

**PROBLEMS HINDERING WOMEN FARMERS' INVOLVEMENT IN VARIOUS
AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN NALUGUGU SUB-COUNTY, SIRONKO DISTRICT,
UGANDA.**

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN
PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF A DEGREE
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DECLARATION

I **NAMUTOSI DOROTHY**, hereby declare that I am the rightful author of this study, and that any assistance received in its preparation is fully acknowledged and disclosed. This Dissertation is my original work, and has never been presented to Busitema University or any other University for the award of a Degree.

Signature

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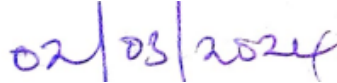
APPROVAL

This Dissertation titled “problems hindering women's farmers’ involvement in various agricultural activities in Nalugugu sub-county, Sironko district”, was written by **Namutosi Dorothy** under our guidance and supervision and meets the requirements set by Busitema University for the award of Bachelors Degree of Science and Education. It has been submitted with approval of the University supervisor.

Signature



Date:



MR. OTEMA PATRICK BEN EMOI
SUPERVISOR

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DEDICATION

First and foremost, I dedicate this research project to the **ALMIGHTY GOD** for **He** has enabled me to start it and successfully finished it with a good health and sound mind. Sincere appreciation and dedication goes to my beloved brother Mr. **Nachami Andrew** for the financial support given to me, with a lot of much gratitude, I still extend my dedication and thanks to my beloved father **Mr. Walanzula Faris. N and the Late Mrs. Nabumati Agnes** as well as my dearest siblings **Miss Wekuru Linda Edith, Mr. Wodero Ismail** for you have played a lot for me to reach this level and May GOD continue blessing you abundantly. Special thanks to my supervisor **Mr. Otema Patrick Ben Emoi** who guided me through this research project. Lastly I thank everyone that has put his/her effort seeing me reach the apex of this educational level. A special dedication to **Mr. Wekoye Isaac David** and my course mates and classmates **Mr. Billy Nikolas, Miss Akello Rosemary, Mr. Mugisha John, Mr. Kavuma Stephen, Mr. Kiriya Michael** and others and may the good lord bless you abundantly.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

NPA:	National Planning Authority
UNESCO:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
FAO:	Food and Agricultural Organization
SDG:	Sustainable Development Goals
ILRI:	International Livestock Research Institute
SPSS:	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
USAID:	United States Agency For International Development
DFID:	Department For International Development
OPHI:	Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative
IFPRI:	International Food Policy Research Institute
PRO-WEAI:	Project-level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index
WELI:	Women's Empowerment in Livestock Index
CSA:	Climate-Smart Agriculture
NGO:	Non-Government Organizations

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ABSTRACT

This research study was conducted on problems hindering women farmers' involvement in various agricultural activities in Nalugugu sub-county, Sironko District, Uganda. The research design was a cross sectional design. A sample population of 105 participants was adopted by the use of purposive sampling and simple random sampling technique. Data was collected using questionnaires that were designed for women farmers involved in agricultural practices, these also included the local leaders and thus data was presented in different forms i.e., pie charts, graphs and in frequency tables. The research results, indicated that there are various problems hindering women farmers' involvement in various agricultural activities in Nalugugu sub-county, Sironko District, Uganda. The following were the problems hindering women farmers' involvement in various agricultural activities and these included; Limited access to Land and Property Rights, Limited access to Financial Resources, Limited Access to Agricultural inputs and technology, inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, and tools, women farmers also face a problem of Gender-Based Discrimination. In this research study, the following strategies, can be developed to overcome the problems hindering women farmers' involvement in various agricultural activities and these included; Access to Resources, providing education and training opportunities for women in agriculture, Promoting gender equality in agriculture is crucial for empowering women farmers. Therefore, the involvement of women farmers in various agricultural activities, would lead to a potential in order to improve on food security in Nalugugu sub-county, Sironko District and even in Uganda as a country. This research study, pointed out various conclusions and these included; Women farmers face various challenges that hinder their involvement in agricultural activities. These challenges include limited access to resources, lack of land ownership, gender-based discrimination, and inadequate training and education.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

Background

Agriculture is the most comprehensive word used to denote the many ways in which crop plants and domestic animals sustain the global human population by providing food and other products. Harris, David R and D.Q.Fuller (2014) Agriculture: Definition and overview.

A problem is any situation in which the end result cannot be reached immediately. Radford and Burton, s (1974). Therefore problems hindering women farmers' involvement in various agricultural activities, can be discussed through the following ways; institutional, socio cultural and socioeconomic factors. Institutional factors are internal dynamics that reflect the governmental or non-governmental organization efficiency or performance.socio cultural factors are the large scale forces within cultures and societies that affect the thoughts, feelings and behaviors.socio economic factors are factors which are concerned with the interplay between social processes and economic activities within a society.

Agriculture remains fundamental for development and economic growth in Africa, where women play a major role in food production. In most developed countries, agricultural production is undertaken in large-scale activities, while in developing countries, agricultural produce is grown, processed and marketed by rural, small-scale farmers (Opio, 2003).In Africa, Agriculture still remains one of the main sources of exports and is the employer of the bulk of the population. Most of the African farms are small-scale and despite some urban cultivation, a majority of the farms are in rural areas and are managed mainly by women. The current status of agriculture in Uganda indicates that 80% of Uganda' land is arable but only 35% is being cultivated. In FY 2022/23, agriculture accounted for about 24% of GDP, and 35% of exports earnings. The UBOS estimates that about 68% of Uganda's working population is employed in agriculture. Despite of the barriers women farmers face, they continue to play significant roles in ensuring food security and working against environmental degradation, hunger and poverty. They have accomplished being actors in the agriculture sector since 75% of women in Uganda live in rural areas where they dominate the agriculture sector. In Uganda and other sub Saharan countries, women contribute as much as 60% to 80% of the labour for food production both for household consumption and for sale. Moreover agriculture has become a predominantly sector for women because of the out migration of men from rural areas .In fact by the early 1990,s women were the major smallholder farmers providing most the labour and managing a larger portion of many agricultural production activities daily (saito et al, 1994).Therefore women make essential contributions to the agricultural production and rural economies in Africa. In

fact women farmers produce about 80% of the food that is grown on the continent. However the agricultural sector in Africa is under performing because women who represent a crucial resource in the sector as farmers, labourers, and entrepreneurs face severe constraints relative to men in accessing agricultural inputs (FAO, 2011). Despite their great involvement in agricultural production from planting to harvesting and food storage, women generally can only use the land but cannot own it. They can make decisions on what to plant and harvest but they cannot sell land or make decisions about its allocation. Land is a major factor of farming and it's a source of wealth that is sustained across generations. It's also a source of social and economic status. Since women cannot own land or control the parcels they cultivate, they have little status in society and this affects their ability to access other factors of agricultural production such as credit as well as seed farm implements (Alice, 2008). Agriculture is changing from traditional methods of farming to the use of modern machines in order to achieve high yields and meet living standard needs. The use of technology can bring great improvement in this sector, but a major challenge for women is that due to low levels of education, they are not able to effectively use modern agricultural technologies (Ugandan republic 2010)

There are 925 million undernourished people in the world today (FAO 2011). While many factors influence worldwide food security levels, the gender gap in agricultural production remains one of the most pressing issues. Closing the gender gap in agriculture would produce significant gains for society by increasing agricultural productivity, reducing poverty and hunger, and increasing economic growth (Gustafsson, 2011).

Women are the majority of the world's agricultural producers, playing important roles in fisheries and forestry as well as in farming. Women farmers represent more than a quarter of the world's population. Globally, women make up 43% of agricultural labor force (Raney, 2011) ranging from 20 per cent in Latin America to 50 per cent in Eastern Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. Yet, women have less access than men to agriculture related assets, inputs and services. Had they enjoyed the same access to productive resources as men, women could boost yields by 20-30 percent; raising the overall agricultural output in developing countries by two and a half to four percent. This gain in production could lessen the number of hungry people in the world by 12-17 per cent, besides increasing women's income (Gustafsson, 2011). Moreover, in many places of the world, women are responsible for providing food for their families. Even though rural women contribute significantly to the socio-economic development of their countries through agriculture they continue to face major challenges, which differ from one community to

another. The roles and status of women in agriculture and rural areas vary widely by region, age, ethnicity and social class and are changing rapidly in some parts of the world (Basavaraji, 2018).

In Uganda, out of the 72% population involved in agricultural sector, 77% are women and 63% are young people (NPA, 2015).

Women are responsible for an estimated 90 percent of Uganda's total food output, but they lack the resources and support necessary to effectively produce crops on a sustainable scale, whether for home consumption or for marketing and income generation (McKenna, 2014).

Finally, Women farmers face numerous challenges that hinder their involvement in various agricultural activities.

Statement of the problem

Women farmers are the main producers of food and other agricultural produce in Africa. However, due to their low social status, lack of farming skills, low education, and lack of decision making power on land issues in families and in society, women are disadvantaged in agriculture. They can do more but the challenges they face do not let them realize their full potential. Even though they are the real farm managers, women work as casual labourers or landless family members. They also lack control over the land they farm and have no decision making power over the agricultural output they produce or the money they get from the sale of part of that produce. This situation is due to African customary laws and statutory regulations that oppress women by denying them property and land rights that makes it extremely hard for women to access credit and agricultural extension services. These constraints similarly make women lack incentives and motivation to engage in land rehabilitation and soil quality as a result of environmental degradation. Therefore, rural agricultural development cannot be achieved without addressing women's disadvantaged positions in agriculture and in society at large (FAO, 2011)

This research will be conducted to ascertain the problems hindering women farmers' involvement in various agricultural activities in Nalugugu sub-county, Sironko district, Uganda

Purpose of the study.

The purpose of the research is to examine the problems hindering women farmers' involvement in various agricultural activities in Nalugugu sub-county Sironko district, Uganda.

Objectives of the study

General objective

To assess the problems hindering women farmers' involvement in various agricultural activities in Nalugugu sub-county, Sironko district, Uganda.

Specific objectives

1. To identify the specific solutions on how to overcome the problems hindering women farmers' involvement in various agricultural activities in Nalugugu sub-county, Sironko district, Uganda.
2. To find out ways of encouraging women farmers in order to involve in various agricultural activities.
3. To establish how agriculture has impacted on women farmers daily livelihood.

Research questions

- I. What are the main problems hindering women farmers involvement in various agricultural activities in Nalugugu sub-county, Sironko district, Uganda?
- II. How has agriculture impacted on women farmers' daily livelihood in Nalugugu sub-county, Sironko district, Uganda?
- III. In which ways have extension officers or agents helped these women farmers involved in agricultural sector to overcome the problems that they are facing?

Hypothesis

Women farmers' involvement in various agricultural activities is influenced by factors such as; marital status, age, market access, access to credit and interaction with agricultural extension agents.

The involvement of women farmers in various agricultural activities will increase and improve on the living standards of women farmers and hence leading to an increase in the income levels of the women farmers in Nalugugu sub-county, Sironko district.

Scope and Limitations of the study.

This study was conducted in nalugugu sub county, sironko district Uganda. It focused on the problems hindering women farmers' involvement in various agricultural activities. Women are the main actors and therefore the unit of analysis from which information was collected. The study collected both qualitative and quantitative data.

Limitations.

The findings could not be generalized to counties in different geographical regions of Uganda in Sironko district.

Significance of the study

This study has provided information on the problems faced by women farmers involved in various agricultural activities in nalugugu sub county sironko district. This information if adopted by the county, will help the county and the community based organizations to come up with recommendations on how to address the problems hindering women farmers' involvement in various agricultural activities and thus improve the state of women farmers in the study area. The study findings may also enable the nalugugu sub county local government to increase on the number of women farmers in decision making forums at the division level. The findings of the study can be used in implementation of agricultural policies and thus improve on food security and reduce poverty. Finally the study has added to information that can be used by other scholars as well as stakeholders interested in rural development.

Justification of the study.

There are a lot of problems that hinder women farmers to fully involve themselves in various agricultural activities, this has raised the concern of various researchers to assess these hindrances and find out solutions.

Women farmers play important roles in the agriculture sector, going through a broad sphere of activities that relate to food production, processing and marketing. This necessitates their integration into planning, policies, and programs for effective and sustainable development of agriculture.

The observed less involvement of women farmers in various agricultural activities in Nalugugu sub county creates need for the research on the problems hindering women farmers involvement in various agricultural activities in Nalugugu sub county, Sironko district, Uganda.

Factors hindering women farmers' involvement in various agricultural activities.

The conceptual framework (figure 1.0) below was developed from the literature review .In this conceptual framework, the independent variables are the factors hindering women farmers' involvement in various agricultural activities and the dependent variable are the problems hindering women farmers' involvement.

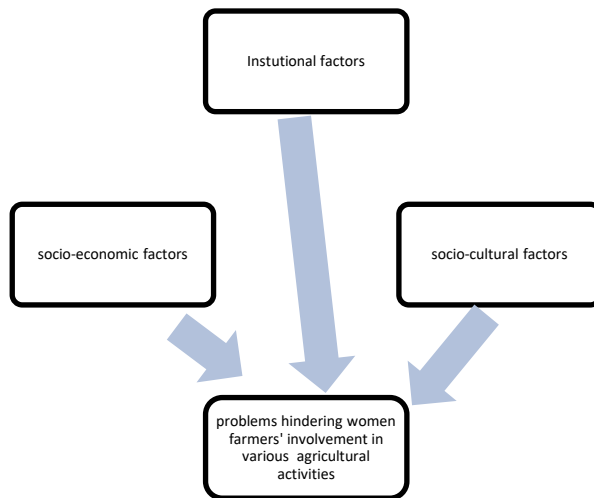


Figure 1 Conceptual frame work

The figure above shows the relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variables. The independent variables included socio-economic factors, socio-cultural factors and institutional factors and the dependent variable was women farmers' involvement in various agricultural activities.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of different views from different researchers about women farmers' involvement in various agricultural activities, how socio-economic, socio-cultural and institutional factors affecting women farmers' involvement in various agricultural activities.

Women in agriculture

Agriculture can be an important engine of growth and poverty reduction. But the sector is underperforming in many countries in part because women, who are often a crucial resource in agriculture and the rural economy, face constraints that reduce their productivity. Aggregate data shows that women comprise about 43 percent of the agricultural labor force globally and in developing countries. But this figure masks considerable variation across regions and within countries according to age and social class (Babus, 2018).

Women involvement in Agriculture dates back to the early man where the hunter-gatherer technique was applied (Hanson, 2017). Women fetch firewood, picked fruits, prepared drinks, gathered vegetable and food crops, cooked and serve for consumption (Dahlberg, 1981). Traditionally, women are regarded as homemakers, who oversee and coordinate the affairs and activities at home. Previously in Africa, women remained at home while their husbands and sons went out to the farm to work. But at home, however, they were not idle as they engaged in manual processing of food crops and other farm produce in addition to their housekeeping duties (Oladejo, 2011).

What women gathered accounted for substantial daily needs and calorie intake of their locality (Hansen, 2012).

According to Eteng (2018) women participation in Agricultural production has been increasing in various climes. In the United States in particular, by 2012 about 288 thousand farms were principally managed by women (United States Department of Agriculture, 2012). Women are increasingly getting involved in agricultural production and their success rate is encouraging (Hanson, 2017).

In Africa, the responsibility for taking care of the children and the elderly is borne largely by women. They also get involved substantially in agricultural labor for income and household upkeep. The contributions of women in this direction are often not captured by official statistics and this under represents the actual contributions of women to agricultural

production and food sufficiency. They produce food, weed and harvest on men's fields, process post-harvest produce, provide fire wood and water, and maintain the household (IAASTD, 2009).

In most rural economies women are considered the corner stone upon which the economy is anchored. Small farmers who are mainly rural women produce over 80% of agricultural resources in Africa. They are the major food producers in Africa and are involved in over 60- 90% of rural marketing (AgroNigeria, 2016).

Studies have shown that women play more significant and remarkable role in agriculture than men. This is evidence in the significant contributions of women to food production across Africa (Booth & Protais, 1999).

Women make crucial contributions in agriculture and rural enterprises in all developing country regions, as farmers, workers, and entrepreneurs. In Uganda, food insecurity can be traced to the challenges women face engaging in small-scale rural agriculture. Women are responsible for an estimated 90 percent of Uganda's total food output, but they lack the resources and support necessary to effectively produce crops on a sustainable scale, whether for home consumption or for marketing and income generation.

Women work in agriculture as farmers on their own account, as unpaid workers on family farms and as paid or unpaid laborers on other farms and agricultural enterprises. They are involved in both crop and livestock production at subsistence and commercial levels. They produce food and cash crops and manage mixed agricultural operations often involving crops, livestock and fish farming. All of these women are considered part of the agricultural labor force (FAO, 2010).

Women make essential contributions to agriculture and rural economic activities in all developing country regions (Babus, 2018). Their roles vary considerably among and within regions and are changing rapidly in many parts of the world where economic and social forces are transforming the agriculture sector.

Socio-economic factors affecting women farmers' involvement in various agricultural activities.

According to Tologbonse (2013) education, age and marital status are significantly related to women involvement in various agricultural activities.

Older farmers would tend to stick to farming, reflecting as their age-old occupation and would work hard to improve on their output. Any new agricultural program that would bring

this improvement, the farmers would want to be associated with it and would have greater desire to participate in it.

Due to uneven gender norms and relations, women have a lower socio-economic status, compared to their male counterparts, which constrains their involvement in agriculture. On the other hand, as level of education increases, level of participation in agricultural program decreases. The higher the educational level of the farmer, higher the chances of getting better paying jobs or the higher the tendency to be involved in politics and less increased participation in agricultural programs. (Ogunbameru, 2006) Also identified age and educational level as factors affecting women involvement in urban agriculture. Worldwide, women and girls have lower levels of education than men and boys. It is estimated that three-fifths of the world's 137 million illiterate youth are girls.

However, the cost of not educating women and girls is evident in terms of agricultural development as well. Take an example, women who have not under taken education may get challenges keeping track of agro-input expenses like renting land and purchasing seeds, or they may end up spending more on inputs than the resulting outputs.

Furthermore, illiterate females face challenges like may not be able to read instructions on fertilizers, which affects both their crop production and their health. They are also not able to get involved in policy-making decisions that will affect agricultural production and livelihoods, also the needs and views of illiterate women are not properly presented to the government as a result of inadequate education. Women's marital status influences their level of participation in agricultural programs.

Marital status has a significant influence on women involvement; this is so because marital status is directly related to household size and this hence dictates, to some extent, the availability of labor for agricultural activities.

Socio-cultural factors affecting women farmers' involvement in various agricultural activities.

Socio-cultural factors are things that can affect our lifestyles as a society. They can have an influence on individual behaviors depending on one's social values. Some of them could be religion, economic status, education, family, politics, cultural values etc.

Women are faced with many social norms as they involve in agricultural and non-agricultural duties, these include; harassment and violence towards women in public space, restrictions placed on women's social interactions and freedom of movement, control over household finances, intimate partner violence and who should be the family bread owner and who bears responsibility for household chores and child care. (Jayachandran, 2020)

(Majali, 2012) Identified three major socio-cultural factors that influence women involvement in agricultural activities i.e., Land Ownership, Access to Credit and Education.

A main contributing factor to women farmers' low involvement in agriculture are deep-rooted socio-cultural norms and practices which put women and girls in a much lower position as compared to men and boys. Dominant gender norms, stereotypes, and practices shape gender power relations at household, community, and institutional levels. These influence women's social and economic capabilities and opportunities to engage in agricultural activities in the same way as men (Woldu, 2015)

Culturally, women are only responsible for taking care of the household chores like cooking and bearing children, but the production and provision of food is culturally not their main responsibility.

Access to Credit; addition to limited access to land, women face problems of access to their inputs, including credit (capital/money). This is because many credit associations and export crop market cooperatives limit membership to household heads in many African countries, thereby excluding married and single women. For example, there is a cultural belief that a married woman cannot be allowed to borrow from the bank without the consent of her husband. Women in the study village are unable to utilize these bank services because their husbands do not want them to (Majali, 2012).

Access to financial services in rural areas can play a critical role in creating and maintaining sustainable livelihoods. According to the World Bank, services including small loans, savings, micro-insurance, and mobile money can help the rural poor "build assets, engage more effectively with markets, and reduce their vulnerability to crises, especially when access to services is planned as part of household livelihood strategies and sustained over time.

There are emphasizes that credit and other financial services are important in increasing productivity, income, and well-being (FAO).

Women engaged in rural agriculture often lack access to these financial services, which hinders their capacity to create sustainable livelihoods and generate income. While men also face constraints to accessing financial services, cultural norms, legal barriers, and economic constraints often limit women's access to financial services even further. Without access to credit and other financial services, it can be difficult for women to rent land or purchase agricultural inputs like improved seeds and fertilizers, thus limiting the potential for growth (McKenna, 2014).

According to (Wombo, 2016) stated that awareness of existing loan facilities is inhibited by low level of literacy among small-scale farmers.

Education; Education is one of the significant factors affecting the involvement of women in agricultural development. The Food and Agricultural Organization/ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization [FAO/UNESCO] (2002:12) note that better education and training have become essential for sustainable development and for rural economies to survive. Women are unable to understand and utilize technical information because they lack basic formal education. This department also reveals that, because of their illiteracy, women farmers are unable to read and understand the written material provided by extension programs that educate farmers.

Particularly in Sironko district, there are more educated males as compared females in all levels of education i.e. primary, secondary and tertiary (UBo, 2017)

Land Ownership; Women own 1% of the world's land. Women extensively participate in food production, but are hindered because they rarely own the land that they farm (Pervez, 2018). Men often have more rights over the land as compared to their women, this is contrary to the saying that, to ensure food security, it is important for farmers, both men and women, to have secure tenure to the land that they farm. While both men and women face the risk of losing land due to takeovers from powerful authorities and governments or due to situations that forcefully make them to sell their land, women face an additional layer of risk. Women are often vulnerable to loss of land when their household structure changes, particularly if their husband dies or leaves; in such cases the community or husband's family may take over the land (Doss & Meinzen-Dick, 2020). In some African countries, women are rarely allocated land in their own right, particularly in patrilineal areas. Land is allocated to men, who are the heads of household.

Women in matrilineal societies on the other hand are allocated land in their own right, but the land is still commonly controlled by their husbands or male clan heads. To access or make use of land, they must first negotiate with men, which sometimes mean begging for it, and eventually they are allocated inferior or infertile land. This therefore means most women still depended on male heads of their families, due to lack of economic empowerment of women and a patriarchal culture.

The main problem women farmers' face is poor access to land, this is as a result of several formal and traditional rules. Lack of land ownership makes it difficult for women farmers to take farm-related decisions, and also it makes them face difficulties in obtaining credit to improve crop yield (Ochieng, 2014).

Institutional factors affecting women farmers' involvement in various agricultural activities.

Studies suggests that women farmers' productivity is limited by a lack of appropriate skills training. Rural women farmers' access to training and education is important to develop strategies that build on the opportunities created. Agricultural extension services have however, for long been targeted on male farmers, with consideration that women do not involve themselves in farming activities, this view therefore ignores the many farming activities in which women are involved in.

According to (Tologbonse, 2013), extension services have often been ineffective in food and agriculture, but the problem is more compounded in the case of women because of the unified extension agricultural system where, men are always the first priority and may be the target agents of the planned change in agriculture. This proves that women are still left behind in terms of extension contact, accessibility to training and other indices of development education for agriculture. In addition to women being less targeted in extension trainings, there are also more challenges like; shortage of extension agents, as the ratio of extension staff to farm families is still low making it difficult to individually meet all the women farmers (Ogbonnah, 2013).

Similarly, (Idrisa, 2010) identified extension contact, access to market, level of education, access to credit, access to land and taking part in decision making as the factors affecting women involvement in urban agriculture.

Contact with extension workers and that of access to market also affect women involvement in agriculture. This means that the more access to market by the participants the more their involvement in agricultural program. Some of the major issues associated with

women in agriculture are due to shifting gender roles. For example, men are usually in charge of marketing export crops in Sub-Saharan Africa. Women must cross gender barriers in order to start marketing produce themselves, which is almost certain to cause problems by challenging dominant social and cultural concepts.

Although women farmers are actively involved in the process of food production, processing and marketing, social and economic constraints have placed barriers around their access to scientific and technological information. Thus, the women farmers involved in agriculture are not adequately equipped with the technical knowledge to enable them make the best use of farm inputs to improve on their agricultural productivity (Haile, 2016).

Ways of promoting women Farmers involvement in various agricultural activities;

As the global community looks forward to fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 on gender equality and women's rights, at least 11 of the 17 SDGs demand for indicators related to gender dynamics (Doss, 2018). Goal 2, ending world hunger, explicitly mentions addressing the constraints for women small-scale food producers and the nutritional demands of women and young girls. This has contributed to a growing demand for nuanced and accurate data on women's contributions to food security.

Globally, agricultural and forestry systems are expected to change significantly in response to future climate change, manifesting as major transitions in livelihoods and landscapes. Crop yields have reduced due to warming, Price and yield volatility likely will continue to rise as extreme weather continues, further affecting livelihoods and increasing food security (Steenwerth, 2014). There are suggestions for gender-differentiated climate change adaptation strategies in agriculture. Improving women's access to productive resources, finance and knowledge, promoting off-farm employment, and capacity building on adaptation options can empower them to adapt to a changing climate. CSA interventions have an important ability to minimize women's labor contribution in agricultural activities, particularly in transplanting, nutrient management, and sowing of crops (Khatri-Chhetr, 2018). DFID recently partnered with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) to create a Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index. The purpose of this index is to measure levels of inclusion among women in the agriculture sector.

With growing commitment to women's empowerment by agricultural development

agencies, sound methods to evaluate women's empowerment are required to see which types of projects or project implementation strategies do or do not work to empower women. Project-level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (Pro-WEAI) was developed to measure empowerment in agricultural development projects and also to assess projects impact on women's empowerment on other critical economic and social domains like saving and borrowing activities, household activities and more general freedom of movement in public space. The Pro-WEAI was meant to identify key areas of women's disempowerment and design the right way to address the cited areas (Doss, 2018)

Many researchers are carrying out surveys to measure women's empowerment for example the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and Emory University which focus on recognizing the importance of livestock to rural communities in East Africa, developed the women's empowerment in livestock index (WELI) to explore how livestock can support women's empowerment and the health and the nutrition of women and children (Galiè, 2021).

Women can be encouraged to involve in agriculture by adopting measures that protect women against high climate risks. One of the best approaches is by adopting smart agriculture practices. Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) has an important role to play in reducing the gender gap in labor burden for women in agriculture. This approach seeks solutions that improve agricultural productivity, build resilient food production systems, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (Khatri-Chhetri, 2020). There is need to foster land and agricultural policies that give the same treatment to farm women's and farm men's assets and their management capacity. Attention should also be given to farm women's farm labor, farm service providers like agribusiness and extension services should incorporate farm women into their promotional and educational programs i.e., women should be recruited for technical and university programs and as agricultural service agents and technical advisors. Women concerns should also be incorporated into rural development policies and in economic policies (Elbert, 2021).

CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

This chapter indicates the methodology that was used in data collection process. And these included sample size determination, data collection methods, study population, sampling techniques, data collection instruments, quality assurance, data analysis and ethical considerations, research design.

Research design

A cross-sectional study was used to identify problems hindering women farmers involvement in various agricultural activities where the data was collected from a sample of people (participants) selected to represent a large population.

Research approach

This study used a quantitative research design where by the data was collected from the participants and analyzed numerically.

Description of the study area

This study was conducted in Nalugugu Sub-County, Sironko district, Uganda.

Geographical location and size

Nalugugu Sub County is located in the eastern part of sironko district, 3 kilometers away from the main road.

Socio Economic activities.

The major source of livelihood in Nalugugu Sub County is subsistence farming which involves mixed farming (the growing of crops and rearing of animals on the same piece of land). The types of crops grown in this region are maize, tomatoes, onions, carrots, green papers, beans, peas, matooke, ginger, garlic, Amarantus. The common domestic animals kept are; cattle, goats, sheep, pigs, rabbits and poultry.

Study population

A research population is a large collection of individuals or objects that are of farm main focus of scientific query. It is also known as a well-defined collection of individuals or objects known to have similar characteristics.

The research population consisted of a sample size of 105 participants, consisting of 73 elderly female farmers, 15 young female farmers, 15 local leaders selected using simple random sampling technique from nalugugu Sub County, and 2 Sub- County agricultural officers were also included.

Table 1 Study population

S/N	Category of respondents	Number of respondents
1	Elderly female farmers	73
2	Young female farmers	15
3	Local leaders	15
4	Sub-county agricultural Officers	2

Sampling procedures

Purposive sampling was used to get three parishes of Bulungi parish, Naluwali parish, Musede parish within the research area and simple random sampling technique was used to get the participants from these three parishes.

Data collection methods

Questionnaire method, open ended questions were given to the participants where by every participant was able to fill in all the required information without limitations.

Data collection instruments

The data was collected by use of questionnaires which were issued to the participants who filled in the answers.

Questionnaires were only designed for the women farmers in Nalugugu Sub County.

Data analysis

The data collected from participants was cleared off all the mistakes before it was entered into excel spread sheet. The data was later imported into Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) software version seventeen. The data was then analyzed using descriptive statistics using a scientific package for social scientists (SPSS) and was then presented in form of tables, percentages and frequencies. Qualitative data was then presented in themes.

Ethical considerations

During the research study, participants were fully informed about the nature and purpose of the research study and that their consent was obtained. The participants' personal information was also kept confidential and any identifying information was removed from the published results.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

INTRODUCTION

This chapter shows the results and the discussion of the data that was collected in the field. It includes demographic characteristics that is ;(age, marital status, level of education, religion, problems hindering women farmers and ways to overcome these problems).

Age of the respondents

Table 2: Age of participants

Age (years)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
18-25	5	5
25-30	10	10
30-40	40	50
40-50	30	20
50-60	20	15
Total	105	100

The results shown in table 2 above indicates that 5% of the participants were aged between 18-25 years, 10% of the participants were aged between 25-30 years, 50% of the participants were aged between 30-40 years and 20% were aged 40-50 years, and 15% were aged 50-60 years.

This indicates that most of the participants were aged between 30-40 years .And these participants were economically stable.

Marital status of the participants.

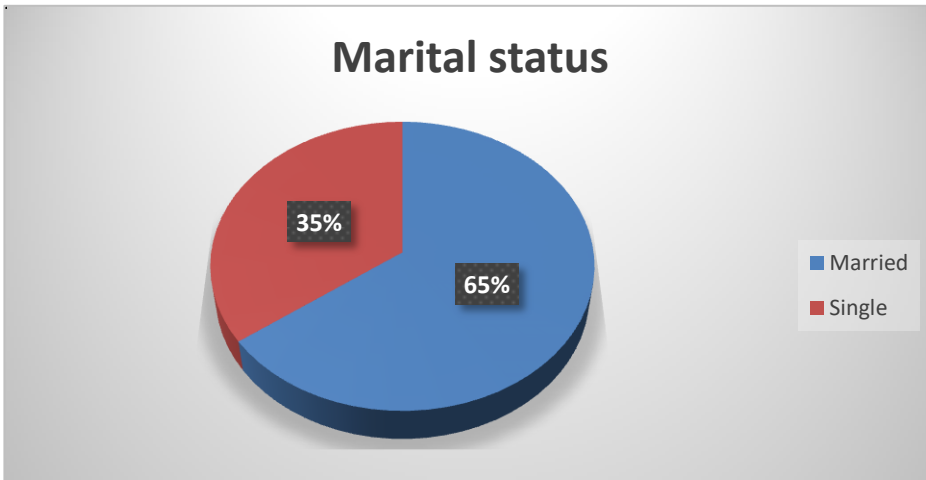


Figure 2 Marital status

From the above table, 65% of the participants were married, 35% were single. This indicates that most of the participants were married who get most of their income and livelihood in agriculture. These research findings are consistent with a study carried out by Rutashobya and Nchimbi, (1999) who found out that majority of women entrepreneurs in Africa are married.

Level of education of the participants

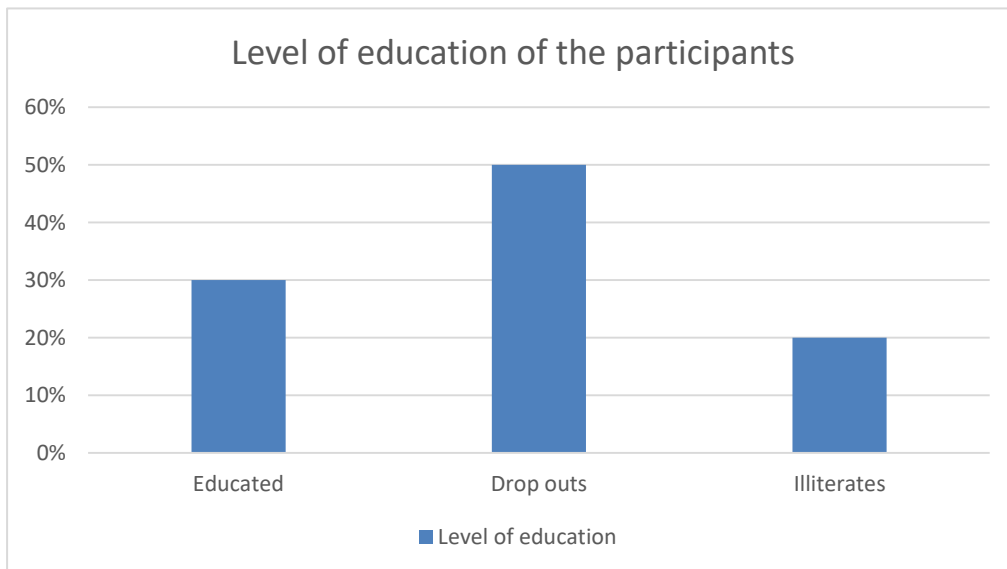


Figure 3 Level of education of participants

The figure above shows the level of education of the participants, school drop outs 50%, illiterates 20% and educated 30%. This shows that the majority of the participants were school

drop outs because they went into early marriages and finally got involved in subsistence agriculture as a way of deriving livelihood, this is disadvantageous in relation to acquisition of economic resources like credit, market information. However, these research findings are lower than those reported by (Mjema, 2014) who found out that 71.7% of the participants had attained primary level education.

Problems Faced by Women farmers during their involvement in various Agricultural Activities

Table 3 Problems faced by Women farmers

Challenge	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Access to Land and Property Rights	5	5
Access to Financial Resources	10	10
Limited Access to Agricultural Inputs and Technology	40	50
Gender-Based Discrimination	30	20
Lack of Access to Markets	20	15
Total	105	100

Access to Land and Property Rights:

In nalugugu Sub County, women have limited access to land and property rights, which are essential for engaging in agricultural activities. Cultural norms and legal barriers often prevent women from owning or inheriting land, making it difficult for them to participate fully in farming.

Access to Financial Resources:

Women farmers often lack access to financial resources such as credit, loans, and savings. This limits their ability to invest in their farms, purchase inputs, and expand their agricultural activities. Financial institutions may have biased lending practices that discriminate against women, further exacerbating this issue.

Limited Access to Agricultural Inputs and Technology:

Women farmers frequently face challenges in accessing essential agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, and tools. Additionally, they may have limited access to agricultural technology and extension services, which are crucial for improving productivity and efficiency on the farm.

Gender-Based Discrimination:

Gender-based discrimination is a significant barrier to women's participation in agricultural activities. This discrimination can manifest in various forms, including unequal pay for labor, limited decision-making power within the household, and exclusion from agricultural training programs and extension services.

Lack of Access to Markets:

Limited access to markets and market information can hinder women farmers' ability to sell their produce at fair prices. This lack of market access can restrict their economic opportunities and overall participation in agricultural value chains.

Ways of overcoming problems hindering women farmers during their involvement in various agricultural activities.

Table 4 Ways to overcome the problems

Strategy	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Access to Resources	5	5
Education and Training	10	10
Gender Equality	40	50
Technology Adoption	30	20
Market Access	20	15
Total	105	100

Access to Resources:

One of the main challenges for women farmers is the limited access to resources such as land, credit, inputs, and technology. To address this issue, governments and organizations can implement policies and programs that promote equal access to resources for women. This can include providing microcredit facilities specifically tailored for women, ensuring land rights for women, and offering training on modern agricultural techniques and technologies.

Education and Training:

Another important aspect is providing education and training opportunities for women in agriculture. By offering workshops, seminars, and vocational training programs, women farmers can enhance their knowledge and skills in farming practices, financial management, and marketing. Additionally, mentorship programs can be established to provide guidance and support for women

entering the agricultural sector.

Gender Equality:

Promoting gender equality in agriculture is crucial for empowering women farmers. This involves challenging traditional gender roles and stereotypes, advocating for equal pay for equal work, and ensuring that women have a voice in decision-making processes within agricultural organizations and communities. Creating awareness about the importance of gender equality in agriculture can help change societal attitudes towards women's roles in farming.

Technology Adoption:

The adoption of modern agricultural technologies can significantly improve productivity and efficiency for women farmers. Providing access to tools and equipment designed for small-scale farming can reduce the physical burden on women. Furthermore, training programs on the use of agricultural machinery and digital tools can enhance the capacity of women farmers to manage their farms effectively.

Market Access:

Access to markets is essential for the economic empowerment of women farmers. Initiatives that facilitate market linkages, value addition, and entrepreneurship opportunities can enable women to sell their produce at fair prices and access wider market networks. Supporting the establishment of cooperatives or producer groups can also enhance the bargaining power of women farmers in negotiations with buyers.

Community Support:

Building strong support networks within communities is vital for overcoming the challenges faced by women farmers. Establishing women's groups or associations can create a platform for sharing experiences, accessing information, and advocating for their rights collectively. Community-based initiatives that recognize the contributions of women in agriculture can help foster a supportive environment.

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of summary of the findings, conclusions of the research study and recommendations of the research study.

Summary of the findings

This research study was conducted to assess the problems hindering women farmers' involvement in various agricultural activities in Nalugugu Sub County, Sironko district so as to come up with the strategies on how to encourage women farmers to participate in various agricultural activities.

Factors affecting Women farmers Involvement in various Agricultural activities.

The following are the problems hindering women farmers' involvement in various agricultural activities.

Access to Land and Property Rights: In many regions, women have limited access to land and property rights, which are essential for engaging in agricultural activities. Cultural norms and legal barriers often prevent women from owning or inheriting land, making it difficult for them to participate fully in farming.

Access to Financial Resources: Women farmers often lack access to financial resources such as credit, loans, and savings. This limits their ability to invest in their farms, purchase inputs, and expand their agricultural activities. Financial institutions may have biased lending practices that discriminate against women, further exacerbating this issue.

Limited Access to Agricultural Inputs and Technology: Women farmers frequently face challenges in accessing essential agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, and tools. Additionally, they may have limited access to agricultural technology and extension services, which are crucial for improving productivity and efficiency on the farm.

Gender-Based Discrimination: Gender-based discrimination is a significant barrier to women farmers' involvement in various agricultural activities. This discrimination can manifest in various forms, including unequal pay for labor, limited decision-making power within the household, and exclusion from agricultural training programs and extension services.

Unpaid Care Work: Women often bear the responsibility of unpaid care work within their households, including childcare, cooking, and other domestic tasks. This can limit their time and energy available for engaging in agricultural activities, creating a significant barrier to their involvement in farming.

Lack of Access to Markets: Limited access to markets and market information can hinder

women farmers' ability to sell their produce at fair prices. This lack of market access can restrict their economic opportunities and overall participation in agricultural value chains.

Strategies on encouraging women farmers in order to involve in various agricultural activities.

Women farmers face various challenges that hinder their involvement in agricultural activities. However, there are several ways to overcome these problems and empower women farmers to participate more actively in agricultural activities as explained below.

One of the main challenges for women farmers is the limited access to resources such as land, credit, inputs, and technology. To address this issue, governments and organizations can implement policies and programs that promote equal access to resources for women. This can include providing microcredit facilities specifically tailored for women, ensuring land rights for women, and offering training on modern agricultural techniques and technologies.

Another important aspect is providing education and training opportunities for women in agriculture. By offering workshops, seminars, and vocational training programs, women farmers can enhance their knowledge and skills in farming practices, financial management, and marketing. Additionally, mentorship programs can be established to provide guidance and support for women entering the agricultural sector.

Promoting gender equality in agriculture is crucial for empowering women farmers. This involves challenging traditional gender roles and stereotypes, advocating for equal pay for equal work, and ensuring that women have a voice in decision-making processes within agricultural organizations and communities. Creating awareness about the importance of gender equality in agriculture can help change societal attitudes towards women's roles in farming.

The adoption of modern agricultural technologies can significantly improve productivity and efficiency for women farmers. Providing access to tools and equipment designed for small-scale farming can reduce the physical burden on women. Furthermore, training programs on the use of agricultural machinery and digital tools can enhance the capacity of women farmers to manage their farms effectively.

Access to markets is essential for the economic empowerment of women farmers. Initiatives that facilitate market linkages, value addition, and entrepreneurship opportunities can enable women to sell their produce at fair prices and access wider market networks. Supporting the establishment of cooperatives or producer groups can also enhance the bargaining power of women farmers in negotiations with buyers.

Lastly, strong support networks within communities is vital for overcoming the hindering women farmers' involvement in various agricultural activities. Establishing women's groups or

associations can create a platform for sharing experiences, accessing information, and advocating for their rights collectively. Community-based initiatives that recognize the contributions of women in agriculture can help foster a supportive environment.

CONCLUSIONS

The involvement of women farmers in various agricultural activities in Nalugugu sub-county can lead to the growth and development of agricultural sector in the country. Therefore it's important to identify the problems hindering women farmers' involvement in various agricultural activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

According to the findings from the research study in Nalugugu Sub County, the researcher put forward the following recommendations:

Governments and relevant authorities should enact and enforce laws that guarantee women's rights to own, inherit, and control land and other productive resources. Implement programs that provide legal literacy and awareness on land rights for women farmers.

Financial institutions should develop tailored financial products for women farmers, including credit facilities, savings, and insurance services. Governments and NGOs can provide financial literacy training to empower women farmers to access and manage financial resources effectively.

Governments should ensure equitable access to high-quality seeds, fertilizers, and modern farming equipment for women farmers. Provide training and support in the use of agricultural technology to enhance productivity and efficiency.

Facilitate access to markets by establishing market linkages, providing market information, and supporting women's collective marketing initiatives. Promote women's participation in value addition activities such as processing, packaging, and branding of agricultural products.

Strengthen extension services tailored to the specific needs of women farmers, including training on sustainable farming practices, climate-smart agriculture, and post-harvest management.

Establish mentorship programs where successful women farmers can mentor others in business management and agricultural best practices.

Advocate for gender-responsive policies that address the specific needs of women farmers at local, national, and international levels. Ensure the inclusion of women farmers in decision-making processes related to agricultural development policies.

Promote gender equality through education, awareness campaigns, and community mobilization efforts. Challenge traditional gender roles through initiatives that promote shared responsibilities in household chores and decision-making processes.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

QUESTIONNAIRE (sample)

Dear respondent,

I am Namutosi Dorothy, a student of Busitema University conducting a research about problems hindering women farmers’ involvement in various Agricultural activities in Nalugugu sub-county Sironko district. I request you to respond to this questionnaire faithfully and truthfully. I genuinely promise that the information obtained will be kept with complete confidentiality.

Section A: - social demographic data

- 1. Age Below 18 years () 18-30 years (), 30-40 years () Over 40 years ()
- 2. Sex male () female ()
- 3. Level of education attained informal () P1-P7 (), S1-S4 (), S5-S6 (), others specify.....
- 4. When did you start engaging yourself in these Agricultural activities? (To the women farmers involved in various agricultural activities.)

.....

- 5. When did you begin to live in this area (for the resident?)

.....
.....

- 6. What are the major Agricultural activities carried out by women farmers in this area?

.....
.....

Section B: - knowledge data.

- 1. How do women in this area participate in Agricultural activities? {2 scores}

.....
.....

- 2. Mention the main top five problems hindering the women farmers’ involvement in various agricultural activities in this area? {4scores}

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.....

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.....

.....

3. How are these women farmers involved in various agricultural activities managing to overcome these problems?

.....

.....

.....

4. List the solutions that extension workers or agents of Nalugugu sub-county have tried to extend to these women farmers to overcome some problems? {4scores}

.....

.....

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.....

5. What are the impacts of these Agricultural activities participated by women farmers to their;

a) Family(s). (3marks)

.....

.....

.....

b) Society (3marks)

.....

.....

.....

6. Mention five ways of overcoming these problems faced by the women farmers involved in various Agricultural activities in Nalugugu sub-county Sironko district? {3scor

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APPENDIX 2**WORKPLAN:**

ACTIVITY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Identify the research topic					
Formatting the proposal					
Presentation and submission of the proposal					
Data collection in the field					
Submission of the report for approval					

APPENDIX 3**PROPOSED BUDGET:**

S/N	ITEM	AMOUNT (shs)
1	Transport expenses	50000
2	Hiring equipment	50000
3	Facilitation	50000
4	Binding	20000
5	Report printing	15000
6	TOTAL	185000