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**ASSESSING THE INFLUENCE OF THE SWEET POTATO VALUE ADDITION ON THE
PROFITABILITY OF THE SMALLHOLDER FARMERS, A CASE STUDY OF ARAPAI
SUB COUNTY SOROTI DISTRICT, EASTERN UGANDA.**

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**A RESEARCH DISSERTATION TO BE SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF
THE REQUIREMENT FOR AN AWARD OF BACHELORS DEGREE OF
AGRIBUSINESS OF BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY**

DECLARATION

I **MUKISA ERIC** hereby declare that the content of this research report is entirely mine except where it has been indicated, and has never been submitted to any other institution of learning for any academic award.

Signature..... *Eric*

Date..... *16/2/2021*

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APPROVAL

This is to certify that MUKISA ERIC has written and submitted this research report under my supervision.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'EPEL ANTHONY RAYMOND', written over a horizontal line.

EPEL ANTHONY RAYMOND

Date: 17/02/2021

DEDICATION

I dedicate this research report to my beloved parents Mr. **Sande Anatoli** and **Nakato Dinah**, friends and family to appreciate for their endless support towards the entire process of this research study.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
LC	Local Council
NEMA	National Environmental Management Authority
NARO	National Agriculture Research Organisation
SSA	Sub Saharan Africa
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
OFP	Orange Fresh potatoes
Mr.	Mister
WFP	World Food Program
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries.
MRS.	Miss
DR.	Doctor
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
FFV	Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
Fig.	Figure
Tab	Table
Kg	Kilogram
Ush	Uganda Shillings
NGO	Non-Government Organisation

ABSTRACT.

Sweet potato is a high yielding crop with a higher food value than many staple food crops and gaining popularity as a commercial tuber. Its production in Uganda is popular in most of the regions of the country. To promote growth of the sweet potato subsector and to ensure profitability among the sweet potato producers, the Ugandan Government and different private bodies have formulated policies and programs to encourage and promote Sweet potato value addition. However, implementation of the policies in the sweet potato sub sector has faced challenges partly due to insufficient information on the value addition techniques and profitability of sweet potatoes. The purpose of this study was therefore, to assess the influence of sweet potato value addition on the profitability of smallholder farmers in Arapai sub-county Soroti district and the study was carried out on 60 farmers that were got by simple random sampling technique. Correlation analysis was conducted to determine the association between the study variables and to assess the existence of while Ordinary Least Square Technique was used to estimate the profitability model. The study revealed that: Level of value addition of sweet potatoes, Duration of the farmer in sweet potato farming, sales growth rate, market share, labour intensity and total operating cost all had significant influence on sweet potato profitability. It is recommended that sweet potato value addition by the smallholder farmers highly triggers the level of profitability from sweet potatoes, leaning by experience be enhanced through training on production and post-harvest management techniques to minimize potential handling and storage related losses, increase sales growth rate and market shares, encourage use of manual labour and at the same time determine the optimal number of workers per unit area of land.

CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

1.1 Background of study

Sweet potato is a starchy tuberous crop from the family Convolvulaceae and it is usually grown as an annual crop (Abong et al., 2016). In terms of annual production, sweet potato ranks as the fifth most important food crop in the tropics and the seventh in the world food production after wheat, rice, maize, potato, barley, and cassava (FAO 2016) (Truong et al., 2018). In spite of the role of sweet potato as one of the World's most important food and vegetable crop, playing an important role in combating vitamins and other nutritional deficiencies, it is still regarded as a minor crop and food for the poor. (Olujenyo, 2008) China is the world's leading sweet potato producing country with about 70 million tonnes in 2013. In Africa, Tanzania and Nigeria are the leading producers of sweet potato, while Uganda and Kenya are third and sixth producers respectively (Abong et al., 2016).

Sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas Lam.*) is a major staple food and a source of income in several regions of Uganda and elsewhere. It is an important food crop for those who depend on cereals especially maize as their staple diet. Although grown by small-scale farmers for subsistence, importance of sweet potato production as an attractive income generator has been rising. The crop is grown in all districts in Uganda occupying 55% of the arable land under tuber crops. Sweet potato is an important food and commercial crop. In Kumi district and Teso sub region at large, 99% of the women farmers reported that they grow it for both food and commercial purposes, while most of the male farmers grow it for income. UBOS observed that in the face of raising global food prices, sweet potato is proving to be the best food secure and famine crop (Abong et al., 2016). The agronomic traits of sweet potato to give satisfactory yields under adverse climatic and soil condition as well as under low or non-use of external inputs has also made sweet potato production gain popularity among many farmers in Uganda. In addition, the flexibility of the crop in mixed farming systems and the ability to take short periods to mature, thus offering household food security, has made it an important livelihood strategy for smallholder farmers.

1.1.2 Sweet potato value addition

Sweet potato value addition, It entails deliberate activities to change the form of the raw sweet potato into a more refined or usable form, thus increasing its value. Sweet potato roots and other plant parts are used as human food, animal feed, and processing industry. Various

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