

# The Effect of Operation Wealth Creation on Youth Farmers Development: A Case Study of Labongo Layamo Sub County, Kitgum District

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**Abstract:** *The fundamental goal of the research was to assess how operation wealth creation impacted the development of young farmers. a case study on the county of Labongo Layamo. Kitgum neighborhood The research study was based on a number of goals, which include establishing the contribution or role of Operation Wealth Creation in improving livelihoods, identifying the various obstacles faced by the program in providing services to farmers, and establishing the degree to which the program was trying to enhance agricultural productivity in Labongo Layamo Sub County, Kitgum District. The study also used correlation coefficient analysis to determine a relationship between the Operation Wealth Creation program and the degree of food and nutrition security in rural areas and We rejected the null hypothesis and reached the conclusion that there was a significant correlation between the level of food and nutrition security in rural areas and the Operation wealth creation program because we unearthed that there was a strong correlation coefficient between those two or more variables. Since the P-value (0.000) was less than 0.05 at the 95% confidence interval, we also rejected the null hypothesis. Chi-square analysis was used to see how the study's variables related to one another, and judgments were based on the results of the analysis. The various study findings were presented using qualitative analysis, and conclusions were later drawn based on the findings. Upon using the chi-square distribution, since the computed ( $t=1.356$ ) was greater than the tabulated ( $t$ ) of 0.0567, we reject the null hypothesis. If the operation wealth creation program is to live up to their expectations, the researcher advised farmers to heed the advice of various technical teams. Because many individuals have expressed concern that some are neglected from the Operation Wealth Creation program, local leaders in the Labongo Layamo Sub County Kitgum District should always attempt to also include everyone in the program. In order to comprehend how the Operation Wealth Creation program was executed, the researcher also suggested that policymakers, especially parliament representatives, strive to follow the program in conjunction with the assessment teams.*

**Keywords:** Operation wealth creation, Food Security, Welfare.

## Background of the Study

The agriculture sector has gone through a number of structural adjustments since 1990, including in Uganda. These reforms in Uganda include, among other things, the opening up of the market for agricultural inputs, services, and outputs; the privatization of state-owned companies that supported production and marketing; and the reduction of the number of civil officials who offered extension services. Both positive and negative results came out of these reforms. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, some negative impacts should include rising income inequality and a commensurate increase in the very poor in the early 1990s; the demise of public extension, credit, and marketing services; and declining agricultural productivity (MAAIF, 2010).

The government of Uganda, with guidance from the World Bank and other donors, restructured the nation's extension system as part of the Plan for Modernization of Agriculture (PMA), switching from a unified public extension system to a Public Private Partnership (PPP) extension system, in order to combat the negative impacts of agricultural reforms. The NAADS organization was formed in 2001 as a semiautonomous body of the MAAIF to oversee the 25-year NAADS program, marking the conclusion of the agricultural sector reforms (Ekwamu, 2005). ( MAAIF, 2015).

In a PPP arrangement, the government contracted out the provision of extension services to private individuals and organizations, which was hailed as an efficacious way of delivering services to only those farmers who would demand them, creating a demand-driven extension system that would minimize costs (Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS):, 2016). Besides which, it was intended that under the PPP extension system, the central government would initially bear a larger share of the cost of extension service provision before gradually shifting the cost to the local government and the farmers through their organizations, thus further causing the private sector to drive the demand for extension services. 2001 Word Bank

The overall objective of NAADS extension system which is now OWC was to assist 2 poor female and male farmers to become aware of and be able to adapt to improved technology and management practices in their farming enterprises so as to enhance their productive efficiency, their economic welfare and sustainability of farming operations (World Bank, 2000)

. The NAADS program was to pay more attention to women, people living with disabilities(PLWDS) and young people who were considered to be the most affected by the economic reforms of the 1990s (GoU, 2010).

### Problem Statement

The Ugandan government is committed to increasing service delivery through efficient program finance, implementation, and monitoring. The ultimate goal is to improve citizen welfare by expanding the availability of basic services like energy, roads, ICT, health, education, water, and sanitation, as well as agricultural advice services (UBOS, 2011). the provision of planting, breeding, and stocking materials; value addition; the establishment of irrigation facilities; research and extension; the promotion of employment technologies; and the augmentation of modern agriculture of the OWC program. During FY 2014/15, the Government disbursed Uganda shillings 497.52 billion to the agricultural sector (MAAIF 2017). Given that the studies were least in part funded and decided to carry out by the OWC secretariat, there is limited public information on the effect of operation wealth creation to youth farmers' development or the role of the program. This is in spite of the attention and resources devoted to the OWC program to support households in accessing extension services in order to improve their productivity and, consequentially, welfare.

### Specifics Objectives.

The specific objectives include;

1. To establish the different challenges met by OWC in extending services to households in Labongo Layamo Sub county Kitgum District.
2. To establish how the OWC programs have improved the productivity of agriculture in Labongo Layamo Sub county Kitgum District.

### Hypothesis of the study

Ho: There is no relationship between the challenges met by OWC in extending services to households

Ha: There is a relationship between the challenges met by OWC in extending services to households

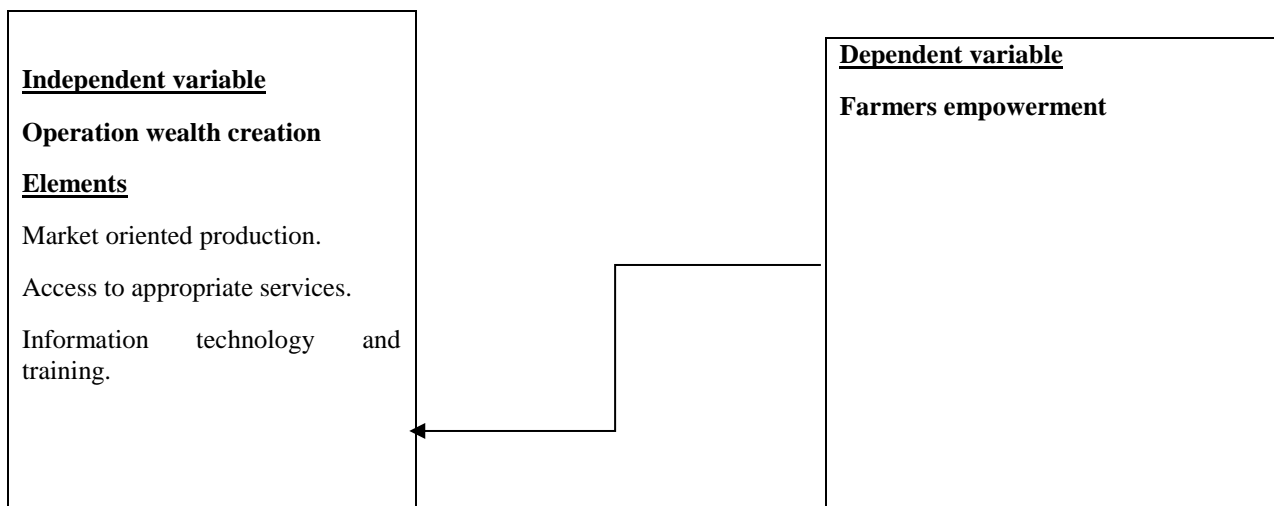
Ho: There is no impact of improved agricultural productivity on households in Labongo Layamo Sub county Kitgum District.

Ha: There is an impact of improved agricultural productivity on households in Labongo Layamo Sub county Kitgum District

### Research Questions

1. What are the different challenges met by OWC in extending services to households in Labongo Layamo Sub county Kitgum District?
2. How has OWC programs improved the productivity of agriculture in Labongo Layamo Sub county Kitgum District?

### Conceptual Frame Work



The figure above shows the relationship between dependent, independent and intervening variables. The application of independent variables causes change in the state of dependent variables at a constant intervening variable

## METHODOLOGY

### Research Design

This study used both qualitative and quantitative responses. The researcher used a descriptive survey design which involves gathering data that describes events and then organizes them, tabulates, depicts and describes the data collected using visual aids such as graphs, charts and tables to help the reader in understanding data distribution. This helped to establish and clearly understand the contribution of operation wealth creation to youth farmer's empowerment in improving the socioeconomic welfare of Ugandan households in Labongo Layamo Sub County.

### Econometric model.

Model specification. The econometric model for this precise study was;

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 (D1 D2) X_i + E_t$$

This can be expressed in linear form as

Where Y is **Farmers empowerment**

$\beta_0$  is a constant

$X_i$  is a dependent variable where an increase in  $X_i$  results into a significant increase in Y

D1, D2 are dummy variables

$E_t$  is the error term

### Sample selection technique

A stratified random sampling in two stages was used by the researcher. The sampling frame comprised of every home in the six villages of the labongo layamo sub county, although only 30 of them were ultimately interviewed. In order to gather trustworthy and precise data from the respondents, purposeful random techniques were used.

### Determination of the Sample Size.

Choosing the amount of observations or replicates to include in the representative study of the labongo layamo sub county is essential in determining the proportions of the chosen respondents to the estimated total.

Making generalizations about a population based on a sample is what it is all about.

It is selected depending on the expense, convenience, or time required for the collection of data for it to provide sufficient

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

information.

n= sample size

N = population

e = margin of error

Where: e= 0.05

N =151

151/ (1+151(0.05\*0.05)

n=160

### Methods of data collection and instruments.

#### Questionnaires

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A questionnaire is a well crafted written series of questions to which respondents must provide their answers, typically within a narrow range of options. The use of the questionnaire is justified by the fact that some study variables, such as the respondents' views, opinions, perceptions, and feelings, cannot be directly observed. The questionnaire is equally useful because data must be collected quickly from a large sample of 160 respondents, and yet the respondents are educated. The survey is used to collect information from respondents. The Labongo Layamo Sub County, Kitgum District respondents were given questionnaires that included both open-ended and closed-ended questions.

### Data validation and entry

The researcher validates the data for example editing in case of spelling errors and other mistakes in the data, code it and then enter it into an appropriate statistical package (SPSS) for analysis.

### Data Quality Control

This presents the validity and reliability of data instruments which is use during the study.

#### Reliability

The researcher use test reliability of the instrument using test retest method where by the questionnaires is distributed to the different group of people at different points of time to test if the same information is provided (Polit, & Beck, 2004).

#### Validity

After designing the instruments of data collection, the researcher contact two experts (People who have done research before) to test whether the questions in the questionnaire is valid in relation to the study variables.

$$C.V.I = \frac{n}{N}$$

Where; C.V.I= Content Validity Index

n=number of questions rated Relevant

N=total number of questions in questionnaire

### Data analysis and presentation

Kombo & Tromp, (2006) argue that data collected has to be processed, analysed and presented in accordance with the outlines laid down for the purpose of the research. SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Scientists) as use to analyse the data to generate frequencies, summary statistics, tables, percentages, t-values, confidence intervals for comparing and testing the significance of different data variables more specifically in impacting on

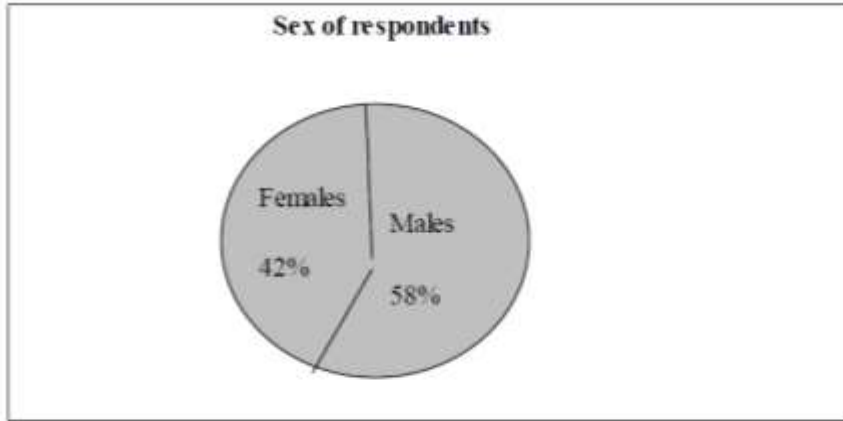
#### DATA ANALYSIS

##### Descriptive analysis

This section presents a detailed descriptive analysis of the different background data of respondents which includes sex, age, level of education and marital status.

##### Sex of respondents

Respondents were asked to provide their gender status whether male or female and their responses in percentages are presented in Figure 1.



Source: Field data 2019

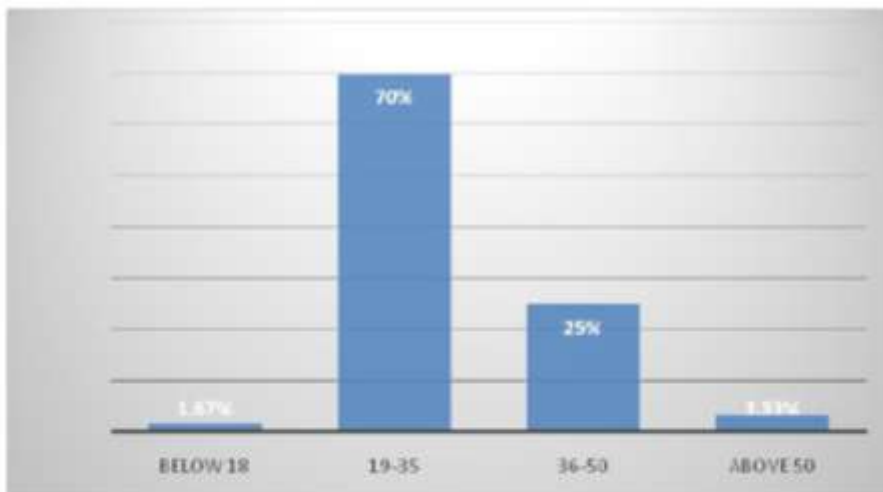
**Table 1: Sex of respondents**

According to Figure 1's gender distribution, men made up the bulk of respondents (58%) while women made up 42%. This indicates that participants of both sexes were willing to communicate study-related information. The distribution had little bearing on the study's findings, as men predominantly participated in the OWC program in the Labongo Layamo Sub County of the Kitgum District.

#### Age distribution of the Respondents

The study covered respondents from different age groups and the different responses concerning the age of respondents are presented in Figure 2 and Figure 3.

#### Respondent's age brackets



Source: Primary data, 2019

Primary data, 2022 as source Figure 2 shows the results for the respondents' age ranges, indicating that the majority, 42 (70%) were between 19 and 35 years old, followed by 15 (25%) between 36 and 50. These findings show that the productive age was mostly engaged in the OWC program and contacted to do is provide comments on the program's accountability and effectiveness in raising domestic welfare in the Labongo Layamo Sub County, Kitgum District.

#### Marital status

Respondents were asked to provide their marital status based on whether they were single, married, widowed or divorced and their responses are presented in Table 4.1

**Table 3 Marital status of the Respondents**

		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Single	4	7.0	7.0
	Married	47	78.0	85.0
	Widowed	6	10.0	95.0
	Divorced	3	5.0	100.0
	Total	60	100	

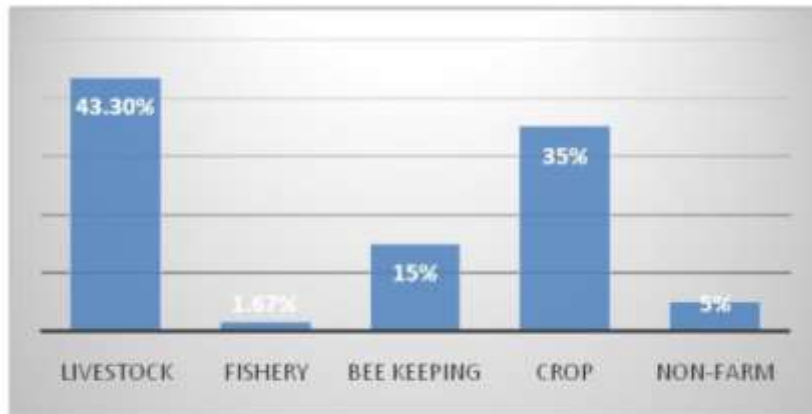
Source: primary data, 2019

According to Table 4.1 above, the majority of the respondents (78%) were married, (10%) of the respondents were widowed, (7%) were single, and (5%) were divorced. This implied that majority of respondents was responsible people with families and could understand how OWC program has helped to improve the socioeconomic welfare of their households.

**Primary source of income of household head**

Respondents were also requested to provide information regarding their primary source of income and their responses are presented in figure 4.2

**Figure 3 Primary source of income for households**



Source: Primary data 2019

According to the findings in figure 3, the majority of respondents 26 (43.3%) use livestock as their main source of income. This indicates that individuals raise animals mostly for commercial purposes in order to make a living. The next group of respondents, 21 (35%) were involved in crop husbandry as their main source of income, and the last group of respondents, 1 (1.67%), obtained their money from fishing. These research shows that livestock and crop cultivation, two major focuses of the OWC program, are the primary sources of income in Kitgum.

## 4.5 The role of OWC towards improving welfare of households

Table 5 the Roles of OWC towards improving welfare of households in Labongo layamo Sub County, Kitgum District

Roles of OWC	Responses											
	S. Agree		Agree		S.Disagree		Disagree		Not sure		Total	
	Freq	%ge	Freq	%ge	Freq	%ge	Freq	%ge	Freq	%ge	Freq	%ge
Increases market oriented agriculture production	10	17	41	68	-	-	09	15	-	-	60	100
Enhances households' access to appropriate services	10	17	45	75	-	-	-	-	05	08	60	100
Helps farmers to move progressively to higher levels of adoption and implementation through demonstration	20	33	40	67	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	100
Increases access to information and technology and training	-	-	42	70	-	-	0-8	13	10	17	60	100
Helps households achieve economies of scale as they increase negotiating power and skills and other services that could be costly	03	05	38	63	-	-	18	30	01	02	60	100
Facilitate quality of advisory services and promote adoption to new crop livestock enterprise and use of modern agriculture production technologies	10	17	41	68	-	-			09	15	60	100

Source: Primary data 2019

According to the study findings on the roles of OWC towards improving welfare of households' labongo layamo Sub County, kitgum District in Table 5, it was found out that OWC helps households to move progressively to higher levels of adoption and implementation through demonstration. This was strongly agreed by 33% of the total respondents and agreed by 67% of the total respondents. This implies that OWC empowers the integrated support to farmer groups allows the farmer in various households to access and employ investment resources, enabling them to manage their goods very well. Following this was the belief that the OWC program increases access to pertinent services, with which 17% strongly agreed and 75% agreed while 8% were unsure. Furthermore, it was discovered that the OWC program promotes acceptance of new crop livestock enterprises, the use of current agriculture production methods, and the quality of advisory services. Of those questioned, 17% strongly agreed with this statement, 68% agreed, and 15% were unsure. The findings also revealed that the OWC program greatly supports households' efforts to increase market-oriented farm production. by 17% and agreed by 68% while 15% disagreed. Additionally, the study's results indicate that OWC gives households more access to educational technology, and information, as agreed upon by 70% of the respondents. However,



13% of respondents strongly disagreed, and 17% were unsure. Finally, the study's findings revealed that OWC aids households in achieving economies of scale by increasing their negotiating power, expertise, and other services that may be expensive. Of the total respondents, 05% strongly agreed with this conclusion, while 63% disagreed. However, 30% were in disagreement, and 0% were unsure. This suggests that the OWC program has made significant efforts to boost the socioeconomic health of households in the kit gum District's labongo layamo Subcounty. **The challenges met by the OWC program in extending services to households**

Responses here were based on questions in appendices section C. This question was addressed to a cross section of 60 respondents as presented in Table 4.3

**Table 6. The challenges met by OWC program in extending services to households**

The challenges met by OWC	Responses											
	S. Agree		Agree		S. Disagree		Disagree		Not sure		Total	
	Freq	%ge	Freq	%ge	Freq	%ge	Freq	%ge	Freq	%ge	Freq	%ge
Decline in soil fertility	20	33	40	67	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	100
Low value addition to agricultural production	10	17	50	83	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	100
Weak implementation of agricultural laws and policies	07	12	41	68	-	-	08	13	04	07	60	100
Peasant based agriculture	08	13	46	77	-	-	-	-	06	10	60	100
Shortage of agricultural inputs and uncooperative members, unfavorable climate	10	17	50	83	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	100
Corruption among OWC official	10	17	48	80	-	-	02	03			60	100

Source: Field Data 2022



The lack of agricultural inputs, uncooperative members, the unfavorable climate, and the low value addition to agricultural production were the main challenges, according to the study's results on the difficulties OWC experienced in providing services to farmers in table 4.2 above. This was due to the fact that 17% of respondents strongly agreed and 83% of all respondents agreed that both challenges were negatively affecting them. Going to follow this was corruption among OWC employees, with 17% strongly agreeing, 80% agreeing, and only 3% disagreeing. Those who objected were OWC employees who carried out the program and were attempting to hide the truth. The analysis indicate that peasant-based agriculture presented a difficulty, with 13% strongly agreeing, 77% agreeing, and 10% not sure. While providing services to homes, the OWC program in Kitgum also had to struggle with laxly administered agricultural regulations and rules. Only 12% of respondents strongly agreed with this, and 68% of respondents overall agreed. However, 13% of respondents disagreed, and 7% were unsure. The loss in soil fertility was also determined to be a challenge, which 33% of respondents strongly agreed with and 67% of respondents overall agreed with.

**How the OWC program can be established so as to directly improve the welfare of household**

Responses for this section were based on questions in appendices section D. This question was addressed to a cross section of 60 respondents as presented in Table 4.4

**Table 6 How OWC program can be streamlined to directly improve the welfare of households**

Measure	S. Agree		Agree		S. Disagree		Disagree		Not sure		Total	
	Freq	%ge	Freq	%ge	Frq	%ge	Freq	%ge	Freq	%ge	Freq	%ge
	Increased finding to agriculture sector by government	15	25	45	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	60
Empowerment of OWC programs to target market opportunities for households	-	-	35	58	-	-	18	30	07	12	60	100
Identify domestic and export market opportunities to households	14	23	46	76	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	100
Training and advisory services to households	06	10	42	70	-	-	08	13	04	07	60	100

Source: Field Data 2022

The study's findings on how to streamline the OWC program to directly improve household welfare are shown in table 4.4 above. According to these findings, increased government funding for the agricultural sector can streamline the OWC program to directly improve farmers' living standards, with 25% especially when multiple and 75% agreeing. Following this, delivering training and advising services to farmers in the various households was followed by the identification of potential domestic and export market prospects for farmers, which was strongly agreed upon by 23% and agreed upon by 76%. 10% of respondents strongly agreed with this, and 70% of all respondents agreed. However, 13% disagreed while 07% were not sure. Finally respondents suggested empowerment of OWC programs to target market opportunities for households which was agreed by 58% of the respondents. 30% disagreed with this view while 12% were not sure.

**Testing hypothesis**

**Table 7 Cross tabulation between OWC program and its influence on productivity of**

Whether OWC program is influential	Increasing profitability		Total
	Agree	Disagree	
Yes	31	11	42
No	13	5	18
Total	44	16	60
$\chi^2 = 4.3257$ df= 1			p = 0.032

Source: Researcher's Analysis

Since the computed is greater than the tabulated =3.841, we reject the null

hypothesis and conclude that there is a statistically significant relationship between OWC program and the general productivity of agriculture in selected Parishes, labongo layamo Sub county, kitgum District

Whether OWC program is influential	Influence on food nutrition and security			Total
	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	
Yes	16	15	10	41
No	6	8	5	19
Total	22	23	15	60
$\chi^2 = 6.5324$ df=2			p=0.023	$\alpha=0.05$

**Table 8 Cross tabulation between OWC program and its influence on food and nutrition security**

Source: Researcher's Analysis

Since the computed is greater than the tabulated =3.841, we reject the null Hypothesis and conclude that there is a statistically significant relationship between NAADS program and the level of food and nutrition security in labongo akwang sub county, kitgum district .

**Regression Analysis**

**Table 9 regression analysis**

Model	Unstandardized B	Coefficients Std. Error	Standardized coefficients Beta	t	significance
	10.9656	2.345		14.563	

<b>Agricultural productivity</b>	<b>1.056</b>	<b>1.908</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2.456</b>	<b>0.000</b>
<b>Challenges of OWC</b>	<b>0.675</b>	<b>1.342</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>3.129</b>	<b>0.000</b>

Ho: There is no relationship between the challenges met by OWC in extending services to households

Ha: There is a relationship between the challenges met by OWC in extending services to households

Ho: There is no impact of improved agricultural productivity on households in Labongo Layamo Sub county Kitgum District.

Ha: There is an impact of improved agricultural productivity on households in Labongo Layamo Sub county Kitgum District

$$Y = 10.9656 + 0.675 (D1 D2) Xi + Et$$

Farmers' empowerment would be 10.9656 on average, holding other variables remain constant, if dummy strongly agree 1, dummy agree 2, dummy agree 3, dummy don't agree 4, and dummy uncertain 5 are equal to 0. In spite of this, we reject the null hypothesis and arrive at the conclusion that there is a significant correlation between agricultural productivity and farmer empowerment because the P-value (0.000) is smaller than the critical value at 95% confidence interval. R-squared takes degrees of freedom into account and imposes a harsher penalty, therefore since the R-squared value (0.78) is higher than the adjusted R-squared value, it is a good fit.

### Conclusions

The OWC program was initially intended to improve farmers' abilities to establish and run farmer associations, request advisory services, and adopt better agricultural technologies and practices by demonstrating the technologies to community model farmers (MAAIF, 2010). As stated in the act, the OWC program, formerly known as NAADS, was established to replace the outmoded extension and to lead the promotion of market-oriented agriculture as well as to provide for other connected and incidental farming.

However, some households in Labnongo Layamo Sub County, Kitgum District have continued to contend that the OWC program has remained more of a liability than an asset in regards to achieving the current objectives, such as its inability to tackle problems with crops and animals pests and diseases, increase farmer income, and enhance household welfare in general, among others, and that as a result, it is necessary to operationalize the plan for Modernization of Agriculture component to fully achieve the objectives.

Therefore, OWC officials should form a technical team to conduct a more in-depth analysis and investigation of the OWC program activities in the Labongo Layamo Sub County, Kitgum District, and make recommendations regarding the reasons why the OWC program is going to encounter difficulties as a result of its failure to meet the predetermined goals.

### Recommendations

#### To the OWC program beneficiaries

Households involved in framing should seriously take the advice of the technical teams to support the programme for their own benefit in improving their livelihood or welfare. The OWC program was designed for the farmers in order to improve their welfare. Therefore households should own it and try to deal with all the challenges that affect them in partnership with the local leaders and policy makers.

#### To local leaders

Local leaders in labongo layamo Sub County, kitgum District should always try to involve everybody in the programme because many complaints have been raised that some were left outside the OWC programme.

#### To policy makers

Policy makers especially parliament representatives should try to follow up the OWC programme in conjunction with the evaluation teams to know how the programme is being implemented. They should also try to deal with the problem of corruption whereby it is claimed that much of the OWC program funds were embezzled when they reached at the sub-county level which is the level of implementation.

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### APPENDICES

#### Appendix One: Research Questionnaire

Dear respondent! I am Komakech Allan student of metropolitan international University pursuing a Bachelor's degree in agriculture and rural innovation in my final year. This questionnaire is designed to collect information aimed at assessing the contribution of operation wealth creation to youth farmers' empowerment. a case study of Labongo Layamo Sub County. The information obtain will be strictly for academic purposes and it will be treated with the most confidentiality. I kindly request you to fill this questionnaire.

#### SECTION A: PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENT

QTN 1. Respondent's sex

1. Male

2. Female

QTN 2. Respondent's age (years)

Below 18

19-35

36-50

Above 50

QTN3. Respondent's marital status

1. Married

2. Single

3. Widowed

4. Divorced

5. Separated

QTN 4. Educational level of household head

No formal education

2. Some primary education

3. Completed primary

4. Some secondary education

5. Completed secondary education

6. Post-secondary education

QTN 5 Primary source of income of household head

1. Livestock

2. Crop

3. Bee keeping

4. Fishery

5. Non-farm

**SECTION B: The contribution of OWC towards increasing livelihood in Kitgum district**

Please tick in the appropriate box

Statement	Strongly agree	agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly disagree
OWC programmes increase market oriented agriculture production					
OWC programmes enhances households access to appropriate services					
OWC programmes helps households to move progressively to higher levels of adoption and implementation through demonstration.					
OWC programmes help farmers and households' access to achieve economies of scales as they increase negotiating power and skills and other services that could be costly.					
OWC programmes increases households access to information and technology and training.					
OWC programmes facilitate quality of advisory services and promote adoption to new crops livestock					

enterprise and use of modern agriculture production technologies.					
Any other roles of OWC programmes apart for the above.					

**SECTION C:** the challenges met by OWC in extending agricultural services to different households Statement

Statement	Strongly agree	agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly disagree.
Decline in soil fertility					
Low productivity					
Low value addition to agricultural					
Weak implementation of agricultural laws and policies					
Peasant based agriculture					
Shortage of agricultural inputs and uncooperative members, unfavorable climate					
Corruption among OWC					
Any other challenges facing OWC programmes apart from the above					

**SECTION D:** How the OWC program can be established so as to directly improve the welfare of households. Statement

**Appendix Two: Research Budget**

Particulars	Amount in UGX.
Transport	200,000
Airtime	30,000
Lunch	80,000
Stationery	90,000
Fees	100,000
Others	70,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>570,000</b>