
THE EFFECT OF OPERATION WEALTH CREATION ON YOUTH FARMERS

DEVELOPMENT: A CASE STUDY OF LABONGO LAYAMO

SUB COUNTY, KITGUM DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

The research study was primarily aim at assessing the effect of operation wealth creation to youth farmers' development. a case study of labongo layamo sub county .kitgum district. The research study was base on various objectives that includes establishing the contribution or role of operation wealth creation towards improving livelihoods, establishing the different challenges met by Operation wealth creation program in extending services to farmers and finding out the extent to which operation wealth creation program was improving the productivity of agriculture in, labongo layamo Sub county, kitgum District. Chi-square analysis was used to determine how the study's variables related to one another, and judgments were based on the results of the analysis. We dismissed the null assumption and came to the conclusion that there was a statistically significant association between the OWC program and the general efficiency of farming in picked Parishes, labongo Layamo Sub County, and Kitgum District as a result of the findings because the computed was more powerful than the tabulated =3.841. If the operation's income generation program is to live up to their aspirations, the investigator advised farmers to heed the recommendations of various technical committees. Because many people have complained that some are excluded from the Operation Wealth Creation program, local authorities in the Labongo Layamo Sub County Kitgum District should always attempt to include everyone in the program. The investigator further advised decision-makers, particularly parliamentarians, to attempt to follow the operation wealth creation program in collaboration with its assessment teams in order to understand how the initiative was conducted.

Key words: Operation wealth creation, Food Security, Welfare.

Background of the Study

These changes in Uganda encompass, among other things, opening up the market for agricultural supplies, offerings, and products; privatizing state-owned businesses that assisted production and commercialization; and reducing the number of civil officials who offered extension services (Lydia et al., 2023). Both good and bad things came out of these reforms. The implosion of public consequently, credit, and advertising firms (Derrick et al., 2023), an increase in the percentage of the very poor in the early 1990s, disparities in wealth, and a decline in crop yields, as reported by Kazaara & Christopher (2023), were some of the negative effects. The lack of additional, independent proof regarding NAADS's effects increased public anxiety about the program's ability to increase households' efficiency and earnings. Given the numerous audits and media reports that suggested some level of financial abuse by NAADS managers and the recipients, this was especially pertinent. The NAADS had disappointing setbacks and complaints, particularly bottlenecks in input delivery, improvement in productivity, and income growth (Paul & Kazaara, 2023). Extension employees and other officials' distribution of inputs and other gardening supplies was rife with dishonesty, and their track record at odds with the goals of the body's founding. (2007) Benin et al. Due to this, even though 80.3% of Ugandans have been able to transcend poverty, the vast majority of people still have low household incomes (Ronald & Kazaara, 2023). Though it increased from US\$320 to US\$550 (using the Atlas approach) from 1990 to 2014, Uganda's per capita income remains among the lowest in the world, placing it 164th out of 187 nations assessed on the human Development Index (HDI) (UBOS, 2016). There isn't much information available in the public about the effects of the OWC program, despite the financial backing and attention given to it, which supports communities in obtaining extending amenities in order to increase their welfare and production (UBOS, 2016).

Problem Statement

The Ugandan government is dedicated to enhancing the provision of services through efficient program finance, execution, and supervision. The ultimate goal is to improve the quality of life for citizens by expanding access to basic services like energy, roads, ICT, medical care, schooling, water, and cleanliness, as well as advisory services. A total of 497.52 billion Uganda shillings were given by the government to the agricultural sector during FY 2014-15 for a variety of purposes, including the purchase of putting down roots, breeding, and stocking substances, generating additional value, the construction of irrigation infrastructure, extension and research efforts, the encouragement of labour-saving technologies, and improvements in farm mechanization under the OWC program (MAAIF 2017). Because the research investigations were partially funded and carried out by the OWC secretariat, there is little information available to the public about the impact of operation generating wealth on the growth of young farmers despite the focus and funding devoted to the OWC program to assist households in accessing an extra period service in order to enhance their earnings and, consequently, welfare. Public concern over the program's efficacy in boosting household earnings and efficiency has increased due to the dearth of new, independent evidence on its impact or significance. This is especially important in light of the numerous audits and news articles that have suggested some amount of resource abuse by OWC administration and consumers (Allan et al., 2023). This prompts the researcher to assess the contribution of operation wealth creation to youths' farmers' empowerment in performance of OWC in rural areas using Labongo Layamo Sub County, Kitgum District as the case study

1.4 Specifics Objectives.

- 1. To establish the different challenges met by OWC in extending services to households in Labongo Layamo Sub County Kitgum District.*
- 2. To establish how the OWC programs have improved the productivity of agriculture in Labongo Layamo Sub County Kitgum District.*

Research Questions

1. *What are the different challenges met by OWC in extending services to households in Labongo Layamo Sub County Kitgum District?*
2. *How has OWC programs improved the productivity of agriculture in Labongo Layamo Sub County Kitgum District?*

Methodology

Research Design

Both qualitative and quantitative responses were employed in this study. In order to help the reader comprehend the distribution of information, the investigator used a descriptive survey design, which involves collecting data that outlines events and organizing, tabulating, depicting, and describing the data gathered using visual aids like graphs, charts, and tables (Sekaran and Bougie, 2003). This made it easier to determine and understand the role that operation generated wealth played in empowering young farmers and enhancing the socioeconomic well-being of Ugandan communities in Labongo Layamo Sub County.

Description of area of study

The study was conducted in Labongo layamo sub county Kitgum district. The sub county is located in kitgum district in northern part of Uganda. The area has rich agricultural land with fertile soils and good climatic conditions. The area was selected for study because there are a great number of beneficiaries of the OWC programme.

Sample selection technique

A stratified random sampling with two stages was utilized by the investigator. The sampling frame consisted of every household in the six villages that make up the Labongo Layamo Sub County, nevertheless only 30 of those houses were actually questioned. In order to gather trustworthy and precise data from those who participated, purposeful random procedures were used.

Selection of the Sample Size.

Thus; $p = \frac{496}{1212} = 0.4092$ and $q = 1 - 0.4092 = 0.59076$

The required sample size was determined using the Cochran formula below

$$n = \frac{Z_{\alpha/2}^2 pq}{e^2} \dots\dots\dots 3.1$$

Where;

n = Desired sample size

$p * q$ = Population variance

e = Standard error/degree of precision

Determining the number of replicates or observations to include in the statistical sample of the labongo layamo sub county is necessary to determine the percentages of the respondents selected to the anticipated total. Making conclusions about a population from a sample is what it is all about. It is decided depending on the expense, accessibility, or requirement for data collection in order for it to provide enough.

■ α = Level of significance

Hence;

$$n = \frac{1.96^2 \times 0.40924 \times 0.59076}{0.138593^2} \approx 60 \text{ respondents}$$

Methods of data collection and instruments.

Questionnaires

A questionnaire is a well-crafted written series of inquiries to which participants must provide their responses, typically within a narrow range of options. The use of questionnaires is justified by the fact that some study variables, such as the responders' views, viewpoints, perceptions, and emotions, cannot be directly observed. The survey is equally helpful because data must be gathered quickly from a large sample of sixty participants, and yet participants must be literate (Sekaran and Bougie, 2003). The survey is used to gather information from participants. The Labongo Layamo Sub County, Kitgum District participants were given surveys that included both open-ended and closed-ended questions.

Data analysis

According to Kombo and Tromp (2006), the data must be handled, analysed, and provided in a manner consistent with the guidelines established for the research's objective. In order to analyse the data and produce rates, tables, proportions, t-values, and trust intervals for comparing and analysing the statistical significance of various data variables, we used SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Scientists) (Nelson et al., 2022).

RESULTS*The role of OWC towards improving welfare of households***Table 1 the Roles of OWC towards improving welfare of households in Labongo Layamo Sub County, kitgum District**

Roles of OWC	Responses											
	S. Agree		Agree		S.Disagree		Disagree		Not sure		Total	
	Freq	%ge	Freq	%ge	Freq	%ge	Freq	%ge	Freq	%ge	Freq	%ge
Increases market oriented agriculture production	10	17	41	68	-	-	09	15	-	-	60	100
Enhances households' access to appropriate services	10	17	45	75	-	-	-	-	05	08	60	100
Helps farmers to move progressively to higher levels of adoption and implementation through demonstration	20	33	40	67	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	100
Increases access to information and technology and training	-	-	42	70	-	-	0-8	13	10	17	60	100
Helps households achieve economies of scale as they increase negotiating power and skills and other services that could be costly	03	05	38	63	-	-	18	30	01	02	60	100
Facilitate quality of advisory services and promote adoption to new crop livestock enterprise and use of modern agriculture production technologies	10	17	41	68	-	-			09	15	60	100

Source: Primary data 2019

The results of the investigation on OWC's contributions to enhancing household welfare in the Labongo Layamo Sub County, Kitgum District are presented in Table 1. It was discovered that OWC assists families in advancing to greater levels of acceptance and execution through presentation. 33% of the participants strongly agreed with this, and 67% of all participants agreed. This suggests that OWC provides farmers in various communities with the tools they need to access and employ capital for investments through coordinated assistance for farmer groups, enabling them to effectively manage their goods. Following this was the belief that the OWC program improves access to relevant services, with which 17% completely concurred and 75% agreed while 8% were unsure. Additionally, it was discovered that the OWC program promotes acceptance of new crop livestock enterprises, the use of current agricultural cultivation methods, and the standard of advisory services. Of those surveyed, 17% strongly agreed with this statement, 68% agreed, and 15% were unsure. The data also revealed that the OWC program assists communities in increasing market-oriented cultivation, with 17% strongly supporting it, 68% concurring, and 15% disagreeing. Additionally, the study's conclusions show that OWC improves households' access to schooling, technology, and knowledge, as agreed upon by 70% of those who participated. However, 13% of the participants disapproved and 17% were unsure. Finally, the results of the investigation revealed that OWC aids households in achieving economies of scale by improving their power of negotiation, skills, and other products that may be expensive. Of all those who participated, 05% were in agreement with this conclusion, while 63% disapproved. Nevertheless, 30% were in disagreement, and 0% were unsure. This suggests that the OWC program has made significant efforts to improve the socioeconomic well-being of households in the kit gum District's labongo layamo Subcounty.

The challenges met by the OWC program in extending services to households

Responses here were based on questions in appendices section C. This question was addressed to a cross section of 60 respondents as presented in Table 4.3

Table 2:1The challenges met by OWC program in extending services to households

The challenges met by OWC	Responses											
	S. Agree		Agree		S. Disagree		Disagree		Not sure		Total	
	Freq	%ge	Freq	%ge	Freq	%ge	Freq	%ge	Freq	%ge	Freq	%ge
Decline in soil fertility	20	33	40	67	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	100
Low value addition to agricultural production	10	17	50	83	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	100
Weak implementation of agricultural laws and policies	07	12	41	68	-	-	08	13	04	07	60	100
Peasant based agriculture	08	13	46	77	-	-	-	-	06	10	60	100
Shortage of agricultural inputs and uncooperative members, unfavorable climate	10	17	50	83	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	100
Corruption among OWC official	10	17	48	80	-	-	02	03			60	100

Source: Field Data 2022

Insufficient agricultural inputs, recalcitrant members, an unfavourable climate, and little value addition to agricultural output were the main problems, depending to the study's conclusions on the difficulties OWC encountered in providing services to farmers (see table 2 above). This was due to the fact that 17% of the participants strongly agreed and 83% of all participants agreed that both difficulties were negatively affecting them. Following this was dishonesty among OWC officials, with 17% strongly agreeing, 80% agreeing, and only 3% disagreeing. Those who objected were OWC employees who carried out the program and were attempting to hide the truth. The results showed that there was an issue with peasant-based food production, with 13% strongly agreeing, 77% agreeing, and 10% unsure. Additionally, the OWC program in Kitgum encountered difficulties in providing services to homes while weakly enforcing agrarian rules and policies. Only 12% of the participants strongly agreed with this, and 68% of participants overall agreed. However, 13% of the participants disapproved, and 7% were unsure. The loss in soil fertility was also discovered to be a challenge, which 33% of the participants strongly agreed with and 67% of participants overall agreed with.

How the OWC program can be established so as to directly improve the welfare of household

Responses for this section were based on questions in appendices section D. This question was addressed to a cross section of 60 respondents

Table 3: How OWC program can be streamlined to directly improve the welfare of households

Measure												
	S. Agree		Agree		S. Disagree		Disagree		Not sure		Total	
	Freq	%ge	Freq	%ge	Frq	%ge	Freq	%ge	Freq	%ge	Freq	%ge
Increased finding to agriculture sector by government	15	25	45	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	100
Empowerment of OWC programs to target market opportunities for households	-	-	35	58	-	-	18	30	07	12	60	100
Identify domestic and export market opportunities to households	14	23	46	76	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	100
Training and advisory services to households	06	10	42	70	-	-	08	13	04	07	60	100

Source: Field Data 2022

Table 3 above's findings from the study on how to consolidate the OWC program to directly improve the welfare of families show that boosted government funding for the agricultural sector could simplify the OWC program to immediately improve farmers' livelihoods, with 25% strongly agreeing and 75% agreeing. Following this, delivering training and advising services to farmers in the various homes was immediately followed by an assessment of prospective domestic as well as international market prospects for farmers, which was unanimously agreed upon by 23% and agreed with by 76%. 10% of the participants were completely in agreement with this, and 70% of the participants agreed. However, 13% disagreed while 07% were not sure. Finally, respondents suggested empowerment of OWC programs to target market opportunities for households which was agreed by 58% of the respondents. 30% disagreed with this view while 12% were not sure.

Whether OWC program is influential	Increasing profitability		Total
	Agree	Disagree	
Yes	31	11	42
No	13	5	18
Total	44	16	60
$\chi^2 = 4.3257$ df= 1 p = 0.032			

Source: Researcher's Analysis

Testing hypothesis

Table 4: Cross tabulation between OWC program and its influence on productivity of agriculture

Since the computed is greater than the tabulated =3.841, we reject the null

hypothesis and conclude that there is a statistically significant relationship between OWC program and the general productivity of agriculture in selected Parishes, labongo Layamo Sub County, kitgum District

Whether OWC program is influential	Influence on food nutrition and security			Total
	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	
Yes	16	15	10	41
No	6	8	5	19
Total	22	23	15	60
$\chi^2 = 6.5324$	df=2	p=0.023	$\alpha=0.05$	

Table 5: Cross tabulation between OWC program and its influence on food and nutrition security

Source: Researcher's Analysis

Since the computed is greater than the tabulated =3.841, we reject the null

Hypothesis and conclude that there is a statistically significant relationship between NAADS program and the level of food and nutrition security in labongo akwang sub county, kitgum district

Conclusions

The original goal of the OWC initiative was to increase farmers' capacity to establish and run farmer connections, request assistance, and adopt better agricultural equipment and procedures by having model producers in neighbourhoods demonstrate the innovations (MAAIF, 2010). As stated in the act, the OWC program, formerly known as NAADS, has been created to replace the outdated extension and to lead the advancement of market-oriented agribusiness as well as to offer assistance for other connected and incidental farms.

Recommendations

The engineering teams' recommendations to support the initiative for their personal advantage in enhancing their standard of living or welfare ought to be carefully taken into consideration by families involved in conceptualization. To enhance farmers' wellbeing, the OWC program was created for them. Consequently, individuals should take responsibility for it and work to address all

of the problems that affect them in collaboration with local authorities and decision-makers.

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