
**COMMERCIAL FARMING AND SOCIAL ECONOMIC STATUS OF RURAL FAMILIES. A CASE OF
KYABATANA VILLAGE****1 Kagina James, 2 Natukunda Charles****1, 2 Metropolitan International University****ABSTRACT**

The purpose of the study was to investigate the role of commercial farming in improving the social economic status of rural families in Kyabatana Sub County in Nakaseke District. The study was bounded on the findings from 170 respondents out of the sample size of 200 respondents. The 170 respondents presented results basin on the objectives of the study such as to examine the reasons as to why people in Kyabatana Village get involved in commercial farming, to ask the role of commercial farming in improving the social economic status of the rural families, to examine the challenges of rural families in engaging in commercial farming. Data was collected from the farmers of Kyabatana Sub County in Nakaseke District. The findings of the study revealed results indicating that majority of the farmers would do commercial farming in order to generate income. The Regression results shown that the adjusted R square value was 0.567 which implied that commercial farming only contributed to 56.7% towards social economic status, the remaining 43.3% social economic status being explained by other factors. This generally shown that there was a relationship commercial farming and social economic status. The findings also revealed that many farmers who engaged in commercial farming usually faced a challenge of price fluctuations. The researcher also recommended the people in the community to always adopt to new technology in order to benefit from commercial farming.

Key words: commercial farming, social economic status and rural families

Background of the study

In the world, there has been a lot of discussion on the effects of commercialization on food and nutrition security, especially in the 1970s and 1980s (Gracious, 2023). On the one hand, it was thought that as a result of commercialization, households would receive more cash income, which would lead to better food security (Oromo et al., 2023). On the other hand, there are also authors who claim that commercialization does not necessarily lead to improved food security. Von Braun (1995) argues that, due to inequality, risks and market failure, agricultural commercialization might make the poor even worse off (Collins et al., 2023). Even though there was no conclusive evidence on the effects of commercialization on food security, the topic has received much less attention since the 1980s-1990s (Allan et al., 2023). A recent study by Carletto et al. (2016) tried to shed new light on the abovementioned relationship, as there are many projects focusing on increasing agricultural commercialization, while the benefits on nutrition and food security have not been proven (Allan et al., 2023). In West African countries like Ghana, Cameron among others commercialization is widely practiced and it is believed to be the technique behind their economic success (Odoi M 2018). Odoi also

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Corresponding: Author: research.miu.ac.ug/publications

urged that those West African countries grow crops like cocoa, cassava, yams, pine trees, pineapples among other (Grace et al., 2023). According to Selomi J (2017), countries like Ghana produces a lot of tones to the international market and this earns it a lot of profits.

In East Africa, countries like Kenya is well known for growing sugar canes and maize (Emmanuel et al., 2023). According to Kabuli G (2019), Majority of the farmers in in Kenya do not practice commercial farming because of lack of enough land and money to purchase machinery. Joseph N (2020) urged that the emerging price fluctuations of the products like maize and sugar canes are one of the obstacles to commercialization of Agriculture in Kenya (Moses et al., 2023).

In Uganda, agriculture commercialization is usually emphasized by the government, in this way the government encourages Ugandan farmers to focus on commercialization and leave subsistence farming (Francis, Richard, Kazaara, et al., 2023). The government of Uganda introduced NAADS as one of the major factors to enhance commercialization of agriculture in the country and operation wealth creation which involved giving out of agricultural products like seeds, machinery, pesticides, and domestic animals among others. According to Edward S (2020), in Uganda some farmers who practice commercial farming usually face challenges of unfavorable weather conditions like the landslides which put them into loses (Willies et al., 2022).

In kyabatana village, farming is the economic activity that is mainly practiced and this is practiced through rearing animals most especially cows. Some of the villages in Kyabatana Village rear cows. Commercial farming in animal husbandry like in rearing of cows involves selling milk and processing it into new products. This has created a great impact on the economic well-being of people in the village (Phionah et al., 2023).

Problem Statement

Majority of the population in Kyabatana Village rear cows for both milk consumption, meat and selling. Even though there was a need to engage in commercial farming, majority of the residents in Kyabatana village do not have enough land and cows to allow them practice commercial farming (Journal et al., 2023). Some few farmers through government programs like operation wealth creation had tried to practice commercial farming but they faced a lot of challenges like unfavorable weather conditions, price fluctuations, animal diseases like foot and mouth (Francis, Richard, Nicholas, et al., 2023). In Kyabatana village, 40% of the farmers had between 15-30 cows, 20% had between 5-10 cows. However, most of the farmers did not have knowledge on how to rear animals on a commercial basis, since commercialization required enough land and capital, farmers had always found it challenging to practice it. Therefore, the researcher was set to carry out a research report on the influence of commercial farming on the standards of living among rural families.

Objectives of the study

- 1 To examine the reasons as to why people in Kyabatana Village get involved in commercial farming.

2 To ask the role of commercial farming in improving the social economic status of the rural families.

3 To examine the challenges of rural families in engaging in commercial farming.

Methodology

Research design

This study included the descriptive survey design that was a type of research undertaken with the aim of describing characteristics of variables in a situation. According to Best and Khan (2019), descriptive survey design is concerned with conditions or relationships that exists, opinions that are held, processes that are going on, effects that are evident, or trends that are developed. (Kerlinger,1969). The descriptive survey design will enable collection of data without manipulating the research variables. The descriptive survey design will optimize on the strengths of both quantitative and qualitative research methodology. The survey method will allow collection of data from a large sample population and will generate findings that will represent the whole population at a lower cost (Saunders, 2007).

Target population

The target population of the study are the farmers in Kyabatana Village. The target population is comprising of 200 in total.

Sampling

Sample size

A sample is a smaller pressure of subjects obtained from the accessible population (Mugenda and Mugenda 2003). The study employed Mugenda and Mugenda (2018) who recommended sample size of 10% of the target population. The researcher used the above formula to determine the sample size for the 200 respondents.

Table 1: Sample Size

RESPONDENTS		SAMPLE SIZE	PERCENTAGE
Farmers of Kyabatana Village		170	85
Agricultural Officials		30	15
TOTAL		200	100

Sampling Procedure

Sampling was the process of selecting a number of individuals for a study in such a way that the individuals selected represented the large pressure from which they were selected Mugenda and Mugenda, (1999). The researcher used random sampling technique to select the sample size from individuals. A sampling frame was designed by the researcher and distributed to the target population. This enabled every member of the accessible population to have equal chance of participating in the study.

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Data collection instruments

Bourke (2005) simply stated that questionnaires are used to obtain two different types of information: First the background information on students, teachers, or others, such as age, gender, amount of schooling, and secondly attitudinal information about some specific events, way of behaving, quality of life, other persons. In the first case, even though the same information could also be gathered in other ways. From institutional records, a questionnaire is simply a convenient way of obtaining the information. In the second case, a number of items are asked about each attitude or opinion in an attempt to tap various aspects underlying beliefs or feelings which gives rise to the attitudes. Similarly, Oppenheim (1996) affirms that the questionnaires are one way of obtaining a measure of attitude. The attitudes have two components: beliefs (cognitive) and feelings (emotional or affective).

Validity of the instruments

Validity was the extent to which the instrument measured what appeared to measure according to the researcher's subjective assessment (Nachmias: 2018). Validity dealt with the accuracy of the instruments for example, the researcher needed to have adequate questions in the written task in order to collect the required data for analysis that was used to draw conclusions. Frenekel (2017) suggested that the individuals who were supposed to render an intelligent judgment about the adequacy of the instruments were to the instruments before the instruments were administered. The instruments were then amended according to the expert's comments and recommended before being administered.

Data Analysis techniques

The study design adopted the single method and therefore quantitative data collection techniques. The deductive-approach will be used in data analysis. Under this method, hypothesis was generated from the study objectives which was expressed in operational terms and tested. Computer software such as SPSS was used to analyze the data, table and charts were generated to explain the quantitative data (Nelson et al., 2022). Tables and charts were also used to display the result of the study to ensure maximum clarity and objectivity. Furthermore, included descriptive information from the field group discussion which will obtain further confirmation of the findings made.

RESULTS

Relationship between commercial farming and social economic status of rural families

Table 1: Correlation between commercial farming and social economic status

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.676 ^a	.567	.561	.41114
a. Predictors: (Constant), commercial farming				

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Source; Primary Data, 2022

The Regression results as presented in table 1 above show the, adjusted R square value 0.567, it implies that commercial farming only contributes to 56.7% towards social economic status, the remaining 43.3% social economic status being explained by other factors. This generally shows that there is a relationship commercial farming and social economic status

Table 2: ANOVA values for commercial farming and social economic status

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	6.224	1	6.224	44.295	.000
	Residual	10.746	199	.057		
	Total	16.970	200			
a. Dependent Variable: social economic status						
b. Predictors: (Constant), commercial farming						

Source; Primary Data, 2022

Table 2 of the study's findings shows that the regression model substantially and accurately forecasts the dependent variable. The regression model's statistical significance is demonstrated by $F = 44.295$ and $\text{Sig} = 0.000$, both less than 0.05 (Nelson et al., 2023). The regression means square value of 6.224 contrasted to the remainder mean square value of 0.057, which is substantial to zero, further supports this. This demonstrates that there is a connection between commercial farming and social economic status

Table 3: Coefficients of commercial farming and Customer behavior in UBL

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	2.687	.278		6.116	.001
commercial farming	.772	.078	.606	8.718	.000
a. Dependent Variable: social economic status					

Source; Primary Data (2022)

Results from table 3 give t values and Beta. The t-values test the hypothesis that the coefficient is different from 0. To reject this, you need a t-value greater than 1.96 (for 95% confidence). The t-value for commercial farming is 8.718 which are greater than 1.96. This implied commercial farming affect social economic status considering a significant factor ($\text{Sig} = 0.01$).

Conclusions

In conclusion, the findings of the study presented results indicating that majority of the respondent in Kyabatana Sub County informed the researcher that majority of the respondents presented results to the researcher indicating that price fluctuations in their community was the main challenge to their commercial farming implementation however some respondents presented results showing that lack of enough farming Equipments also hindered commercial farming implementation. Poor road network was also suggested by some respondents and finally some other respondents presented results to the researcher indicating that unfavorable weather conditions was another factor that would hinder them from implementing commercial farming.

Recommendations

The researcher recommended all the communities in Uganda to adopt to commercial farming because it was beneficial.

The reseacher also recommended the community leaders to always sensitize the people about the different government programs.

The researcher also recommended the people in the community to always adopt to new technology in order to benefit from commercial farming.

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