



FACULTY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

ASSESSING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF AGROCHEMICAL INPUTS IN

FARM PRODUCTION ON SMALL SCALE FARMERS: ACASE STUDY OF NGETTA

SUBCOUNTY, LIRA DISTRICT

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DECLARATION

I **ABEJA AMBROSE** hereby declare that this research report is solely a result of my own efforts and findings. I therefore affirm that it has never been submitted for an award of a degree or any other academic qualification in any University or academic institution

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APPROVAL

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this research report to my dear brother **Mr. Apeti Alfred** and I pray God grants you success in all your struggles. I also dedicate it to my friends; **Obong Anthony** and **Omairo Charles** as a sign of appreciation for their contributions toward my success in several ways.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATION

CCPs	~	Crop Protection Products
CGPC	~	Coordinating Group of Pesticide Control Boards of the Caribbean
GDP	~	Gross Domestic Product
GHGs	~	Green House Gasses
IFDC	~	An International Centre for Soil fertility and Agricultural Development
PCA	~	Pesticides Control Authority (Jamaica)
SSA	~	Sub Saharan Africa
UNEP	~	United Nations Environment Programme
WHO	~	World Health Organization

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ABSTRACT

This study focused on assessing the socioeconomic impacts of agrochemical inputs in farm production on small scale farmers, a case study of Ngetta sub-county Iira district in Northern Uganda. Specifically, the study aimed at: identifying the different types of agrochemical inputs used by small scale farmers, finding out the socioeconomic benefits of using agrochemical inputs to small scale farmers, identifying the socioeconomic problems associated with use of agrochemical inputs on environment and livelihood, and suggesting possible measures to address the problems associated with use of agrochemical inputs.

Data was collected using questionnaires, interviews and observation from (70) respondents. Data was further processed and analyzed using excel and SPSS.

The study found out that majority of the small-scale farmers are using artificial agrochemicals compared to natural/organic inputs. Farmers apply agrochemicals to reduce pest and disease infestation but in turn it's found that it kills soil living organisms leading to soil exhaustion which reduces household productivity and as a measure to reduce its impact the study suggested regulation of use of agrochemicals.

Farmers prefer the use of agrochemical inputs in crop production as it helps reduce on crop pest diseases and weeds but its use should be regulated and also agrochemicals used should be vetted for its safety to man and the environment.

CHATER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Uganda is predominantly an agricultural economy. The agricultural sector contributes 43% to the gross domestic product (GDP), providing employment to over 80% of the workforce in rural areas, and is a main source of foreign exchange earnings (85% of export earnings)(IFDC, 2000). The poverty level remains high especially in rural areas due to low productivity of land and labour causing nearly one-half of the population lives below the poverty level and faces food insecurity. The challenges of food insecurity and poverty are compounded by the health crisis and environmental degradation that Uganda is facing. In confronting these socioeconomic challenges, the agricultural sector has a lead role to play. However, with its current low productivity status, the agricultural sector can do little to improve the socioeconomic situation. The agricultural sector itself requires a significant transformation for crop yields and incomes to greatly increased and such transformation cannot be achieved without the sound application of modern technologies embodied in improved seeds, mineral fertilizers, crop protection products (CPPs), water management, and better agronomic practices.

Most smallholder farmers have therefore adopted the use of agrochemicals to boost their productivity. Researchers emphasize the role of smallholders in economic growth, reducing poverty and ensuring food security, mainly in developing regions of the globe. They suggest that growth in small-scale agriculture has higher multiplier effects than in any other sector (Mellor, 1995). Furthermore, small farms have a positive influence on developing the density of the rural population, including the borderland and less beneficial territories. Hence, to some extent, they are responsible for rural viability(Borychowski & Sebastian, 2020).

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