

BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

CAUSES OF REDUCED CROP YIELD

A CASE STUDY OF NAMASAGALI SUB COUNTY, KAMULI DISTRICT

BY

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A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A BACHELORS DEGREE IN NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMICS OF BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY

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DECLARATION

I AHUMUZA RACHEAL KAMAKUNE do hereby declare that this research report is my original work and a result of my independent commitment and has never been submitted either in the same or different kind to this or any other institution for any academic qualification.

Signature.....Akamakune.....

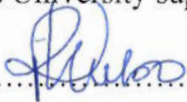
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APPROVAL

This is to certify that this research report by Ahumuza Racheal Kamakune has been submitted with my approval as University supervisor of Busitema University.

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Date.....15/07/2013.....

DEDICATION

To my late father Mr Tinkasiimire Patrick. May the good Lord grant you eternal peace.

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To my heavenly father, glory be unto you Lord for your amazing grace that has taken me this far. In battles that seemed fierce and impossible for me to overcome, you gave me the courage, zeal and determination to face them head on, I thank you.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
MAAIF	Ministry of Agricultural, Animal Industry and Fisheries
NARO	National Agricultural organisation
NEMA	National Environmental Management Authority
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
VEDCO	Volunteer Efforts for Development Concerns
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals

ABSTRACT

The study examined the causes of reduced crop yield in Namasagali Sub County, Kamuli District. Major crop types grown in the Sub County were identified and the contributing factors to the reducing crop yields.

Qualitative and quantitative approaches to collect data were used, and this involved use of secondary data, observation, interviews and use of questionnaires. The data collected from a sample of 50 respondents was analysed using SPSS 6.0 and EXCEL statistical packages and results presented by use of pie charts, frequency tables and bar graphs.

The study revealed that major crops grown by the farmers in Namasagali Sub County were food crops for domestic consumption which also serves for commercial purposes and food security reasons. The study also revealed that Food crops are the major sources of livelihood for the farmers. Farming was dictated by climate variations, and soil types. The major factors fronted by farmers for the reducing crop yields in Namasagali Sub County were drought, pests and diseases, heavy rainfall, land size holdings, labour and declining soil other contributing factors to this trend lend much to education levels of the farmers which influences use and adoption of high yield enhancing technologies; soil types and the reducing sizes of the land- holdings of the farmers are other variables that contribute to the reducing crop yields.

It is recommended from this study that farmers adapt new methods of farming, plant more improved seed to increase on the yield, form farmer organisations where they can access credit to buy inputs such as fertilizers, also farmers should adopt farmer field school approach (hands on programmes),also government to encourage higher level farmer organizations.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the study

Agricultural production is one of the largest and most important economic activities in the world, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, where agriculture has a significant impact on growth domestic product growth. Some of the largest agricultural sectors throughout the world include the production of grain (rice, wheat, corn, etc.), coffee, beans (soy, lentil, etc.), potatoes, and tea.

The agriculture sector is looked at as one of the major sectors shouldering people's livelihood in the whole world both in developing and developed countries. Agricultural food productivity is one of the major sources of income. Over one million people are employed in small scale agriculture in developing countries and 90% are from African and Asia.

Agriculture has been and continues to be the most important sector in Uganda's economy because it employs the largest proportion, 65.6% in 2010, of the population aged 10 years and older (UBOS, 2010). In 2010/11, the sector accounted for 22.5% of total Gross domestic product. Agricultural exports accounted for 46% of total exports in 2010. The sector is also the basis for much of the industrial activity in the country since most industries are agro-based. Even though its share in total GDP has been declining, agriculture remains important because it provides the basis for growth in other sectors such as manufacturing and services. Being the largest employer, the majority of women (83%) are employed in agriculture as primary producers. In the face of the global financial crisis, agriculture contributes to foreign exchange revenue from regional trade and therefore improving the country's balance of payments position, and in the process helps to stem further depreciation of the Uganda shilling. Agriculture also provides direct and indirect linkages with other sectors of the economy, supplying food for workers in services and industry, export products, and in the process generating employment opportunities for many people.

One of the eight millennium development goals is to halve the number of people living in poverty and hunger by 2015 and agriculture is one that can play a role in achieving this.

Despite the importance of agriculture in the economy, the sector's performance has not been impressive. Real growth rate in agricultural output declined from 7.9% in 2000/01 to 0.1% in 2006/07 (UBOS, 2008). However, the sector made some modest recovery and grew at 2.6% in 2008/09 and 2.4% in 2009/10 but declined again to 0.9% in 2010/11. The average real growth rate over a ten year period

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