

**Poverty Reduction in Rural Eastern Uganda: Case
study of the National Agricultural Advisory Services
(NAADS)**

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STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

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Finally, the views expressed in this dissertation are entirely my own and do not, in any way, represent those of the institution to which I’m affiliated. I take full responsibility for any errors made in this dissertation.

PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS FROM THIS RESEARCH

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ABSTRACT

Informed by global development discourse, sub-Saharan African (SSA) governments developed and implemented successive interventions to reduce extreme poverty and food insecurity, with variable success. The Ugandan government constructed its poverty-reduction plan to align with international development aid policy. It had achieved some success in recent years. However, rural poverty levels remained high. This study examined the initially donor-driven National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) to expand understanding of effective engagement with Uganda's premier agricultural development program. Studies on the role of agricultural development in poverty reduction and food security in SSA concentrated largely on program evaluation and outcomes measurement to support the construction of evidence-based policy. Many failed to acknowledge the importance of context in the design and implementation of development policy. Most poverty-reduction and development policies, including the PRSPs, MDGs, and SDGs, formulated through international agencies, presumed universal applicability and failed to take account of local exigencies, including widely varying political, social, cultural, economic, and natural environments. This qualitative study sought to examine the machinations of NAADS in rural Eastern Uganda from the perspective and experience of successful 'model farmers' (n=15), who had reaped the rewards of agricultural development. This enabled a 'rich description' of farmers' individual subjective experiences and interpretations of their success. A thematic analysis of the findings revealed the complex interaction between sociocultural, economic, political, and physical environmental factors in shaping the farmers' progress. The study found that NAADS targeted farmers that fit their eligibility criteria and created the context for their success. Though framed as a poverty-alleviation program, its key objectives related to productive agriculture and, though policies were externally driven, NAADS focused on local farmers in local contexts. The findings

suggested their success related to their familiarity with, and participation in, the structures and operations of NAADS, joining local farmers' associations, attending meetings and training sessions, contributing assets (land, transport, and farm machinery) for training development sites, having storage facilities to stockpile grain for sale when the price was right, engaging in farmer institutional development initiatives, visiting experimentation and technical development sites and farmers' field schools, and involving family members.

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	African Development Bank
ALREP	Agricultural Livelihoods Recovery Program
ARDC	Agricultural Research and Development Centres
ATAAS	Agriculture Technology and Agribusiness Advisory Services
AU	African Union
AWPB	Annual Work Plans and Budgets
BOU	Bank of Uganda
BRIC	Brazil, Russia, India, and China
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program
CBF	Community-based facilitator
CBO	Community-based organisation
CERUDEB	Centenary Rural Development Bank
CFF	County Farmers' Forum
CIDI	Community Integrated Development Initiative
CSO	Civil society organisation
DAC	Development Assistance Countries
DAS	Development Assistance
DFF	District Farmers' Forum
DFID	Department for International Development
DSIP	Development Strategy and Investment Plan
EAC	East African Community
ERP	Economic Recovery Program
FFS	Farmer Field School

GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HDI	Human Development Index
HIPC	Heavily-Indebted Poor Countries
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IFI	International Financial Institution
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INGO	International nongovernment organisation
ISFG	Integrated Support to Farmer Groups
IHS	Integrated Household Survey
JRM	Joint Review Mission
KALIP	Karamoja Livelihoods program
LC	Local Council
LGDP	Local Government Development Programme
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MPED	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
MIS	Management Information System
MOLG	Ministry of Local Government
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSC	Microfinance Support Centre
MVP	Millennium Villages Project
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory Services
NARO	National Agricultural Research Organisation
NaSSRI	National Semi-Arid Resources Research Institute

NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NFF	National Farmers' Forum
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Nongovernment organisation
NUSAF	Northern Uganda Social Action Fund
ODA	Overseas development assistance/aid
PAF	Poverty Action Fund
PAPSCA	Program for Alleviation of Poverty and the Social Costs of Adjustment
PCCs	Parish Coordinating Committees
PC	Procurement Committee
PEAP	Poverty Eradication Action Plan
PMA	Plan for the Modernisation of Agriculture
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PSPs	Private Service Providers
ROU	Republic of Uganda
SAARI	Serere Agricultural and Animal Research Institute
SACCO	Savings and credit cooperative organisation
SCA	Savings and credit associations
SCDC	Sub-County Development Committee
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SFF	Sub-county Farmers' Forum
SOCADIDO	Soroti Catholic Diocese Integrated Development Organisation
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
TEDDO	Teso Diocese Development Organisation

TERUDO	Teso Rural Development Organisation
TDS	Technology Development Site
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UCSCU	Uganda Cooperative Savings and Credit Union
UDHS	Uganda Demographic and Health Survey
UGX	Ugandan shilling
UJAS	Uganda Joint Assistance Strategy
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHS	Uganda National Household Survey
UPPAP	Uganda Participatory Poverty Assessment Project
UNPS	Uganda National Panel Survey
USD	United States Dollars
VFF	Village Farmers' Forum
WB	World Bank