

ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF THE CROPPING FARMING
PRACTICES IN WETLANDS, CASE OF LWERE WETLAND
OPWATETA SUB-COUNTY PALLISA DISTRICT EASTERN
UGANDA

BY



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DECLARATION

I, OTWAL SABASTIAN, do here declare that this research report is my own work and efforts and has never been submitted for a bachelor's course in any other university. I therefore take full responsibility for any errors that may arise in this work as a result of omission or otherwise.

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APPROVAL

This is to certify that OTWAL SABASTIAN, did research and this report is a true representation, of the findings under my supervision. I am therefore recommending that this report be submitted to the Faculty of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences of Busitema University

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DEDICATION

This research report is dedicated to my family people MR. Otwal John Chrijositom and MRS. Annyu Stella and my brother Mr. Opoloto Herbert, my loving sisters, Ms. Otwal Akia Barburh and Ms. Karetu Zitta

I credit the efforts of my beloved ones, Ms. Driciru Victoria, Mr. Olupoto Anthony

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GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

C.A.W.M.A	Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture
CFP	Cropping Farming Practices
DSOER	District State of Environment Report
E.S	Ecosystem Services
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
N.W.P	National Wetland Policy
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
PEAP	Poverty Eradication Action Plan
R.C	Ramsar Convention
SBA	System Based Approach
WMD	Water Management Department

ABSTRACT

Wetlands contribute in diverse ways to the livelihoods of millions of people. They are often inextricably linked to agricultural production systems. In many places, growing population, in conjunction with efforts to increase food security, is escalating pressure to expand agriculture within wetlands. The environmental impact of wetland agriculture can have profound social and economic repercussions for people dependent on ecosystem services other than those provided directly by agriculture. If wetlands are not used sustainably, the functions which support agriculture, as well as other food security and ecosystem services, including water-related services, will be undermined.

Currently the basis for making decisions on the extent to which and how, wetlands can be sustainably used for agriculture is weak. There is a dearth of knowledge on the best agricultural cropping practices to be applied within different types of wetlands, and lack of understanding on how to establish appropriate management arrangements, that will adequately safeguard important ecosystem services are un-established.

Often, economics of different cropping farming practices in wetlands is seen as greatest threat to their degradation, due to limited accruing short coming financial benefits, however, wetland policies are underpinned by a conservationist perspective that regards agriculture simply as a threat and disregards its important contribution to livelihoods. Comparative economic assessment between the different cropping farming practices in wetlands was performed to identify the best option which is a "skylight" to farmers' livelihoods and environmental sustainability

The findings highlights the value of wetland agriculture for poverty reduction as well as the need for more systematic planning that takes into account need for community based management approaches to ensure the intergenerational benefits from the wetland.

CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.0: Introduction

This chapter contains background of the study, problem statement, objectives, hypotheses, research questions, conceptual framework and the scope

1.1: Background of the study

Over the history of the universe wetlands are well known as "kidneys" of the world landscape because of the hydrological and chemical cycle functions they perform, and are biological "super markets" because of the food webs and rich biodiversity they support (Ellison, 2004). Thus wetlands are areas permanently or seasonally flooded by water where plants and animals have become adapted (The National Environment Act, Cap 153 under Section2) or. Areas of marsh, fen, peat land, or water whether natural or artificial, permanent or seasonal with water that is static or flowing, fresh, salty, including marine water of low tide less 6 meters" (Ramsar convention, 1971). There by playing an important role in human development and many great civilizations (e.g. the Maya, Inca and Aztec in Latin America, the Khmer in Asia, the Marsh Arabs in Mesopotamia and those of the Nile and Niger in Africa)

Wetlands play an important role in maintaining environmental quality, sustaining livelihoods, supporting biodiversity, and regulating services that sustain agriculture (Falkenmark, Finlayson, & Gordon, 2007). In drier regions, wetlands are the only sites where people can get water, collect food and other basic supplies (NEMA, 2012; Mwakubo & Obare, 2009). In Uganda, over 50% of the total wetlands are under some form of human use to provide materials for domestic use but also generate some cash through collection and sale of roofing materials, fodder, water, raw materials for crafts, and from activities such as beekeeping, fishing, hunting and direct cultivation of food (Maclean, Tinch, Hassall, & Boar, 2003). This employs at least 2.7 million people (nearly 10% of the total population) (WMD, 2009; GoU, 2010). As a snapshot, wetland resources generate an estimated US\$432 per year to an average participating Ugandan household (Turyahabwe et al., 2013).

However, human use of wetlands is bound to alter wetland cover, if not well planned. A rapid change in wetland cover has been witnessed in Uganda over the recent decades, accelerated by pressure for industrial expansion, especially in urban areas and the increasing annual population growth rate, estimated at 3.7% by 2012 (UBOS, 2012). Consequently, Uganda has lost about

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