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ASSESSING THE PROFITABILITY OF MAIZE PRODUCTION IN KACHUMBALA SUB-COUNTY BUKEDEA DISTRICT

BY

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DECLARATION

I **KAGGWA JONATHAN**, hereby declare that the work presented in this attachment report has never been submitted by any other student for any award of Bachelor's degree in agribusiness management. The work contained here is original and it is out of my personal efforts.

NAME: KAGGWA JONATHAN

SIGN: ..... **DATE:** 08/06/2023.....

APPROVAL

This satisfies that the attachment was under the supervision of;

ACADEMIC SUPERVISOR

DR. KABBIRI RONALD

SIGN: .....

DATE: .....

DEDICATION

I dedicate this attachment to the almighty God who has given me the gift of life and knowledge, and in a special way I also dedicate this report to my parents who brought me to school and shaped my future into this career

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Thank you all, God bless and reward the above people abundantly.

ABSTRACT

This study sought to assess the availability and accessibility of improved maize varieties to farmers, the varieties they grow and their perceptions with the gross margins of maize production in Kachumbala sub county Bukedea District. A total of 70 maize cultivating farmers were randomly selected. The study investigated the demographic characteristics of maize farmers such as gender, age, farming experience, education level farm size among others. A semi-structured questionnaire was used to collect data. In analyzing, descriptive statistics were used for characterizing farmers, mean was used to analyze scale Likert questions which were answering the questions perceptions whilst gross margin formula was used for gross margin analysis. The results revealed that all (100%) the respondents who participated in the study were maize farmers who mainly planted Longe and DK varieties of maize. Farmers' perceptions were high on improved maize varieties being grown for sale and the high cost of improved maize varieties but moderate perceptions on their like of improved maize varieties, the high yielding of improved maize varieties, production of improved varieties for sale, low perceptions on availability of improved maize varieties, accessibility of improved maize varieties and very low perception on use of improved maize varieties for subsistence production. The study results further revealed that maize production was profitable.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ASARECA……Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa.

CBO……..Community Based Organisations

CIAT……International Centre for Tropical Agriculture

DANIDA……Danish International Development Agency

FAO…….Food and Agriculture organisation

H……Hybrid

Ha……Hectare

JICA……Japan International Cooperation Agency

MLN……Maize lethal necrosis

MSV……Maize Streak Virus

MT/Ha……..Metric Tons per Hectare

NAADS……National Agricultural Advisory Services.

NARO……National Agriculture Research Organisation

SSA……Sub Saharan Africa

TUPs……..Technology Uptake Pathways

UBOS……Uganda Beaural of Statistics

WEMA……Water Efficient Maize for Africa

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION.

1.1 Back ground.

Maize (Zea mays) also known as corn is believed to have originated in central Mexico 7000 years ago from world grass, and the native Americans transformed it into a better food. The United states, China and Brazil being the leading maize producing countries in the world (Ranum et al., 2014). As the world's population is expected to reach 9.1 billion by 2050, the production of food, mainly staple crops is expected to increase accordingly, especially for the 870 million people who are currently food insecure (Fisher et al., 2015). This suggests that the dominant role of agriculture as the primary source of food and employment creation in the developing economies should be stepped up. A study by Alexandros and Bruinsma (2012) indicated that agricultural production needs an increase of 60% by 2050 to meet the world's food consumption demand. This expected growth means that small holder farmers who are a principal conduit of agricultural production have a significant role to play. In sub Saharan Africa (SSA), majority of population is agriculture dependent with about 55% in rural areas (G et al., 2012).

Agriculture is the back bone of Uganda's economy, employing 70% of the population, and contributing half of Uganda's export earnings. In Uganda maize is one of the staple foods depended on by many households (Chete, 2021), providing over 40% of a Ugandans' daily calorie consumption. To meet the country's maize demand, most farmers grow some maize on their land, with over 2 million Ugandan's counting on maize as their main source of income. Maize is one of the crops identified as a priority crop in Uganda.

In the agricultural year 2018, it was grown by 55 percent of the agricultural households on a land area of about 2.5 million Ha (cumulated both 1st and 2nd seasons). The production of maize in 2018 was 3.4 million tones with a yield of 1.7 MT/Ha in second (UBOS, 2020).

In 2020 maize production for Uganda was 2,750,000 tons. Before maize production of Uganda started to increase to reach a level of 2,750,000 tons in 2020, it went through a trough reaching a low of 286,000 tons in 1980 (Chune, 2022).

The major challenges in maize production include. Diseases such as downy mildew, leaf blight, maize streak virus (MSV) and more recently maize lethal necrosis (MLN) which has led to the

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