



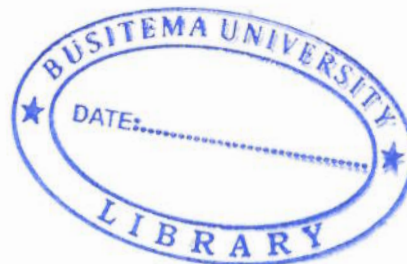
**CONSTRAINTS TO SMALL RUMINANT PRODUCTION AND MARKETING AMONG
FARMERS IN MUKURA SUB COUNTY, NGORA DISTRICT**

BY

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE AND
ANIMAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A
DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT OF
BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY**

AUGUST, 2014

DECLARATION

I, **OKURUT GIBERT MOSES**, hereby declare that this dissertation is my own work and it has never been submitted to any university or institution of higher learning for any academic award.

Signature  Date: 13th / 08 / 2014

This dissertation has been submitted for marking with the approval of the supervisor

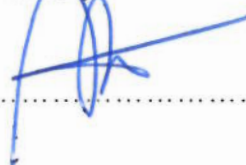
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DEDICATION

I dedicate this piece of work to my dear parents Olupot Alex and Stella Olupot, for educating me and for the tremendous support which enabled me to go through the course, my wife Apene Rebecca for being patient and kind to me during this time of research.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CCPP	Contagious Caprine Pleuro Pneumonia
EARO	Ethiopian Agricultural Research Organization
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IBC	Institute of Biodiversity and Conservation
ILCA	International Livestock Centre for Africa
ILRI	Internal Livestock Research Institute
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries
MPED	Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development
NARO	National Agricultural Research Organization
NGO	Non-Government Organization
SSA	Sub- Saharan Africa
TFS	Teso Farming Systems
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics

ABSTRACT

The study was undertaken to assess the constraints to small ruminant production and marketing in Mukura Sub County, Ngora district. Data was collected from 100 farmers by use of pretested questionnaires. The results revealed that major type of small ruminants kept were goats (58%) under tethering management system. Lack of technologies (39%), lack of extension support (23%), feed scarcity (13%), diseases and parasites (7%), water shortage (8%), labor shortage (4%) and theft and stray dogs (6%) were the constraints to small ruminant production in Mukura Sub county. The following improvement strategies were identified: increased extension agent contact (41%), provision of improved breeds (31%), campaigns by government (19%). Other measures included educating and training of farmers (5%) and provision of soft loans (4%). The problems of marketing were; high market dues (37%) and long distances from the markets (33%), low prices (23%) while only 7% lacked market information in which the farmers suggested that Government intervention (34%), reduction of market dues (33%) and provision of market information (31%) would help address them yet the bigger markets like the Middle East for small ruminants have not been captured, Uganda as whole is not utilizing the existing world market for livestock. The study concludes that farmers kept goats under tethering system and faced problems of lack of technologies, lack of extension agent support, water and feed scarcity and diseases and parasites. Improvement strategies like: training of farmers, increasing extension agent contact and provision of technologies were identified. Distant markets, low prices and high market dues were problems in the marketing of small ruminants. Provision of market information and lowering of market dues and government intervention would help solve marketing constraints. Governments should Organize Small ruminant farmers in commodity organization and train them in business development and management skill.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Back Ground

According to FAO, (2008), the population of small ruminants in the world today is approximately 0.8 billion goats and 0.1 billion sheep. The largest concentration is found in Africa, compared to the rest of the continent, Eastern Africa has the greatest concentration of goats and sheep being more than 74 million. Ethiopia has the highest number of goats, 18 million. In Kenya, small ruminants population is estimated to consist of 27.7 million goats and 17.1 million sheep (CBS, 2009). While in Uganda goats and sheep are estimated to be 13.2 million and 3.6 million respectively, (MAAIF, 2011). The regional distribution of goats and sheep is indicated at 2,599,980 goats and 319,370 sheep in eastern Uganda (UBOS, 2009).

Small ruminants in general, represent about 30% of the red meat and 21% of the total milk production in sub Saharan Africa worth about 1.3 and 1.2 billion dollars respectively (Winrock International, 1992). Livestock production in Uganda contribute 5.25% GDP and 17% agricultural GDP respectively (MAAIF & MFPED, 2001). It is an integral part of the agricultural system of many parts of the country. Mixed farming, small holders and pastoralists own over 90% of the cattle herd and 100% of the small ruminants and non-ruminants stock. Meanwhile the export market for live goats and sheep in the oil rich Middle East Arab countries is estimated at one million small ruminants per annum (King, 2002), which provides potential market for goats.

In the Teso farming system(TFS) which covers the districts of Kumi, Soroti, Kaberemaido and Katakwi, livestock production inclusive of small ruminants constitutes a component of the agricultural economy (Esenu, 2005). Semakula *et al.*, (2010) noted that in Soroti district, small ruminants had multifunctional roles, though they were mainly kept as regular source of income which makes the basis of this study.

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