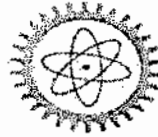


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UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMICS

AN ASSESSMENT OF RIGHTS TO LAND BY GENDER AT THE HOUSEHOLD
LEVEL : A CASE STUDY OF NAMAĞALI SUB-COUNTY IN KAMULI
DISTRICT IN UGANDA

A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE AWARD OF A BACHELORS DEGREE IN NATURAL RESOURCE
ECONOMICS

BY

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DECLARATION

I Anamo Sharon do hereby declare that the work contained in this thesis is entirely my own work, except where it is attributed to other authors or sources. This work has not been submitted for the award of degree in any other university

Signature:

Date

APPROVAL

This research and dissertation has been under my supervision and hereby in my full capacity as the supervisor acknowledge and approve it.

Signature.....

Taako Edema George

Date.....

DEDICATION

This research work is dedicated to my dear parents Mr. Ebesu Fred and Mrs.Ebesu Rose Mary for their role in raising me since my formative years, helping me to create a vision for my future, encouraging me to learn and supporting my education.

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LIST OF ACRONYMSDLRF:

DLRF: District Land Rights Forum

LRO: Land Revenue Offices

NLRF: National Land Rights Forum

DLA: Department of Land Affairs

FAO: Food and Agricultural Organisation

LRAD: Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development

NGO: Non-Governmental Organisation

SAPs: State Purchase for Lease

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

WFP: World Food Programme

WID: Women in Development

FORUM: Forest Production and Resource Management GLSS

ECAETLR: Economic Commission for Africa Evolution Theory of Land Rights

GLTF: Gender Land Task Force

ABSTRACT

For agrarian societies, access and ownership of land plays a key role in the production process in developing countries like Uganda where rural livelihoods depend almost entirely on farming (agricultural produce) derived from the land. Many academics and women activists have stressed the importance of equitable land distribution between men and women as a way to promote production. This is partly because ensuring the protection of women's land rights has enabled even the most vulnerable rural women, widows and those with orphans, to derive a more secure livelihood from farming. This study selected the case of Kamuli District in Eastern Uganda, an area where women's land rights have not yet been given much attention in practice. This study focuses on women's awareness in Kamuli District on how the existing legal and institutional frameworks can be supportive to the women's access to land. The study explored the level of knowledge of rural women about their existing land rights and actions being taken to help overcome obstacles that limit their access and ownership of land. Findings revealed that the majority of respondents (around 60%) had experienced land disputes involving gender issues, and that about 90% were aware of the existence of women's land rights as codified and legislated by the laws of the Republic of Uganda. The study also found that local council courts and district land boards were important when it comes to settling land disputes in Kamuli district. Finally, the study found that women's fight to protect and claim their land rights have generally been effective (in three quarters of all cases). However, women's struggles for equal access and ownership of land are being affected by corruption, which is prevalent within the judicial system. Furthermore, their struggle to exercise and realize their right to land is also exacerbated by the high level of women's poverty. The study concluded that there is need for women to have more interest in their own rights to land, and that this should involve specific ownership and user rights, as well as improved customary access to land. Specific measures from various institutions is needed to help ensure that awareness women participation in decision making on matters related to land is scaled.

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 BACKGROUND

According to environment and natural resources sub-sector gender mainstreaming strategy 2016-2021, the term gender has increasingly acquired a social meaning where it defines how men and women relate in society.(Clarion,2001) The social meaning refers to social characteristics of one's biological sex. These characteristics include gender-based division of labour whereby duties are allocated on the basis one's sex. For example the female gender is allocated duties such as cooking, washing and other domestic chores, which belong to the private rather than the public sector while the male gender is allocated non-domestic duties such as decision making, bread winning and others, which belong to the public sector (Clarion,2001). It denotes the manner in which women and men are differentiated and ordered in a given socio-cultural context (Signne,1994). Gender is thus a relational concept, which describes how men and women by virtue of their socially constructed differences relate to the phenomena around them (Hazzel and Barden ,2000). Gender socially constructed roles of men and women to the interaction of men and women includes the differentiation between men and women in terms of income, social status, literacy and other factors (Hazzel and Barden,2000)

Broadly speaking, land use patterns in Uganda can be divided into three components, namely: agriculture (crops and livestock), the built areas, and land reserved for conservation. Agriculture is the dominant form of land use in the country, and crop production is the key economic activity under this sector. Almost 70% of farm holdings are engaged in crop production as a principal activity and about 25% are engaged in mixed farming. Ugandan farmers grow both food and what are considered traditional cash crops. The traditional cash crops are Coffee (Arabica and Robusta), Cotton, Tea and Tobacco. These have for a long time formed the bulk of the country's agricultural exports, earning the much-desired foreign exchange. However, as Uganda's exports become increasingly diversified due to trade liberalization, the country's non-traditional agricultural export crops have taken on an increasing importance as foreign exchange earners. The Agricultural sector is responsible for almost half of the Gross Domestic Product, and employs close to 80% of the population. Other forms of land use that contribute significantly to the national economy include: Wildlife Management (through tourism and employment), Forestry (provision of forest resources and services), Wetlands management (through wetlands products and services), and Human settlements (through industrial production, commercial enterprises and employment)

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