THE BENEFITS OF TREES ON SMALL HOLDER FARMS IN NAMASAGALI SUB- COUNTY

BY

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BU/UG/2011/143

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BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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SUPERVISOR: ASSOC. PROF. ISABIRYE MOSES

A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF NATURAL RESOURCEAND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMICS

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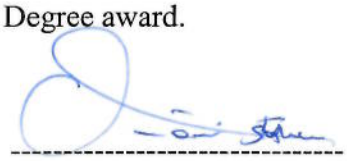
DECLARATION

I, Tusiime Christopher, hereby declare that the dissertation submitted to Busitema University for the award of a degree of Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Economics has not been previously presented to this University or any other Higher Institution of Learning for this Degree award.



Date: 03/07/2014

TUSIIME CHRISTOPHER

APPROVAL

This serves to exhibit that this work has been truly through the efforts of Tusiime Christopher towards the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of a Bachelor of science in Natural Resource Economics of Busitema University under my guidance and supervision.

Supervisor

..... **Date**.....

ISABIRYE MOSES, PhD

Assoc. Professor.

DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this work to the Almighty God for his celestial guidance, and to my beloved mother Mrs. Keneema Margret Abwooli.

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ABSTRACT

Planting new trees on farmland could provide a needed carbon sink, especially if tropical deforestation continues. Right now agro-forestry isn't a major part of international climate-change policy, but delegates at the U.N. global-warming summit could change all that. By putting a greater carbon value on trees planted on farmland through a cap-and-trade program that would give companies a carbon credit for growing and maintaining trees, we could encourage the growth of agro-forestry. Therefore the study focuses on the benefits of trees on small holder farms in Namasagali sub-county with concerns of determining the value of trees basing on the local farmers perception, comparing farm yields from farms with trees and those without trees and finding out whether the presence of trees on farm benefits farmers in terms of food security and house hold incomes. Primary data was collected from the 3 parishes of the sub-county that is Bwizza, Kisaikye and Kabanyoro-Kabaganda while secondary data was got from the internet and the university library. Cost-benefit analysis was done to estimate whether the presence of trees on farm has an impact on the costs and benefits of farm inputs and out puts. It is therefore recommended that farmers plant more trees on farms cut cost of fertilizer application and double weeding as well as boosting their household incomes. Trees on farms enhance the house hold incomes through improving the yields of the farming and other values of trees apart from the on farm benefits of enhancing soil fertility included fuel wood ,timber and environmental conservation. The results indicated that most farmers had trees on their farms which were very many but sparsely distributed, however most of them did not understand benefits of such trees as most of the farmers agreed that they are not responsible for their growth .It was found out that the presence of trees on farms depends on the size of land allocated to farming, level of education and the types of crops grown.

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LIST OF ACCRONYMS

FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEA	Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
NEPAD	New Partnership for African Development
NFA	National Forestry Authority
NGO	Non -Governmental Organisation
PRSPs	Poverty Reduction Strategy Plans
SPSS	Statistical Packages for Social Sciences
TOFNET	Trees On Farms Network
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This chapter covers the background of the study, the problem statements, the research objectives, the research questions and the research justifications.

1.1 Background

Agro forestry, the inclusion of trees within farming systems, has been a traditional land use developed by subsistence farmers throughout most of the world. In the last 40 years it has also become a subject for systematic study and improvement, and a livelihood option promoted by land use managers and international development efforts. It has come to the attention of global analysts and policy makers, for example UNFCCC (2008) and MEA (Hassan et al 2005), and has been recognized in regional and national development plans (NEPAD 2003) and is an obvious component of many farming systems. Trees make a huge impact on our rural and urban landscapes and contribute to a vital part of our heritage, rural economy and well-being. The National Ecosystem Assessment highlighted the significant contribution of trees and forests in terms of the ecosystem services they provide to society, as well as through direct economic value and social amenity. Trees can also help mitigate climate change by capturing and storing carbon. Preserving the health of our trees, woodlands and forests is therefore vital. he important contribution that indigenous fruit trees can make to poverty reduction has been recognized (Garrity 2004, Russell and Franzel 2004).

Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger is the most important of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that are currently the focus of the international development agenda. Other goals relate to improving education and health, empowering women and ensuring environmental sustainability. At a national level, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), promoted by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, depict how governments may work with donors to attain the MDGs. However, even in forest-rich countries the forestry sector gets little attention in PRSPs and the lack of examination of the links between poverty and the use of forest resources means that forest policy recommendations are rarely based on hard evidence (Bird and Dickson 2005)

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