
**ASSESSING PROFITABILITY OF LEMON PRODUCTION ON SMALLHOLDER
FARMERS IN NYERO SUB-COUNTY, KUMI DISTRICT**

BY

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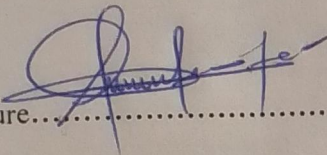
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**THIS RESEARCH REPORT IS SUBMITTED TO BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY FOR
THE PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF
BACHELOR OF AGRIBUSINESS**

Declaration

I, Okiror Samuel, hereby declare that this research dissertation is my own work and to the best of my knowledge, has never been submitted to any institution of learning for an academic award. Where the work of others has been used acknowledgments have been made.

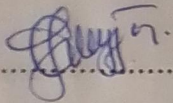
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Approval

This is to certify that this research dissertation titled, "Assessing profitability of lemon production on smallholder farmers in Nyero sub-county, Kumi district" has been compiled under my supervision and is now ready for submission with my approval.

Sign.....

Date.....12/08/2023

RESEARCH SUPERVISOR

MR. IISA AUGUSTINE

Dedication

I dedicate this work to my dear parents Mr. Opolot julius and Mrs. Akurut Naume for their love and prayers during my education.

Acknowledgement

I am so grateful to the Almighty God for the gift of life, knowledge, and wisdom with which the completion of this research has become a reality. May His name be glorified forever! Amen

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ABSTRACT

Citrus farming is a smallholder enterprise in Eastern Uganda that has been prioritized and has received significant strategic support from government. However, farmers are variably engaging and benefiting from it probably due to limited information to the farmers. This study aimed at assessing profitability of lemon farming, to identify factors affecting its profitability and the challenges affecting lemon production. The study involved citrus farming households where their landholding size, their average monthly income, number of lemon trees posed were part.

Cross sectional data were obtained and analyzed using SPSS version 20, excel and gross margin analysis techniques.

Generally in the sample population size of 30 respondents, lemon farming was characterized by 60% males and 40% females. A majority of the respondents (46%) ranged within 35 to 5 years of age. Results also showed that 66.7% of the respondents were married, 36.7% attained secondary education. The main factors affecting profitability were middlemen and farm size. Lemon farming is a profitable venture with the gross profit of shs129,973.3 and profit margin of 19.2%, which can lead to improvement in smallholder farm incomes and gainful employment to the people.

The study thus concludes that, even at a small scale, lemon production is a profitable venture to the farmers and it calls for more attention both by government and other organization to invest in the enterprise.

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background of the study.

Citrus fruits are the main and most popular fruit crop in the world (Zekri, 2011). They are cultivated in the most tropical and sub-tropical regions, (Crop et al., 2018). Its production increases every year due to the increase of demand and supply. The written literature states that lemons originated from southeast Asia and in the south of China where the fruit is worshiped as symbol of happiness and it has been cultivated in Asia for more than 2500 years. Once the culture had spread through China, it reached the areas now days known as Iran. The Arabs spread it during the tenth (10th) century along the Mediterranean basin, to the east towards Greece and the west towards Spain. Source(frutas-hortalizas.com).

According to FAO, India is the largest producer of lemon in the world with 3.7million metric tonnes, Mexico is the second with 2.9million metric tonnes and china the third with 2.7million metric tonnes and in Africa, South Africa was the leading lemon producer with 667.2 kilogram metric tonnes.

Commercial production of citrus in Uganda started as early as the 1960s, with the introduction of various improved varieties planted on Government schemes at Kiige, Ongino, Odina and Labori in Eastern Uganda(Crop et al., 2018). Commercial production of citrus only began picking up again in the 1990s, but under the smallholder system and for the past two decades, citrus has received strategic development and promotional support, first through the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS), and now through Operation Wealth Creation and some Non government organizations (NGOs)(Crop et al., 2018). Citrus is characterized by small scale production in Uganda and the main cash crop specifically in the Teso sub-region, Eastern Uganda (Reeder et al., 2009). Majority of citrus trees are grown in either plantations or as a few stands around homesteads. Production is characterized by low inputs in terms of pest and disease control, use of improved planting materials and soil fertility enrichment measures. The sweet orange is the major citrus crop grown by the farmers in Teso region. The major lemon trees emerge from failed grafted sweet orange and very few planted on pure stands. These makes its production very low in Teso region however much lemon attracts high incomes since the out break of COVID19 disease which raised the demand.

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