



Hanging gardens supporting vegetable growth

Conclusion

The various types of home gardening highlighted above can easily be established by any urban or peri-urban farmer who is interested in home vegetable growing. For successful home gardening, farmers should ensure that they use good agronomic practices for instance, by boosting or maintaining soil fertility, using proper spacings, watering in dry spells and timely weeding.

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Nakati Sack garden

NARO

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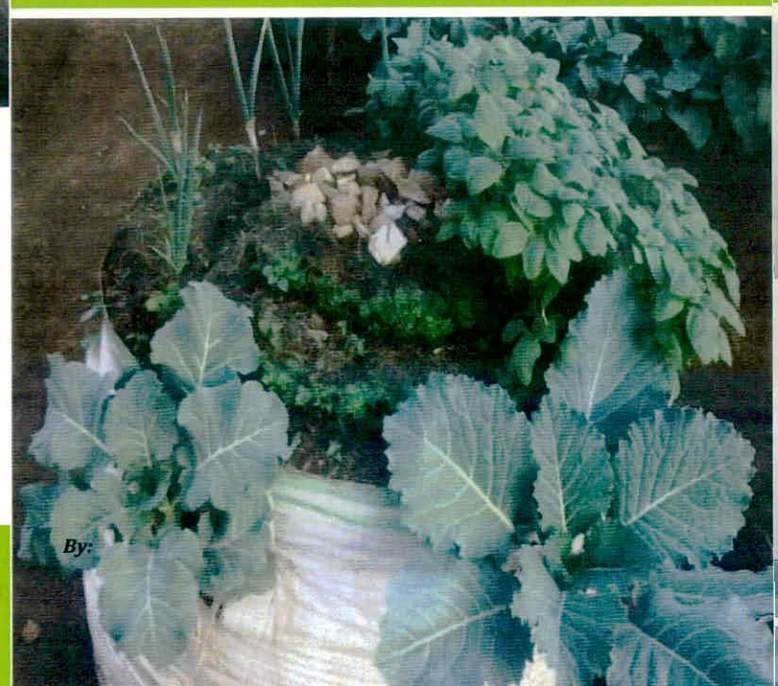
HOME GARDENINING OPTIONS FOR URBAN AND PERI-URBAN VEGETABLE FARMERS IN UGANDA



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Introduction

Home gardening, also known as backyard or kitchen gardening, is one of the main types of urban and peri-urban farming. It includes various ways of growing crops, in backyards, balconies, vacant spaces or any kind of small garden. Home gardening provides a number of benefits to those who practice it. Apart from providing nutrition and fresh foodstuffs to homes, it has the potential to create employment and it enables utilization of items and small backyard spaces that would otherwise be considered as useless.

Types of Home Gardens

There are various types of home gardens used in urban and peri-urban vegetable farming in Uganda. The major ones are highlighted below.

a) Food towers

These are raised structures that are used mainly for the production of vegetables. They can be made using various materials including eucalyptus poles, bricks, bamboo or any other durable wood that can provide support as shown below. Nets can be used to keep the soil firm.



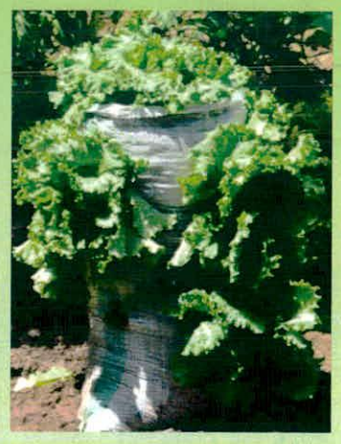


Examples of food towers planted with various vegetables

b) Sack and Polythene gardens

These can be made in various sizes by doubling or tripling polythene or sack layers. To make a bigger sack garden, one can sew several sacks together horizontally and at the edges.





Sack and polythene gardens supporting vegetable growth

c) Container gardens

These include various containers that can support vegetable growth e.g. buckets, pots, jerrycans, plastic bottles and woven baskets.





Buckets supporting vegetable growth

d) Wooden boxes

These can be made in different shapes and sizes depending on one's preference and the space available. The box can be a depth of about 1 metre or more. A polythene sheet is laid inside to protect the wood from easily getting rotten due to regular watering.



Box gardens with various vegetables

e) Hanging gardens

These are gardens that are suspended in the air or are not directly supported by the ground. This method allows you to grow vegetables e.g. tomatoes and spinach without reducing much on the already limited space. Different containers e.g. baskets, bottles and buckets can be used. These are supported in the air using strings or ropes tied onto roof tops, water tanks or wooden poles

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