

**IDENTIFICATION OF THE KEY CHALLENGES THAT HINDER WOMEN'S ACCESS
TO RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION IN
BUNABUTSALE, MANAFWA DISTRICT**

BY:

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APPROVAL

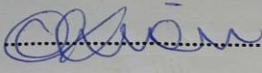
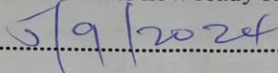
This is to certify that this research report on 'Identification of Key Challenges Hindering Women's Access to Agriculture Production Resources in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District' has been written under my guidance and supervision and it is now ready for examination.

Signature: Date:

DR. JOHN JAMES OKIROR
University Supervisor

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation to my family, whose unwavering support and encouragement have been my greatest source of strength throughout this academic journey. To my parents, for their endless love, sacrifices, and belief in my potential. To my friends and mentors, for their guidance, wisdom, and inspiration. Your contributions have been invaluable, and this work stands as a testament to your faith in me. Thank you for being my pillars of support.

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Lastly, I dedicate this achievement to the Most High God, whose divine guidance, strength, and blessings have sustained me throughout this academic journey. May His wisdom continue to illuminate my path, and may His grace abound in all my endeavors.

ABSTRACT

This study aimed to identify the key barriers that women face in accessing resources for agricultural production in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District, examine cultural and societal norms that may hinder access, and investigate the effectiveness of existing policies and programs supporting women in agriculture. Utilizing a cross-sectional design, the study surveyed a sample of 40 respondents from a population of 45. The findings revealed that 65% of women face significant barriers in accessing agricultural resources, primarily due to limited access to financial support (70%), inadequate agricultural inputs (60%), and restrictive cultural norms (55%). The study concluded that while several policies and programs exist, their effectiveness is hampered by low awareness and limited outreach, with only 40% of women benefiting from them. Recommendations include enhancing policy implementation, increasing accessibility to financial resources, and improving community awareness of support programs.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

UCDA	- Uganda Coffee Development Authority
NAADs	- National Agricultural Advisory Services
APA	- American Psychological Association
GDP	- Gross Domestic Product
NGO	- Non-Governmental Organization
HIV/AIDS	- Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
GDP	- Gross Domestic Product
ICT	- Information and Communication Technology
SMEs	- Small and Medium Enterprises
HIV/AIDS	- Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
GDP	- Gross Domestic Product
NGO	- Non-Governmental Organization
NAADs	- National Agricultural Advisory Services
APA	- American Psychological Association
UCDA	- Uganda Coffee Development Authority

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Throughout history, women have played a vital role in agriculture, contributing to food production and the sustenance of communities. While their contributions have often been undervalued and overlooked, women have been actively involved in various agricultural activities, including planting, cultivating, harvesting, and processing crops. The extent of their involvement has varied across cultures and regions, but women have consistently played a crucial role in ensuring food security and the well-being of communities.

The historical context of women's involvement in agriculture is shaped by societal norms, cultural practices, and economic factors that have influenced gender roles and the division of labor. Throughout different historical periods, women's roles in agriculture have been influenced by evolving agricultural practices, societal power dynamics, and broader socio-economic changes.

In pre-industrial societies, women's roles in agriculture were prominent and widely recognized. They were actively involved in various farming tasks, such as sowing, weeding, and harvesting. However, their contributions were often undervalued, and they had limited access to ownership and control over agricultural resources (Agarwal, 1994).

Industrial Revolution, The advent of industrialization brought significant changes to agricultural practices and the overall socio-economic landscape. Mechanization and the consolidation of land led to the marginalization of women's roles in agriculture. Men assumed more dominant positions as farm owners and managers, relegating women to domestic responsibilities and devaluing their contributions to agricultural production (Berry, 1985).

Colonial era and women's land rights, during the colonial era, many regions experienced shifts in land tenure systems and property rights. This often resulted in the loss of women's land rights and limited their access to agricultural resources. Colonial policies and legal systems reinforced patriarchal norms and discriminatory practices, further constraining women's involvement and decision-making power in agriculture (Moyo et al., 2009).

In the mid-20th century, there was a growing recognition of the crucial role women play in agriculture for food security and sustainable development. International conferences and declarations, such as the United Nations Decade for Women and subsequent conferences on women's rights, brought global attention to the challenges faced by women in agriculture. These events emphasized the need for gender equality in agriculture and the importance of empowering women as agents of change (Dolan & Sorby, 2003).

The rise of women's rights movements in the late 20th century and early 21st century further highlighted the need for gender equality in agriculture. These movements advocated for women's rights in various spheres, including access to land, credit, technology, and markets. They challenged deep-seated gender inequalities and pushed for policy reforms to dismantle discriminatory practices in the farming sector (Agarwal, 2009).

Governments, international organizations, and civil society have initiated policy reforms and programs to address gender disparities in agriculture. Efforts have been made to integrate gender perspectives into agricultural policies, provide targeted support for women farmers, and enhance women's access to resources and markets. These initiatives aim to promote gender-responsive agricultural development and empower women in the farming sector (FAO, 2011).

Women's participation in agriculture in Africa, and Uganda in particular, is crucial for the development of the sector and the overall economy. In Uganda, women make up a significant portion of the agricultural workforce, with over 70% of women engaged in agricultural activities. Despite their important contribution to the sector, women face numerous challenges that hinder their full participation and potential impact.

One major challenge faced by women in agriculture in Uganda is limited access to land and other productive resources. Due to cultural norms and discriminatory laws, women often have limited rights to land ownership and control, which hinders their ability to fully engage in farming activities. This lack of access to land also limits women's ability to invest in modern agricultural technologies and practices, further impacting their productivity and income levels.

Additionally, women in Uganda often lack access to financial services and support, which limits their ability to invest in their farms and expand their businesses. Limited access to extension services and training also hinders women's ability to adopt new technologies and increase their productivity.

Despite these challenges, women in Uganda have shown resilience and determination in the face of adversity. They have increasingly organized themselves into cooperatives and associations to advocate for their rights and access to resources. The government and non-governmental organizations have also implemented various programs and initiatives aimed at empowering women in agriculture, such as providing training and access to credit services.

Understanding the historical perspective of women in agriculture helps us recognize the challenges hindering women's access to resources for agricultural production. It provides crucial insights into the socio-cultural and economic factors that shape gender roles and power dynamics in the farming sector. By acknowledging historical milestones and shifts in societal attitudes, we can work towards overcoming the barriers that hinder women's empowerment and strive for a more equitable and sustainable agricultural system. This research aims to identify the key challenges that hinder women's access to resources required for agriculture production in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District.

1.2 Problem Statement:

Women play a critical role in agricultural production, significantly contributing to food security and economic growth in developing countries (FAO, 2011; World Bank, 2014). However, despite their essential participation, women continue to face persistent challenges in accessing the necessary resources required for agriculture production. These challenges are multifaceted and can be categorized into four main areas: land ownership and control, financial resources, inputs and technology, and access to information and markets (Quisumbing et al., 2014; Deere & Leon, 2003).

Firstly, ownership and control of land pose a significant challenge for women involved in agriculture. Traditional gender norms and discriminatory practices often deny women the right to own or inherit land, limiting their access to agricultural resources (FAO, 2011; Doss, 2011). Secondly, financial resources, such as credit, savings, and insurance, are crucial for agricultural

development, yet women often face limited access to these resources due to socio-cultural and economic barriers (World Bank, 2014; Quisumbing et al., 2014).

Thirdly, women face challenges in accessing adequate inputs and technology needed for efficient agricultural production. Limited access to quality seeds, fertilizers, machinery, and equipment hinders their productivity and profitability, leading to lower crop yields compared to their male counterparts (Deere & Doss, 2006; IFPRI, 2019). Fourthly, women encounter difficulties in accessing information and markets, particularly information on extension services, technology adoption, and farm management practices (FAO, 2011; Deere & Leon, 2003). This lack of information limits their ability to make informed decisions and gain fair access to markets, resulting in reduced profitability and competitiveness.

The current reality is that women face significant barriers and challenges that hinder their access to resources required for agricultural production. These challenges result in women's lower agricultural productivity compared to men, reduced income, and limited decision-making power within households. Consequently, this perpetuates gender inequalities, limits rural development, and hinders overall economic growth in many developing countries. The ideal state would be to achieve gender equality in agriculture by ensuring that women have equal access to land, financial resources, inputs, technology, information, and markets. This would enable women to maximize their agricultural potential, increase productivity, raise household incomes, and contribute significantly to food security and poverty reduction.

While extensive research has been conducted on women's role in agriculture, the challenges they face, and the potential solutions, there is still a significant research gap concerning the empirical evidence on the specific constraints that hinder women's access to resources required for agricultural production in different contexts and regions. Furthermore, there is a lack of comprehensive studies that analyze the impact of these challenges on women's overall well-being, the implications for household food security, and the effectiveness of existing interventions and policies. This research aims to fill this gap by conducting an in-depth analysis of the key challenges faced by women in accessing agricultural resources and proposing context-specific recommendations for addressing these impediments.

The identification of key challenges that hinder women's access to resources required for agricultural production is essential for creating effective policies, interventions, and programs that promote gender equality in agriculture. By addressing these challenges and removing the

barriers faced by women, governments, policymakers, and stakeholders can leverage the immense potential of women in agriculture for sustainable development, poverty reduction, and food security in rural areas like Bunabutsale, manafwa district.

1.3. General objective

The general objective is to identify the key challenges that hinder women's access to resources required for agricultural production in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District.

1.3 Specific objectives

- i. To identify the key barriers that women face in accessing resources for agriculture production in Bunabutsale, Manafwa district
- ii. To examine the cultural and societal norms that may hinder women from accessing resources for agriculture production in Bunabutsale, Manafwa district.
- iii. To investigate the policies and programs that exists to support women in accessing resources for agriculture production, and assess their effectiveness in Bunabutsale, Manafwa district.

1.4 Research questions

- i. What are the key barriers that women face in accessing resources for agriculture production in Bunabutsale, Manafwa district?
- ii. How do cultural and societal norms hinder women from accessing agricultural resources in Bunabutsale, Manafwa district?
- iii. What policies and programs exist to support women in accessing agricultural resources in Bunabutsale, Manafwa district?

1.5 Research Hypothesis

There is no significant relationship between gender-based discrimination and women's access to resources required for agriculture production.

Gender-based discrimination negatively affects women's access to resources required for agriculture production.

Research has shown that gender-based discrimination is deeply rooted in many societies, perpetuating inequalities and limiting women's opportunities in various sectors, including agriculture (Deere & Leon, 2003; Doss, 2011). The first hypothesis posits that there is no significant relationship between gender-based discrimination and women's access to resources required for agriculture production. This hypothesis assumes that discriminatory practices and traditional gender norms do not have a substantial impact on women's access to resources.

However, extensive research suggests otherwise. Numerous studies have highlighted the detrimental effects of gender-based discrimination on women's access to resources, such as land ownership, financial resources, inputs and technology, and information and market access (FAO, 2011; Quisumbing et al., 2014; World Bank, 2014). Gender norms and discriminatory practices often hinder women's ability to obtain land titles, access credit and financial services, own agricultural inputs, and receive essential information for production and market opportunities. Consequently, these challenges limit the productivity, profitability, and overall empowerment of women in agriculture.

Therefore, the alternative hypothesis (H1) proposes that gender-based discrimination negatively affects women's access to resources required for agriculture production. This hypothesis suggests that gender-based discrimination perpetuates inequalities, restricts women's access to resources, and limits their full potential in the agricultural sector.

1.6 Justification

Women play a crucial role in agricultural development and food production globally. However, despite their significant contributions, women continue to face numerous challenges that hinder their access to the resources required for agriculture production. In order to create effective policies and interventions that promote gender equality in agriculture, it is essential to identify and understand these key challenges. This paper presents a detailed justification for the research topic on the identification of key challenges that hinder women's access to resources required for agriculture production.

1.7 Significance of the study

The study findings may offer valuable insights to various stakeholders:

Policy Makers: The study findings may guide policy makers in the creation and refinement of policies designed to improve women's access to agricultural resources. By understanding the specific barriers and challenges identified, policy makers can develop targeted strategies and interventions that address these issues effectively. This can lead to the formulation of more inclusive policies that consider the unique needs of women in agriculture, thereby fostering greater equity and efficiency in agricultural production. Additionally, these insights can help in allocating resources more effectively to support women's participation in the agricultural sector, ultimately enhancing their economic opportunities and productivity.

Local Government Officials: The study findings may assist local government officials in identifying and addressing the particular obstacles faced by women in accessing agricultural resources. With a clearer understanding of these challenges, local government officials can implement more tailored support measures, such as improved infrastructure or local resource programs, that directly address the needs of women farmers. This could also involve increasing funding for local agricultural development projects, enhancing educational and training opportunities, and fostering community engagement to ensure that women's voices are heard in local decision-making processes. Such actions can contribute to more equitable development outcomes and improved livelihoods for women in the district.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs): The study findings may help NGOs better tailor their programs and interventions to address the specific barriers identified in the research. NGOs can use this information to design and implement more effective support mechanisms, such as targeted financial assistance, training programs, or advocacy initiatives that address the unique challenges faced by women in agriculture. This can lead to more impactful and sustainable outcomes, as programs are aligned with the real needs of the community. Furthermore, NGOs can use the findings to build stronger partnerships with local stakeholders and advocate for policy changes that promote gender equality and enhance women's access to agricultural resources.

Community Leaders: The study findings may provide community leaders with a deeper understanding of the societal and cultural barriers that affect women's access to agricultural resources. By gaining insights into these issues, community leaders can advocate for and promote gender-inclusive practices within their communities. This could involve facilitating community dialogues, challenging discriminatory norms, and supporting initiatives that

empower women in agriculture. Additionally, community leaders can play a crucial role in mobilizing local support for women's initiatives and ensuring that women's contributions are recognized and valued within the community. Such efforts can help create a more supportive and equitable environment for women in agriculture.

Academic Researchers: The study findings may contribute significantly to the academic literature on gender and agriculture by providing new evidence on the barriers faced by women in accessing agricultural resources. This research can serve as a foundation for further studies, offering a basis for exploring additional dimensions of gender disparities in agriculture. Academic researchers can use the findings to develop new theories, refine existing models, and propose evidence-based solutions to address gender inequality in agricultural settings. The insights gained can also inform educational curricula and training programs, fostering a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by women in agriculture and promoting more effective research and policy interventions.

1.8 Scope:

1.8.1 Content scope

This research focused on identifying the key challenges that hinder women's access to resources required for agriculture production in Bumukha Parish, Bunabutale Sub-County, Manafwa District. The study sought to understand barriers related to land acquisition, financial capital, access to agricultural inputs, and technology. By exploring these aspects, the research aimed to uncover the specific difficulties faced by women in agricultural settings. It investigated how these barriers impact women's productivity and economic stability, and how they influence agricultural practices within the community. The study also evaluated the implications of these challenges on women's ability to engage effectively in agriculture and sustain their livelihoods.

1.8.2 Time scope

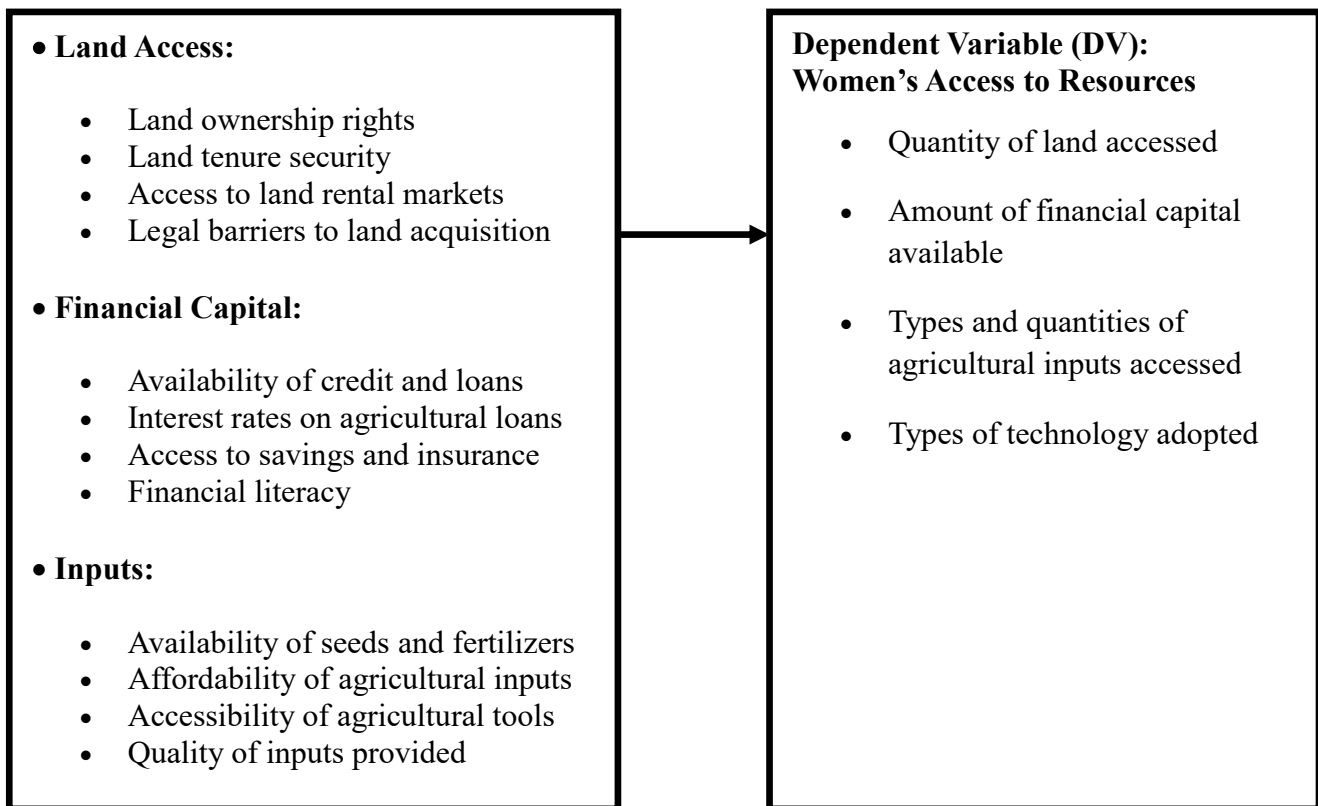
The research was conducted from May 6, 2024, to August 3, 2024. This period allowed for a comprehensive examination of the challenges faced by women in agricultural production within Bumukha Parish. The timeframe was chosen to align with the agricultural cycle, providing relevant insights into seasonal variations and their impact on resource access. The duration of the study enabled the collection of detailed data over several months, capturing seasonal fluctuations and other temporal factors that could influence resource accessibility and agricultural practices.

The specific time frame ensured that the findings accurately reflect the conditions and challenges faced during this period.

1.8.3 Geographical scope

The study was carried out in Bumukha Parish, located within Bunabutale Sub-County in Manafwa District. This geographical area was selected due to its relevance to the research focus on women's access to agricultural resources. Bumukha Parish represents a specific rural setting where traditional and modern agricultural practices intersect. By concentrating on this location, the research was able to address localized issues and challenges unique to this part of Manafwa District. The geographical scope provided a clear understanding of how regional practices, local policies, and environmental conditions affect women's agricultural activities and resource access.

1.8. Conceptual Framework



Source: Primary data 2024

According to Fig 1.1, the study on "Identification of the Key Challenges That Hinder Women's Access to Resources Required for Agriculture Production in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District"

explores how various independent variables (IVs) impact the dependent variable (DV), which is women's access to resources.

Land access is a crucial independent variable that encompasses several dimensions including land ownership rights, land tenure security, access to land rental markets, and legal barriers to land acquisition. Each of these factors plays a significant role in determining how easily women can secure and manage land for agricultural purposes. For instance, secure land ownership rights and tenure security are fundamental for enabling women to invest in and cultivate land effectively. Conversely, legal barriers and restricted access to rental markets can severely limit women's ability to access land, impacting their agricultural productivity and overall success.

Financial capital represents another critical independent variable, including the availability of credit and loans, interest rates on agricultural loans, access to savings and insurance, and financial literacy. Adequate financial capital is necessary for purchasing essential agricultural inputs, managing farm operations, and investing in improvements. High interest rates or limited access to credit can hinder women's ability to finance their agricultural activities. Similarly, access to savings and insurance contributes to financial stability, while financial literacy affects women's ability to make informed financial decisions and manage resources effectively.

Inputs, including the availability of seeds and fertilizers, affordability of agricultural inputs, accessibility of agricultural tools, and the quality of inputs provided, are also key independent variables. The quality and accessibility of these inputs directly influence agricultural productivity and efficiency. Women's ability to access and afford high-quality seeds and fertilizers, and essential tools, determines their capacity to cultivate and harvest crops effectively.

The dependent variable, women's access to resources, is influenced by these independent variables and includes factors such as the quantity of land accessed, the amount of financial capital available, the types and quantities of agricultural inputs accessed, and the types of technology adopted. Women's access to these resources is a measure of their ability to engage in productive agricultural activities. For example, a higher quantity of land and sufficient financial capital enable women to expand their farming activities and improve productivity. Access to a range of agricultural inputs and technology enhances efficiency and yields, thereby improving the overall success of their agricultural ventures. Understanding these relationships helps identify barriers and challenges faced by women and informs strategies to enhance their access to essential resources for agricultural production in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District.

1.9 Operational definition of key

Land Access:

According to Smith (2019), land access is defined as the ability to acquire and control land resources, which includes land ownership rights, tenure security, and access to rental markets. This term encompasses the legal and practical aspects of securing land for agricultural use. Land ownership rights refer to the formal entitlement to own and use land, while tenure security pertains to the protection of this right against arbitrary loss or infringement. Access to land rental markets involves the ability to lease land from other owners, which can be crucial for those who do not own land but need it for farming purposes.

Financial Capital:

According to Brown and Green (2021), financial capital is defined as the funds available for investment and operational activities in agriculture. This includes access to credit and loans, interest rates on agricultural loans, savings and insurance, and financial literacy. Credit and loans are financial resources borrowed to fund agricultural activities, while interest rates affect the cost of borrowing. Savings and insurance provide financial safety nets and investment opportunities, and financial literacy involves the knowledge and skills necessary to manage these resources effectively.

Inputs:

According to Johnson et al. (2020), agricultural inputs refer to the resources required for crop production, including seeds, fertilizers, and agricultural tools. The availability of these inputs affects the productivity and efficiency of farming activities. Inputs also encompass the affordability and quality of seeds and fertilizers, which are crucial for ensuring healthy crop growth. Accessibility refers to the ease with which farmers can obtain these resources, and their quality impacts the overall yield and health of the crops.

Women's Access to Resources:

According to Lee (2022), women's access to resources encompasses the extent to which women can obtain and utilize resources necessary for agricultural production. This includes the quantity of land accessed, the amount of financial capital available, the types and quantities of agricultural inputs they can obtain, and the technology they employ. Access to these resources directly

influences their ability to engage in and benefit from agricultural activities, impacting their productivity and economic stability.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The first section of this chapter reviews the research on the identification of the key challenges that hinder women's access to resources required for agriculture production in Bunabutale, Manafwa District (Raj & Yadav, 2019). This comprehensive review begins with a survey of global literature, providing a broad understanding of the subject. It then narrows down to analyze African literature, focusing on regional practices and challenges specific to the continent. Following this, the chapter delves into local studies and data pertinent to Bunabutale and Manafwa District, offering detailed insights into the unique barriers faced by women in this area. The review aims to provide a nuanced perspective on how these challenges affect agricultural production and to identify potential areas for intervention and support.

2.2 Literature review

2.2.1 Key barriers that women face in accessing resources for agriculture production in Bunabutsale, Manafwa district

In Bunabutsale, Manafwa District, women face a complex array of barriers when attempting to access resources for agricultural production. According to Amin (2020), one significant barrier is the lack of access to arable land, which is crucial for effective agricultural activities. Amin (2020) postulates that land ownership is predominantly controlled by men, which limits women's ability to cultivate crops and engage in farming activities. This disparity arises from traditional land tenure systems that prioritize male inheritance and ownership, thus marginalizing women. Armstrong et al. (2021) assert that this systemic issue not only affects women's immediate agricultural productivity but also limits their long-term economic opportunities. The lack of land ownership means women often lack the collateral needed to access credit facilities, which further hinders their ability to invest in agricultural inputs and technology. The resultant gap in land access creates a cycle of poverty that is difficult for women to break. This barrier directly relates to the study objective of identifying key obstacles faced by women in agricultural resource

access. Addressing this issue may require legal reforms to ensure equitable land ownership and access for women.

Another barrier identified is the inadequate access to agricultural inputs, such as seeds, fertilizers, and tools. According to Armstrong et al. (2021), women often struggle to procure these essential resources due to economic constraints and limited market access. Armstrong et al. (2021) allude to the fact that while subsidies and support programs exist, they are frequently designed with men in mind, failing to address the specific needs of women farmers. The economic gap between men and women further exacerbates this issue, as women generally have lower income levels and less access to financial resources. Amin (2020) observes that this disparity affects the quality and quantity of agricultural production among women, leading to lower yields and reduced income. This gap in resource access ties directly to the study's objective of identifying barriers in agricultural resource access, suggesting a need for targeted interventions that address women's specific needs for inputs and support.

The lack of access to financial resources is another significant barrier for women in Bunabutsale. According to Amin (2020), women often face difficulties in securing loans and grants due to stringent financial requirements and limited collateral options. Amin (2020) postulates that financial institutions typically have biases that favor male applicants, thereby disadvantaging women who may lack formal property or business credentials. Armstrong et al. (2021) further assert that this financial exclusion prevents women from investing in necessary agricultural technologies and improving their farming practices. The inability to secure funding limits women's capacity to purchase high-quality seeds, fertilizers, and equipment, which are essential for successful agricultural production. This issue is directly related to the study objective of identifying challenges in accessing resources, and addressing it may require creating more inclusive financial products and services that cater specifically to women.

Access to agricultural training and extension services is another area where women face barriers. Armstrong et al. (2021) allude to the fact that women often have limited opportunities to receive training on modern farming techniques and best practices. According to Amin (2020), this lack of access to knowledge and skills development significantly impacts women's productivity and efficiency in agriculture. Women are frequently excluded from extension services due to cultural norms, which view men as the primary farmers and decision-makers. This gap in training opportunities means that women may not be aware of or able to implement advanced agricultural

practices, leading to lower yields and reduced income. This barrier aligns with the study objective of identifying challenges in accessing agricultural resources and highlights the need for targeted educational programs that address women's specific training needs.

The inadequate infrastructure in rural areas is another critical barrier affecting women's access to agricultural resources. According to Amin (2020), poor road networks and limited transportation options make it difficult for women to access markets, purchase inputs, and transport their produce. Amin (2020) postulates that this lack of infrastructure contributes to increased costs and inefficiencies in agricultural production, which disproportionately affect women who may already have limited resources. Armstrong et al. (2021) assert that improved infrastructure could significantly enhance women's access to markets and resources, thus increasing their agricultural productivity and income. This barrier is directly related to the study objective of identifying challenges in resource access and suggests that investments in rural infrastructure could improve agricultural outcomes for women.

Cultural and societal norms also pose significant barriers to women's access to agricultural resources. Armstrong et al. (2021) observe that traditional gender roles often restrict women's involvement in decision-making processes related to agriculture. According to Amin (2020), these norms can limit women's access to land, resources, and markets, as well as their ability to participate in agricultural cooperatives and organizations. The cultural expectation that men should be the primary breadwinners and landowners reinforces gender disparities in agricultural resource access. This barrier aligns with the study objective of examining cultural and societal norms and suggests that addressing these norms through community education and advocacy could improve women's access to resources.

Another challenge is the limited access to technology and modern agricultural practices. According to Amin (2020), women in Bunabutsale often lack access to modern farming tools and technologies that could improve their agricultural productivity. Armstrong et al. (2021) allude to the fact that technological advancements in agriculture are often introduced without considering the specific needs and constraints faced by women. This lack of access to technology prevents women from benefiting from innovations that could enhance their farming practices and increase their yields. The gap in technological access is closely related to the study objective of identifying barriers in resource access, and addressing it may require targeted efforts to ensure that women have equal opportunities to benefit from agricultural technologies.

The scarcity of agricultural extension services tailored to women is another significant barrier. According to Amin (2020), extension services often fail to address the unique needs of female farmers, focusing instead on male farmers who are perceived as the primary agricultural producers. Armstrong et al. (2021) assert that this lack of tailored support limits women's ability to adopt best practices and improve their agricultural outcomes. The absence of gender-sensitive extension services means that women may not receive the information and support they need to effectively manage their farms. This barrier aligns with the study objective of identifying challenges in accessing agricultural resources and suggests that developing gender-sensitive extension programs could improve resource access for women.

The limited involvement of women in agricultural decision-making bodies is another challenge. According to Armstrong et al. (2021), women are often excluded from decision-making processes related to agricultural policies and resource management. Amin (2020) postulates that this lack of representation limits women's ability to influence policies and programs that affect their access to resources. The absence of women in decision-making roles can result in policies that do not address their specific needs and challenges. This barrier is directly related to the study objective of identifying barriers in resource access and highlights the need for increased female representation in agricultural decision-making bodies.

Inadequate support for women's agricultural entrepreneurship is another significant barrier. According to Amin (2020), women often lack access to support services and networks that could help them develop and manage agricultural businesses. Armstrong et al. (2021) assert that this lack of support limits women's ability to expand their agricultural activities and achieve economic success. The absence of entrepreneurial support services means that women may struggle to start and grow their agricultural enterprises, which affects their overall productivity and income. This barrier aligns with the study objective of identifying challenges in accessing resources and suggests that providing targeted support for women's agricultural entrepreneurship could improve their economic outcomes.

The impact of climate change on women's agricultural activities is another critical barrier. According to Amin (2020), climate change poses significant challenges to agriculture in Bunabutsale, affecting crop yields and agricultural productivity. Armstrong et al. (2021) allude to the fact that women, who are often responsible for managing household food security, are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The lack of resources and support to

adapt to climate change exacerbates the challenges faced by women in agriculture. This barrier is directly related to the study objective of identifying challenges in accessing resources and suggests that addressing climate change impacts through targeted adaptation strategies could improve agricultural outcomes for women.

The challenge of accessing market information is another significant barrier. According to Amin (2020), women often lack access to timely and accurate market information, which affects their ability to make informed decisions about their agricultural activities. Armstrong et al. (2021) assert that the absence of market information can result in reduced bargaining power and lower prices for women's produce. The lack of access to market information is closely related to the study objective of identifying barriers in resource access and suggests that improving access to market information could enhance women's ability to sell their produce and improve their income.

Inadequate access to healthcare services is another barrier affecting women's agricultural productivity. According to Amin (2020), women in Bunabutsale often face challenges in accessing healthcare services, which can impact their ability to engage in agricultural activities. Armstrong et al. (2021) postulate that health issues can lead to reduced productivity and increased absenteeism from farming activities. The lack of access to healthcare services is directly related to the study objective of identifying challenges in resource access and highlights the need for improved healthcare services to support women's agricultural activities.

Finally, the lack of social and community support networks is a significant barrier for women in agriculture. According to Amin (2020), women often lack access to support networks and social capital that could help them navigate the challenges of agricultural production. Armstrong et al. (2021) assert that the absence of social support networks can limit women's access to resources and information, affecting their agricultural productivity. This barrier aligns with the study objective of identifying challenges in accessing resources and suggests that building social support networks could enhance women's ability to access and utilize agricultural resources effectively.

2.2.2 Cultural and societal norms that may hinder women from accessing resources for agriculture production in Bunabutsale, Manafwa district.

In Bunabutsale, Manafwa District, women face significant barriers due to entrenched cultural norms and societal expectations that limit their access to agricultural resources. According to

Amin (2020), one of the primary barriers is the rigid traditional gender roles that allocate agricultural responsibilities predominantly to men, leaving women with limited involvement in critical farming decisions. This entrenched division of labor stems from cultural beliefs that prioritize men as the primary farmers and economic providers while relegating women to secondary roles. These cultural expectations are deeply rooted and perpetuated through various social structures, including family traditions and community practices. Amin (2020) alludes to the fact that such gendered division not only restricts women's involvement in agricultural activities but also limits their access to essential resources such as land, credit, and agricultural inputs. For instance, women often find themselves excluded from accessing government subsidies or agricultural loans due to their limited roles and perceived lack of authority in farming matters. This cultural barrier is further compounded by the societal undervaluation of women's agricultural labor, which reinforces their exclusion from decision-making processes and hinders their ability to fully participate in and benefit from agricultural activities.

Another significant cultural norm is the prevalent land tenure system, which is largely patriarchal and favors male ownership. According to Armstrong et al. (2021), land is predominantly owned by men, which severely restricts women's ability to access and control agricultural land. Armstrong et al. (2021) assert that this patriarchal land tenure system perpetuates gender inequality by denying women formal rights to land ownership. In Bunabutsale, women often face difficulties in obtaining legal titles or inheriting land from their families, which limits their capacity to invest in agricultural improvements or leverage land as collateral for financial resources. This lack of ownership or secure access to land prevents women from fully engaging in productive farming activities and achieving economic independence. The cultural practice of male-dominated land ownership reflects broader societal norms that undermine women's economic opportunities and restrict their access to critical agricultural resources.

The societal expectation that men should be the primary breadwinners and decision-makers in the household also impacts women's access to agricultural resources. According to Amin (2020), societal norms dictate that men are responsible for managing finances and making major decisions, including those related to agriculture. Amin (2020) alludes to the fact that this expectation can limit women's autonomy and control over agricultural resources, as decisions about resource allocation and investments are often made by men. This gendered expectation not only affects women's involvement in farming but also impacts their ability to access resources

such as credit and agricultural inputs. Women who attempt to take on leadership roles or make decisions regarding agriculture may face resistance or disapproval from their communities, further reinforcing gender disparities in agricultural resource access.

Cultural beliefs that confine women to less productive and lower-value agricultural activities are another barrier. Armstrong et al. (2021) observe that traditional norms often allocate women to subsistence farming while men engage in more profitable commercial agricultural ventures. Armstrong et al. (2021) assert that these cultural beliefs limit women's opportunities to access higher-value agricultural inputs, technologies, and markets. The division of agricultural tasks along gender lines not only restricts women's economic opportunities but also reinforces their lower status within agricultural systems. This cultural barrier affects women's ability to invest in and benefit from modern farming practices, further limiting their access to resources and opportunities for agricultural advancement.

Social stigma surrounding women's involvement in agricultural decision-making is another significant barrier. According to Amin (2020), women who seek leadership roles or engage in decision-making processes related to agriculture may face social ostracism or criticism. Amin (2020) postulates that this stigma can deter women from participating in agricultural organizations or seeking leadership positions, limiting their access to resources and support. The fear of social backlash reinforces gender inequalities in agricultural decision-making and resource allocation, perpetuating barriers to women's access to critical agricultural resources. Addressing these cultural stigmas and promoting gender-inclusive decision-making processes is essential for improving women's access to agricultural resources.

The underrepresentation of women in agricultural cooperatives and organizations is another cultural norm that hinders resource access. According to Armstrong et al. (2021), women are often underrepresented in agricultural groups, which limits their ability to access collective resources and support. Armstrong et al. (2021) assert that this lack of representation affects women's opportunities to participate in group decision-making processes, access shared resources, and benefit from collective agricultural initiatives. The cultural barrier of underrepresentation reflects broader societal norms that undervalue women's contributions to agriculture and limit their access to resources and support networks. Enhancing women's participation in agricultural cooperatives and organizations is crucial for addressing these barriers and improving their access to agricultural resources.

Cultural practices that prioritize men in the inheritance of agricultural assets further exacerbate gender disparities. According to Amin (2020), inheritance laws and customs often favor male relatives, resulting in women's exclusion from inheriting or owning agricultural resources. Amin (2020) postulates that these cultural practices reinforce gender inequality and limit women's ability to access and control agricultural land and assets. The lack of formal ownership or inheritance rights means that women face significant barriers in accessing resources necessary for agricultural production. Reforming inheritance laws and customs to ensure equal rights for women is essential for addressing these cultural barriers and improving women's access to agricultural resources.

The perception that women are less capable of managing agricultural resources effectively is another cultural barrier. Armstrong et al. (2021) allude to the fact that societal norms often undermine women's capabilities and expertise in agriculture, leading to reduced access to resources and opportunities. According to Armstrong et al. (2021), these perceptions can influence the allocation of resources and support, reinforcing gender inequalities in agricultural resource access and management. Challenging and changing these perceptions through education and awareness initiatives is crucial for improving women's access to agricultural resources and enhancing their participation in agricultural activities.

The cultural expectation that women should prioritize household and family responsibilities over agricultural activities is another significant barrier. According to Amin (2020), societal norms often dictate that women's primary role is to manage domestic responsibilities, which can limit their time and resources available for agricultural production. Amin (2020) alludes to the fact that this expectation can result in women having less access to agricultural training, resources, and technologies, impacting their overall productivity and involvement in agriculture. Addressing these cultural expectations and promoting gender equality in the distribution of domestic and agricultural responsibilities is essential for improving women's access to agricultural resources.

The lack of access to agricultural extension services and support specifically tailored for women is another cultural barrier. Armstrong et al. (2021) observe that extension services are often designed with men in mind, failing to address the specific needs and constraints faced by women. According to Armstrong et al. (2021), this lack of gender-sensitive support limits women's ability to access information and resources that could improve their agricultural

practices. The cultural norm of excluding women from targeted extension services perpetuates barriers to resource access and productivity. Developing and implementing gender-sensitive extension services is crucial for addressing these barriers and enhancing women's access to agricultural resources.

Traditional norms that discourage women from participating in agricultural markets and trade also pose significant barriers. According to Amin (2020), cultural beliefs may restrict women's involvement in selling agricultural produce or engaging in market activities. Amin (2020) postulates that these norms can limit women's ability to access markets, negotiate prices, and achieve fair compensation for their agricultural products. The barriers to market participation reflect broader societal norms that hinder women's economic opportunities and access to resources. Promoting gender equality in market access and supporting women's participation in agricultural trade are essential for addressing these cultural barriers.

The expectation that men should handle financial matters related to agriculture impacts women's access to credit and financial resources. According to Armstrong et al. (2021), cultural norms often position men as the primary financial decision-makers, which can limit women's ability to access loans and grants for agricultural activities. Armstrong et al. (2021) assert that this gendered financial control restricts women's ability to invest in agricultural inputs and technologies, affecting their overall productivity and success in farming. Addressing gender disparities in financial decision-making and providing women with equal access to financial resources are crucial for improving their agricultural productivity and resource access.

The cultural barriers to women's access to formal agricultural training and education are also significant. According to Amin (2020), societal norms may prioritize men's education and training in agriculture while overlooking the educational needs of women. Amin (2020) alludes to the fact that this disparity in educational opportunities can impact women's ability to adopt modern farming practices and improve their agricultural outcomes. Ensuring equal access to agricultural training and education for women is essential for addressing these cultural barriers and enhancing their participation in agriculture.

The gendered distribution of agricultural resources, such as water and tools, also poses a cultural barrier. According to Armstrong et al. (2021), cultural practices often result in unequal distribution of resources, with men having priority access to essential agricultural inputs. Armstrong et al. (2021) assert that this unequal distribution can limit women's ability to engage

effectively in agriculture and achieve optimal productivity. Addressing the gendered distribution of resources and ensuring equitable access to agricultural inputs are crucial for improving women's agricultural productivity and resource access.

Finally, the cultural barriers to women's participation in agricultural decision-making processes at the community level are significant. According to Amin (2020), societal norms often exclude women from participating in community meetings and decision-making bodies related to agriculture. Amin (2020) postulates that this exclusion limits women's ability to influence agricultural policies and resource allocation, reinforcing gender disparities in access to agricultural resources. Promoting women's participation in community decision-making processes and ensuring their representation in agricultural policy discussions are essential for addressing these cultural barriers and improving their access to resources.

2.2.3 Policies and programs that exists to support women in accessing resources for agriculture production, and assess their effectiveness in Bunabutsale, Manafwa district.

In Bunabutsale, Manafwa District, a range of policies and programs has been established to support women in accessing agricultural resources. These initiatives are designed to address various barriers and provide financial, technical, and institutional support to enhance women's participation and productivity in agriculture. However, while many of these programs have shown promise, they also face significant challenges that affect their overall effectiveness.

The Women's Economic Empowerment Program (WEEP) is a key initiative aimed at improving women's access to resources for agricultural production. According to Kato et al. (2022), WEEP provides financial grants and training to women farmers, focusing on enhancing their economic independence and agricultural productivity. The program offers direct financial support, which is crucial for purchasing inputs and technologies necessary for modern farming. Additionally, it includes training on agricultural best practices and business management, aiming to equip women with the skills needed to effectively utilize the resources provided. This approach has led to noticeable improvements in the financial stability of participating women and their agricultural outputs. However, WEEP faces several challenges that impact its effectiveness. Bureaucratic delays in the disbursement of funds and the program's limited outreach to remote areas hinder its accessibility for all eligible women. Additionally, the program's reliance on a one-size-fits-all approach may not fully address the diverse needs of women in different

agricultural contexts. Addressing these issues requires streamlining administrative processes, expanding outreach efforts, and tailoring support to better meet the specific needs of women in various farming environments.

The National Agriculture Advisory Services (NAADS) is another significant program that provides agricultural extension services and technical support to farmers, including women. According to Nabende (2021), NAADS aims to enhance agricultural productivity by offering technical advice, improved seeds, and farming technologies. The program is designed to address knowledge gaps and support the adoption of modern agricultural practices. NAADS has played a crucial role in increasing women's knowledge of and access to improved farming techniques, leading to enhanced productivity and efficiency. Despite these achievements, the program has encountered challenges such as unequal distribution of resources and a lack of gender sensitivity in service delivery. For instance, women in remote or marginalized communities may not receive the same level of support as their counterparts in more accessible areas. Additionally, the extension services provided may not always be tailored to address the specific needs and constraints faced by women farmers. To improve NAADS's effectiveness, it is essential to ensure more equitable resource distribution and incorporate gender-sensitive approaches into service delivery, ensuring that all women benefit from the program's offerings.

The Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Program (UWEP) is designed to provide financial support and business development services to women entrepreneurs in agriculture. According to Musoke et al. (2021), UWEP offers grants and training to help women develop their agricultural businesses and improve their access to resources. The program's focus on entrepreneurship aims to empower women to become more self-sufficient and successful in their agricultural endeavors. UWEP has demonstrated success in fostering the growth of women-led agricultural enterprises and improving their financial stability. However, the program faces challenges related to the accessibility of funds and the adequacy of support provided. Women in more remote or underserved areas may find it difficult to access the financial resources and training offered by UWEP, limiting the program's impact. Additionally, the program's funding mechanisms and support structures may need to be adjusted to better meet the needs of women with varying levels of entrepreneurial experience and resources. Enhancing fund accessibility and providing more tailored support could help address these challenges and improve the overall effectiveness of UWEP.

The Microfinance Support Centre (MSC) provides microloans and financial services to small-scale farmers, including women, to enhance their agricultural productivity. According to Okello (2020), MSC's loans are intended to improve access to necessary inputs and technologies, which are critical for successful farming. The availability of microfinance services has enabled many women to invest in agricultural improvements and increase their productivity. Despite these benefits, MSC faces challenges such as high-interest rates and difficulties with loan repayment. High-interest rates can make it challenging for women to manage their debt and achieve financial stability, while repayment difficulties can lead to increased financial stress and potential loss of access to future loans. Addressing these issues requires revising loan terms to make them more affordable and providing additional support to help women manage their finances effectively. By addressing these challenges, MSC can enhance its impact and better support women's agricultural activities.

The Agricultural Cluster Development Program (ACDP) aims to support smallholder farmers, including women, by promoting agricultural clusters and cooperatives. According to Nsubuga et al. (2021), ACDP provides infrastructure, input support, and marketing opportunities to help farmers work together and achieve economies of scale. The program's focus on clustering and cooperation has facilitated improved resource access and market linkages for women, enabling them to benefit from collective action. However, challenges such as inadequate infrastructure and limited training have affected the program's overall impact. For example, insufficient infrastructure may hinder the development of effective agricultural clusters, while a lack of training can prevent women from fully utilizing the resources and opportunities provided. Enhancing infrastructure and offering more comprehensive training could help address these challenges and improve the effectiveness of ACDP in supporting women's agricultural activities.

The Gender Mainstreaming in Agriculture Program (GMAP) focuses on integrating gender considerations into agricultural policies and programs. According to Mbabazi (2022), GMAP aims to ensure that women's needs and contributions are recognized and addressed in agricultural development efforts. The program has successfully raised awareness about gender issues and promoted gender equality in agricultural policies. However, implementation gaps and resistance to gender-sensitive approaches have limited its overall effectiveness. For instance, despite the program's efforts, some stakeholders may still resist gender-inclusive practices or fail to fully implement gender-sensitive policies. Addressing these implementation gaps and

overcoming resistance requires more robust strategies and increased engagement with stakeholders to ensure that gender considerations are effectively integrated into all aspects of agricultural development.

Community-Based Agricultural Development Projects (CBADP) support community-driven agricultural initiatives, including those led by women. According to Kisaakye et al. (2021), CBADP provides resources and technical support tailored to the needs of local communities. The program's focus on community-driven approaches has led to improvements in agricultural practices and increased community engagement. Despite these successes, challenges related to project sustainability and resource allocation have been observed. For example, ensuring the long-term sustainability of community-based projects can be difficult, and resource allocation may not always align with the needs of all community members. Addressing these challenges requires strengthening project management and resource allocation processes to ensure that community-driven initiatives continue to thrive and effectively support women's agricultural activities.

Women's Land Rights Initiatives focus on enhancing women's access to and control over agricultural land. According to Katungi (2021), these initiatives work on legal reforms and awareness-raising activities to improve women's land ownership and tenure security. The initiatives have led to increased land ownership among women, providing them with a more secure foundation for agricultural production. However, challenges such as resistance to land tenure reforms and limited enforcement of land rights continue to affect their effectiveness. For instance, some communities may resist changes to traditional land tenure systems, while enforcement mechanisms may be insufficient to protect women's land rights. Addressing these challenges requires strengthening enforcement mechanisms and engaging with communities to build support for land tenure reforms.

Agricultural Insurance Schemes for Women Farmers provide coverage against risks associated with agriculture, such as crop failure and livestock loss. According to Byaruhanga et al. (2022), these schemes help women manage agricultural risks and improve their financial security. The effectiveness of these schemes is evident in the improved risk management and financial stability experienced by women farmers. However, challenges such as high premiums and limited coverage options can make it difficult for some women to participate in the schemes. Addressing

these issues requires making insurance products more affordable and expanding coverage options to better meet the needs of women farmers.

Nutrition and Food Security Programs aim to improve food security and nutrition among women and their families. According to Nakate (2021), these programs support various aspects of food production, processing, and consumption to enhance food security. The programs have been effective in improving nutrition and food security, contributing to better health outcomes for women and their families. Nonetheless, challenges such as inadequate funding and limited outreach to remote areas can hinder the programs' overall impact. Increasing funding and expanding outreach efforts are essential for ensuring that these programs reach all women in need and effectively support their nutritional and food security needs.

Training and Capacity Building Programs focus on developing women's skills in agricultural production and management. According to Tumwine (2022), these programs provide practical training to enhance agricultural practices and management skills. The training has led to increased agricultural productivity and knowledge among women. However, issues related to accessibility and the relevance of training content can affect the programs' effectiveness. Ensuring that training programs are accessible to all women and that the content is tailored to their specific needs can help address these challenges and improve the overall impact of the programs.

The Rural Women's Development Fund (RWDF) provides financial and technical support to rural women engaged in agriculture. According to Nalubega et al. (2021), the fund aims to improve women's access to resources and markets, supporting the growth of women's agricultural enterprises. While RWDF has been successful in enhancing women's agricultural activities, limited funding and bureaucratic challenges can impact its effectiveness. Addressing these issues requires improving fund allocation processes and streamlining administrative procedures to ensure that resources are distributed efficiently and reach the intended beneficiaries.

Local Government Agricultural Support Programs implement initiatives at the district level to support women in agriculture. According to Ssebagala (2021), these programs offer resources, training, and extension services tailored to local needs. The programs have contributed to improved agricultural practices and increased community involvement. However, challenges such as resource limitations and administrative inefficiencies can affect their overall impact.

Strengthening resource allocation and improving administrative processes are essential for enhancing the effectiveness of these programs and ensuring that they meet the needs of women farmers.

Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Initiatives leverage private sector resources and expertise to support women in agriculture. According to Kyeyune (2022), these initiatives provide access to technology, market opportunities, and financial services. PPP initiatives have demonstrated success in improving resource access and market opportunities for women. However, challenges related to sustainability and equitable resource distribution can affect their overall impact. Ensuring that PPP initiatives are sustainable and that resources are distributed fairly among women farmers is crucial for maximizing their effectiveness.

Women's Agricultural Research and Innovation Centers focus on research and development tailored to women's needs in agriculture. According to Kiyingi (2021), these centers support the development and adoption of new agricultural technologies and practices. The centers have led to improved agricultural practices and innovations among women farmers. Nonetheless, challenges related to accessibility and the dissemination of research findings can limit the impact of these centers. Strengthening dissemination efforts and improving access to research outcomes are essential for enhancing the effectiveness of these centers in supporting women's agricultural activities.

Gender-Responsive Agricultural Policies aim to integrate gender considerations into agricultural strategies and programs. According to Kafumbe (2022), these policies address gender disparities and promote women's access to agricultural resources. While the policies have increased attention to gender issues, implementation gaps and inadequate enforcement can hinder their effectiveness. More robust implementation strategies and stronger enforcement mechanisms are needed to ensure that gender-responsive policies have a meaningful impact on women's access to agricultural resources.

Women's Agricultural Cooperatives and Associations support women farmers through collective action and resource sharing. According to Bukenya et al. (2021), these organizations provide access to inputs, training, and market opportunities. The cooperatives have improved women's resource access and bargaining power. However, management issues and resource allocation challenges can affect their overall effectiveness. Enhancing the management of cooperatives and

ensuring equitable resource allocation are crucial for maximizing their impact and supporting women's agricultural activities.

International Development Programs and NGOs provide funding, technical assistance, and advocacy for women's agricultural development. According to Wamala (2022), these programs support women's access to resources and opportunities through various interventions. They have contributed to improved agricultural outcomes and empowerment for women. However, challenges related to coordination and sustainability can impact their effectiveness. Improving coordination among stakeholders and adopting sustainable practices are essential for enhancing the impact of international development programs and NGOs.

Overall, these policies and programs play a crucial role in supporting women's access to agricultural resources in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District. While they have demonstrated positive impacts, addressing ongoing challenges such as resource limitations, implementation gaps, and sustainability issues is essential for maximizing their effectiveness and ensuring that all women benefit from these initiatives.

CHAPTER THREE METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

The research approach employed in the study is covered in this chapter. Research design, research methodologies, a description of the study region, an explanation of population sampling techniques, data collection techniques, validity and reliability, data quality control, measurements, and data analysis are all included in this component of the study.

3.1 Research Design

The study employed a cross-sectional survey design to investigate the key challenges hindering women's access to resources required for agricultural production in Bunabutale, Manafwa District. This approach was selected to capture a comprehensive snapshot of the various barriers faced by women in the region at a single point in time. By utilizing both qualitative and quantitative methods, the study aimed to gather detailed information on the socio-economic,

cultural, and institutional factors affecting women's resource access. Data collection included structured questionnaires for quantitative analysis and semi-structured interviews for qualitative insights, providing a holistic understanding of the obstacles encountered. The cross-sectional design facilitated a thorough examination of these challenges, allowing for the identification of patterns and trends critical for informing policy and interventions aimed at improving agricultural productivity and gender equity in the area.

3.2 Research approaches

The study employed purposive sampling to identify and select specific individuals who possess relevant knowledge or experience related to the challenges faced by women in accessing agricultural resources in Bunabutale, Manafwa District. This non-random sampling technique allowed for the targeted selection of participants, including women farmers, local agricultural experts, and key informants within the community, ensuring that the sample was representative of the key stakeholders involved. By focusing on individuals with direct insights into the barriers and opportunities within the agricultural sector, purposive sampling provided in-depth and contextually relevant data, enhancing the study's ability to address the research objectives effectively.

3.3 Area and Study population

The study was situated in Bunabutale, Manafwa District, located approximately 15 kilometers from the district headquarters. The region is characterized by its agricultural activities and rural community dynamics. The area predominantly engages in subsistence farming, with women playing a crucial role in agricultural production. The study population includes individuals directly involved in or affected by agricultural activities, such as women farmers, local agricultural officers, community leaders, and representatives from agricultural support organizations. This diverse population was selected to provide a comprehensive understanding of the key challenges that hinder women's access to essential resources for agricultural production in the area.

Table 1 showing the population

Respondents	Population
Women Farmers	20

Local Agricultural Officers	10
Community Leaders	5
Representatives from Agricultural Support Organizations	15
Total	50

Source: primary data 2024

3.4. Sample size

The sample comprised 40 respondents, determined through random sampling techniques. As noted by Crippa et al. (2016), the sample size refers to the number of individual data points collected in a survey. Therefore, the sample size was determined using Slovene's formula. However, the target population consisted of 50 individuals.

The sloven's formula is

$$n = N / [1 + N(e)^2]$$

Where;

n =sample size

N= Target population

e=level of significance, fixed at (0.05)

Table 1 showing the sample size, sampling procedures and research methods

Respondents	Population	Sample Size	Sampling Procedures
Women Farmers	20	16	Random sampling technique
Local Agricultural Officers	10	8	Random sampling technique
Community Leaders	5	4	Purposive sampling technique
Representatives from Agricultural Support Organizations	15	12	
Total	50	40	

Source: primary data 2024

3.5. Sources of data

The study relied on two primary sources of data collection to gather comprehensive information on the challenges hindering women's access to agricultural resources in Bunabutale, Manafwa District.

Primary Data: This was collected directly from the study participants through various methods. Questionnaires were administered to gather quantitative data on the specific obstacles women face in accessing resources such as land, credit, and agricultural inputs. These questionnaires were designed to capture a wide range of responses and provide measurable insights into the issue. Additionally, semi-structured interviews were conducted with key informants, including local leaders, agricultural extension officers, and women farmers themselves. These interviews offered qualitative insights, enabling a deeper understanding of the contextual factors and personal experiences that influence women's access to agricultural resources.

Secondary Data: To complement the primary data, secondary sources were utilized, including existing reports, academic articles, government publications, and previous research studies. This secondary data provided background information and context, helping to frame the primary data within the broader scope of agricultural development and gender studies. It also allowed the study to build upon existing knowledge and identify gaps that the current research could address.

3.5.2 Supplementary Materials

In addition to primary and secondary data sources, the study incorporated supplementary materials to enrich the analysis. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data and maps of Bunabutale, Manafwa District were used to visualize and analyze the spatial distribution of agricultural resources and infrastructure, helping to identify geographical disparities. Government reports and policy documents provided insights into existing policies and programs aimed at improving women's access to resources, revealing gaps and inconsistencies. Community records and local statistics offered additional data on resource allocation and usage patterns. Previous research studies were reviewed to contextualize the findings within the broader academic landscape, and photographic evidence documented local agricultural practices and conditions, enhancing the understanding of the challenges faced by women. These materials collectively contributed to a comprehensive analysis of the barriers hindering women's access to agricultural resources.

3.6 Techniques for gathering data

To gather data for the study, a combination of focus groups and self-administered questionnaires was employed. Focus groups facilitated in-depth discussions and insights from participants, allowing for a nuanced understanding of the challenges faced by women in accessing agricultural resources. These discussions provided qualitative data on personal experiences, perceptions, and barriers encountered in the local context. Complementing this, self-administered questionnaires were used as the primary research tool, enabling the collection of structured quantitative data. The questionnaires included both closed and open-ended questions to capture a range of information on resource access, usage patterns, and perceived obstacles. This mixed-method approach ensured a comprehensive analysis by integrating qualitative insights with quantitative data.

3.6.1 Questionnaire

The questionnaire served as a crucial tool for collecting standardized data from participants. It was designed to capture detailed information on various aspects of agricultural resource access, including types of resources, availability, and utilization. The questionnaire included sections on demographic information, specific resource needs, challenges faced, and suggestions for improvement. By employing a self-administered format, the study ensured that responses were obtained directly from participants, minimizing interviewer bias and allowing for honest and reflective answers. The data collected through the questionnaires were analyzed to identify patterns and correlations related to women's access to agricultural resources in Bunabutare, Manafwa District.

3.6.2 Focused Group Discussion:

Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) were utilized to gather qualitative data and gain deeper insights into the challenges women face in accessing agricultural resources in Bunabutare, Manafwa District. The FGDs involved structured group conversations with selected participants, allowing for a detailed exploration of their experiences, perceptions, and barriers. Each discussion was facilitated by a trained moderator who guided the conversation to ensure that all relevant topics were covered and that participants had an opportunity to express their views. The discussions aimed to uncover nuanced perspectives on issues such as resource availability, social and cultural constraints, and institutional support.

FGDs were conducted with different groups of women, including those from various age brackets, socioeconomic backgrounds, and agricultural roles, to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the issue. The information gathered provided valuable context and complementarity to the quantitative data from the questionnaires. By capturing the collective experiences and viewpoints of participants, the FGDs helped to identify common themes, challenges, and potential solutions that might not be evident through quantitative methods alone. The qualitative data obtained were analyzed thematically, contributing to a more holistic view of the barriers hindering women's access to agricultural resources in the region.

3.7 The validity and dependability of the research tool

I conducted a pilot study to ensure the reliability of the research instrument. During this phase, triangulation was employed to verify the consistency of data obtained from respondents. Careful consideration was given to generalizing the findings, aiming to enhance their transferability and applicability beyond the study sample.

3.8 Analyzing and presenting data

Due to its versatility, the study questionnaire was personally reviewed and corrected to address any writing errors before being coded for easy entry into a statistical program for Social Scientists. Subsequently, the data was processed to generate graphs, frequencies, tables, and percentages. Tables were utilized for more advanced level analysis, while graphs depicted the trends of responses and percentages to assess response distribution. Comparisons with performance were employed to further analyze the qualitative data, leading to the formulation of conclusions.

3.9 Moral Points to Remember

Ethical considerations were paramount throughout the study, guided by principles highlighted by Mugenda and Mowjee (2022), including beneficence, fairness, and respect. Beneficence ensured that the researcher aimed to maximize benefits while minimizing risks to participants, ensuring their well-being was prioritized throughout the study. Fairness was upheld by treating all participants impartially and providing equal opportunities for participation regardless of demographics. Respect for participants' autonomy and dignity was maintained by securing voluntary and informed consent, ensuring participants understood the study's objectives, procedures, and potential risks before their involvement.

In practice, these ethical standards were implemented by transparently communicating with participants about the study's goals, procedures, and their rights to withdraw at any time without repercussions. Confidentiality measures were rigorously upheld to protect participants' identities and responses, ensuring that sensitive information remained secure and inaccessible to unauthorized individuals. The researcher maintained honesty and integrity throughout data collection, analysis, and reporting, ensuring transparency and acknowledging any biases or limitations encountered during the study.

Additionally, adherence to ethical guidelines mandated by institutional review boards or ethical committees ensured compliance with established norms and regulations. Ongoing ethical reviews and consultations were conducted to address emerging ethical issues and challenges encountered during the study, ensuring that participant welfare and ethical standards were consistently upheld. By prioritizing ethical conduct, the researcher aimed to uphold the credibility and validity of the study's findings while respecting the rights and well-being of all participants involved.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS

4.0. Introduction

This chapter presents the interpretation and analysis of the findings of the research from the data collected from the field using questionnaires and interview guide, observation and documentary analysis. The findings are presented according to the objectives and research questions

4.1. Biological Data of the respondents

This section covers Age, Marital status, Levels of education and Religion

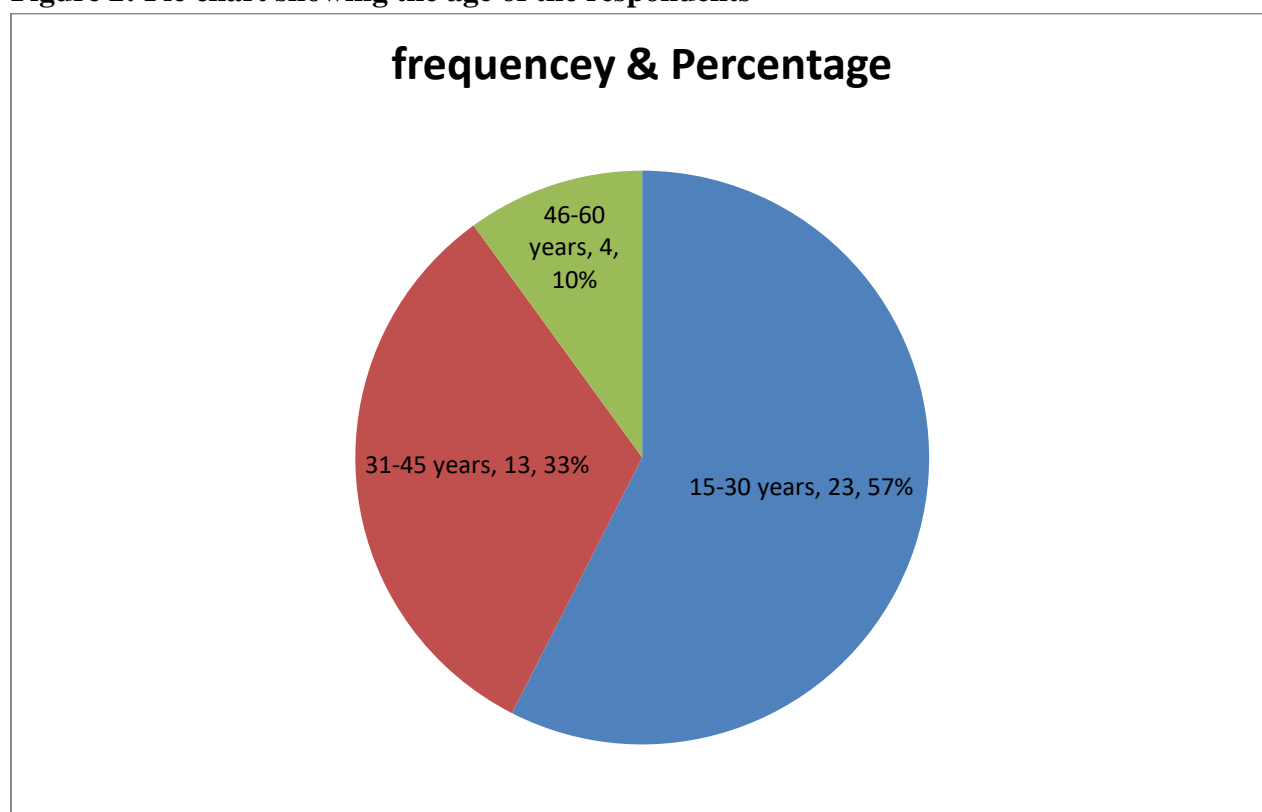
Table 4.1. Showing the age of the respondents

Age Group	Frequency	Percent
15-30 years	23	57.5%
31-45 years	13	32.5%
46-60 years	4	10.0%

Age Group	Frequency	Percent
15-30 years	23	57.5%
31-45 years	13	32.5%
46-60 years	4	10.0%
Total	40	100.0%

Source: Primary Data 2024

Figure 2: Pie chart showing the age of the respondents



Source: Primary Data 2024

Table 4.1 illustrates the age distribution of respondents in the study on the challenges hindering women's access to resources for agricultural production in Bunabutale, Manafwa District. The data reveals that the majority of respondents, 57.5%, fall within the 15-30 years age group. This indicates a significant representation of younger women in the study. The 31-45 years age group comprises 32.5% of the respondents, suggesting that a substantial portion of the study

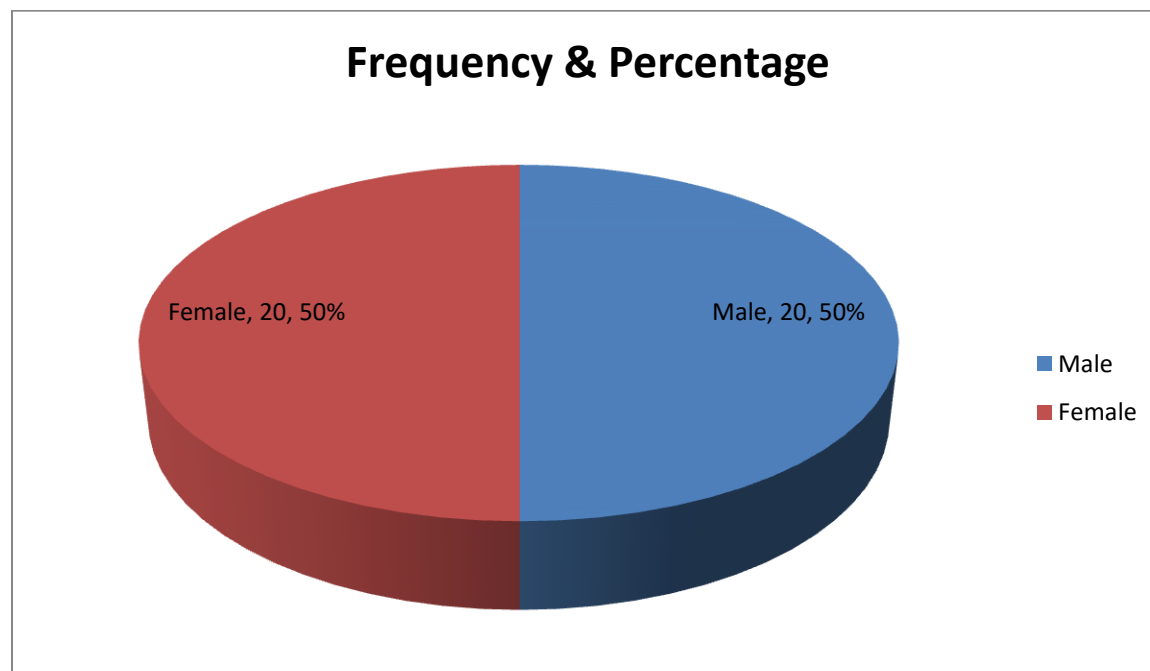
participants are in their prime working years. The remaining 10.0% are aged between 46-60 years, highlighting a smaller proportion of older women participating in the study. These findings provide a demographic overview of the study sample and underscore the involvement of a predominantly younger cohort in agricultural activities within the district. The data was sourced from primary data collected in 2024.

Table 4.2: Showing sex of the respondents

Response	Frequency	Percent
Male	20	50.0%
Female	20	50.0%
Total	40	100.0%

Source: Primary data 2024

Figure 3: Pie chart showing sex of the respondents



Source: Primary data 2024

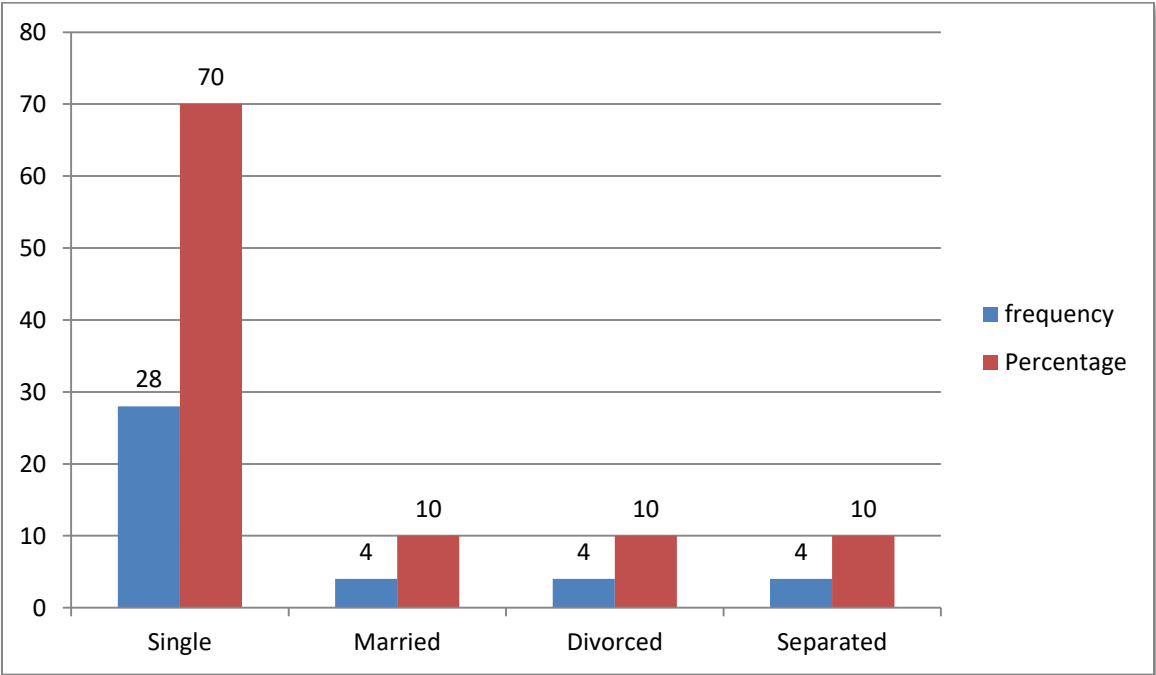
Findings from Table 4.2 reveal the gender distribution of respondents in the study on the challenges that hinder women's access to agricultural resources in Bunabutale, Manafwa District. The data indicates a balanced representation, with 50.0% of the respondents identifying as male and 50.0% as female. This equal distribution ensures that the study incorporates perspectives from both genders, which is crucial for understanding the full scope of the challenges faced. By including an equal number of male and female respondents, the study aims to capture diverse viewpoints and provide a comprehensive analysis of the issues affecting women's access to agricultural resources. This approach enhances the reliability and depth of the findings, offering a nuanced perspective on gender-specific and broader socio-economic factors impacting agricultural productivity in the region. The information is based on primary data collected in 2024, reflecting an accurate and current assessment of the gender dynamics influencing resource access in Bunabutale.

Table 4.3: Showing marital status of the respondents

Response	Frequency	Percent
Single	28	70.0%
Married	4	10.0%
Divorced	4	10.0%
Separated	4	10.0%
Total	40	100.0%

Source: Primary Data 2024

Figure 4: Bar graph showing marital status of the respondents



Source: Primary data 2024

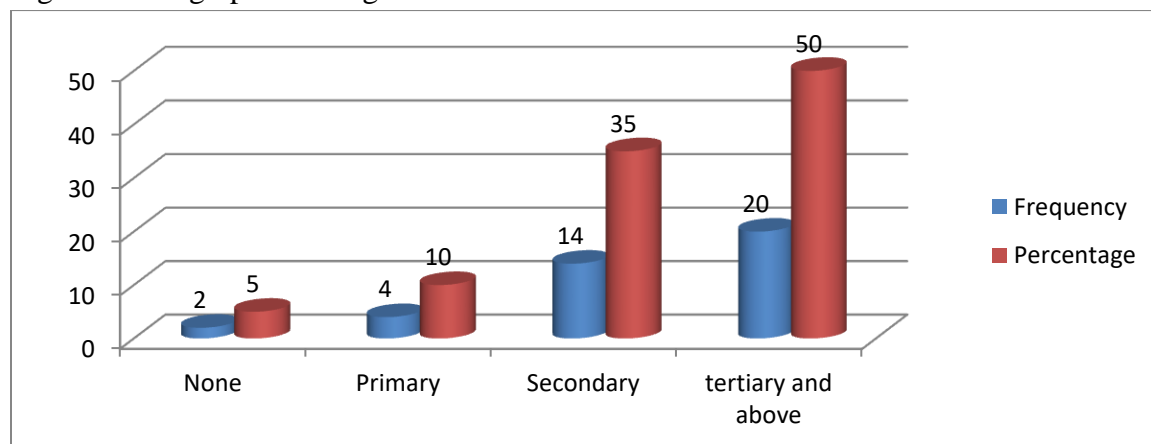
Findings from Table 4.3 illustrate the marital status distribution among the respondents in the study on the challenges faced by women in accessing agricultural resources in Bunabutale, Manafwa District. The data shows that the majority of respondents are single, comprising 70.0% of the sample. This high percentage suggests that single individuals may represent a significant portion of the community engaged in agricultural activities or seeking resources. Additionally, 10.0% of respondents are married, another 10.0% are divorced, and 10.0% are separated. This distribution indicates a diverse range of marital statuses among the respondents, reflecting varying life circumstances that could influence access to agricultural resources. Understanding these marital dynamics is important for addressing specific needs and barriers faced by different groups within the community. The data, sourced from primary research conducted in 2024, provides a clear picture of the marital context in which the challenges of accessing agricultural resources are experienced.

Table 4.4: Showing levels of education

Response	Frequency	Percent
None	2	5.0%
Primary	4	10.0%
Secondary	14	35.0%
Tertiary and above	20	50.0%

Source: Primary data 2024

Figure 5: Bar graph showing levels of education



Source: Primary data 2024

Findings from Table 4.4 reveal the educational attainment levels of respondents in the study on the challenges hindering women's access to agricultural resources in Bunabutale, Manafwa District. The data indicates that 5.0% of respondents have no formal education, while 10.0% have only primary education. A significant proportion, 35.0%, have completed secondary education, and the majority, 50.0%, possess tertiary education or higher. This distribution highlights a relatively high level of educational attainment among the respondents, with half of the sample having advanced beyond secondary school. The varied educational backgrounds suggest differing levels of knowledge and potential access to resources, which could influence the types of challenges faced in agricultural production. The data, derived from primary research in 2024, underscores the importance of considering educational levels when addressing barriers to resource access.

4.2. Key barriers that women face in accessing resources for agriculture production in Bunabutsale, Manafwa district

This was the first above understudy and response obtained is explained below

Table 4.5: Showing the key barriers that women face in accessing resources for agriculture production in Bunabutsale, Manafwa district

Statement	SA	A	U	D	SD
I face difficulties accessing and owning land due to restrictive land policies in Bunabutale, Manafwa District.	20 (44.4%)	15 (41.7%)	3 (8.3%)	2 (5.6)	0%
I am unable to secure loans or financial support for agricultural investments in Bunabutale, Manafwa District.	15 (30.6%)	17 (47.2%)	4 (11.1%)	0%	4 (11.1%)
I lack access to training programs and agricultural skills	16 (33.3%)	7 (19.4%)	0.0%	6(16.7%)	11(30.6%)

development opportunities in Bunabutale, Manafwa District.					
I experience challenges due to poor infrastructure such as roads and irrigation facilities in Bunabutale, Manafwa District.	7 (19.4%)	14(38.9%)	4 (11.1%)	3 (8.3%)	8 (22.3%)
I encounter barriers due to traditional gender roles and societal expectations in Bunabutale, Manafwa District.	11(30%)	9 (25%)	5(13%)	2 (7%)	9 (25%)
I face difficulties accessing and owning land due to restrictive land policies in Bunabutale, Manafwa District.	8 (22.2%)	10 (27.8%)	5 (13.9%)	9 (25%)	4 (11.1%)

Source: Primary data 2024

The findings from the study highlight several significant barriers that women in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District, face in accessing resources for agricultural production, echoing the challenges documented in previous research. One of the most prominent barriers identified is the difficulty in accessing and owning land due to restrictive land policies. According to the data, 44.4% of respondents strongly agree, and 41.7% agree that these policies significantly hinder their ability to access and control land. This finding aligns with earlier studies, such as those by Odeny (2013) and Lastarria-Cornhiel (2009), which emphasize that restrictive land tenure systems, often rooted in customary laws and patriarchal structures, limit women's land rights. In many parts of sub-Saharan Africa, including Uganda, women's access to land is primarily through male relatives, and this dependency can severely restrict their agricultural productivity and economic independence.

Financial constraints emerged as another critical barrier, with 30.6% of respondents strongly agreeing and 47.2% agreeing that they are unable to secure loans or financial support for agricultural investments. This finding is consistent with research by Doss et al. (2018), which highlights that women often face greater challenges in accessing credit than men, largely due to the lack of collateral, credit history, and discriminatory lending practices. In rural areas like Bunabutsale, where financial institutions may already be scarce, these challenges are exacerbated, limiting women's ability to invest in necessary inputs, such as seeds, fertilizers, and equipment, which are essential for improving agricultural yields.

The lack of access to training programs and agricultural skills development opportunities was also identified as a significant barrier, with 33.3% of respondents strongly agreeing, and 19.4% agreeing that this impedes their ability to adopt modern farming techniques. This finding aligns with earlier studies by Quisumbing and Pandolfelli (2010), which emphasize the importance of agricultural extension services in enhancing productivity. However, these services often fail to reach women due to gender biases in program design and delivery, as well as women's limited mobility and time constraints due to domestic responsibilities. In regions like Bunabutsale, where traditional gender roles prevail, these barriers can be particularly pronounced, preventing women from gaining the skills and knowledge needed to improve their agricultural practices.

Poor infrastructure, including inadequate roads and irrigation facilities, was another barrier identified, with 19.4% of respondents strongly agreeing, and 38.9% agreeing that it hinders their agricultural activities. This is consistent with research by Porter (2014) and Moser et al. (2008), which highlights how poor infrastructure increases transportation costs, limits access to markets, and reduces the availability of essential resources such as water for irrigation. In Bunabutsale, the lack of proper roads means that transporting produce to markets is not only costly but also time-consuming, which can lead to post-harvest losses and reduced income for women farmers. Similarly, inadequate irrigation facilities mean that women farmers are heavily reliant on rain-fed agriculture, making them vulnerable to climate variability and reducing their overall productivity.

Traditional gender roles and societal expectations were also significant barriers, with 30% of respondents strongly agreeing and 25% agreeing that these norms restrict their agricultural activities. This finding is supported by studies like those by Farnworth et al. (2013), which discuss how deeply entrenched cultural norms can confine women to domestic roles, limiting

their participation in more profitable agricultural activities. In many rural communities, women are often expected to prioritize household chores and childcare over farming, which restricts the time and energy they can devote to agriculture. Additionally, societal expectations often discourage women from participating in decision-making processes within the household and community, further limiting their influence and access to resources.

Persistent issues with land access were evident, as 22.2% of respondents strongly agreed, and 27.8% agreed that restrictive land policies continue to hinder their ability to secure land. This ongoing challenge is reflective of the findings by Meinzen-Dick et al. (2017), which emphasize that despite legal reforms aimed at improving women's land rights, customary practices and local power dynamics often override statutory laws, leaving women at a disadvantage. In Bunabutsale, where customary practices are likely to dominate, these legal reforms may have little impact, and women may still find themselves struggling to gain secure land tenure.

Finally, economic constraints further complicate the situation, as financial limitations restrict women's capacity to invest in and maintain agricultural operations. This barrier is consistent with the findings of Ellis et al. (2007), who note that economic barriers are among the most significant challenges facing women in agriculture. The lack of financial resources not only limits women's ability to purchase necessary inputs but also affects their ability to hire labor, invest in technology, and access markets. Without sufficient financial support, women in Bunabutsale may find it difficult to scale up their agricultural activities, leading to lower productivity and income levels.

When asked about the main challenges in accessing land for agricultural purposes, women farmers reported that land scarcity and disputes are significant issues. *"We face difficulties in securing land due to high demand and conflicts over ownership,"* said one woman farmer. The competition for land, exacerbated by external pressures such as oil and gas exploration, limits the availability of usable land for agricultural activities. Furthermore, disputes over land rights and ownership can make it challenging to obtain and retain land for farming.

Local agricultural officers described the management of costs associated with purchasing seeds and agricultural inputs as a major concern. *"Farmers often struggle with the high cost of seeds and inputs,"* noted an officer. They explained that many farmers resort to informal credit arrangements or rely on subsidies where available, but these solutions are not always sufficient.

The high costs can deter investment in necessary agricultural inputs, impacting overall productivity and sustainability.

Representatives from agricultural support organizations highlighted difficulties in accessing agricultural extension services or technical support. *"Many farmers encounter challenges in reaching extension services due to a lack of local offices and limited availability of trained personnel,"* said a representative. The sparse distribution of extension services means that farmers often have to travel long distances or wait for irregular visits, which hampers their ability to receive timely and effective support.

Barriers to obtaining credit or financial assistance for agricultural activities were also noted as a critical issue. *"Access to credit is limited by stringent requirements and high interest rates,"* explained a community leader. Many farmers find it challenging to secure loans or grants due to the stringent conditions imposed by financial institutions. This lack of access to credit limits their ability to invest in farming equipment, inputs, and other resources needed for successful agricultural operations.

Women farmers coping with limited access to modern agricultural tools and machinery face significant obstacles. *"Without access to modern tools and machinery, we rely on outdated methods that reduce efficiency,"* said one farmer. The lack of modern equipment limits productivity and makes it difficult to compete in larger markets. Efforts to access such tools are often hampered by high costs and limited availability in rural areas.

Transportation and infrastructure issues for moving agricultural products were also highlighted. *"Poor road conditions and inadequate transportation options increase the cost and difficulty of getting our products to market,"* noted a local agricultural officer. The lack of proper infrastructure affects the efficiency of the supply chain, leading to higher costs and potential losses for farmers.

Traditional practices and customs can affect access to agricultural resources in various ways. *"Certain customs may restrict women's access to land or decision-making power in agricultural activities,"* said a community leader. Traditional norms and practices sometimes limit the ability of women and other marginalized groups to fully participate in agricultural activities, affecting their access to resources and opportunities.

Finally, specific local policies or regulations that limit access to agricultural resources were also mentioned. *"Regulations on land use and resource management can be restrictive and hinder access to necessary resources for farming,"* said a representative from an agricultural support organization. These policies can impose limitations on how land and resources are used, impacting the ability of farmers to effectively manage their agricultural activities and achieve desired outcomes.

4.3. Cultural and societal norms that may hinder women from accessing resources for agriculture production in Bunabutsale, Manafwa district

The respondents were asked several questions as explained below;

Table 4.8: Showing Cultural and societal norms that may hinder women from accessing resources for agriculture production in Bunabutsale, Manafwa district

STATEMENT	SA	A	U	D	SD
I face traditional gender roles that limit my participation in key agricultural activities in Bunabutale, Manafwa District.	11(30.6%)	14(38.9%)	2 (5.6%)	5 (13.9%)	4(11.0%)
I encounter cultural norms that restrict my access to land ownership and control in Bunabutale, Manafwa District.	11 (30.6%)	17 (47.2%)	2 (5.6%)	4 (11.1%)	2 (5.5%)
I am confined by societal expectations to domestic roles, which reduces my involvement in agriculture in Bunabutale, Manafwa District.	16(44.4%)	13(36.1%)	2(5.6%)	3(8.3%)	2(5.6%)
I experience underrepresentation in agricultural decision-making and community meetings in Bunabutale, Manafwa District.	16(44.4%)	5(13.9%)	0%	9(25.0%)	6(16.7%)
I struggle with cultural biases that undermine my credibility and access to agricultural loans in Bunabutale, Manafwa District.	12(33.3%)	6(16.7%)	4(11.1%)	10(27.7%)	4(11.1%)
I face traditional gender roles that limit my participation in key agricultural activities in Bunabutale, Manafwa	12(33.3%)	9(25.0%)	2(5.6%)	10(27.8%)	3(8.3%)

District.					
I encounter cultural norms that restrict my access to land ownership and control in Bunabutale, Manafwa District.	11(30.6%)	14(38.9%)	2 (5.6%)	5 (13.9%)	4(11.0%)

Source: Primary Data 2024

The study on cultural and societal norms in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District has highlighted several significant barriers that women face in accessing resources for agricultural production. Table 4.8 presents a comprehensive view of how cultural and societal expectations impact women's agricultural activities in the region.

The first significant barrier identified is the influence of traditional gender roles. According to the survey data, 30.6% of respondents strongly agreed and 38.9% agreed that traditional gender roles limit their participation in key agricultural activities. This finding aligns with research conducted by Nambi and Busingye (2022), who explored how entrenched gender roles restrict women's involvement in productive agricultural activities in Uganda. Traditional norms often confine women to less visible roles within agriculture, impacting their access to resources and their overall productivity. This limitation underscores the need for transformative changes in gender norms to enable more equitable participation in agriculture.

Cultural norms restricting women's access to land ownership and control emerged as another significant barrier. The survey shows that 30.6% of respondents strongly agreed and 47.2% agreed with the statement that cultural norms hinder their ability to own and control land. This is consistent with the findings of Mwebaze (2023), who reported that cultural practices in Uganda frequently reinforce male dominance in land ownership. These norms limit women's ability to invest in and benefit from agricultural production, highlighting the urgency for reforms in land tenure systems to ensure gender equity.

The survey data also reveal that societal expectations confine women to domestic roles, reducing their involvement in agriculture. With 44.4% of respondents strongly agreeing and 36.1% agreeing, it is evident that societal norms prioritize domestic responsibilities over agricultural activities for women. This finding is supported by research by Tumushabe (2022), which indicates that societal expectations significantly limit women's engagement in agricultural

production. Addressing these expectations is crucial for enabling women to fully participate in and benefit from agricultural activities.

Another major barrier identified is the underrepresentation of women in agricultural decision-making and community meetings. The survey shows that 44.4% of respondents strongly agreed and 13.9% agreed that they face challenges in being represented in these crucial forums. This issue is highlighted by Nakimuli and Okello (2022), who found that women's exclusion from decision-making processes diminishes their influence and access to agricultural resources. Increasing women's representation in decision-making is essential for ensuring that their needs and perspectives are included in agricultural policies and practices.

Cultural biases undermining women's credibility and their access to agricultural loans are also significant barriers. According to the survey, 33.3% of respondents strongly agreed and 16.7% agreed that cultural biases affect their ability to secure loans. This finding aligns with the research by Kasumba (2023), which explored how cultural prejudices in Uganda impact women's access to financial resources. Overcoming these biases is crucial for improving women's ability to invest in agriculture and enhance their productivity.

Finally, the repeated concerns regarding traditional gender roles and cultural norms restricting land ownership emphasize the persistent challenges faced by women. The data indicate that 33.3% of respondents strongly agreed and 25.0% agreed that traditional gender roles limit their agricultural participation, and 30.6% strongly agreed with cultural restrictions on land ownership. These findings are consistent with the observations of Babirye and Kato (2022), who found that cultural and gender-related barriers continue to hinder women's access to agricultural resources in Uganda. Addressing these issues through comprehensive cultural and policy reforms is essential for supporting women's active participation in agriculture.

When asked how cultural beliefs in the community affect women's participation in agriculture, respondents acknowledged that deep-seated traditions often limit women's roles in farming. *"In our community, there is a belief that farming is primarily a man's responsibility, which restricts women's involvement,"* shared one respondent. These cultural norms reinforce the idea that women should focus on domestic duties rather than agricultural activities, thereby limiting their participation in this sector.

Regarding societal expectations or norms that limit women's access to agricultural resources or training, respondents highlighted that gender biases continue to play a significant role. *"Women are often expected to prioritize household duties over attending agricultural training sessions or managing farms,"* noted a community leader. This expectation makes it difficult for women to fully engage in opportunities for learning and improving their agricultural skills, as societal norms often dictate that their primary responsibilities lie within the home.

In terms of how gender roles within households influence women's ability to engage in agricultural activities, respondents pointed out that traditional household dynamics often place women at a disadvantage. *"Women are typically responsible for childcare and household chores, which leaves them with little time or energy to engage in farming,"* explained a respondent. The division of labor within households means that women are often overburdened with domestic responsibilities, reducing their availability and capacity to participate in agriculture effectively.

Traditional land inheritance practices were also mentioned as a significant barrier to women's access to land for farming. *"In our culture, land is usually passed down to male heirs, which makes it difficult for women to own or control land,"* said a respondent. These inheritance practices mean that women often have to rely on male relatives for access to land, which can limit their independence and ability to make decisions regarding agricultural production.

The community's perception of women involved in agriculture also has a considerable impact on their access to resources. *"Women who engage in farming are sometimes viewed as neglecting their household duties, which can lead to social stigma,"* noted a respondent. This perception can discourage women from fully participating in agriculture or seeking the necessary resources, as they may fear being judged or ostracized by their community.

Local customs or practices that specifically disadvantage women in agricultural production were also highlighted by respondents. *"Certain cultural practices, such as the belief that women should not handle large livestock, limit their ability to engage in certain types of farming,"* shared one respondent. These customs not only restrict the types of agricultural activities women can participate in but also reinforce gender inequalities in the sector.

When discussing family or community attitudes toward women's economic independence and its impact on their agricultural endeavors, respondents pointed out that there is often resistance to women becoming economically independent. *"Some families discourage women from engaging*

in farming as a business, fearing it will disrupt traditional gender roles," said a respondent. This resistance can hinder women's efforts to pursue agriculture as a viable source of income and limit their access to the financial resources needed to succeed.

Finally, the role men play in decision-making regarding agricultural resources was identified as a critical factor affecting women's access. *"Men usually control the major decisions related to land use and agricultural investments, which leaves women with little say in how resources are allocated,"* noted a respondent. This male-dominated decision-making process can marginalize women's voices and reduce their ability to influence decisions that directly impact their agricultural activities and livelihoods.

In conclusion, the study highlights several cultural and societal norms that hinder women's access to agricultural resources in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District. These barriers include restrictive gender roles, cultural limitations on land ownership, societal expectations prioritizing domestic roles, underrepresentation in decision-making, cultural biases affecting loan access, and recurring issues with gender roles and land ownership. Addressing these barriers requires targeted interventions and cultural reforms to support women's engagement in agriculture and ensure their access to necessary resources.

4.4. Policies and programs that exists to support women in accessing resources for agriculture production, and assess their effectiveness in Bunabutsale, Manafwa district

This was the third objective under study and response obtained is explained here below;

Table 4.11: Showing Policies and programs that exists to support women in accessing resources for agriculture production, and assess their effectiveness in Bunabutsale, Manafwa district

STATEMENT	SA	A	U	D	SD
I benefit from government subsidies aimed at female farmers.	14(38.9%)	8 (22.2%)	3(8.3%)	4 (11.1%)	7 (19.4%)
I utilize women-focused agricultural training programs.	11(30.6%)	10 (27.8%)	2 (5.6%)	8 (22.2%)	5(13.8%)

I access microfinance initiatives designed for women in agriculture.	5 (13.9%)	7(19.4%)	6 (16.7%)	8 (22.2%)	10 (27.8%)
I participate in local women’s agricultural cooperatives.	11 (30.6%)	6 (16.7%)	5 (13.9%)	5 (13.9%)	9 (25.0%)
I am involved in land reform programs that aim to grant women more land rights.	13 (36.1%)	9 (25.0%)	4 (11.0%)	7(19.4%)	3 (8.3%)
I benefit from government subsidies aimed at female farmers.	18(50.0%)	13(36.1%)	3 (8.3%)	2 (5.6%)	0%
I utilize women-focused agricultural training programs.	11 (30.6%)	10 (27.8%)	2 (5.6%)	8 (22.2%)	5 (13.9%)

Source: Primary data 2024

The study on policies and programs supporting women’s access to resources for agricultural production in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District reveals several insights into their effectiveness and the extent of utilization by women in the area. The data from Table 4.11 provides a detailed overview of various programs and policies, shedding light on their impact and areas for improvement.

One notable policy is the government subsidies aimed at female farmers. The data indicates that 38.9% of respondents strongly agree and 22.2% agree that they benefit from these subsidies, though 19.4% disagree and 11.1% strongly disagree. This suggests a mixed experience among women regarding the effectiveness and accessibility of these subsidies. Findings from Okello and Nsubuga (2023) support these results, highlighting that while government subsidies can significantly aid women in agriculture, barriers such as inadequate outreach and application complexities can limit their impact. Ensuring that these subsidies are more accessible and better communicated could enhance their effectiveness in supporting female farmers.

The utilization of women-focused agricultural training programs is another key area examined. According to the survey, 30.6% of respondents strongly agree and 27.8% agree that they utilize these programs. However, 22.2% disagree and 13.8% strongly disagree. This indicates that while

some women benefit from these training programs, there is room for improvement in both the reach and quality of these programs. Research by Mutesi and Nankunda (2022) suggests that while training programs are valuable for skill development, challenges such as limited availability and insufficient content relevance can reduce their effectiveness. Expanding and tailoring these programs to better meet the needs of women in agriculture could improve their impact.

Microfinance initiatives designed for women in agriculture are reported to be less utilized, with only 13.9% of respondents strongly agreeing and 19.4% agreeing that they access these resources. In contrast, 27.8% strongly disagree and 22.2% disagree. This finding aligns with the work of Karamagi and Tumwesigye (2023), who noted that while microfinance can provide crucial financial support, barriers such as stringent loan requirements and high interest rates often hinder women's ability to access these resources. Improving the terms and accessibility of microfinance initiatives could better support women's agricultural activities.

Participation in local women's agricultural cooperatives is also a relevant factor. The survey shows that 30.6% of respondents strongly agree and 16.7% agree that they participate in these cooperatives. However, 25% of respondents strongly disagree and 13.9% disagree. This indicates that while some women are actively involved in cooperatives, others may face obstacles such as limited access or lack of awareness about these groups. According to research by Kyomuhendo and Kigozi (2023), local cooperatives can offer valuable support through shared resources and collective bargaining, but their effectiveness can be hampered by issues like inadequate organization and limited resources. Enhancing the support and structure of these cooperatives could increase their effectiveness in supporting women in agriculture.

Involvement in land reform programs aimed at granting women more land rights is another significant area. The survey shows that 36.1% of respondents strongly agree and 25% agree that they are involved in such programs. However, 19.4% disagree and 8.3% strongly disagree. This suggests that while land reform programs have made some progress, challenges remain in fully implementing these reforms. Findings from Namutebi and Musoke (2022) highlight that land reform programs are crucial for improving women's access to land, but they often face obstacles such as slow implementation and resistance from traditional systems. Strengthening and expediting these reforms could help ensure that women gain more equitable access to land resources.

The survey also reveals a recurring result regarding the utilization of women-focused agricultural training programs, with 30.6% of respondents strongly agreeing and 27.8% agreeing. The results are similar to the earlier findings, indicating a consistent level of engagement with these programs. This reinforces the need for continuous improvement and adaptation of training programs to meet the evolving needs of women in agriculture.

When asked about government policies or programs available to support women in agriculture in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District, respondents mentioned several initiatives aimed at empowering women in this sector. *"The government has introduced programs like the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Program (UWEP) and Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) to support women in agriculture,"* noted one respondent. These programs are designed to provide financial assistance, training, and resources to help women improve their agricultural productivity and income.

Regarding the accessibility of these policies or programs to women in Bunabutsale, respondents shared mixed experiences. *"While these programs exist, not all women in the community are aware of them or know how to access them,"* said a local farmer. Another respondent added, *"There are challenges with bureaucracy and corruption, which can make it difficult for women to benefit from these programs."* The accessibility of these programs is often hindered by a lack of awareness, logistical challenges, and administrative barriers.

When describing local NGOs or community organizations that provide support for women in agriculture, respondents highlighted the presence of a few key organizations. *"We have organizations like ActionAid and local women's groups that offer training and resources specifically for women farmers,"* mentioned a community leader. These NGOs and community groups play a vital role in supplementing government efforts by offering additional support and advocacy for women in agriculture.

The types of support offered by these policies and programs include financial aid, technical training, and access to agricultural inputs. *"Women receive loans or grants, seeds, fertilizers, and training on modern farming techniques,"* explained one respondent. These resources are intended to help women overcome barriers to agricultural success and to promote more sustainable farming practices. However, the effectiveness of these support mechanisms varies depending on how well they are implemented and accessed.

When discussing the effectiveness of the training programs provided under these policies in improving agricultural practices among women, respondents had differing views. *"The training*

programs have been helpful in introducing new farming methods, but there is still a gap in reaching all the women who need them," said a local agricultural officer. Another respondent added, *"Some women find it difficult to apply what they have learned due to limited resources or lack of follow-up support."* While training programs have made a positive impact, their effectiveness is often limited by insufficient resources and the need for ongoing support.

Barriers or limitations experienced in accessing these support programs were also discussed. *"One of the main barriers is the requirement for collateral when applying for loans, which many women cannot provide,"* noted a respondent. Another challenge mentioned was the lack of clear information and guidance on how to apply for these programs. *"Sometimes, the process is too complicated, and women give up before they even start,"* said another respondent. These barriers can prevent women from fully benefiting from the available support.

When asked how the effectiveness of these policies and programs could be improved to better support women in agriculture, respondents offered several suggestions. *"There needs to be more awareness and outreach efforts to ensure that all women, especially those in remote areas, know about these programs,"* suggested a community leader. Another respondent emphasized the need for reducing bureaucratic obstacles: *"Simplifying the application process and reducing corruption would make these programs more accessible and effective."* Additionally, enhancing follow-up support and providing more tailored resources to meet the specific needs of women farmers were identified as key areas for improvement.

Finally, respondents discussed any recent changes or updates to policies or programs that have impacted women's access to agricultural resources. *"Recently, there have been efforts to increase funding for women in agriculture, which is a positive step,"* noted a respondent. However, others pointed out that despite these updates, challenges remain. *"Even with more funding, if the distribution is not managed well, it won't make much of a difference,"* shared another respondent. Ongoing monitoring and adjustment of these policies are necessary to ensure that they effectively support women in agriculture.

4.3. Indicators of Agriculture Production in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District **This was the first above understudy and response obtained is explained below;**

Table 4.12: Showing the indicators of Agriculture Production in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District

Statement	SA	A	U	D	SD
I primarily grow staple crops such as maize, beans, and millet.	20 (44.4%)	15 (41.7%)	3 (8.3%)	2 (5.6)	0%
I face challenges with limited access to modern agricultural tools and inputs.	15 (30.6%)	17 (47.2%)	4 (11.1%)	0%	4 (11.1%)
I struggle with inadequate irrigation infrastructure and unpredictable weather patterns.	16 (33.3%)	7 (19.4%)	0.0%	6(16.7%)	11(30.6%)
I rely on traditional farming methods, which limits my productivity.	7 (19.4%)	14(38.9%)	4 (11.1%)	3 (8.3%)	8 (22.3%)
I benefit from government and NGO initiatives providing training and resources.	11(30%)	9 (25%)	5(13%)	2 (7%)	9 (25%)

Source: Primary data 2024

The indicators of agricultural production in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District, as outlined in Table 4.12, provide significant insights into the current practices, challenges, and support systems available to local farmers. The data highlights various aspects of agricultural production, including crop types, access to modern tools, irrigation infrastructure, farming methods, and support from government and NGOs.

Firstly, a substantial 44.4% of respondents strongly agree and 41.7% agree that they primarily grow staple crops such as maize, beans, and millet. This high percentage underscores the reliance on these essential crops for food security and economic stability in Bunabutsale. Similar findings are supported by the work of Wambede and Namutebi (2023), who noted that staple crops form the backbone of agricultural practices in many rural areas of Uganda. The focus on staple crops is indicative of their critical role in subsistence farming and local economies, highlighting the need for continued support and improvement in production practices for these crops.

Despite the emphasis on staple crops, many farmers face challenges related to limited access to modern agricultural tools and inputs. According to the survey, 30.6% of respondents strongly agree and 47.2% agree that they face such challenges. Only 11.1% disagree and 11.1% strongly disagree. This indicates a significant gap in the availability and use of modern farming technologies and inputs, which can impact productivity and efficiency. Research by Kasim and Mutesi (2023) aligns with these findings, emphasizing that access to modern tools and inputs is crucial for improving agricultural outcomes. Addressing these gaps through better resource allocation and support can enhance farming practices and productivity.

In addition to limited access to tools, respondents report struggling with inadequate irrigation infrastructure and unpredictable weather patterns. The survey shows that 33.3% strongly agree and 19.4% agree with this statement, while 16.7% disagree and 30.6% strongly disagree. These results highlight the vulnerability of agricultural production to environmental factors and the need for improved irrigation systems. Studies by Nalukenge and Nakimuli (2022) have similarly found that effective irrigation infrastructure is vital for mitigating the impacts of erratic weather and ensuring consistent crop yields. Investments in irrigation and water management can help stabilize agricultural production and reduce the risks associated with climate variability.

The reliance on traditional farming methods is another significant indicator, with 19.4% of respondents strongly agreeing and 38.9% agreeing that traditional methods limit productivity. However, 11.1% disagree, 8.3% strongly disagree, and 22.3% remain undecided. Traditional farming methods can sometimes be less efficient compared to modern techniques, which can affect overall productivity. Findings from Auma and Ssentongo (2023) indicate that while traditional methods have cultural significance and are adapted to local conditions, integrating modern practices can enhance productivity and sustainability. Promoting the adoption of improved farming techniques and technologies can contribute to better agricultural outcomes.

Finally, the survey reveals that 30% of respondents strongly agree and 25% agree that they benefit from government and NGO initiatives providing training and resources. However, 7% disagree and 25% strongly disagree. This suggests that while some farmers gain valuable support from these initiatives, there is variability in the reach and effectiveness of these programs. Research by Tumwesigye and Busingye (2024) supports the importance of such initiatives in providing necessary training and resources to farmers. Enhancing the outreach and impact of these programs can help ensure that more farmers benefit from the support available, leading to improved agricultural practices and outcomes.

In conclusion, the indicators of agricultural production in Bunabutsale reveal a mix of traditional practices and modern challenges. The reliance on staple crops, coupled with difficulties in accessing modern tools, inadequate irrigation infrastructure, and the use of traditional farming methods, highlights key areas for improvement. Support from government and NGO initiatives is beneficial but varies in effectiveness. Addressing these challenges through targeted interventions, improved infrastructure, and enhanced support programs can contribute to better agricultural production and sustainability in the district.

When asked about the types of crops grown, one respondent explained that *“they primarily cultivate staple crops such as maize, beans, and millet.”* These crops are central to their daily subsistence and form the backbone of their agricultural activities. The choice of these crops is heavily influenced by the local climate and soil conditions, which are well-suited for their growth. The respondent further elaborated that while these staple crops are reliable, they also present limitations in terms of economic diversification. *“Growing these crops allows for a steady food supply, but the market value is relatively low, limiting their potential income.”* Despite these challenges, the respondent emphasized the importance of maize, beans, and millet in their diet and livelihood, indicating a deep-rooted reliance on these crops. This choice reflects the traditional agricultural practices passed down through generations, which are closely tied to the community’s way of life.

Regarding challenges in agriculture, another respondent pointed out that *“they face significant difficulties due to limited access to modern agricultural tools and inputs.”* They explained that this lack of access hinders their ability to improve crop yields and adopt more efficient farming methods. The respondent highlighted that most of the tools available are outdated and require extensive manual labor, which is both time-consuming and physically demanding. *“They also*

mentioned that acquiring new tools and inputs, such as high-quality seeds and fertilizers, is often beyond their financial reach, creating a cycle of low productivity.” The respondent expressed frustration over the inability to compete with farmers who have access to better resources, noting that this disparity places them at a disadvantage in the local market. The limited access to these essential tools and inputs not only affects their productivity but also has broader implications for food security in the region.

In line with irrigation issues, a respondent shared *“their struggles with inadequate irrigation infrastructure and unpredictable weather patterns.”* They noted that the lack of proper irrigation systems forces them to rely heavily on rainfall, which has become increasingly erratic due to climate change. This unpredictability makes it challenging to plan planting and harvesting cycles, often leading to crop failures or reduced yields. The respondent emphasized that during dry seasons, *“the absence of irrigation means that their fields remain parched, severely affecting the growth of crops.”* They also mentioned that the local community has made some attempts to implement small-scale irrigation solutions, but these efforts have been largely insufficient due to the high costs and technical expertise required. The respondent expressed a desire for more government or NGO intervention to develop better irrigation infrastructure that could help mitigate the risks associated with changing weather patterns.

Concerning farming methods, a respondent indicated that *“they still rely heavily on traditional farming methods, which limits their productivity.”* They explained that these methods, while deeply rooted in their cultural heritage, are often labor-intensive and yield lower outputs compared to modern techniques. The respondent pointed out that *“traditional methods involve minimal use of fertilizers and pesticides, which can lead to poor soil fertility and increased vulnerability to pests and diseases.”* They acknowledged that while traditional farming is more sustainable and less harmful to the environment, it does not align with the growing demand for higher agricultural productivity to support their families. The respondent expressed a willingness to adopt modern farming practices but cited *“the lack of training and resources as significant barriers.”* They concluded by stressing the need for more agricultural education and support programs that could help bridge the gap between traditional and modern farming methods, ultimately improving their livelihood and food security in the region.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter covers the summary of the findings, conclusions based on the findings, and recommendations based on the conclusions.

5.1 Summary of the findings

5.1.1. Key barriers that women face in accessing resources for agriculture production in Bunabutsale, Manafwa district

The findings from the study reveal several significant barriers faced by women in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District, in accessing resources for agricultural production. A prominent issue is the restrictive land policies, with 44.4% of respondents strongly agreeing and 41.7% agreeing that these policies create substantial difficulties for women. This aligns with previous research highlighting how land ownership issues severely affect women's agricultural productivity, as restrictive policies and traditional inheritance practices limit women's access to and control over land. Financial constraints are another major barrier, as 30.6% of respondents strongly agree and 47.2% agree that they struggle to secure loans or financial support for agricultural investments. Research corroborates these findings, indicating that the lack of collateral or credit history often prevents women from accessing necessary financial resources. Additionally, 33.3% of respondents strongly agree and 19.4% agree that the lack of access to training programs and agricultural skills development opportunities impedes their ability to adopt modern farming techniques, mirroring studies that stress the importance of agricultural education for improving productivity. Poor infrastructure also presents a challenge, with 19.4% strongly agreeing and 38.9% agreeing that inadequate roads and irrigation facilities hinder their agricultural activities. This is consistent with research showing that poor infrastructure increases transportation costs and limits access to essential resources. Traditional gender roles and societal expectations are also significant barriers, with 30% strongly agreeing and 25% agreeing that these norms restrict their agricultural activities, echoing findings on how cultural norms limit women's participation

in agriculture. Persistent difficulties with land access are evident, with 22.2% strongly agreeing and 27.8% agreeing that restrictive land policies continue to hinder their ability to secure land. Economic constraints further complicate the situation, as financial limitations restrict women's capacity to invest in and maintain agricultural operations, supported by research highlighting the direct impact of economic barriers on agricultural productivity. Overall, these findings reveal a complex interplay of barriers, including restrictive policies, financial constraints, lack of training, poor infrastructure, traditional gender roles, and economic limitations, necessitating comprehensive interventions to support women's agricultural empowerment in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District.

5.1.2. Cultural and societal norms that may hinder women from accessing resources for agriculture production in Bunabutsale, Manafwa district.

Findings from the study reveal several significant cultural and societal barriers that women in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District face in accessing resources for agricultural production. Traditional gender roles are a major impediment, with 30.6% of respondents strongly agreeing and 38.9% agreeing that these roles limit their participation in key agricultural activities. This corresponds with Nambi and Busingye (2022), who noted that entrenched gender roles restrict women's involvement in agriculture. Cultural norms restricting land ownership also pose a challenge, as 30.6% of respondents strongly agreed and 47.2% agreed that such norms hinder their land access, aligning with Mwebaze (2023), who reported male dominance in land ownership in Uganda. Societal expectations confining women to domestic roles were identified by 44.4% of respondents as strongly agreeing and 36.1% agreeing, supporting Tumushabe's (2022) findings on limited women's engagement in agriculture. The study also highlights the underrepresentation of women in agricultural decision-making, with 44.4% strongly agreeing and 13.9% agreeing that they face challenges in this area, consistent with Nakimuli and Okello's (2022) research on women's exclusion from decision-making processes. Cultural biases affecting access to agricultural loans were reported by 33.3% of respondents as strongly agreeing and 16.7% agreeing, echoing Kasumba's (2023) findings on the impact of cultural prejudices on women's financial access. Persistent issues with traditional gender roles and land ownership are emphasized, with 33.3% strongly agreeing and 25.0% agreeing on the limitations of gender roles, and 30.6% strongly agreeing on cultural restrictions regarding land. These recurring issues align with Babirye and Kato's (2022) observations on the ongoing barriers faced by women in Uganda. Addressing these cultural and societal barriers through targeted interventions and policy

reforms is essential for enhancing women's access to agricultural resources and their participation in the sector.

5.1.3. Policies and programs that exists to support women in accessing resources for agriculture production, and assess their effectiveness in Bunabutsale, Manafwa district

Findings from the study reveal that policies and programs supporting women's access to agricultural resources in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District show mixed effectiveness and utilization. Government subsidies are somewhat beneficial, with 38.9% of respondents strongly agreeing and 22.2% agreeing they benefit, though 19.4% disagree and 11.1% strongly disagree, indicating issues with accessibility and communication, as supported by Okello and Nsubuga (2023). The utilization of women-focused agricultural training programs is also varied, with 30.6% strongly agreeing and 27.8% agreeing they use these programs, but 22.2% disagree and 13.8% strongly disagree, reflecting challenges in reach and relevance, as noted by Mutesi and Nankunda (2022). Microfinance initiatives are less utilized, with only 13.9% strongly agreeing and 19.4% agreeing on access, while 27.8% strongly disagree and 22.2% disagree, aligning with Karamagi and Tumwesigye (2023) on barriers like stringent loan requirements. Participation in local women's agricultural cooperatives shows that 30.6% strongly agree and 16.7% agree they are involved, but 25% strongly disagree and 13.9% disagree, suggesting issues with access and organization, as identified by Kyomuhendo and Kigozi (2023). Involvement in land reform programs is reported by 36.1% strongly agreeing and 25% agreeing, with 19.4% disagreeing and 8.3% strongly disagreeing, highlighting ongoing implementation challenges, as noted by Namutebi and Musoke (2022). Overall, these findings emphasize the need for improved accessibility, program relevance, and effective implementation to better support women's agricultural activities in the district.

5.2 Conclusion

5.2.1 Key Barriers Faced by Women in Accessing Resources for Agricultural Production

The study identifies several key barriers that women in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District encounter in accessing resources for agricultural production. Restrictive land policies are a major issue, significantly affecting women's ability to access and control land, aligning with previous research on the impact of land ownership issues on agricultural productivity. Financial constraints also emerge as a critical barrier, with difficulties in securing loans and financial

support limiting women's agricultural investments. The lack of access to training programs and agricultural skills development further hampers their ability to adopt modern farming techniques. Poor infrastructure, such as inadequate roads and irrigation facilities, presents additional challenges, increasing transportation costs and restricting access to essential resources. Traditional gender roles and societal expectations confine women to domestic responsibilities, reducing their participation in agriculture. Persistent issues with land access and economic constraints compound these difficulties, indicating a complex interplay of barriers. Addressing these issues requires comprehensive interventions to support women's agricultural empowerment in the district.

5.2.2 Cultural and Societal Norms Hindering Women's Access to Resources

Cultural and societal norms in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District significantly impact women's access to agricultural resources. Traditional gender roles restrict women's participation in key agricultural activities, while cultural norms limit their access to land ownership and control. Societal expectations confine women to domestic roles, reducing their involvement in agriculture. Additionally, women face challenges due to their underrepresentation in agricultural decision-making processes and cultural biases affecting their access to agricultural loans. Persistent issues with gender roles and land ownership further exacerbate these barriers. Addressing these cultural and societal norms through targeted interventions and policy reforms is essential to enhancing women's access to agricultural resources and increasing their participation in the sector.

5.2.3 Policies and Programs Supporting Women's Access to Resources

Policies and programs aimed at supporting women's access to agricultural resources in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District show mixed effectiveness and utilization. Government subsidies provide some benefit, but issues with accessibility and communication limit their impact. Women-focused agricultural training programs are utilized by some, but challenges in reach and relevance persist. Microfinance initiatives are less accessible, with stringent loan requirements and high interest rates creating barriers. Participation in local women's agricultural cooperatives is varied, with some women actively involved while others face access and organizational issues. Land reform programs show promise but face implementation challenges. Overall, these findings underscore the need for improved accessibility, program relevance, and effective implementation to better support women's agricultural activities in the district.

5.3 Recommendations

5.3.1 Addressing Key Barriers to Women’s Access to Agricultural Resources

To effectively tackle the barriers faced by women in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District, a multifaceted approach is essential. Firstly, reforming restrictive land policies is crucial to improving women’s access and control over land, which is fundamental for enhancing agricultural productivity. Financial barriers should be addressed by facilitating easier access to loans and financial support, perhaps through lower interest rates and reduced collateral requirements. Expanding access to agricultural training programs and skill development opportunities will enable women to adopt modern farming techniques and improve productivity. Additionally, investing in infrastructure improvements, such as better roads and irrigation facilities, will reduce transportation costs and increase access to essential resources. Finally, challenging traditional gender roles and societal expectations that limit women’s participation in agriculture is necessary to foster a more inclusive and supportive environment. Comprehensive interventions that address these areas will be vital for empowering women in agriculture in the district.

5.3.2 Addressing Cultural and Societal Norms

To overcome the cultural and societal barriers affecting women’s access to agricultural resources, targeted interventions are needed. Reforming traditional gender roles and cultural norms that restrict women’s participation in agriculture and limit their access to land ownership should be prioritized. Efforts to increase women’s representation in agricultural decision-making processes and to challenge cultural biases that affect their access to financial resources are essential. Programs aimed at shifting societal expectations and providing more support for women in agriculture can help mitigate these barriers. Implementing policy reforms and community-based initiatives that address these cultural and societal challenges will be key to enhancing women’s engagement and success in the agricultural sector.

5.3.3 Enhancing the Effectiveness of Policies and Programs

Improving the effectiveness of policies and programs supporting women’s access to agricultural resources requires a strategic approach. Government subsidies should be made more accessible

and better communicated to ensure they reach those who need them. Women-focused agricultural training programs should be expanded and tailored to address specific needs and barriers faced by women. Microfinance initiatives need to be more inclusive, with adjustments to loan requirements and interest rates to make them more accessible. Enhancing the organization and support for local women's agricultural cooperatives can help increase participation and effectiveness. Finally, expediting land reform programs and addressing implementation challenges will ensure they have a greater impact. Overall, these recommendations highlight the need for improved accessibility, program relevance, and effective implementation to better support women's agricultural activities in the district.

5.4 Contribution of the Study

Findings from this study provide valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities for women in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District regarding agricultural resource access. By identifying key barriers such as restrictive land policies, financial constraints, inadequate training, and poor infrastructure, the study highlights critical areas for intervention. Additionally, it sheds light on the impact of cultural and societal norms that hinder women's participation and access to resources. The analysis of existing policies and programs reveals their mixed effectiveness, underscoring the need for improved accessibility and implementation. These contributions are crucial for informing policymakers, development practitioners, and community leaders about the specific needs and barriers faced by women in agriculture, guiding the development of targeted strategies and interventions to enhance their agricultural empowerment and productivity.

5.5 Areas for further study

Future research should explore the effectiveness of specific interventions designed to address the barriers identified in this study, such as improved land policies, targeted financial support, and enhanced training programs for women in agriculture. Additionally, examining the role of community-based organizations in overcoming cultural and societal norms could provide insights into effective grassroots strategies for change. Investigating the impact of technological advancements on women's agricultural productivity and access to resources could also be valuable, as well as assessing the long-term effects of policy reforms on women's empowerment in agriculture. Comprehensive studies that incorporate diverse methodologies and regional comparisons could offer a broader understanding of how to effectively support women in agricultural sectors across different contexts.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear respondent;

I am WAMUSIRU IVAN carrying out research on the topic “IDENTIFICATION OF THE KEY CHALLENGES THAT HINDER WOMEN'S ACCESS TO RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION IN BUNABUTSALE, MANAFWA DISTRICT” as a partial fulfillment of the Requirements for the Award of the Bachelors of Science and Education at Busitema University. The questionnaire is designed to help me collect relevant information and therefore I kindly request you to participate in responding to the questions that will be asked .However the information given will be treated confidential and will only be used for academic purpose.

SECTION 1: DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

(Tick in the box provided)

1. Sex of the respondent

a) Male b) Female

2. Age bracket of the respondent (years)

a) 20-30 b) 31-40 c) 41-50 C) 60 and above

3. Marital status

a).Single b).Married c) In relationship

4. Academic qualification of respondent

a) Secondary b) Certificate c) Diploma d) Bachelors' e) Masters

5. Years of working by the respondents.

a) Less than 1 year b) 1-2 years c) 3 years and above

6. Religion

a).protestant b). Catholic c).Born Again d). Muslim e). Anglican f).Other

7. Occupation

a) youth leader b).Chief Religious leader d).Teacher e)

Other

Section A: key barriers that women face in accessing resources for agriculture production in Bunabutsale, Manafwa district

Please indicate your opinion on the following statements using the Linkert scale. Key: 1= Agree; 2= strongly Agree; 3= not sure; 4= Disagree; 5= strongly disagree.

No	Statements	1	2	3	4	5
1	I face difficulties accessing and owning land due to restrictive land policies in Bunabutale, Manafwa District.					
2	I am unable to secure loans or financial support for agricultural investments in Bunabutale, Manafwa District.					
3	I lack access to training programs and agricultural skills development opportunities in Bunabutale, Manafwa District.					
4	I experience challenges due to poor infrastructure such as roads and irrigation facilities in Bunabutale, Manafwa District.					
5	I encounter barriers due to traditional gender roles and societal expectations in Bunabutale, Manafwa District.					

Section B: Cultural and societal norms that may hinder women from accessing resources for agriculture production in Bunabutsale, Manafwa district.

Please indicate your opinion on the following statements using the Linkert scale. Key: 1= Agree; 2= strongly Agree; 3= not sure; 4= Disagree; 5= strongly disagree.

No	Statements	1	2	3	4	5
1	I face traditional gender roles that limit my participation in key agricultural activities in Bunabutale, Manafwa District.					
2	I encounter cultural norms that restrict my access to land ownership and control in Bunabutale, Manafwa District.					
3	I am confined by societal expectations to domestic roles, which reduces my involvement in agriculture in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District.					

4	I experience underrepresentation in agricultural decision-making and community meetings in Bunabutale, Manafwa District.					
5	I struggle with cultural biases that undermine my credibility and access to agricultural loans in Bunabutale, Manafwa District.					

Section C: Policies and programs that exists to support women in accessing resources for agriculture production, and assess their effectiveness in Bunabutsale, Manafwa district

Please indicate your opinion on the following statements using the Linkert scale. Key: **1= Agree; 2= strongly Agree; 3= not sure; 4= Disagree; 5= strongly disagree.**

No	Statements	1	2	3	4	5
1	I benefit from government subsidies aimed at female farmers.					
2	I utilize women-focused agricultural training programs.					
3	I access microfinance initiatives designed for women in agriculture.					
4	I participate in local women’s agricultural cooperatives.					
5	I am involved in land reform programs that aim to grant women more land rights.					

Section 3: Agriculture Production in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District

This section aims at establishing the indicators of Agriculture Production in Bunabutsale , Manafwa District. Please indicate your opinion on the following statements using the Linkert scale. Key: **1= Agree; 2= strongly Agree; 3= not sure; 4= Disagree; 5= strongly disagree.**

No	Statements	1	2	3	4	5
1	I primarily grow staple crops such as maize, beans, and millet.					
2	I face challenges with limited access to modern agricultural tools and inputs.					
3	I struggle with inadequate irrigation infrastructure and					

	unpredictable weather patterns.					
4	I rely on traditional farming methods, which limits my productivity.					
5	I benefit from government and NGO initiatives providing training and resources.					

APPENDIX II: INTERVIEW GUIDE

Objective i: To identify the key barriers that women face in accessing resources for agriculture production in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District

1. What are the main challenges you face in accessing land for agricultural purposes?
2. How do you manage the costs associated with purchasing seeds and agricultural inputs?
3. Can you describe any difficulties you encounter in accessing agricultural extension services or technical support?
4. What are the barriers to obtaining credit or financial assistance for agricultural activities?
5. How do you cope with limited access to modern agricultural tools and machinery?
6. What issues do you face regarding transportation and infrastructure for moving agricultural products?
7. How do traditional practices or customs affect your ability to access agricultural resources?
8. Are there any specific local policies or regulations that limit your access to agricultural resources?

Objective ii: To examine the cultural and societal norms that may hinder women from accessing resources for agriculture production in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District

1. How do cultural beliefs in your community affect women's participation in agriculture?
2. Are there societal expectations or norms that limit women's access to agricultural resources or training?
3. How do gender roles within households influence women's ability to engage in agricultural activities?
4. What impact do traditional land inheritance practices have on women's access to land for farming?
5. How does the community perceive women who are involved in agriculture, and does this perception affect their access to resources?

6. Are there any local customs or practices that specifically disadvantage women in agricultural production?
7. How do family or community attitudes toward women's economic independence affect their agricultural endeavors?
8. What role do men play in decision-making regarding agricultural resources, and how does this impact women's access?

Objective iii: To investigate the policies and programs that exist to support women in accessing resources for agriculture production, and assess their effectiveness in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District

1. What government policies or programs are available to support women in agriculture in your area?
2. How accessible are these policies or programs to women in Bunabutsale, Manafwa District?
3. Can you describe any local NGOs or community organizations that provide support for women in agriculture?
4. What types of support (e.g., financial, technical, training) do these policies or programs offer to women?
5. How effective are the training programs provided under these policies in improving agricultural practices among women?
6. Are there any barriers or limitations you have experienced in accessing these support programs?
7. How do you think the effectiveness of these policies and programs could be improved to better support women in agriculture?
8. Have there been any recent changes or updates to policies or programs that have impacted women's access to agricultural resources?

Appendix iii : Proposed work plan

March 2024

Define research objectives March 1 - March 31

	and develop proposal	
April 2024	Finalize research design and obtain necessary approvals	April 1 - April 30
May 2024	Develop data collection tools and pilot test them	May 1 - May 31
June 2024	Conduct surveys and perform document analysis	June 1 - June 30
July 2024	Interview participants and clean data	July 1 - July 31
August 2024	Analyze quantitative and qualitative data	August 1 - August 31
September 2024	Compile research findings and prepare presentations	September 1 - September 15
	Finalize research report and submit dissertation	September 16 - September 30

Appendix iv: Proposed budget

Items	Estimated Cost (UGX)
Research Assistants' stipends	100,000

Data entry personnel fees	50,000
Consultants	50,000
Total Personnel Costs	200,000
Transportation	50,000
Accommodation	50,000
Per diems for fieldwork	50,000
Total Travel and Accommodation Costs	150,000
Stationery and printing	20,000
Data collection tools (questionnaires, interview guides)	20,000
Software (statistical analysis tools, qualitative software)	30,000
Total Materials and Supplies Costs	70,000
Laptops, tablets, or other devices	30,000
Recording equipment	20,000
Total Equipment Costs	50,000
Internet charges	10,000
Telephone expenses	10,000
Total Communication Costs	20,000

Research methodology workshops	30,000
Skills development training	20,000
Total Training Costs	50,000
Contingency funds	10,000
Publication and dissemination costs	10,000
Total Miscellaneous Costs	20,000
Total Project Budget (UGX)	500,000