



ADDRESSING Urban Food Security



Establishing hydroponic farms in urban areas

As the world's population continues to grow, and urbanization becomes a pressing issue in Africa, there is a need to explore innovative ways to produce food sustainably, especially in urban areas. One such approach is urban agriculture, which involves cultivating crops and rearing animals in cities and other urban areas. Hydroponics, a subset of urban agriculture, involves growing plants without soil, using nutrient-rich water solutions. Both urban agriculture and hydroponics offer a sound basis for being a viable and sustainable way to feed urban areas in Africa and increasing youth employment.



Urban agriculture and hydroponics are becoming increasingly popular in Africa, with the potential to provide fresh, locally grown produce to urban consumers, reduce food miles and carbon footprint, and provide employment opportunities for youth. This approach also helps to ensure food security by reducing dependence on imports and strengthening local food systems.

One organization that recognizes the potential of urban agriculture and hydroponics is the African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP). AFAP's Urban Agriculture Initiative promotes the development of urban agriculture and hydroponics to increase food security and employment opportunities for youth in Africa. The initiative provides technical assistance, training, and critical access to markets for urban farmers and entrepreneurs.

AFAP's Urban Agriculture Initiative is a sound investment for development partners focused on addressing youth; impact investors seeking to do support urban food security while also earning handsome profits; and government departments focused on urban economic development. Firstly, the initiative focuses on increasing food production and improving food security in urban areas, where the demand for food is high, and access to fresh produce is limited. This approach helps to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition, which is a major problem in many African cities. Secondly, the initiative promotes the development of youth-led urban agriculture enterprises, providing employment opportunities for young people. This approach helps to address the issue of youth unemployment in Africa, which is a significant challenge, especially in urban areas. By promoting entrepreneurship and innovation in urban agriculture, AFAP's Urban

Agriculture Initiative offers young people a viable and sustainable way to create a livelihood and contribute to the development of their communities.

Thirdly, AFAP's Urban Agriculture Initiative promotes sustainable agricultural practices, such as using organic inputs, renewable energy, water conservation, and waste reduction. By adopting these practices, urban farmers can reduce the environmental impact of their operations and contribute to a more sustainable future for African cities.

Finally, by investing in the development of urban agriculture and hydroponics, development partners and impact investors can contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 2, which aims to end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

In conclusion, urban agriculture and hydroponics offer a sound basis for being a viable and sustainable way to feed urban areas in Africa and increase youth employment. AFAP's Urban Agriculture Initiative is a sound investment for development partners and impact/ mission-driven investors looking to support sustainable and impactful projects in Africa. By promoting sustainable agricultural practices and providing training, technical assistance, and access to markets, the initiative is helping to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition, create employment opportunities for youth, and contribute to a more sustainable future for African cities.

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