

ASSESSING TOBACCO FARMERS WILLINGNESS TO ADOPT GROWING OTHER CROPS
A CASE STUDY OF PAJULU SUBCOUNTY, ARUA DISTRICT, UGANDA

BY

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DECLARATION

I Dawaru Mary declare that this work is original; it has been done by me though with references to other people's ideas and has not been used by any other person to obtain any other qualification in the institutions of higher learning


Sign..........

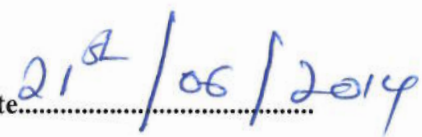
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APPROVAL

This dissertation report has been submitted for examination purpose with my approval as the university supervisor

Sign.....
Mr. Edema George Taako

Date.....

ACRONMYS

Centre for Tobacco Control in Africa (CTCA).

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Green Tobacco Sickness (GTS)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Study of child labour in tobacco growing areas of Uganda (SODECO)

British American Tobacco Uganda Ltd (BATU)

Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)

British American Tobacco (BAT)

Leaf Tobacco and Commodities (LTC)

National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS)

National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)

United States of America (USA)

World Health Organization (WHO)

Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development (MFPED)

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ABSTRACT

The study was done to assess tobacco farmer's willingness to adopt growing other crops in Pajulu Sub-County, Arua District. Data collected included; the benefits and costs of tobacco cultivation in the sub-county, access ability to agricultural loans, inputs, extension and other farmer support services, the impact of tobacco growing on food production, tobacco growers perception about the potential of other crops to replace tobacco and existing economically viable alternatives for tobacco growers. The study used case study design. A total of 30 respondents were interviewed. Four parishes were purposively selected from biased perspective of where tobacco is being grown within the sub-county. The farmers sampled from each parish ranged from 5-13 people who were conducted through a snow ball process. The study used interview guides, focused group discussions, documentary analysis and direct observation to collect data. The data was analyzed using descriptive methods since the research was qualitative in nature.

The findings indicate that tobacco production impacts a lot of costs to farmers compared to the benefits with 87% farmers rating labour requirements being very high in addition to other input costs yet revenues got from it can't be able to counter the costs and satisfy the farmers plan in year. Most farmers interviewed got their inputs from the tobacco companies accounting 76.7%, together with other agricultural loans, extension and other support services. In exploring the growers perception 53.3% were willing to adopt or replace tobacco growing with other crops on condition that the crops that they replace tobacco with earns ready market created by government, government offers special agricultural loan to them, inputs, extension and other services through formation of cooperatives for the various crops.

Based on the study the following recommendations were made: increasing access to agricultural credit, enhancing access to agricultural information and strengthening the existing institutions to effectively carryout their duties and the study also suggested areas of action as a way forward like identifying alternative crops to tobacco according to climate and soil type, undertaking sensitization program to make them aware of problems associated with tobacco cultivation, enhance farmers technical know-how and improve marketing infrastructure for alternative crops, assist farmers with inputs and effective use of environmentally sound measures to control pests and diseases.

CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This covered background to the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, conceptual framework, significance of the study, scope of the study and limitations of the study.

1.2 Background to the study

As Agriculture forms the backbone of Uganda's economy just like any other African countries with cash crop production for export and local consumption, about 85% of the people in Uganda derive their livelihoods from agriculture which accounts for about 85% of the export earnings, 66% of government revenue and 42% of the gross domestic product (NEMA, 2002). The main cash crops of Uganda include coffee, tea, cotton and tobacco. In Uganda tobacco is currently grown in areas such as Arua and Maracha Districts in West Nile, Gulu, Lira, Masindi, Hoima, Mubende and Rukungiri (Onzima and Birikunzira, 2001). Tobacco crop was first introduced in the early 1920's and it has risen today to become a major source of revenue for many rural homes and the government of Uganda in form of taxes collected from the tobacco companies. Tobacco holds an unparalleled position among crop plants (Akehrust, 1968). It is one of the very few crops entering the world market entirely on leaf basis and plays an important part in international trade. It is the most widely grown commercial non-food plant in the world (Taylor 1927).

As tobacco control measures continue to gain momentum around the world, various stakeholders have expressed concern that these policies are likely to have serious negative consequences for the economies of tobacco-producing countries. The World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) is to curtail tobacco consumption to the greatest extent possible. For individuals and nations involved in tobacco production and marketing, this is regarded as a serious threat and has given rise to various calls for crop substitution and long-term diversification efforts to farmers operating small businesses on their farms. Equally, some advocating for tobacco control have gone further and called for reduced production on grounds that tobacco is not a good choice for smallholder farmers, rural economies or the environment. As such the research therefore seeks to investigate willingness of farmers to substitute tobacco growing for other crops which include among others vegetables, cassava, beans, ground nuts etc.

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