



**THE EFFECTS OF LAND CONFLICTS ON CASSAVA PRODUCTION IN LOBULE
SUB-COUNTY, KOBOKO DISTRICT, UGANDA**

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**THIS DISSERTATION IS SUBMITTED TO THE DIRECTORATE OF GRADUATE
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UNIVERSITY.**

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DECLARATION

I, Bakole Alex, declare that this research dissertation titled "*the Effects of Land Conflicts on Cassava Production in Lobule Sub-County, Koboko District of Uganda*" is my original work except where due acknowledgment has been made. I declare that this work has never been submitted to this university or any other institution for funding or fulfillment of any academic award.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this research work to my wife, Ms. Betty Trimaru, and my children—Nathan, Lean, Bernice, Jean, Jonah, and Amos—for their patience and unwavering support throughout my studies.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

DRC – Democratic Republic of Congo

DRDIP – Development Response to Displaced Impacts Project

FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization

FGD – Focus Group Discussion

GOU – Government of Uganda

IFAD – International Fund for Agricultural Development

IITA – International Institute of Tropical Agriculture

KI – Key Informants

KTA – Koboko Transformation Agenda

MAAIF – Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries

NAADS – National Agricultural Advisory Services

NAP – National Agricultural Policy

NARO – National Agricultural Research Organization

NGO – Non-Governmental Organization

NUSAF – Northern Uganda Social Action Fund

OWC – Operation Wealth Creation

PMA – Plan for Modernization of Agriculture

SDG – Sustainable Development Goals

UBOS – Uganda Bureau of Statistics

UNEP – United Nations Educational Programme

UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UWEP – Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Project

WFP – World Food Programme

WHO – World Health Organization

ABSTRACT

This study aimed to investigate the effects of land conflicts on cassava production in Lobule Sub-County, Koboko District. A mixed-methods approach was employed, including a survey of 300 households, five focus group discussions (FGDs), and three key informant interviews (KIIs).

Findings revealed that boundary conflicts (63.3%) and land inheritance conflicts (23%) were the most common types of land conflicts, alongside ownership and user conflicts. Key causes included unclear boundaries, lack of land registration, absence of formal user agreements, and corruption by some clan elders. Most conflicts (92.4%) were resolved at household and community levels, primarily by clan elders.

Cassava production was predominantly small-scale, with land conflicts accounting for 69.9% of production challenges reported by respondents. Other challenges included climate change, pests, diseases, and poor cassava varieties. The conflicts extended beyond family to community, clan, and institutional levels, posing significant challenges to peaceful coexistence.

Limited land availability and resource constraints hindered large-scale cassava production. Land conflicts reduced land size for cassava cultivation, discouraged investment on contested land, and led to shifts toward shorter-term crops such as maize.

Recommendations include: Implement agricultural support programs targeting farmers in conflict-prone areas, securing land access and user rights for tenant farmers to encourage sustained cassava cultivation

policy should aim to secure land tenure, introduce land conflict mediation services at the local level, and provide legal support to vulnerable groups such as women and tenant farmers, formal land registration clear demarcation of land boundaries through boundary tree planting, implementing these measures could mitigate the adverse effects of land conflicts on cassava production in Lobule Sub-County, Koboko District.

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