

FACTORS AFFECTING SMALL SCALE PIG PRODUCTION AND MARKETING IN ASURET SUB COUNTY, SOROTI DISTRICT



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DECLARATION

I Erechu John Kokas,	declare that this	dissertation is orig	inal work	and has	not been	submitted
to any university or inst	itution of learnin	g for any academic	award.			

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APPROVAL

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DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my wife Ms Akareut Faith, my children Opolot Elisha and Amoding Alvin Nolline.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

FAO: Food and Agriculture Oragnisation

WHO: World Health Organisation

UBOS: Uganda Bureau of Statistics

SPVCD: small holder pig value chain development project

ABSTRACT

Pig production has increasingly become an important activity in Uganda. The sector is largely informal with poorly organized markets, limited access to technology, information and services. Cross Sectional Survey was conducted in Asuret Sub County to establish the common factors affecting small scale pig production and marketing. A total of 100 households were interviewed using structured questionnaires through random sampling. The challenges affecting common systems of rearing pigs in Asuret sub county were diseases (45%, n=71; 33%, n=18; 45.5%, n=11), feed scarcity and shortage (23.9%, n=71; 5.6%, n=18; 18%, n=11%), lack of good quality breeds of pigs (7%, n=71, 16%,n=18), uncontrolled pig movements(1.4%,n=71; 27.8%,n=18) space limitation (4.2%,n=71, 18%,n=11), lack of extension services (16.9%, n=71; 5.6%, n=18; 9%, n=11) and expensive veterinary drugs (1.4%, n=71; 11%, n=18;9%,n=11). Low prices (27%), Lack of market information, especially on output prices for different market outlets and location is indicated by 13% of pig producers, distant buyers 13%, lack of market opportunities 11%, lack of capacity on pig live-weight estimation 21% and examination of pigs for tape worms 15% have been reported to be challenges affecting the marketing of pigs. The study concludes that diseases and parasites, feed scarcity, lack of quality breeds, lack of extension support, and expensive veterinary drugs are challenges to pig production. The challenges in marketing were, low prices, lack of capacity on live weight estimation, distant buyers, and examination of pigs for tape worms, and limited market opportunities. Proper disease control measures like vaccination, biosecurity should be properly observed. The government should provide farmers with improved breeds of pigs to address the problem of low quality breeds. Farmers should be trained on how to estimate the weights of their pigs during sale, Cooperative markets for pigs should be established in soroti district and farmers should be availed with market information

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Pig production has increasingly become an important activity in Uganda with pig population rising in the last three decades from 0.19 million to 3.2 million pigs (UBOS, 2009; FAOSTAT, 2011). Uganda has the highest per capita consumption of pork in sub-Saharan Africa with a 2011 estimate of 3.4 kg/person/year representing a ten-fold increase in the last 30 years. More than 1.1 million families, about 18% of total households in Uganda own pigs (UBOS, 2009). As result pork has recently been quoted to be the most popular source of animal protein in the world (Perze, 1997). The World Health organization (WHO, 2010) report for developing countries indicates that there is a very big deficit in the supply of animal protein with 6.1 million Ugandans nourished and 40% of children deaths below the age of five due to malnourishment (WHO, 2010).

A well-managed pig industry would bridge such glaring animal protein deficit. This is especially so because of pigs' high fecundity rate, high feed conversion efficiency, early maturity, short generation interval, relatively small space requirement and their ability to produce maximally under varied management systems without sophisticated bio-safety measures (Lekule & Kyvsgaard, 2003). Households rear pigs because they grow fast, there is a ready market and proven demand and are highly prolific which can result in quick generation of cash (Mutua et al., 2010). Despite these efforts, Uganda's livestock sector grows at a dismal rate of 4% with only 3.2 million pigs in the whole country of approximately 33 million people (UBOS, 2008). With such problem at hand, the research will be initiated with the objective of identifying factors affecting small holder pig farming in Asuret Sub County.

1.2 Problem statement

Economic studies have shown that the traditional production system is wasteful and unprofitable due to high mortality rate, low off take, absence or minimal health care, supplementary feeding and proper housing (Lekule & Kyvsgaard, 2003). Most of the smallholder pig farmers invest

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