
**CAUSES OF LOW FINGER MILLET PRODUCTION IN EASTERN UGANDA: A CASE
STUDY OF MALERA SUB COUNTY, BUKEDEA DISTRICT.**

BY

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DECLARATION

I declare that this thesis is my original work and has never been submitted to any university for the award of a bachelor degree in any university.

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APPROVAL

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation to my entire family, I know you're proud of my achievements and am thankful for your unwavering support during this study, may the Almighty Lord reward you abundantly for the unending love flourished to me.

LIST OF ABBREVIATION

KM.....	Kilometer
KGs.....	Kilograms
MT.....	Metric tons
Ha.....	Hectares
NARO.....	National Agricultural Research Organization
SAO.....	Senior Agricultural Officer
FAO.....	Food Agriculture Organization
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program
SPSS.....	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
CIS.....	Commonwealth Independent States
USSR.....	Union Soviet Socialist Republics

ABSTRACT

Finger millet is an important cereal grain rich in nutrients, used as a staple food and nutritional security, with cultural, medicinal as well as economic importance for many Ugandans especially in the eastern and northern regions but has highly been deteriorating in production for the past years. This study investigated the causes of low finger millet production in Malera sub county, Bukedea district in Uganda where 50 respondents were selected with a purposive random sampling strategy from six parishes of Malera sub county that is to say Kacoc, Malera, Abit bit, Kachonga, Kasechi, Kokwech parishes. Both primary and secondary data was used which was both qualitative and quantitative in nature as the primary data was collected using questionnaires and secondary was derived from publications and also key informants in the study area thereafter the collected data was entered in excel, coded and analyzed in SPSS using regressions and descriptive and frequencies as well as percentages. The descriptive analysis showed that the average age of respondents was 36 years with the minimum being 23 years and maximum 72 years while the least experience a respondent had was 3 years and maximum was 30 years with the average years in finger millet production being 10 years, the least area of land owned by a farmer was 0.25 acres and maximum was 5 acres of land with the mean land owned being 1.5 acres while the average price of finger millet was 2800/= and maximum price was 3000/= while the lowest price was 2000/=. Results further indicated that there was a drastic drop in the level of production as of 2017 the production was 804kgs per acre of finger millet grain while in 2018 the production lowered to 584kgs/acre and also in 2019 the production further declined to 465kgs/acre of finger millet grain according to the study in 2020 the finger millet yield was 383kgs/acre. Thereafter in the recent year of 2021 the yield was 303kgs/acre generally showing a decline in production for the past five years whereas a regression model showed that factors influencing finger millet production were quite a number that is to say Acreage was highly significant in influencing the level of production as well as fertilizer usage and level of soil fertility was also significant in influencing finger millet production. The study showed that the majority of the respondents used finger millet grain for brewing representing 68.9%. The study recommended that government should provide extension services. In conclusion the study realized there was a decline in production of finger millet and the factors influencing were ranging from production to marketing of finger millet in Malera sub county.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Finger millet (*Eleusine coracana*) has its origin and domestication in Africa. It is shown that around 5,000 years ago by archeological and linguistic evidences , farming communities in eastern Africa were already cultivating finger millet whereas the actual area of domestication is unknown, it has been suggested that it may have happened anywhere between western Uganda and the Ethiopian highlands of East Africa where it was later transported to India about 3,000 years ago where it became its other center of diversity (Millet et al. 2006).

Finger millet was developed in Africa from *Eleusine coracana* subsp. *Africana* possibly in the Ethiopian region there after introduced to India perhaps more than 3,000 years ago. it is a tropical crop which grows 3,000 Meters above sea level it is the most widely grown small millet in India and Africa (Seetharam et al., 1986).

Finger millet, *Eleusine coracana* L. is also known as ragi and mandua in India, kodo in Nepal, fingerhirse in Germany, petit mil, eleusine cultivee, coracan, koracan in France, bulo in Uganda, kambale in Zambia, poho in Zimbabwe, finger millet , African millet , koracan in England, dagussa, tokuso in Ethiopia and its an important staple food in the eastern and central regions of Africa and India (Pragya Singh, 2012).

Millet is a small grained cereal, the smallest of it include finger millet, *kodo*, *foxtail*, *proso*, little and barnyard millets. They are staple food for millions inhabiting the arid and semi-arid tropics of the world. They are distributed in most of the Asian and African countries and parts of Europe. The grains of millet being nutritionally superior to rice and wheat, provide cheap proteins, minerals and vitamins to the poorest of the poor where the need for such ingredients is a maximum. Practically devoid of grain storage pests, millet has indefinite storage life (Seetharam et al., 1986).

Globally the area sown by millet was relatively stable at about 38 million hectares in the past 2 decades. Both production and yield increased by 10% through the 1980s but have remained unchanged since. Currently the world production is 28 million tones and an average yield of 0.75 t/ha at the regional level nevertheless there are differences in trends especially between the main producers Asia and Africa (Duressa& Bonso, 2022).

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