

**BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY ARAPAI CAMPUS  
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRIBUSINESS AND EXTENSION**

**ASSESSING THE PROFITABILITY OF FRESH CASSAVA PRODUCTION AMONG  
SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN LIRA CITY WEST DIVISION**

**BY**

**ATYANG MONICA SIMPHOROSA**

**REG. NO: BU/UP/2020/1315**

**E-MAIL: [monicaatyang457@gmail.com](mailto:monicaatyang457@gmail.com)**

**SUPERVISOR**

**DR. RONALD KABBIRI**

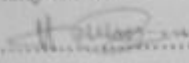
**A SPECIAL PROJECT REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF  
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# DECLARATION

## DECLARATION

This study is original and has not been published or submitted for any other degree award to any other university before.

Signature.......... Date.....23<sup>rd</sup> April - 2024.....

Aryang Monica Simphorosa

**APPROVAL**

This special project report has been submitted to the Department of Agribusiness and Extension with the approval of the University Supervisor.

Signature.....  ..... Date..... 23/4/2024 .....

**Dr. Ronald Kabbiri**  
Academic Supervisor

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to my parents Mr. Okello Arach Alfred and Mrs. Alupo Harriet together with all my siblings for the support they rendered to me throughout the research process. Thank you so much.

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## Contents

DECLARATION .....	i
DEDICATION .....	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	iv
LIST OF TABLES .....	viii
LIST OF FIGURES .....	ix
LIST OF APPENDICES .....	x
LIST OF ACRONYMS .....	xi
ABSTRACT .....	xii
CHAPTER ONE .....	1
1.0 INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.1 Background .....	1
1.2 Problem Statement: .....	3
1.3 Research objectives .....	4
1.3.1 General objective .....	4
1.3.2 Specific objectives .....	4
1.4 Research questions .....	4
1.5 Significance of the study .....	4
1.6 Justification of the study .....	5
1.7 Scope of the study .....	5
1.7.1 Area scope .....	5
1.7.2 Content scope .....	5
1.7.3 Time scope .....	6
1.8 Limitations .....	6
1.9 Study sample .....	6
1.10 Time frame .....	6
1.11 Theoretical coverage .....	6
CHAPTER TWO .....	7
LITERATURE REVIEW. ....	7
2.0 Introduction .....	7
2.1 Factors influencing the profitability of cassava .....	7

2.2 Challenges faced by cassava growers.....	8
2.3 Contributions of cassava towards the livelihoods of farmers.....	8
2.4 Strategies to promote commercial cassava production by farmers .....	9
CHAPTER THREE .....	10
3.0 METHODOLOGY .....	10
3.1 INTRODUCTION.....	10
3.2 Conceptual framework relationships.....	10
3.3 Research design.....	12
3.4 Research approaches. ....	12
3.5 Geographical description of the study area .....	12
3.6 Research timeline .....	12
3.7 Sample population description .....	12
3.8 Sample size.....	13
3.9 Data collection methods .....	13
3.10 Measurements.....	13
3.11 Data analysis .....	14
CHAPTER FOUR.....	15
4.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS.....	15
4.1 Results .....	15
4.1.1 Characteristics of cassava farmers in Lira city West.....	15
4.1.2 Costs incurred in production of cassava per acre .....	18
4.1.3 Gross margin analysis.....	18
4.2 Discussions.....	19
4.2.1 Characterizing the smallholder cassava farmers .....	20
4.2.2 Assessing the costs incurred by smallholder cassava farmers during production.....	21
4.2.3. Analyzing the gross margin of cassava production. ....	22
CHAPTER FIVE .....	23
5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	23
5.1 Introduction .....	23
5.2 Conclusions .....	23
5.2.1 Characterizing the cassava farmers .....	23

5.2.2 Costs incurred by the cassava farmers.....	23
5.2.3 Gross margin analysis of cassava production.....	23
5.3 Recommendations .....	23
REFERENCES. ....	24
APPENDIX.....	27



## **LIST OF TABLES**

Table 1: Demographics (categorical).....	15
Table 2: Demographics (Discrete).....	16
Table 3: Farmer cropping systems.....	17
Table 4: Costs incurred during production.....	18
Table 5: Showing total average revenue earned from sale of cassava per acre.....	19

**LIST OF FIGURES**

Figure 1: Conceptual framework ..... 11  
Figure 2: Cassava varieties grown by farmers ..... 17

**LIST OF APPENDICES.**

Appendix 1: Research questionnaire ..... 27

## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

UGX	Uganda shillings
NPHC	National Population and Housing Census
Ha	hectares
Std. Deviation	Standard Deviation
tha <sup>-1</sup>	tons per hectare
SSA	Sub Saharan Africa
KARI	Kenya Agricultural Research Institute
Ft	feet
Mi	miles
GR	Gross revenue
TVC	Total fixed costs
TFC	Total fixed costs

## **ABSTRACT**

Cassava farming is one of the agricultural enterprises contributing to the increased supply of food and household income of the farmers. The aim of the study was to assess the profitability of cassava production among smallholder farmers in Lira City West division and it targeted 80 cassava farmers in the parishes of Odokomit, Ober, Bar-Apwo, Amuca, Omito, Ojwina. A structured questionnaire was used to collect field data which was later entered in Microsoft excel and analyzed using SPSS. The majority of the respondents (67.5%) were married with 78.8% of the families having fathers as the household heads. The study also indicated that the majority of the respondents (67.5%) had inherited the land used for cultivation. In terms of education, 41.25 per cent had acquired tertiary education followed by secondary education (35.0%). The average age of the respondents was 44 years and the average household size was 6.35 heads per household with an average of 3.56 children. The most grown variety of cassava was Bao with 31.3% (n=31.3) followed by NAROCASS 1 which was grown by 19.2% of the farmers and Nyaraboke with 18.2%. On average, farmers have experience of 9.14 years in cassava production and allocate 1.44 acres of land for farmland with an average number of 5.15 laborers. During production, various costs were incurred but these were categorized into variable and fixed costs. The total average variable costs incurred throughout the production cycle per acre was UGX 310,272.20 and the total fixed costs was UGX 426,741.67 giving a total of UGX 737,013.87 for overall cost incurred during cassava production per acre. The total revenue obtained per acre was UGX 1,932,500 giving a gross margin of UGX 1,195,486 which was 62%. Conclusively, the study revealed that cassava production is a profitable venture that can be used to increase the farmers' income. However, increasing access to land to both males and females can help to increase production thus an increase in the farmers' income as well.

## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background, statement of the problem, objectives, research questions, justification, significance and scope of the study.

#### 1.1 Background

Cassava (*Manihot esculenta Crantz*) belongs to the family Euphorbiaceae, which is characterized by lactiferous vessels composed of secretory cells (Lokko et al., 2007). Cassava is a perennial woody shrub with an edible root, which grows in tropical and subtropical areas of the world. Cassava originated from tropical America and was first introduced into Africa in the Congo basin by the Portuguese around 1558 (BENESI, 2006).

The total worldwide cassava production in 1961 was 78.5 million tons grown on 9.6 million hectares, of which Africa contributed about 44%. By 2017, world cassava production had increased to 322 million tons grown on 26 million ha of land. Although Africa accounts for more than 58% of cassava production and more than 75% of land area cultivated for cassava, the average fresh root yield of cassava is 8.9 t ha<sup>-1</sup>, which is far lower than the world average (11.9 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) and the yield observed in Asia (13.3 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) (Amelework et al., 2021). Cassava is grown in more than 105 countries; Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Brazil, and Indonesia are the leading cassava producers. Cassava fresh root yields under smallholder farmer conditions have been estimated about 1–10 t ha<sup>-1</sup>. However, fresh root yields can potentially reach 75–80 t ha<sup>-1</sup> through the use of high yielding, best adapted cultivars and improved crop management practices. Cassava production has shown a steady growth for the last six decades. The most dramatic increase in Africa and Asia were observed from 1996 to 2017. Cassava production in Latin America, on the other hand, showed more moderate increases. The large increase in cassava production can be attributed partly to an increase in area harvested in Africa as farmers recognize the economic importance of the crop and partly due to a substantial yield gains in Asia due to new improved cultivars and improved agronomic practices. Currently, about half of the world production of cassava is in Africa and it is cultivated in around 40 African countries. Around 70 percent of Africa's cassava output is harvested in Nigeria, the Congo and Tanzania. Throughout the forest and transition zones of Africa, cassava is either a primary staple or a secondary food staple (Nweke,

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