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FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL SCIENCES

**FARM AND COMMUNITY PRACTICE REPORT CARRIED OUT AT WEST ACHOLI
COOPERATIVE UNION (WACU), FROM 28TH FEBRUARY TO 2ND MAY 2022.**

BY

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**THE FARM AND COMMUNITY PRACTICE REPORT IS SUBMITTED TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRIBUSINESS AND EXTENSION DEPARTMENT IN PARTIAL
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF
SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURE OF BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY.**

MAY 2022

DECLARATION

(Handwritten initials)

I OLARKER DANCAN declare that this farm and community practice attachment report is my own original work and has never been submitted to any academic institution for award of any qualification.

Sign..... *[Signature]* Date..... *??*

APPROVAL

This report is submitted with the approval of the field supervisor.

Name..... *Atim Paul* Position: *Agricultural Officer*

Sign..... *[Signature]* Date..... *12th May 2022*



①

DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this report to my entire lovely mother Akullu Teddy for her continuous support toward my education; I also dedicate it to my field and academic supervisors that is Mr. Atim Paul and Dr. Opio Peter who participated in the supervisions during the attachment period.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION



DAO: District Agriculture Officer.

WACU: West Acholi Cooperative Union

UCCF : Uganda Central Cooperative Financial Services

PCs: Primary Cooperatives

AGM: Annual General Meeting

Kg: Kilograms

VSLA: Village Savings and Loan Association

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ABSTRACT.

The farm and community practice attachment was carried out at West Acholi Cooperative Union (WACU) Limited which was established and registered as an Agricultural production, processing and Marketing entity under the Cooperative Act of 1960. WACU in partnership with We Effect is implementing Cooperative Production and Marketing Enhancement Project to improve on Agricultural Production and productivity. During the attachment, activities carried out included; Pre-season planning meeting which was conducted to help at planning for first season's activities, training farmers on Crop insurance, training farmers on enterprise selection was also carried out where farmers were trained to select enterprises as guided by the project. Training farmers on Good Agronomic Practices and setting up demonstration for their selected enterprises were also among key activities done. In addition Sensitization of farmers on contract farming and profiling farmers for local seed business and Establishment of seeds multiplication gardens at farmers' sites were also key activities done to improve farmers' access to input and improve their farm productivity. During the attachment the skills gained included field marking when setting up demonstration plots, skill in profiling farmers using digital app, and also gained skill in facilitating trainings and resolving conflicts that may arise during the training process though some challenges such as poor weather, lack of protective gears affected some field activities. Conclusively, the farm and community practice was successfully done and the trainings offered by the host organization were of a great impact towards skilling students and preparing them to join the industry of work that can be through self-employment and wage/salary employment. I therefore recommend that organization should timely plan for their trainings so that the activities are implemented inconsideration of the rainy season and the university should identify and frequently consult organizations for places of internship so that the students are placed where they can gain more knowledge and skills like in WACU.

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background of West Acholi Cooperative Union Limited

1.1 Ownership

West Acholi Cooperative Union (WACU) Limited was established and registered as an Agricultural production, processing and Marketing entity under the Cooperative Act of 1960 on 30th November 1960 with Registration No. 1757 as a District (West Acholi District) Cooperative Union. The Union had 99 registered Primary cooperative societies which later on collapsed due to the LRA insurgency in northern Uganda and cooperative movement in mid 1990s due to various economic policies of 1987 which encouraged private traders and processors to operate side by side with cooperatives in produce marketing which led to collapse of most cooperatives.

But currently a total of 67 Primary Cooperative Societies have been revived since 2014 with total membership of 10,876 comprising of (AM=3,309, AF=3,419, YF=2,246, YM=1,902 individual smallholder farmers in the former West Acholi District which now comprises of Gulu, Amuru, Nwoya and Omoro Districts. Membership is by way of buying the minimum required two shares at a value of Shs.100, 000 each share by the affiliated primary cooperative societies.

1.2 Governance and Structures

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Union is the supreme authority of the Union policy and decision making. The AGM is convened once a year after the end of a financial year. When it meets, the AGM reviews the performance of the Union, gives policy guidelines and once every two years elects Committee (Board) comprised of 9 members who becomes the Executive Authority of the Union and is accountable to the AGM.

The Committee (Board) appoints and supervises the Management Team headed by General Manager in the implementation of the policies set by AGM for the benefit and wellbeing of the members' primary cooperative societies at the grassroots levels.

Currently, union has got 9 Board of Directors, 10 full time employees and 2 volunteers working in various departments of Finance, Institutional Development, Production and Marketing