
**BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY ARAPAI CAMPUS
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL SCIENCE**

**ASSESSING MARKET PARTICIPATION AMONG SORGHUM PRODUCERS IN
AUKOT SUB-COUNTY, SOROTI DISTRICT**

BY

ONYONGE DENIS

REG NO; BU/UP/2021/0171

EMAIL; onyongedenis@gmail.com

SUPERVISOR

MR. OKIROR SIMON PETER

**A SPECIAL PROJECT REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
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DECLARATION


This study is original and has not been submitted for any other degree award to any University before.

Signature.......... Date.....07/11/2024.....

Onyonge Denis

APPROVAL

This special project report has been submitted to the Department of Agribusiness and Extension with the approval of the University supervisor.

Signature  Date *07 Nov. 2024.*

Mr. Okiror Simon Peter

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to the Almighty God who gave me the knowledge, wisdom, strength and understanding in my studies. I also dedicate it to my mother Awiyo Edith, Uncle Oyara Fastino, Brother Simon Isaac Emou, Eceru Amos, Sisters Akoyo Dinah, Ayoko Salume, Amayo Alice and Awiyo Edith Lonah, my supervisor Mr. Okiror Simon Peter who supported me mentally, spiritually, physically economically and professionally in completion of my studies.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ROI	Return on Investment
PHLs	Postharvest Losses
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
NARO	National Agricultural Research Organization
MT	Metric Ton
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
USA	United State of America
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science
EAC	East African Community
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistic
MMT	Million Metric Tons
MoANR	Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries
NaSARRI	National Semi Arid Resources Research Institute

ABSTRACT

Smallholder farmers constitute the largest share of farm households in Uganda and many of them are poor. A way out of poverty for them is to address market related problems. In this paper, the market options available to these farmers, as well as market related factors that are problematic were investigated. Primary data were collected from 120 sorghum farmers in Aukot Sub-county, Soroti District. All the sampled farmers produce and sell sorghum (n=120) in their households, The average landholder allocated to sorghum production was noted to be small and varied between 1 to 2 acres as shown in Table 2. The majority of the farmers (n=115) reported that the main reason for which they grow sorghum is for both food and income for the household (95.8%). The major variety of sorghum grown by the farmers was SESO3 (65.0%), following NAROSORG2 (18.3%), NAROSORG3 (12.5%). The main reason the farmers fronted for growing the specified sorghum varieties was that of being high yielding (65.0%) and early maturing (27.5%). Farmers considered mainly the height and maturity period (52.5%), and the head color, size and shape (47.5%) to identify the sorghum variety for growing. The main cropping systems in the sorghum cultivation were intercropping 58.3% (n=70) and crop rotation 41.7% (n=50). On how they rate the fertility of their land, the majority of the farmers (75.8%) reported that their land was fertile. The study identified four markets options and the most prioritized was the local market. The study results show that, market price, farm size, education and total sorghum produced, road condition, primary occupation and transaction costs significantly affect famers' market participation. Policy interventions that seek to improve these factors are very important to market participation.

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor* L.) is one of the most widely cultivated and fifth most consumed cereal crops in the world after maize, wheat, rice, and barley (Inuwa *et al.*, 2020; Kazungu *et al.*, 2023). Sorghum is said to have originated in Eastern Africa, in the region bordering Sudan and Ethiopia (Sahoo, 2018). It is a staple food crop in the drier parts of Africa, China, and India (Ajeigbe *et al.*, 2018; Mrema *et al.*, 2020). Sorghum is primarily a crop of resource-poor, small-scale farmers and is typically produced under adverse conditions such as low input use and marginal lands (Wortmann *et al.*, 2017). Sorghum production in the world stands at 60.0 million metric tons (MT) after barley with 142.87 million MT, rice with 513.54 million MT, wheat with 784.91 million MT, and maize with 1,235.73 million MT (Kamal *et al.*, 2019). According to Ahmad Yahaya *et al.*, 2022, the world's largest sorghum producing countries are the United States of America (USA) with 8.7 million MT from 2.0 million hectares (Ha), Nigeria (6.9 million MT from 5.4 million Ha), Ethiopia (5.3 million MT from 1.9 million Ha), and Sudan (3.7 million MT from 6.8 million Ha).

In Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), Nigeria is the leading producer of sorghum followed by Ethiopia. The crop has also been reported to be Africa's second most important cereal crop after maize (Benjamin *et al.*, 2024). On the other hand, it is also ranked as the third cereal crop in East Africa after maize and millet (Andiku *et al.*, 2021). It is an important staple food crop in Eastern Africa which led to contribution to national food supply in Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia and Uganda (Hoffman, 2013).

In Uganda, sorghum has become the second most important cereal crop grown after maize in terms of production (375,795 MT) and is mostly produced in the northern parts followed by eastern, southwest regions and central (Lubadde *et al.*, 2019). Sorghum plays a vital role in achieving food security, and the crop is one of the leading traditional food crops in the area

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