

**IMPACT OF SUGARCANE GROWING TO THE LIVELIHOODS OF SMALL SCALE
FARMERS IN NAMASAGALI SUB COUNTY**

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DECLARATION

I **Kijali Julius**, declare that am the sole author of this dissertation. The work presented in this dissertation has never been submitted to Busitema University for the award of a degree of Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Economics or any other Higher Institution of Learning for any academic award. Thus, the work is original, a result of my own research, and where other people's research was used, the authors have been dully acknowledged.

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APPROVAL

This serves to certify that this work has been truly through the efforts of **Kijali Julius** towards partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Economics of Busitema University under my guidance and supervision.

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DEDICATION

This piece of work is dedicated to the family of Mr. and Mrs. Kisense James in appreciation of the support, care and love offered to me. I also dedicate to my beloved friends; Namatovu Hildahguard, Wanume Mathius, Tusiime Christopher, Basooma Sadic, Tiyonga Robett and Nalukenge Grace. May the almighty Lord reward them abundantly.

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I give great thanks to the Almighty GOD who gave me the gift of life and made me go through unbearable times at the University.

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

NAADS.....	National agricultural advisory services
UBOS	Uganda national bureau of statistics
URN.....	Uganda radio network
NEPAD.....	New Partnership for Africa's Development
GDP	Gross domestic product
CO2	Carbon dioxide
SAIL	Sugar and Allied Industries limited
FAO	Food agricultural organization
KCGL	Kasinthula Cane Growers Limited
CSR.....	Corporate social responsibility
NAAIP	National Accelerated Agricultural Input Programme
UGS	Uganda shillings
SPSS	Statistical package for social scientists)

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ABSTRACT

Sugar cane growing is one of the activities that have become currently common in Busoga region and Namasagali Sub County in particular. It has been carried out in the area for the past five years and increasing with opening up of the sugar factory in Kamuli.

The main objective of the research was to assess the impact of sugar cane growing to the livelihoods of small-scale farmers in Namasagali Sub County. Specifically, the study was to determine the size of land small-scale farmers allocate to sugarcane growing and to food crops, establish the income that small scale farmers attain from sugarcane growing in relation to food crops, find out how food secure are the families within the study area, and suggest strategies that can enhance sugar cane growing and crop production enterprise to reduce on the impacts.

The study comprised of a sample of 70 respondents. We used questionnaires and interviews to gather information on sugar cane growing that involved interviewing sugar cane growers, small scale farmers in the study area. The data was analyzed using SPSS software which involved computation of percentages and frequencies including pie charts and bar charts.

The study found out that majority of the farmers own land that is used for cultivation of sugarcane and food crops where small scale farmers have not benefited from the growing of sugarcane as the income from the output is less that the costs that are incurred in growing of sugarcane hence getting less income and increasing poverty levels in the area. Also to some extent the respondent who had faced hunger the majority of them had just started growing sugarcane.

The findings from the study suggest that the government should set standard prices for the agricultural products, provide a steady market for the agricultural produce, improve on the transport network to enable farmers take their produces in the market centers, setting up of agricultural financial institutions to provide loans to farmers, putting up agricultural extension workers to provide advisory services to the farmers.

The study concludes that small scale farmers have not benefited from the growing of sugarcane but instead it has led to more poverty since farmers incur a lot of costs but get very small from sugarcane after harvesting. To some extent it also contributed to food insecurity in these families as they concentrate on sugarcane growing and ignore food production.

The study recommended that the government come in action to improve the livelihoods of the small scale farmers by setting standard prices for agricultural products, providing ready market, improving transport network, providing agricultural extension workers.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Namasagali Sub County is located in Kamuli district in eastern Uganda. It is located North Western part of Kamuli district along the eastern bank of the Victoria Nile approximately 25 km by road where the district headquarters are located. This location is approximately 89 km by road north of Jinja, the biggest city in the sub region. The coordinates of Namasagali are: 01 00 45N, 32 57 00E (Latitude:1.0125; Longitude:32.9500). Namasagali is naturally endowed with; water resources, fisheries resources, woodlands, land and soils, Energy (wood) resources, grasslands, wetlands and wildlife.

1.2 Background of the study

Sugarcane is a tropical, perennial grass that forms lateral shoots at the base to produce multiple stems, typically three to four metres high and about five cm in diameter. The stems grow into cane stalk, which when mature constitutes approximately 75% of the entire plant (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sugarcane>). A mature stalk is typically composed of 11–16% fiber, 12–16% soluble sugars, 2–3% non-sugars, and 63–73% water (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sugarcane>). A sugarcane crop is sensitive to the climate, soil type, irrigation, fertilizers, insects, disease control, varieties, and the harvest period. The average yield of cane stalk is 60–70 tonnes per hectare per year. However, this figure can vary between 30 and 180 tonnes per hectare depending on knowledge and crop management approach used in sugarcane cultivation. Sugarcane is a cash crop, but it is also used as livestock fodder (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sugarcane>).

Uganda's economy is heavily dependent on agriculture and over 80 percent of the labor force and 85 percent of its poor people are directly or indirectly engaged in agriculture, live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for livelihood and as source of income (NEPAD, 2004).

According to the state of environmental report (2010), agricultural sector in Uganda is composed of crop and animal production, forestry and fisheries and the associated trade and processing industries. Agriculture continues to dominate the Ugandan economy though at a continually declining level. Agricultural production contributed approximately 15.1 of the total GDP in 2009

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