



**CONSTRAINTS TO THE RURAL BEE KEEPING IN SELECTED SUB COUNTIES OF
KITGUM DISTRICT**

BY

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE
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MAY, 2014

DECLARATION

I, **Lutoduc Kennedy** declare that the information in this dissertation is my own work and it has never been submitted to any institution of higher learning or university for any academic award.

Sign.....*[Signature]*.....Date.....*01st 108/2014*.....

APPROVAL

The dissertation has been submitted for examination with the approval of my supervisor

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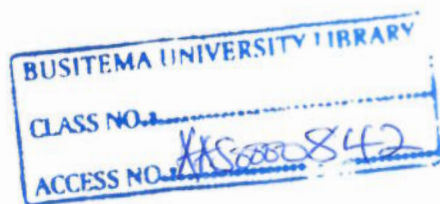
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DEDICATION

I dedicate these dissertation to my parents, sisters, brothers and my wife Atim Judith Ogwella not forgetting my uncles and uncles and my friends thanks.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AAAE	African association of agricultural economics
AFB	American foul brood
CAO	Chief administrative officer
DVO	District veterinary officer
EFB	European foul brood
GARSAH	Global advance research journals of art and humanities
IFI	Individual farmer's interview
KBA	Kitgum bee keepers association
KITWOBEE	Kitgum women bee keepers
KTB	Kenya top bar hives
MAAIF	Ministry of agriculture animal industries and fisheries
NAADS	National agricultural advisory services
NECTAR	Netherlands expertise center for sub-tropical apicultural resources
NGO	None governmental organization
PEAP	Poverty eradication action plan
SHB	Small hive beetle
SPSS	Statistical package of social science
TUNADO	The Uganda national apiculture development organization
UEPB	Uganda export promotions boards
UHA	Uganda honey bee keepers association
UWESO	Uganda women effort to support orphan

ABSTRACTS

This study was conducted in randomly selected sub county of Labongo Amida, Kitgum Matidi and Omiya Anyima in Kitgum district to analyze the constraints to rural bee keeping. The focus of the study was to assess challenges market and marketing system, the measures to diseases, pest and predators affecting bee keeping, socio economic, cultural, management and other factors affecting bee keeping in the selected sub counties and 48 bee keepers were interviewed using the pretested individual farmers' interview where by 16 farmers were purposively sample from the selected sub counties in the district.

The data collected was used in the excel sheet and analyzed using statistical package of social science (SPSS version 16) to find the frequencies, percentage which was presented using tables, graphs, pictures and pie chart. The study indicates that 75% of the respondents were male, 69% of the respondents market their products in the local market and they experience some common challenges like lack of fixed and recognized market for their products and price fluctuation, 69% of the respondents were not affected by disease incidence and insects (ants and termites) were contributing up to 74% of pest infestation in the sub counties and other pests were very rare.

Also 49% of predators were cattle and 31% was man, 54% of the respondents have some little knowledge and experience on bee keeping, 52% have got some simple bee keeping equipment and tools, 90% of the respondents were not affected by culture, 73% rarely inspect their hives, 54% were affected by bush fire and theft and there were no cases of pesticides poisoning. The common measures were clearing of grasses around the apiary, fencing, regular inspection and treatment. In conclusion, there was poor market and marketing system, disease cases was minimal and many other challenges affecting bee keeping.

The research therefore recommends that farmers should join the bee keeping groups for easy marketing, adopt improve bee hives and good harvesting technique; attend training on bee keeping broaden their knowledge and experience in beekeeping.

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 Introduction

Bee keeping is an applied science of rearing honey bees for man's economic benefits which are commonly carried out in hives. High standard of bee keeping involves large number of colonies, high level of technology used in the production, deals in variety of bee products, and export to other countries (Curtis, 1982) mean while rural bee keeping in the other hand involves low level technology used, low level of product and other output, low or characteristic of the country side rather than the town (Tabinda *et al.*, 2013), most tends to use local bee hives and most of their products are consumed locally at home and few marketed in local and urban market and honey is the major product and less concern in other products (Gidney and Mekoreu, 2008).

Most people keep bees to collect honey, bee wax, to pollinate crops though most farmers do not recognize this importance much especially in Africa, produce bees for sales, propolis and the level of manufactured products depends on the standard of production and mechanization of the farm. Apiculture today is seen as a very fast growing sector of enterprises in the world (Guoda *et al.*, 2003). Apiculture conveys many benefits to the farmers like providing job opportunities, cash, income and food in the rural areas and the most growing importance is the increase in agricultural production of crops.

Bee keeping is much more suitable for poor people compare to other enterprises as it can be integrated with crop production and requires little capital to begin and is environmentally sound with ready markets. Uganda is among the countries in Africa where there is active bee keeping programs and lively honey production where at least half of the honey produce are consumed internally and the surplus exported to other countries. Though the sector is facing some challenges like pest, predators and diseases, unrestricted use of pesticides which kills the bees, poor traditional hive and methods of harvesting which kills the bees, and low market development and price fluctuation of the products (Lepetue *et al.*, 2001).

Honey which is the major product of apiculture is a nutritive food containing various kinds of sugar, proteins, free amino acids, minerals, trace elements, enzymes and vitamin with high caloric values and the main sugars, fructose, glucose and dextrose are absorbed directly in to the blood and provides rapid energy. Typical colony can produce up to 36.28kg -43kg of

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