

**ASSESSING IRISH POTATO (*Solanum tuberosum*) PRODUCTION IN IMPROVING  
LIVELIHOOD OF FARMERS IN KORTEK SUB-COUNTY BUKWO DISTRICT.**

**BY**

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**THE RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL  
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**MAY, 2022**

DECLARATION


I CHEMUSTO LINNETTE to my best of my understanding hereby declare that the work presented in this research titled "assessing irish potato (*solanum tuberosum*) production improving livelihood of farmers in Kortek sub-county Bukwo district" is my original work and has never been presented for the same award in this university or any other university.

Sign  .....

Date 23/05/2022 .....

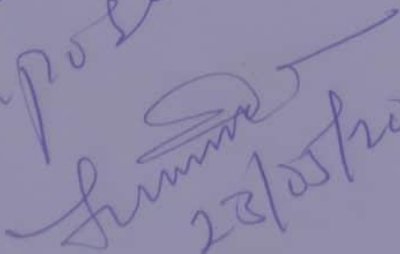
**APPROVAL**

This research titled "research titled assessing irish potato (*solanum tuberosum*) production in improving livelihood of farmers in Kortek sub-county Bukwo District" is under my guidance and supervision till ready for submission to the Faculty of Science and Education for approval.

SIGN.......... DATE..... 23/05/2022.

**MR OCHAN MARTIN LUTHER**

(UNIVERSITY SUPERVISOR)

Received for Academic  
purpose  
  
23/05/2022

## **DEDICATION**

I would love to dedicate this report to my parents \_\_\_\_\_ and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for the tireless efforts you have made to ensure that you invest in this academic venture. There is nothing worthy I can pay you with but only the Almighty God bless you in abundance

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## **ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS**

Mr., Mister

E.g., For example

DAP, Double Ammonium Phosphate

CAN, Calcium, Ammonium Phosphate

NPK, Nitrogen Phosphorous Potassium

Fig, Figure

Mrs., Misses

I.e., that is to say

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## ABSTRACT

Irish potato enterprise is one of the highly rewarding business ventures farmers engage in; despite of the returns gained, farmers out-put have been compromised by various challenges. This study was to assess Irish potato (*solanum tuberosum*) production in improving livelihood of farmers in kortek sub-county bukwo district. Convenience sampling design was employed in selection 40 respondents who were directly involved in Irish potato production, this provided a basis for representative view for *Solanum tuberosum* production among farmers. According to the findings source of livelihoods portrayed this pattern, Irish production (72.5%)> maize production 17.5% > 10% livestock production. Irish production plays a bigger role in contributing to livelihood incomes, maize production was the second as a source of livelihood incomes and lastly livestock production. According to the study, 17.5% of the total sample size said that poor transport within kortek sub-county, 10% of the sample size said unstable market prices of irish potatoes, 15% mentioned poor quality planting seedlings, 27.5% mentioned pests and diseases, 7.5% said land availability and tenure as one of the challenges and 22.5% of the respondents said high cost of inputs. The study found out that, 35% of the total sample size suggested that Provision of low interest loans could be one of best solutions to irish potato production challenges, 7.5% Suggested Setting up of demonstration farms, 30% mentioned repair of feeder roads 7.5% suggested the construction of produce stores and lastly 20% mentioned Setting up of farms for irish seedling production.

Out of the findings I recommend that Irish potato production should jointly be encouraged among various stake holders in Kortek Sub-County Bukwo District in order to improve on Irish potato production. Irish potato farmers should undergo various trainings and more research should be carried out on diseases that affect Irish potato production in order to improve on its output in terms of increased yields. Irish farmers should always survey for better markets for the sale of Irish output.

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **1.0 Background**

Irish Potato is an important crop for food and income generation in Uganda. Indeed, the potato is recognized in the 2010/11- 2014/15 Development Strategy and Investment Plan (DSIP) as a strategic commodity with the potential to make a remarkable contribution both to increasing rural incomes and livelihoods and to improving food and nutrition security. Despite its potential, intensification levels remain very low in the potato sub-sector, translating into a very low yield. Farmers increase production by expanding the land used to grow potatoes, not by intensifying their activity. There has been a very low level of adoption of the technology that is crucial to upgrading the potato value chain at the production level, constricting potato production's contribution to the Kigezi sub-region's agricultural economy.

According to FAO (2014) statistics, the annual Irish Potato output in Uganda is approximately 800,000 metric tons, produced on approximately 112,000 hectares with an average yield of 7.14 metric tons per hectare. Output (production) is a result of increased acreage instead of intensification (i.e., increasing productivity per unit area - yield). Extended productivity comparisons based on FAO (2014) data show that Uganda's Irish Potato yields 7.14 metric tons per hectare, which is low in relation to figures of other countries such as Rwanda (14.2 tons), Kenya (20.3 tons), China (15.8 tons), and India (23.7 tons). This in itself is suggestive of unexploited potential to increase Uganda's Irish Potato output, contributing to latent loss in aggregate income from Irish Potato accruing from the yield gap at the production level of the value chain. The yield gap is both a challenge and an investment opportunity for increasing the aggregate value contribution of the Irish Potato sub-sector to agricultural GDP.

### **1.1 Problem statement**

The Irish potato sub sector in Uganda is not well organized in that producers, transporters and marketers are fragmented and tend not to cooperate (Ferris et al.200). The lack of organization is one of the probable factors that isolate the sector from regional or global markets. It has been shown that this sort of disintegrated functioning of the local value chain has a negative impact on

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