

**THE EFFECT OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ON UGANDA'S ECONOMY A
CASE STUDY ALWA SUB-COUNTY, KABERAMAIDO DISTRICT**

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ABSTRACT

Uganda's economy has expanded during the past 20 years, and poverty levels have significantly decreased. Uganda's GDP expanded by 5.5% year over year in the second quarter of 2017, up from of the previously reported 4.6% development. With the help of forest management, agriculture, and fishing, it has had its best population increase since the third quarter of 2015.

The study's goal was to determine the importance and function of agricultural development in the Kaberamaido district. The majority of farming community, according to the Soroti District Farmers' Association, are created on properties located. They are founded on goals that support the growth of farmers in the region, such as figuring out how agriculture has affected Uganda's economy and figuring out the difficulties facing agriculture development in Kaberamaido.

Local leaders made up the biggest proportion of the overall number of responders (31%), followed by technical personnel and farmers (25%), farmers (25%) and LC1 representatives (19%). According to table 3 below, 25% of participants were technical employees, 25% were farmers, and 19% were LC1 chairmanships. Local leaders made up 31% of the participants.

Through into the current framework, the administration and quasi organizations should support agricultural development by providing local farmers with technical and financial support. The local communities should not overly rely on agricultural operations because they are frequently subject to drought stress.

Key words: *agricultural development and GDP*

Background of the study

Uganda's GDP has risen during the past 20 years, and poverty levels have significantly decreased.

Uganda's GDP expanded by 5.5% year over year in the second quarter of 2017, up from the previously reported 4.6% expansion. Due to forestry, agriculture, and fishing, it is the largest increase rate since the third month of 2015. (Can G , 1987). The 2015 Millennium Development Goal of reducing the proportion of people living on less than \$1 per day by half had already been accomplished in Uganda by 2011. According to Akr (2004), the percentage dropped from 53% in 1993 to 24.5%.

Due to the nation's rapid population increase, even while the percentage of people living in poverty greatly decreased, the number of poor people actually decreased much less dramatically (apri elikkaleli, 2008). With 34% of rural residents living below the national poverty line, compared to 14% of urban residents, poverty is still mostly a problem in rural areas.

In the last 20 years, Uganda's population density has doubled, and in the following 20 years, it is anticipated to double once again.

With a tiny population of people of working age sustaining a large number of children and the elderly, the nation has one of the worst dependence ratios in the world. The rate of growth of the inexperienced labor force is roughly 3.7% each year, and the farming industry absorbs the majority of these workers (AGRA, 2013). Around 60% of Uganda's labor force is employed in the agriculture sector, which contributes roughly 23% of the country's GDP and is steadily growing as the population does (Davran E, 2006).

In Uganda, agriculture continues to be the primary source of income. In accordance with the Uganda National Household Survey (Barro, 1998), agricultural, forestry, and fisheries account for 65% of the working age population in Uganda. Compared to 58% of the men in the working population, 70% of women work in agriculture.

In addition, 38% of people who were working had higher-paying jobs.

Statement of the problem

Agricultural and its efficiency have not increased steadily despite Uganda's relatively high growth domestic product during the past 20 years.

Almost 70% of the workforce is employed in the agricultural sector, which increased at a pace of barely 1% per year throughout that time and contributed less than 15% of the country's overall growth in gross domestic product (Hausmann, Rodrik, & Velasco 2005).

Despite the increase in the nation's people since 1980, agricultural productivity development has likewise remained flat (IFPRI, 2008).

Specific objectives

- 1. To determine the effect of agricultural development in Uganda's economy*
- 2. To identify the challenges facing agricultural development in Uganda.*

Research questions

- 1. What are the effects of agricultural development in Uganda's economy?*
- 2. What are the challenges facing agricultural development in Uganda?*

Methodology**Research Design**

Descriptive research design which, according to Gay (2009), involves collecting data in order to answer research questions concerning the current status of the subject of the study which is appropriate because the researcher made use of the data collected to answer the questions raised in this study. The research made widespread use of literature review on the role of Farmer groups in agricultural development.

Population

According to (Gupta, Shashi, &Rangi, Praneet, 2010) study population is a study of a group of individuals taken from the general population who share a common characteristic. Farmers in indulgence of agricultural development were targeted for the study

Sampling

Minerva (1994) also argues that to ensure the representativeness of a homogeneous population in research, a sample size of 50% is desirous. The sample size for the study was 80 respondents. This included the leaders of local councils and agricultural extension staff members (7 local council leader and 3 agricultural extension staff members) who were purposively agricultural development as stakeholders to enlighten the researcher about the factors of agricultural development towards Uganda's economy.

Respondent Category	Number selected	percentage	Method to be used	Sampling method to be used
<i>Farmers</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>93.75%</i>	<i>Questionnaire</i>	<i>Random sampling</i>
<i>Extension workers</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2.5%</i>	<i>Interview guide</i>	<i>Purposive sampling</i>
<i>Local council leaders</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>3.75%</i>	<i>Interview guide</i>	<i>Purposive sampling</i>
Total	170	100		

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Data Sources

Data for the study were obtained from both primary and secondary sources. Under primary source, emphasis was put on the collection of data directly from field surveys via the administration of questionnaire, interviews and focus group discussions.

Primary data

The main data sources are sources of specific data that have never been published previously, according to Doel and Chris (2002).

Farmers, local authority leaders from several sub-counties, development workers, and local council members served as the key sources for the information in Kaberamaido district.

The primary data offered trustworthy, precise, and first-hand knowledge regarding the factors influencing sustainable agriculture that was important to the study.

Secondary data

Doel and Chris (2002) defined additional data sources as those from publicly available and substantiated sources that may assist with offering answers to the issue under study. These sources included books, magazines, journals, newspapers, office record keeping, the internet, and paperwork that also included research works.

The purpose of collecting secondary data was to compile crucial information to direct the course of the investigation and validate or refute the results of the actual information.

Data collection methods

The researcher used questionnaire, key informants interview guide as well as focused group discussion for data collection.

Questionnaires

Producers who are capable of understanding the survey's subjects were provided with the opportunity to complete.

Open-ended and close-ended inquiries of both an organized and semi-structured character were included in the questionnaires.

The investigator delivered the questions to the respondents' places of employment and retrieved them at the scheduled time.

Method of Direct Observation

Participant observation was employed to gather non-verbal data that would be crucial in defending the contentious conditions.

This technique was used to check the accuracy and validity of the information given in the interviews and survey responses.

The physical activities that farmer groups engaged in in the Kaberamaido district are among the potential data that were observed.

Interview method

As according (Kothari, C.R. 2009), an interrogation is a verbal discussion between two people with the aim of gathering pertinent data for a research project. In a one-on-one interview, the interviewer uses oral questions to elicit detailed personal information from the subject. The conversation was extensively employed to complement and broaden our understanding of the ideas, emotions, and behaviors of the people. An interview schedule was used to conduct the interviews.

Data Analysis

Data analysis has multiple facets and approaches, encompassing diverse techniques under a variety of names, in different business, science, and social science domains. Thereafter, the

statistics acquired from tallies and frequencies were used to analyze data, Statistical packages for Social scientists (SPSS) (Nelson. K, 2022) was helpful in editing the study findings and presenting it in form of tables and percentages to quantify the corresponding statistics.

RESULTS

Age distribution of the respondents

From the Table 1 below, 12.5% of the respondents were between 20-24 years, 18.7% were between 25-29 years of age, 25% were between 30-39 years of age, 25% were between 40-49 years and 18.7% were above 50 years and above.

Table1: Age distribution of respondents

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>20- 24</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>12.5%</i>
<i>25-29</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>18.7%</i>
<i>30-39</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>25%</i>
<i>40-49</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>25%</i>
<i>50-above</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>18.7%</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>100%</i>

Source: primary data, 2020

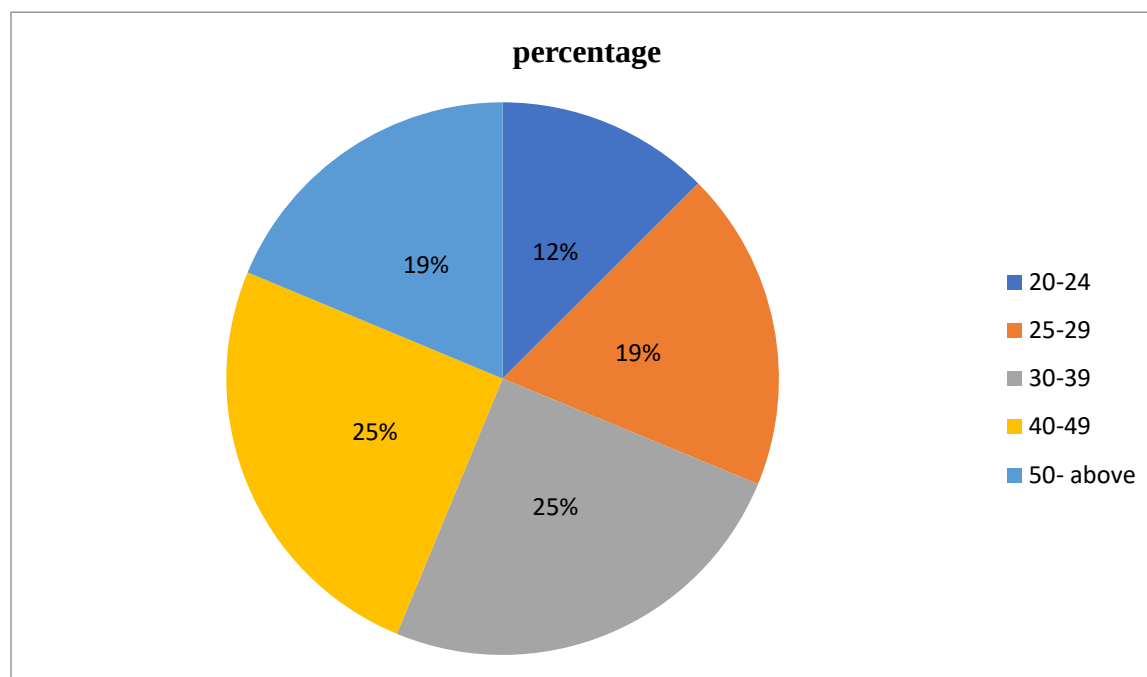


Figure1: A pie chart showing age distribution of respondent

Source: primary data 2020

Gender of respondents

Out of the total number of respondents interviewed, the highest percentage consisted of males (75%), followed by females (25%). This shows that males were dominant in data collection. This was due to the fact that males were more available as females were busy in field activities and others did not get time as they were caught up by home chores.

Table 2. Showing gender of Respondent

<i>Gender</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<i>Male</i>	60	75
<i>Female</i>	20	25
<i>Total</i>	80	100

Source: Researcher's fieldwork, 2021

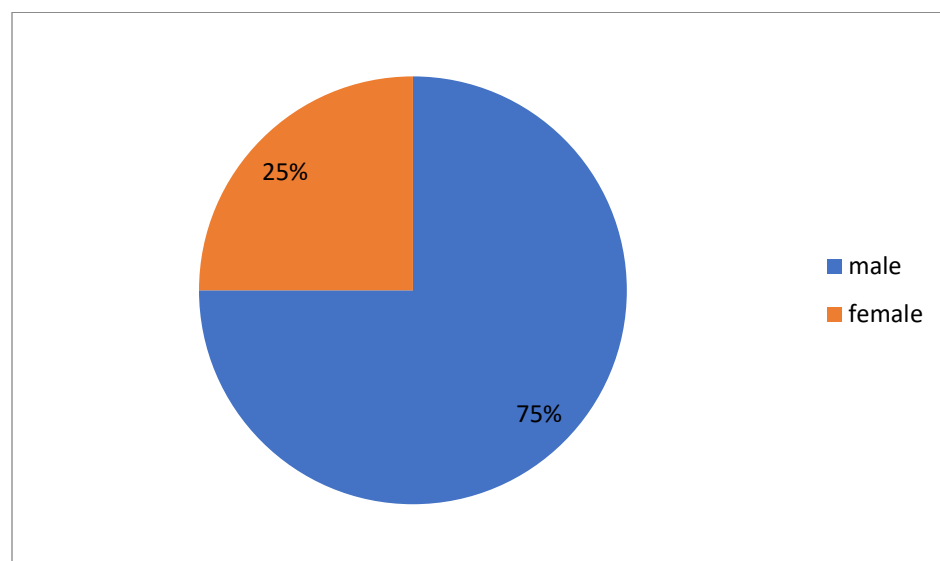


Figure 2. Gender of respondents

Category of Respondent

Out of the total number of respondents interviewed, the highest percentage consisted of local leaders (31%), technical staff and farmers (25%), Farmers (25%) and LC1 chair persons (19%). From the table 3 bellow, 31% of the respondents were local leaders, (25%) % was technical staff,

25% were farmers and (19%) were LC1 chair persons. This shows that data was collected from People who have good information since they were leaders of the study area.

Table 3. Category of respondents

<i>Category</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<i>Chairperson LC1</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Technical staff</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Local leaders inclusive</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>Beneficiaries/farmers</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>25</i>
Total	80	100

Source: Researcher's fieldwork 2021

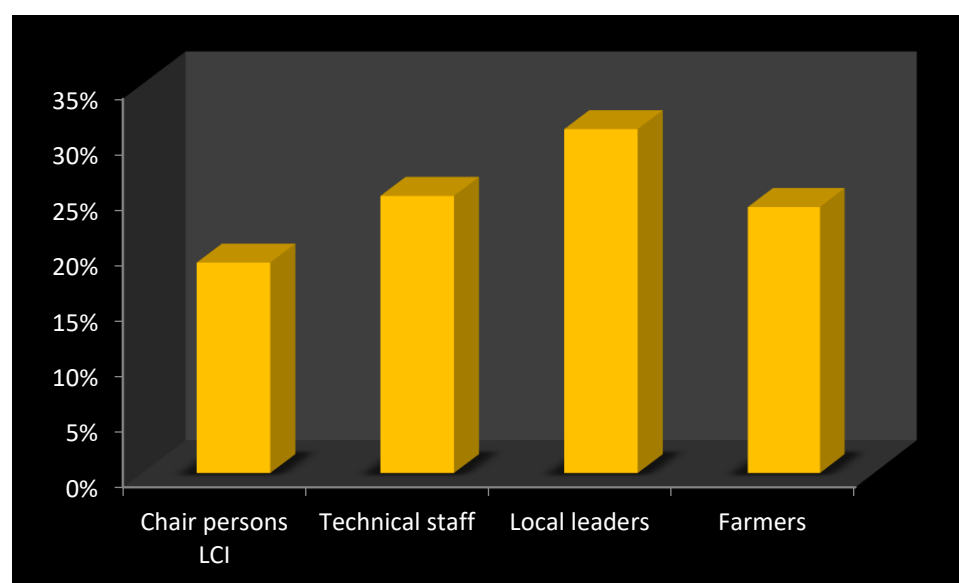


Figure 3: Category of respondents

Marital Status of Respondents

From the Table 4 below, (31%) of the respondents were widows, (28%) were married, (19%) were singles and (13%) of the respondents were spinster. This means that the information was got from mature people with sound mind and having the experience in field of agriculture. The marital status of respondents is summarized in table 4 bellow.

Table 4. Marital Status of the respondents

<i>Status</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<i>married</i>	22	28
<i>widow</i>	25	31
<i>widower</i>	15	19
<i>spinster</i>	10	13
<i>bachelor</i>	8	10
<i>Total</i>	80	100

Source: Researcher's fieldwork

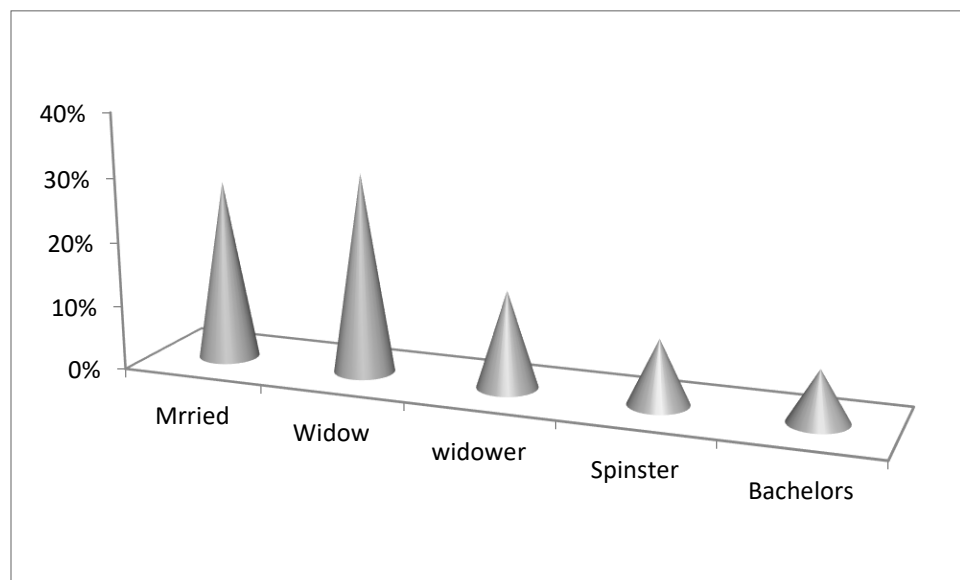


Figure 4: Marital status of the respondents

Level of education

The educational qualification of persons engaged in agriculture in the Alwa sub county Kaberamaido district is displayed in Table 5 below.

60%, 33.3%, 54%, and 100% of the families that engage in agriculture have completed postsecondary education, while 40% of families have only completed primary education.

This demonstrates that residents of the Alwa Sub County Kaberamaido district are literate, and this was confirmed by the participants' degree of schooling.

Yet, the majority of these agricultural participants have a secondary education or more (Table 5). **Table 5 Educational level of respondents**

	Educational attainment			
Status	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Total
chairperson Lc1		1		1

		100%		100%
Local leaders inclusive	2 40%	3 60%		5 100%
Technical staff (CDO, ACDO)		1 33.3%	2 66.7%	3 100%
Beneficiary/ farmers	36 32.7%	60 54.4%	14 12.7%	110 100%

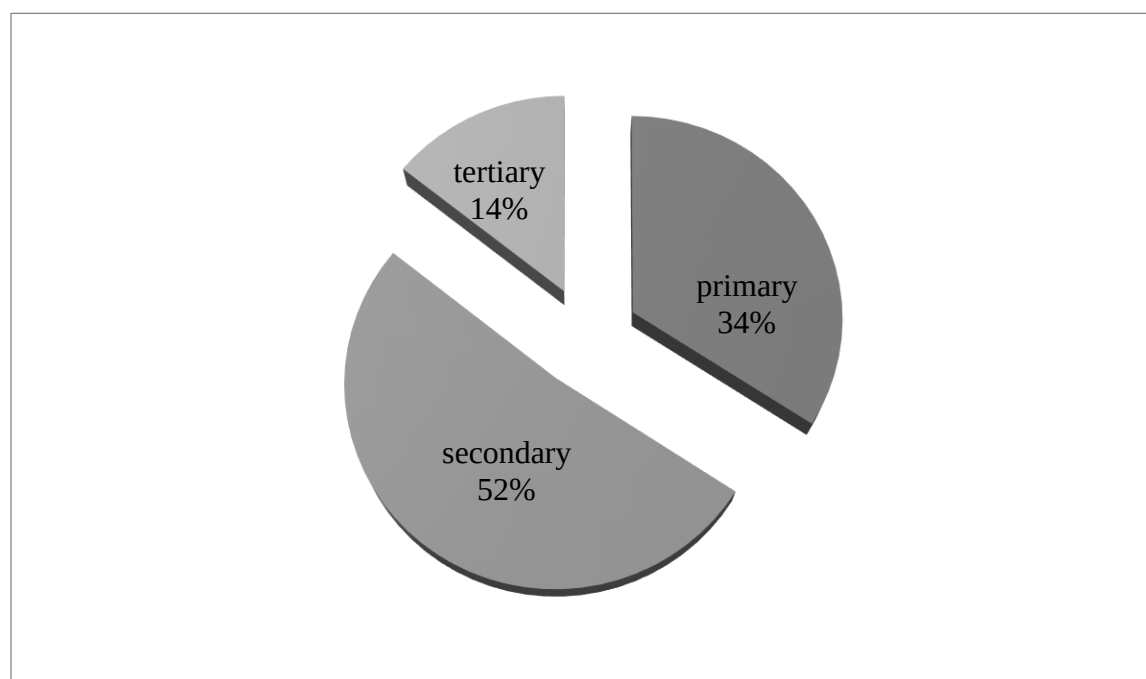


Figure 5: Educational of level respondents

Effect of agricultural development in Uganda's economy

The observation of the current study show shows that 21% of the respondents face a problem of pests and diseases, 12.5% of respondents shows that agricultural development face the challenge of corruption by government by agricultural officers, 18.75% of respondents show that shortage of water is a big challenge for agricultural development in the study area , 25% of respondents

show that agricultural development in the area is affected by poor agricultural inputs and 18.75% of respondents revealed that lack of market affect agricultural development in the area (Table 6)

Table 6. Effect of agricultural development

<i>Effect of agricultural development</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Improvement in transport network</i>	15	18.75
<i>Increase of GDP</i>	20	25
<i>National Food security</i>	10	12.5
<i>Development of agro processing industry</i>	15	18.75
<i>Improvement in employment opportunities</i>	20	25
Total	80	100

The results of Table 6 below indicate that 25% of the respondents face the challenge of poor agricultural inputs and also another 25% of respondents show that they face a challenge of pests and diseases while trying to develop agriculture. Again, the results show that 18.75% of respondents show that they face a challenge of water shortage and another 18% of respondents shows that their challenge in agricultural development is poor agricultural inputs. 12.3 % of respondents show that their challenge is corruption by the government agricultural officials

Conclusion

This research aimed to determine effect of agricultural development on Uganda's economy and factors that affect agricultural development in Uganda. Based on the results of the current study, agricultural development has a great impact on Uganda's economic development in terms of employment opportunities, improvement in transport network, increased the GDP of the economy, and improves food security and improvement of agro processing industry.

Recommendations

The government and non-governmental organizations should through the existing structure promote agricultural development through technical and financial capacitation to local farmers. Instead of over relying on agricultural activities which are often exposed to drought stresses, the local communities should diversify their livelihoods through engaging in other activities.

Government at all levels should endeavor to stimulate farmers to boost agricultural production by providing and subsidize, if need be, necessary infrastructures and enabling environment which provide impetus that ease people transition from traditional to modern farming.

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