices.
- Exploring market linkages and value addition opportunities for rabbit products to enhance economic returns for participants.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Rabbit Farming Initiative by African Soul Initiative exemplifies a sustainable approach to urban agriculture, promoting income generation and food security among urban households. Through community engagement, innovative cage designs, and strategic partnerships, the initiative has empowered families to embrace rabbit farming as a viable livelihood option. Moving forward, continuous support and expansion efforts will be crucial to sustaining the impact of the initiative and fostering economic resilience within Nansana Municipality. The project remains committed to promoting sustainable livestock farming practices and empowering communities through practical agricultural interventions.