



**ASSESSMENT OF CAUSES OF LOW ADOPTION OF ANIMAL TRACTION
TECHNOLOGY AS AN ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF FARM POWER IN MASAFU
SUB-COUNTY, BUSIA DISTRICT**

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DECLARATION

I, Natocho Irene, do hereby declare that this dissertation is my own work and has not been submitted to any institution for any academic award.

Signature  Date 9/07/2016

APPROVAL

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

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DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to the family of Mr. and Mrs. Mangeni George for their support towards my education. And my beloved friends Matovu Jacob, Masayi Peter for caring and being there for me during the course of the study.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ATNESA	Animal Traction Network for Eastern and Southern Africa
DAP	Draught Animal Power
FAO:	Food and Agriculture Organization
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory Services
SAARI	Serere Agricultural and Animal Production Research Institute
SAIMMCO	Soroti agricultural Implements and Machinery Manufacturing Company
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics

ABSTRACT

This study was conducted from March to April to assess the causes of low adoption of draught animal traction technology as an alternative source of farm power in Masafu subcounty, Busia district Eastern Uganda. One hundred households were randomly sampled from four parishes. The data was collected using questionnaire and observation methods and data was based on demographic characteristics, factors causing low adoption of draught animal traction technology, animals used for traction, and implements used. Research findings indicated that the causes of low adoption of DAP included the following; Ignorance about the technology (22%), lack of appropriate equipment 8%. 11% expensive nature of the implements. 18% lack of animals. 27% high hire services of equipments and animals limited land 5%. The type of animals used for Draught animal execution in Masafu Sub County was only cattle whereby 72% of the respondents used only male cattle and 28% of the respondents used both male and female cattle and the breed was the Zebu breed of cattle whereas the implements used were, the oxplough for ploughing and the harnessing system was double shoulder yoke, rope and chain. Findings showed that 94% of the respondents were aware of the use of work animals specifically in ploughing and only 4% were aware about the use of animal traction technology in other agricultural activities such as weeding, planting, transportation and only 2% were not aware about the use of animal traction technology. Further research should be carried out on the possibility of farmers using other animal species for traction apart from cattle. Therefore, the government and NGOs should provide loans and subsidies, for animal traction implements, also implements and their spare parts should be made locally available for easy accessibility by the farmers, sensitization of farmers about animal DAP through extension agent.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Munzinger, (1982) defined animal power as implements and machines utilizing animal muscles as the main power source with a view to reducing the drudgery of farm work. Animal traction is generally understood to also include transport as well as the pulling work of animal (Chisango, 2008; Starkey, (1978).

Some 400 million beasts of burden throughout the world still work for man today. They contribute more than half the energy the third world uses for agriculture and provide some developing countries, especially the semi-arid and highland zones, with as much as 90% of their agricultural power (FAO, 1990). Domestic work animals exist in all regions of the world (FAO, 1990). Animals assist in eliminating poverty, reducing drudgery and creation of wealth. Animal traction is particularly important for food security in smallholder farming systems also using animals for soil tillage allows people to prepare more land than human labor (Starkey, 2010).

Although draught animal power has been superseded by tractors on many of large commercial farms in Africa; it remains a relevant farm technology in small-scale agriculture, mainly for economic and agro-ecological reasons (Merish, 2012). Purchase and maintenance costs of tractors are high in many of the Sub-Saharan African countries whereas animal traction is cheaper, locally available and easy to maintain when compared with motorized forms of power. Some cultivable areas, particularly on hillsides and in steep valleys are inaccessible to tractors and can only be worked by animal or man power.

In Uganda, animal traction technology was introduced in 1909 in the then Bukedi (Tororo) district, (Akou, 1972). A year later a farmer training school in ox cultivation was opened in Kumi and in 1920 the current Serere Agricultural and Animal Production Research Institute [SAARI] was established as a centre for research, testing, demonstration and training of farmers in ox cultivation techniques. Through the extension efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture as well as of the relevant institutions including NGO's, the use of work animals rapidly spread throughout the Eastern and North-eastern parts of the country where ecological and cultural conditions favored its development. In these areas the technology created remarkable impact in increasing the acreage under cultivation (ATNESA, 2002).

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