



**Nansana Municipality, Wakiso Uganda,  
P.O. Box 300124 Kampala**

**Tell: 256 700 950 503, 256 777 173 342, 256 705 617 682, 256 751  
082 788**

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## REPORT ON URBAN FARMING INITIATIVE 2021



### **Introduction**

The urban farming initiative by African Soul Initiative addresses critical issues of unemployment and food insecurity prevalent in Nansana Municipality due to increasing urbanization and economic challenges. This report outlines the objectives, impact, and outcomes of the urban farming program focused on horticulture and cuni-culture to empower youth and communities through sustainable agriculture.

### **Goal**

The goal of the urban farming initiative is to promote food security, income generation, and youth empowerment by cultivating vegetables and raising rabbits in urban areas. The program aims to provide direct access to fresh produce, reduce food expenses, and create economic opportunities for unemployed youth and families.

## Objectives

1. To promote sustainable urban agriculture practices, including horticulture and rabbit rearing, among urban communities.
2. To empower youth with practical skills in agriculture, entrepreneurship, and food production.
3. To enhance food security and nutrition by increasing local food production within Nansana Municipality.
4. To reduce unemployment among youth by creating income-generating opportunities through urban farming activities.



## Outcomes

The urban farming initiative has achieved significant outcomes:

- Increased availability of fresh vegetables and rabbit meat within urban communities, improving food security and nutrition.
- Empowerment of youth with practical skills in agriculture, enhancing their employability and income-generating potential.
- Reduction in food expenses for participating families, contributing to household savings.
- Promotion of sustainable agriculture practices and environmental stewardship in urban settings.
- Mitigation of the impact of economic disruptions, such as the COVID-19 lockdown, by providing alternative sources of food and income.

## **Sources of Funding**

Funding for the urban farming initiative is sourced through grants, partnerships with local organizations, and community contributions. Additionally, revenue generated from the sale of produce and rabbit products contributes to sustaining the program and expanding its impact.

## **Challenges**

Despite the success of the urban farming initiative, several challenges persist:

- Limited access to resources and inputs for sustainable agriculture practices.
- Urban space constraints for scaling up agricultural activities.
- Need for continuous capacity building and technical support for youth participants.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the urban farming initiative by African Soul Initiative demonstrates the transformative impact of sustainable agriculture in addressing urban challenges such as unemployment and food insecurity. By empowering youth with agricultural skills and promoting local food production, the program contributes to the economic resilience and well-being of communities in Nansana Municipality. Moving forward, sustained investment in urban agriculture and youth empowerment will be crucial for achieving lasting impact and fostering sustainable development in urban areas affected by rapid urbanization and economic pressures. The program remains committed to promoting food security, entrepreneurship, and community resilience through innovative urban farming approaches.