The Promise of Sack Farming:
Promoting Urban Agriculture to Address Food Insecurity in West Africa

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Food Insecurity in West Africa

- Urbanization
- Food prices
- Chronic poverty
Food Insecurity as a Catalyst

- Anti-government violence
  - Senegal (2008)
  - Mali (2012)

- Threat to democracy
  - De-legitimization
  - Destabilization
Sack Farming is Practical

- Vertical space
- Targeted irrigation
- Available materials
Sack Farming is Economical

Average monthly income

$50–100

Food expenditures

75%

Average cost of 1 sack

$2.50
Sack Farming is Sustainable

- Past success
- Social capital
- Widespread appeal
Advancing U.S. Interests

- Age of austerity
- Geopolitics of West Africa
- Long-term goals
  - Urban agriculture movement
  - Preventing destabilization
The Promise of Sack Farming

Ghana

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The U.S. Government's Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative