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**IMPACT OF FEEDING PRACTICES ON THE GROWTH OF PIGS IN ABAKO
SUB-COUNTY, ALEBTONG DISTRICT**

BY

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE AND
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AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND
MANAGEMENT OF BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY**

AUGUST, 2013



DECLARATION

I, Abineno Walter, declare that this dissertation has never been submitted for the award of any degree or reproduced from any academic paper in any University before.

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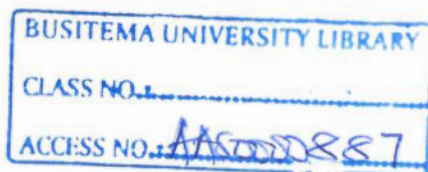
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DEDICATION

This piece of work is dedicated to my Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Ngira William, my brothers: Stewart, Goddy, Focus, Wilbert, Brian and Hallan, and Sisters: Marvelous, Fiona, Judith and Trinity, and my supervisor.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Dr.	Doctor
Etc.	And so on
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FEW	Field Extension Worker
IFI	Individual Farmer Interview
Mr.	Mister
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory Services
NRC	National Research Council
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences

ABSTRACT

The strategy of this study was to assess the impact of feeding practices on the growth of pigs in Abako sub-county, located in Alebtong district. A total of four parishes and a sample size of 57 households rearing pigs were considered for the research. The study looked at the types of feedstuffs given to pigs, feeding practices of the different classes of pigs, provision of supplementary and/or preserved feeds and use of feeding equipment. Data on these areas was collected using the Individual Farmer Interview Schedules, administered by the researcher with the help of a research assistant.

Analysis of data showed that farmers fed pigs on local or indigenous feedstuffs whose amounts and rate greatly varied from homestead to homestead. A proportion of 59.6% of the households gave supplements to their pigs; 59% never provided preserved feeds for their pigs; 52.6% provided both feed and water troughs for their pigs; women and children performed most of the pig feeding activities; and 77.2% of the households faced challenges providing enough feeds for their pigs.

Basing on the above findings, the study concluded that farmers used local feed resources to feed their pigs, while supplementation and preservation of feeds were inadequately done. Furthermore, farmers provided simple poorly designed troughs as feeding equipment. The study recommended that distinction of feeding for the different groups of pigs; provision of well-balanced feeds and supplements, as well as sufficient quantities of water; preservation of feeds for pigs; feeding processed animal wastes to pigs and provision of well designed feed and water troughs better be observed.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.0. Background

Small- and medium-sized livestock enterprises of pigs, goats, sheep, and poultry are the most important sources of income for the smallholder farmers in many parts of the world. Uganda like other developing countries is basically an agricultural country, comprising mostly of smallholder farmers who contribute to 75% of agricultural production and over 75% of employment (Adeleke *et al.*, 2010). Abako sub-county situated in Alebtong District, 18km to the east of the district head quarters enjoys smallholder pig enterprise, which serves as an important source of income, and contributes significantly to the livelihood of the people (Ogilo, 2011).

According to Phengsavanh & Stür (2006), swine production, in particular contributes greatly to the livelihood of rural farmers, especially where there is high risk of crop failure and associated food shortage. Consistent with the finding above, Abako sub-county experiences unreliable weather patterns in which both drought and flooding frequently occur, leading to crop failure and famine. No doubt, pig farming is a popular alternative.

In Uganda, pork is the second most consumed meat after beef (Food and Agriculture Organization report, 2008). Therefore, high production of pigs could earn the farmers higher incomes. According to Adeschinwa (2008), swine production represents the fastest means of waving off the shortage of animal protein in human diets. As such it has great opportunities to becoming the hub of development in rural Uganda.

However, the unavailability and high cost associated with conventional commercial feeds is a very important constraint to pig production in Abako Sub-County, a case that was also indicated by John *et al.* (1995) in a similar study. As a result, the traditional smallholder production system continues to have both economic and nutritional validity, where farmers keep only a few breeding sows with very few if any purchased inputs as it was found out by Kumaresan (2007) in a similar study. Under the smallholder system of management, growth of pigs continues to be low. There have hardly been any attempts to assess the impact of pig feeding practices on the growth of pigs in Abako sub-county or elsewhere in Uganda, a gap which this study is set out to fill up.

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