FACTORS AFFECTING POTATO VARIETAL PREFERENCE BY FARMERS.

CASE STUDY: KWOSIR SUB-COUNTY, KWEEN DISTRICT.

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DECLARATION.

I **ROTICH SAM** hereby declare that this research report is my original work and has not been presented for any academic award to any institution of higher learning.

Signature……. Date……..

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APPROVAL

This research report titled **"factors affecting potato varietal preference by farmers in Kwosir sub county, Kween district**" has been submitted to the university examinations board with my approval as the candidate's university academic supervisor.

Signature……. Date……

MR. OGUZU EVENS (SUPERVISOR)

DEDICATION

I wish to dedicate the mighty work written in this report to my parents, Mr. Mwotil Jackson and Mrs. Chebet Judith who laid the foundation for my education and their financial support during the research process. My lovely brothers ; Mutai Dalmas and Arapmwotil Levi, as well my sister Chelangat Sally for their tireless guidance granted unto me during the course of conducting this research.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

UBOS: Uganda Bureau of statistics.

FAOSTAT: Food and Agricultural Statistics.

FAO : Food and Agricultural organization.

FME: Federal ministry of education.

DAO: District Agricultural Officer.

NARO: National agriculture research organization.

ABSTRACT

The study was conducted on the assessment of the factors affecting potato varietal preference by farmers in Kwosir Sub County, Kween district. The study design was a cross sectional research design and a sample size of 45 respondents was adopted using purposive sampling technique. Data was collected using questionnaire that was designed for both farmers and stakeholders and presented in form of frequency tables and charts both pie charts and graphs The findings revealed that there are clear factors affecting potato varietal preferences by farmers. However, factors that affected potato varietal preference by farmers included the following included yield, skin colour, disease resistance and maturity period.

CHAPTER ONE.

1.0 Introduction.

This chapter presents the background, problem statement, objectives, research questions, scope, research hypothesis, significance of the study, justification and conceptual framework.

1.1Background.

Irish potato was already introduced in the early 20th century by colonial administrators. Potatoes have multiple agronomic advantages above other traditional food crops including short cropping cycle, high production per unit area and per unit of water, and are highly nutritious produce. (Woldegioris, 2013)

Irish potato (*solenum tuberosum* L) is the fourth world's largest food crop after wheat, rice and maize. World production reached a record of 320 million tons in 2007. And production in developing countries has almost doubled since 1991 with the corresponding increase in consumption. (Hoffler, 2008)

Irish potato crop is a food commodity that provides enormous investment opportunities to add value. It is one of the most productive food crops in the world in terms of the food edible energy and good quality protein. Nutritionally, Irish potato is considered a well-balanced major plan food with a good ratio protein and calories and substantial amounts of vitamins especially vitamin C and trace elements. (Emmma, 2011) Internationally, the market of Irish potatoes has five distinctive segments that include seed Irish potato, ware Irish potato, frozen chips, crisps/snacks and other misecilinoues products such as starch. Countries such as Holland that have been successful in developing the Irish potato industry export 70% of their ware Irish products such as chips and flour. (Kato, 2015)

According to FAO 2014, the annual Irish potato output in Uganda is approximately 800,000 metric tons, produced on approximately 112,000 hectares with an acreage yield of 7.14 metric tons per hectare. Seed tubers with symptomatic or latent infection are a potent source of inoculums of R-solanacearum leading to disease outbreak and pathogen spread from place to place and from season to season.

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