

**FARMERS' PERCEPTION ON MIDDLEMEN IN THE MARKETING OF TOMATOES
IN TADEMERI SUB COUNTY, BUDAKA DISTRICT.**

BY

MUSAYENKA JOSEPH

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E-MAIL; josephmusayenka@gmail.com

Research supervisor; MR IISA AUGUSTINE

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DECLARATION

I MUSAYENKA JOSEPH hereby declare that work presented in this dissertation is genuinely my own work unless otherwise stated and has never been done or presented by any other person for the academic award of Busitema University or any other institution of learning.


Date 07th / 06 / 2023

Signature 

APPROVAL

This research dissertation on Farmers' perception on middlemen in the marketing of tomatoes in Tadameri sub county, Budaka district was supervised and approved by my academic supervisor, MR IISA AUGUSTINE

Date... 07 / 06 / 2023

Signature 

DEDICATION

I dedicate this research to my beloved father Tatela Johnson and my mother Tabitya Angela, my beloved spouse Nankwasi Mary, to my cousin sister Nabwire rosemary and my brothers and sisters for their endless support in terms of financial, moral, care and spiritual support towards the success of this research. May the Almighty God bless you and reward you abundantly.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMES

SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Scientists
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
Yrs.	Years
BUAC	Busitema University Arapai Campus
Mr.	Mister
Ms.	Misses
Dr.	Doctor
Kg	kilograms
RDS	Respondent Driven Sampling
%	Percentages
SMS	Short Message Service
Ugsh	Ugandan shillings

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ABSTRACT

The study looked at Farmers' perception on middlemen in the marketing of tomato in Tademeri sub county, budaka district. The study involved both qualitative and quantitative analyses of survey data collected. Questionnaires and interviews from a sample of 80 respondents purposively and randomly selected. Data was analyzed using SPSS version 20. The study revealed that crop production was the main source of income for the farmers, 50.6% harvesting 100-500kg/yr., 32.9% harvesting 500-900kg/yr, 10.1% harvesting 900-1300kg/yr. and 6.3% harvesting above 1300kg/yr. and these tomato produce were 95% purposely for sell, most of farmers 63.8% sold their tomatoes to middlemen and most of farmer 28.8% strongly agree and 35% agree that middlemen provide the most convenient link for selling tomato produce, because the move to different parts of the country looking for the markets where farmers' produce are sold, beside that middlemen 67.5% exploit farmers for instance buy produce from the farmers at low prices and then resell them to traders and consumers at high prices. Middlemen 48.8% and fellow farmers 32.5% are the major means of getting market information used by farmers and these means of getting information are 80% reliable sources of information to the farmers. The price is 65% determined by farmers and 23.8% determined by middlemen through their bargaining power. The study recommends that Females should also take lead in the business. Middlemen being a necessary evil as implied by the study must be regulated. Farmers find middlemen as more convenient and add to their profitability. They offer them with market information. However the farmers believe that they are being exploited by them.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the background to the study, statement of the problem, purpose, objectives, research questions, scope, significance, as well as the conceptual framework, limitations and delimitations of the research proposal.

1.1 Background to the study

A tomato is a glossy red or occasionally yellow, pulpy edible fruit eaten as a vegetable. According Oxford learner's dictionary defines a tomato as a soft fruit with a lot of juice and shiny red skin that is eaten as a vegetable either raw or cooked. The origin of tomatoes is not very clear, but they are believed to have originated from the coastal desert of Peru. However, some scholars suggest that tomatoes originated from the coastal land between Andes and other parts extending from south Mexico. (Mwangi et al., 2020). But the fact is tomatoes originated from the continent of South America much as the real place is not definite as reported by various scholars.

Tomato is one of the most important and popular vegetable crops, it is a rich source of minerals, vitamins or organic acids, widely acceptable and commonly used in a variety of dishes as; raw, cooked or processed According to (Hanandi et al., 2021), there are three central markets in Khartoum; Bahari (Shambat), Khatoum and Omdurman where tomatoes from different parts inside and outside Sudan are sold. It is the sixth-most eaten crop in the world, with Africa alone producing 21 million tons of it from 1.3 million hectares (Gabriel, 2021). In East Africa, Tanzania and Kenya produce the most tomatoes in East Africa, with 1.9 million tons production each year, followed by Uganda (Gabriel, 2021).

A large number of individuals in the world rely on agriculture for their living (Oyakale et al., 2014). About 1.3 billion smallholders and landless laborers are employed in agriculture, which is considered to be the primary source of income for 86 percent of rural residents (KC et al., 2022). Agriculture is crucial to society and it is the foundation of many African economies in terms of reducing poverty, ensuring the availability of food, and fostering economic progress (Islam et al., 2019).

Marketing is essential for achieving the overarching objectives of economic growth, food security, poverty reduction, and sustainable agriculture, particularly for smallholder farmers in

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