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**IMPACT OF IRISH GROWING ON THE WELFARE OF FARMERS**

**CASE STUDY: BINYINY SUB-COUNTY, KWEEN DISTRICT.**

**BY**

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**BU/UP/2019/167**

**A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS  
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**MAY, 2023**

## DECLARATION

I, CHEPTORUS GLORIA hereby declare that this research report is my original work and has not been presented for any academic award to any other university or college.

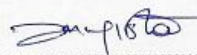
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### **APPROVAL**

This research work of CHEPTORUS GLORIA entitled "THE IMPACT OF IRISH POTATO GROWING ON THE WELFARE OF FARMERS IN BINYINY SUB-COUNTY, KWEEN DISTRICT" has been done under my supervision and is now ready for submission to the board of examiners with my approval.

Signature.......... Date.....31/5/2023.....

**Mr. MUGISHA INNOCENT**

## DEDICATION

I wish to dedicate the work written in this report to my beloved parent Mrs. Chemutai Jophia who laid the foundation for my education from primary to university and financial support she provided to me during the research process. My grandfather Mr. Satya James as well as my brothers; Cherop Leonard, Kusuro Collins, and Sande Benjamin for the tireless efforts and guidance they granted unto me during the course of conducting this research.

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My sincere and whole hearted appreciation goes to my beloved family members for the continued encouragement, support, prayers, moral, spiritual and financial assistance. I pray that they can eat from the fruits of their labor. Amen.

Conclusively, I would like to thank all my friends and course mates with whom we have struggled, exchanged views and ideas.

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## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

IYP- International Year of the Potato

PMA-plan for modernization of agriculture

NAADS-national agricultural advisory services

FAO- food and agricultural organizations

NARO- national agriculture research organization

RKC-revised Kyoto convention

KARI- Kenya agricultural research institute

WFP- World food program

NGOs- non-governmental organizations

## **ABSTRACT**

The aim of the study was to assess the impact of Irish potato growing on the welfare of farmers in Binyiny sub-county, Kween district, examining the benefits of Irish potato growing on the welfare of farmers, identifying the limitations facing Irish potato growers and finding out how to overcome the limitations facing farmers growing Irish potatoes and the research questions were derived from the objectives. The study covered all the five parishes in Binyiny sub-county.

The research included views from different other researchers on; level of Irish potato production, contributions of Irish potatoes on farmers' welfare, limitations facing Irish potato growers and the solutions to the limitations facing Irish potato growers.

The study population was about 34 Irish potato growers in Binyiny sub-county. A sample size of 31 respondents was adopted who contributed to the data obtained using purposive sampling technique. Data was collected from both primary and secondary sources. Data was collected using questionnaire, observation and interview methods by the researcher.

The data collected was then analyzed in Microsoft excel and it was presented in form of tables and charts like pie charts and line graphs. The data presented were; the demographic characteristics of the respondents, limitations of Irish potato growing and the agricultural inputs used by farmers.

The findings revealed that there are clear benefits of Irish potato growing towards farmers welfare which included, provides employment to those working in the Irish potato plantations, source of food, source of income when potatoes are sold, provides revenue to the government through taxes levied on produced potatoes which is in turn used by the government to provide extension services to the people that's to say health services. This research also revealed that poor marketing channel was the most limitation hindering Irish potato growers.

## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

### 1.0 Introduction.

This chapter presents the background, problem statement, objectives, research questions, scope, and significance of the study.

### 1.1 Background of the study

The Irish potato is the world's most important root and tuber crop (Zhongqi H, 2012). It is grown in more than 125 countries and consumed almost daily by more than a billion people. Hundreds of millions of people in developing countries depend on potatoes for their survival. Celebrated in 2008, the United Nations international year of the potato (IYP) highlighted the important role of the potato in agriculture, the economy and the world food security. Potato production and consumption is booming worldwide, with ever greater quantities being processed for the convenience food and snacks industries, while its importance as a subsistence crop continues to expand.

The Irish potato (*solanum tuberosum*) has helped sustain humanity for centuries and now ranks as the leading non-grain commodity in the global food system with production exceeding 329 million tons in 2009 (NeBambi, 2009). In fact the developing world's potato production exceeded that of developed world for the first time in 2005 (Zhongqi H, 2012). Millions of farmers depend on potatoes for subsistence and as a local cash crop. Recent uncertainties in the world food supply and demand have placed the potato high on the list of recommended food security crops (Lutaladio, 2009). Potato production potential is exceptionally high as approximately 80% of the plant biomass constitutes economic yield.

African nation exhibiting substantial growth in potato production both in tones and hectares were Algeria, Cameroon, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Tanzania, and Uganda with average yields (for 2009) ranging from 2.2 to 25.1 tons per hectare (NeBambi, 2009). potato was introduced into East Africa in the 1880s by the British. In Uganda, its production is concentrated in Kigezi highlands of Kabale and Kisoro in the south-west, Mountain Elgon districts of Mbale and Kapchorwa in Eastern Uganda with highlands between 1500m and 3000m above sea level (Wang'ombe, 2008). The Kigezi highlands produce 60% of total Ugandan potato output (FAO, 2008) and south Eastern Uganda contributes 10%. The remaining 30% comes from the districts of Mubende, Nebbi, Masaka, Mbarara and Rakai (Ferris, 2001; Okoboi, 2001). In recent years, the introduction of lowland varieties extended the crop to other regions like the central and west Nile as a commercial activity and increased potato output over years (Ferris, 2001; Okoboi, 2001). The government of Uganda has been committing resources towards increasing productivity and creating sustainable market linkages for farmers through the Plan for Modernization of Agriculture (PMA) from which National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) was curved. It has also significantly funded research in crop diseases and improved varieties under NARO

The researcher recommend that need to employ organic farming by applying organic manure to supplement the ever-increasing cost of modern fertilizers for example NPK and CAN.

The government and partners (NGOs) should provide soft loans for facilitating farmers in processing of growing, maintaining and harvesting of Irish potatoes.

The researcher recommends that better seed varieties that is to say in terms of resistance to diseases, faster in terms of maturity, adaptive in terms of soil and climate should be introduced.

The researcher recommends that extension services should be improved to advise farmers to adopt modern methods of farming.

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