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FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION & IRRIGATION  
ENGINEERING

A FINAL YEAR UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

# **IMPROVING IRRIGATION WATER USE AND MANAGEMENT IN LARGE PADDY RICE FIELD USING SWAT MODEL**

**(The Case of Doho Rice Scheme, Butaleja District)**

**BY**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Paddy fields are designed ponding systems whose hydrological processes are impacted by water management practices. This is similar case with large paddy fields in Doho rice scheme, Butaleja district, Uganda. The scheme water sources originate from Manafwa River Catchment in Uganda which have been constrained by floods due to the increasing land use changes affecting the rice growing activities. These contributes to silt deposition of the channels in Doho rice scheme. Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) simplifies hydrological processes in such large paddy fields. In this research SWAT Model was used to assess water management, hydrologic modelling, irrigation water uses and evaluate sustainable management strategies through simulation for period of 2015 to 2050 for future use demand. The hydrology of the catchment was studied using Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT). SWAT model was calibrated by SWAT-CUP using data from 2002 to 2008 and then validated using data from 2009 to 2013. The model was successfully calibrated with Nash-Sutcliffe Efficiency (NSE) of 0.77 and the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) 0.79 and for validation with NSE of 0.55 and 0.7 for the  $R^2$ . The calibrated model was then used to check the performance of the model and the results showed it was reliable. This study also applied SWAT output viewer to analyse scenarios on water use in Manafwa river catchment. The pothole impoundment module was proved by SWAT output viewer to improve irrigation water in times of stiff competition and in dry seasons. The implementation of desiltation and grassed water ways seemed to reduce soil erosion and therefore proving as reliable approach to reduce sedimentation in the river and the channels. This can contribute to water management in the scheme.

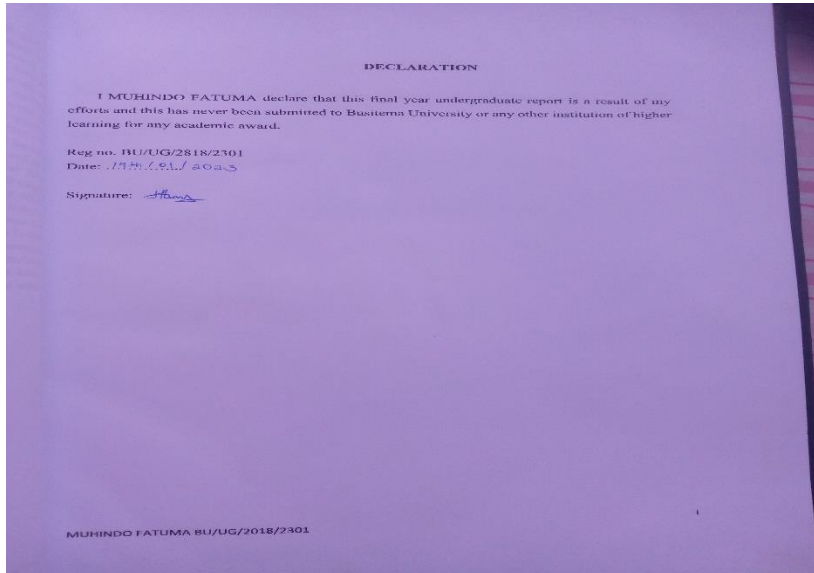
# DECLARATION

I MUHINDO FATUMA declare that this final year undergraduate thesis is a result of my efforts and this has never been submitted to Busitema University or any other institution of higher learning for any academic award.

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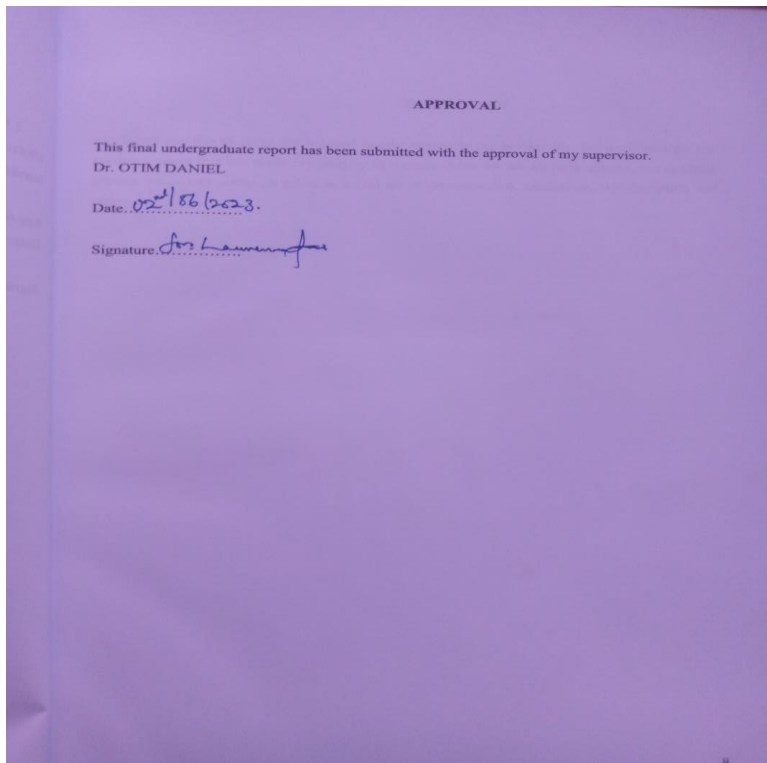
# APPROVAL

This final undergraduate thesis has been submitted with the approval of my supervisor.

Dr. OTIM DANIEL

Date.....

Signature.....



## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this thesis to my beloved family especially my brother Mr. Bebwa Edhart for his cordial support that has made my journey to success. After all, we all have dreams, but to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline and effort.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>DECLARATION.....</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>APPROVAL .....</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>DEDICATION.....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>AKNOWLEDGEMENT.....</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS .....</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>LIST OF ACRONYMS .....</b>	<b>ix</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES .....</b>	<b>xi</b>

<b>LIST OF TABLES .....</b>	<b>xii</b>
<b>1 CHAPTER ONE .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.2 Background of the Study.....	1
1.3 Problem statement .....	2
1.4 Main objective.....	3
1.5 Specific objectives.....	3
1.6 Research questions of the study .....	3
1.7 Justification of the study .....	3
1.8 Significance of the study .....	4
1.9 Scope and Limitation of the Study.....	5
1.9.1 Geographical scope.....	5
1.9.2 Content Scope .....	6
1.9.3 Time scope .....	6
1.9.4 Limitations of the study .....	6
1.9.5 Proposed Conceptual Framework.....	6
<b>2 CHAPTER TWO.....</b>	<b>8</b>
2.1 LITERATURE REVIEW.....	8
2.2 Introduction .....	8
2.3 Rice crop .....	8
2.4 Types of rice.....	8
2.5 Water management in paddy rice farming.....	8
2.5.1 Field level water flows.....	8
2.5.2 Field level irrigation management approaches .....	9
2.6 Water saving techniques.....	9



2.7	Types of water saving irrigation.....	10
2.7.1	Alternate wetting and drying, submergence, non-submergence and intermittent irrigation .....	10
2.7.2	Saturated soil culture.....	10
2.7.3	Controlled irrigation.....	11
2.7.4	Midseason drainage .....	11
2.8	The use and selection of Hydrological Model .....	11
2.8.1	Soil Water Assessment Tool (SWAT).....	12
2.8.2	SWAT strength and limitation .....	12
2.9	Evapotranspiration .....	13
2.9.1	Channel routing.....	13
2.9.2	Surface runoff .....	14
2.10	Land phase hydrological Cycle .....	16
<b>3</b>	<b>CHAPTER THREE.....</b>	<b>18</b>
3.1	MATERIALS AND METHODS .....	18
3.2	Introduction .....	18
3.3	Study area.....	18
3.4	Tools to be used.....	19
3.5	Sources of data .....	19
3.6	Data acquisition stage.....	20
3.6.1	Landcover parameters.....	20
3.6.2	Soil data and parameterization.....	20
3.6.3	Estimating the availability of water for irrigation in the catchment .....	<b>Error!</b>
	<b>Bookmark not defined.</b>	
3.6.4	Model setup.....	21
3.6.5	Watershed delineator .....	21

3.6.6	Digital Elevation Model (DEM) .....	22
3.6.7	Land use/ soils/ slope definition .....	22
3.6.8	Defining SWAT Hydrologic Response Units.....	24
3.6.9	Weather data definition.....	24
3.6.10	Writing input tables.....	24
3.6.11	Edit SWAT input .....	24
3.7	Simulation of SWAT model.....	24
3.8	Model Sensitivity analysis, Calibration and Validation.....	25
3.8.1	Validation.....	27
3.8.2	Uncertainties .....	27
<b>4</b>	<b>CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.....</b>	<b>30</b>
4.1	Model sensitivity analysis and calibration .....	33
4.2	To determine the availability of water for irrigation in the catchment area.....	36
4.3	To determine the crop water requirement for paddy rice.....	40
4.4	Implementation of irrigation water management scenario.....	40
4.4.1	Scenario (i): implementing pothole impoundment module .....	40
4.4.2	Scenario (ii) desiltation and grassed waterways as management strategy.....	41
<b>5</b>	<b>CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION .....</b>	<b>42</b>
5.1	Conclusion.....	42
5.2	Recommendations .....	43
<b>6</b>	<b>REFERENCES .....</b>	<b>44</b>

## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

AWD	Alternate Wetting and Drying
DEM	Digital Elevation Model
DRS	Doho Rice Scheme
DWRM	Directorate of Water Resources Management
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
GIS	Geographical Information System
GSMaP	Global Satellite Mapping of Precipitation
HMS	Hydrological Modelling System
HRU	Hydrologic Response Unit
LULC	Land Use Land Cover

MWE	Ministry of Water and Environment
NDP	National Development Plan
NSE	Nash-Sutcliffe Efficiency
SCS-CN	Soil Conservation Service Curve Number
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRI	System of Rice Intensification
SWAT	Soil Water Assessment Tool
SWAT-CUP	SWAT Calibration and Uncertainty Procedures
TIN	Triangular Irregular Network
UNMA	Uganda National Meteorological Authority
USGS	US Geological Survey
UTM	Universal Transverse Mercator

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1.1 Showing the study area.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Figure 1.2 The conceptual framework of the proposed study .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Figure 2.1 Schematic overview of the different growth stages of the rice plant (Adapted from CGIAR, 2017).....	9
Figure 2.2 Illustrating SWAT hydrological cycle.....	16
Figure 3.1 Methodology for obtaining the available water for irrigation in Doho rice scheme ...	21
Figure 3.2 Showing DEM map for Manafwa river catchment .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Figure 3.3 Showing landcover of Manafwa river catchment.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Figure 3.4 Showing soils for Manafwa river catchment.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Figure 3.5 Showing the slope for Manafwa river catchment.....	23
Figure 3.6 The hydrological cycle of the catchment area .....	25
Figure 4.1 Showing the calibration graph for the catchment area .....	35
Figure 4.2 Showing the validation of Manafwa river catchment.....	36
Figure 4.3 Showing the average monthly rainfall graph.....	37
Figure 4.4 showing the water available in each subbasin of the catchment area.....	38
Figure 4.5 Graphical representation of the available water in each subbasin .....	38
Figure 4.6 Showing the available water in each reach.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Figure 4.7 Graphical representation of available water in each reach .....	39
Figure 4.8 Crop water requirement graph for paddy rice .....	40
Figure 4.9 Showing sedimentation in each reach before implementing desiltation and grassed waterways in reach 22.....	41
Figure 4.10 Showing a reduction in sedimentation for reach 22 .....	42

## **LIST OF TABLES**

Table 3.1 Showing tools to be used in the study.....	19
Table 3.2 Showing spatial datasets .....	20
Table 3.3 Showing land use in Manafwa river catchment.....	22
Table 4.1 showing the list of parameters for calibration and sensitivity .....	33
Table 4.2 Performance ratings for recommended statistics .....	35
Table 4.3 showing annual average hydrological results .....	36
Table 4.4 showing water balance ratio .....	39

# 1 CHAPTER ONE

## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.2 Background of the Study

Globally, rice cultivation is the second most popular cereal crop and staple food for many people (Prodhan, 2020). Current projections show that rice continues to be the world's most important staple food in the coming decades. (OECD/FAO, 2021) The total annual world production of rice is approximately 903.4 Metric Tons with average productivity of 4 tons/ha (Srujana, 2017). China being the major producer of rice in the world with 212.1 Metric Tons followed by India with 172.6 Metric Tons (FAO, 2018), rice production has been extended to other continents including Africa. In sub-Sahara Africa, there is an increase in consumption of rice and continuous expansion of irrigated land has leading to increased demand for sustainable water management in paddy cultivation (Tsuchiya *et al.*, 2018). The need for “more rice with less water” is crucial for food security, and irrigation plays a greater role in meeting future food needs than it has in the past (Kumari, Kumari and Sharma, 2021).

In East Africa, Tanzania is the leading rice producer and accounts for 9% (2.6 million ton) of African rice production (30.8 million ton)(Materu *et al.*, 2021). However, due to a rising gap between production and consumption, many African countries are becoming increasingly dependent on rice imports (Materu *et al.*, 2021). At the same time, increasing irrigation withdrawals and spatial and temporal variability in rainfall and surface flows are causing water scarcity in many parts of East Africa (Katic, 2014). It has been reported that around 20% of irrigated areas in rice are estimated to suffer from ‘physical water scarcity’ by 2025 (Tuppad *et al.*, 2010). In addition, the impacts of climate change give rise to the scarcity of water, a condition in which the water demand grows beyond the available water supply because of its physical unavailability and an insufficient water management structure (Hoekstra *et al.*, 2012). The situation is worsened for a country like Uganda whose major economy relies heavily on water.

According to (Dalipagic, 2014) Eastern region is the leading rice producer in Uganda and it produces approximately 3.6 metric Tons/ha. However, when compared with other countries, rice yields in Uganda, are remarkably low (Kajonphol T, 2018). In Butaleja district, Doho rice scheme experienced reduced rice yields in the recent years because of increased land use changes in Manafwa catchment which cause floods in the downstream affecting the rice growing activities

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