

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL SCIENCE

**ASSESSING KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE, PRACTICES AND PROFITABILITY
OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN MPUNGWE SUB COUNTY-MAYUGE DISTRICT.**

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**A RESEARCH DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRIBUSINESS AND EXTENSION IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF
AGRIBUSINESS OF BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY**

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DECLARATION

I **NAIGAGA ALICE ISOOBA**, hereby declare to the best of my knowledge that this piece report was my effort and original work and that this thesis has never been submitted for an award in any other University or for publication as a whole or in part.

However other documents that were consulted have been acknowledged in the references

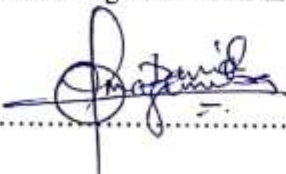

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APPROVAL

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to my parents Mr Kesooba Fred Okiige, Mrs Amuleni Mariza, who tirelessly helped me in the struggle.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

USD.....United States Dollars

ERS.....Economic Research Services

OTA..... Organic Trade Association

FAO.....Food Agricultural Organisation

UBOS.....Uganda Bureau of Statistics

ABSTRACT

Organic farming is gaining attention all over the world, which is diversifying the method of agricultural production to increase sustainability, farm income, and food safety. The study aimed at assessing the knowledge, attitude, practice and profitability of the organic producers in Mpungwe sub-county, Mayuge district. It was conducted in five parishes of Mpungwe sub-county with 70 respondents being purposively selected who are organic producers and 5 respondents of non-organic producers for control group, totalling to 75 respondents. The data collection methods employed were observation, use of the questionnaire, which involved face to face conversation with the respondents, for socio-economic characteristics, knowledge, practices, attitude, and profitability formation. This was done to draw the solutions on the increase on the demand of the health food, fresh fruits and vegetables. The findings of the study indicate that the farmers in the study area had poor knowledge concerning organic farming, their practices, and which mainly affected their attitudes to, but the few who had knowledge are benefiting with an increasing profit due to low costs incurred. The survey indicates a need to provide some farmers with more information on how to become active in organic production in this region and farmers should change their attitude towards organic production. This can be done through sensitization, establishment of more extension service centres, cooperatives, and also through workshops.

CHAPTER ONE;

INTRODUCTION

1.0 BACKGROUND.

Organic farming is system of farm management and food production that combines best environmental and climate action practices, a high level of biodiversity, the preservation of natural resources, the application of high animal welfare standards and high production standards in line with the demand of a growing number of consumers for products produced using natural substances and processes.

The International Federation for Organic Agriculture Movement's defines Organic agriculture as: the principle of health; the principle of ecology; the principle of fairness and the principle of care. Organic farming is one of the sustainable agricultural systems and relies less on expensive imports such as chemical fertilizers and pesticides (Janjhua et al., 2019).

Currently, more than 181 countries are engaged in organic farming. According to the new study entitled "The World of Organic Agriculture" by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) and IFOAM, Organics International, 2017 was another record-breaking year for global organic farming, where there was a dramatic increase in organic farming, organic farmers and organic retail sales are also growing gradually, and as more years pass, organic farming increases (Rahul, 2021).

Organic farming is one of the high yielding farming activity around the globe and it has a marketable growing started in 1990s i.e. its value was USD 20.77 billion in 2021 and it is projected to reach USD 40.24 billion by 2026 at a compound annual growth rate of 10.2% (Ali, 2008).

The increasing trend has been caused by a number of factors such as, need for diversification, developed infrastructure, institutional arrangement such as strong private sector education and training farmers (Ali, 2008).

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