



**THE IMPACT OF FARMER'S FEEDING PRACTICES ON MILK PRODUCTION IN
BUSHIKA SUB-COUNTY BUDUDA DISTRICT**

BY

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DECLARATION

I **ONGOM ISAAC** declare that this dissertation has never been submitted to any University for award of any degree.

Signature..........

Date.....23/06/2014.....

This dissertation has been submitted with the approval of my Academic supervisor of Busitema University

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation to my Father Dr. Okello Denis and my Mother Mrs. Lilly Okello, my siblings, Victor, Roderick, Angella, Elizabeth and my aunty Cissy Akello for guidance and moral support at school.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

FAO	Food Agriculture Organisation
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries
MOICS	Minister of Industry, Commerce and Supply
MWESPR	Water and Environment Sector Performance Report
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory Services
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
TMR	Total Mixed Ration
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UCC	Uganda Communication Commission
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

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ABSTRACT

Milk and other dairy products remains a staple in the diets of most Ugandans but its production is increasingly constrained by feed scarcity and high costs of feeds especially during the dry season. A cross sectional study was carried with the aimed assessing the impact of farmers feeding practices on milk production in Bushika Sub County from February to April, 2014. In this study 100 dairy farmers from five parishes of Bushika Sub County were sampled. An intensive interview using a well structured questionnaire and close visual observation was applied. In analyzing results, a descriptive statistic using SPSS was applied. The research findings revealed that the commonly used feed resources were fodder grasses (75%), fodder legumes (65%), fodder trees (25%) and concentrates (12%). The quantity of feeds provided to lactating cow were 50-60 kgs (74%), 61-70 kgs (17%), and 71-80 (9%). The average milk yield per cow per day were 11-15 litres (43%), 8-10 litres (43%) above 15 litres (9%) and 5-7 litres (5%). There was a significant ($p < 0.05$) relationship between quantity and frequency of feeds, water, supplementation and milk yield. Farmers feeding practices had a negative impact on milk production. The study recommends need for technical and institutional intervention for further research on quality of feed resources, training of farmers on feeding standards, importance and quality of water.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Back ground

Up to 28% of the Agricultural Gross Domestic Production (GDP) of Sub-Saharan Africa is contributed by livestock with the major products being milk, meat, eggs, wool, hides and skin (Jabbar *et al.*, 2002). It is also one of the main component of agricultural industry in Uganda contributing 9% of the total GDP and 18% as agricultural GDP (Uganda Bureau of Statistics-UBOS, 2011; Mbabazi and Mahmud, 2012). According to Ekou, (2013), over 85% of the Uganda's population lives in rural areas and derive their livelihoods from agriculture and livestock production.

Livestock production produces 85% of the milk and 95% of the beef consumed in the country, Milk production in Uganda has grown at a fast rate of 13.1% over the period of 2000-2005 and this rate is one of the highest in Africa (Vorgelegt, 2008).

According to Nakiganda *et al.*, (2006), dairy production in Uganda plays a vital role in improving people's nutritional status, generating income to farmers and improving soil fertility through manure application. It is also an important source of employment with many producers, traders, processors and retailers engaging in the dairy chain.

Milk demand is growing at a higher rate than production in Africa. Vorgelegt., 2008 reported that, between the years 1990 and 2004, the demand for milk and dairy products in Africa was growing at an average rate of 4.0% per annum. Yet one would expect the continent to be self sufficient in milk production and even export. There exist a vast potential for development of dairy production in Africa in terms of market, livestock and idle land for forage production, research and institutional teaching etc.

Inspite of this great potential for dairy production in Uganda and Africa at large, Olaloku and Debre, (1992) and Ndambi, (2006) reported that, traditional smallholder dairy production systems still dominated the sector. Ayantunda *et al.*, 2005 also reported that, milk production was increasingly constrained by feed scarcity and high costs of feeds especially during the dry

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