2018 RESEARCH OVERVIEW

Master Programme:
Agriculture Production Chain Management
Management of Development

van hall larenstein
university of applied sciences
Management of Development

The Management of Development Programme (MoD) is one of the programmes of the department ‘Development Studies’ offered by Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences. The 12-month Master programme aims to educate rural development professionals in middle and higher management positions from across the world, to gain insight into the living conditions and survival strategies of those at risk and to translate this insight into organisational policies and strategies.

The overall competences of the MoD programme are:

- To explore complex problems in rural areas considering stakeholder and system perspectives.
- To analyse the performance of rural development organizations in a dynamic context.
- To design processes of change from an inclusive perspective.

On the basis of experiences gained over the last 30 years, we know that teaching knowledge and skills is only part of a process inducing transformation; our ultimate aim is to support committed professionals who are convinced of their cause and are well prepared for their work on social change. Therefore, in the MoD programme we focus on composite learning outcomes. The learning environment introduces theories, models and skills while at the same time challenging the routine attitudes of students. The learning environment stretches the comfort zone of the adult learners, activates existing knowledge and makes their expertise at individual and collective level operational. The resulting international and intercultural classroom becomes a rich private and professional sphere where learning takes place with direct linkages to the professional situation in the respective home countries of our students.

With this document, we share with you the diversity of learning experiences of our students. The abstracts are summaries of a variety of research projects that have been undertaken by the students to complete their Masters Management of Development. While celebrating their graduation we are not closing the learning cycle, our students or graduates embark on a lifelong learning process. By sharing this document we hope you will experience the richness of the knowledge of our students, we hope you will enjoy this as much as we do.

Dr. Pleun van Arensbergen
Coordinator, Master Programme Management of Development (MOD)
25 September 2018
An Exploratory Study on the Barriers and Conditions for Exit and Reintegration of Commercial Sex Workers in Guwahati, Assam, India.

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Abstract
The Commercial Sex Workers (CSWs) in India are an integral part of our society but they are highly marginalized and discriminated by the mainstream society because of their profession. The objective of this research study was to gain insight into the CSWs of Guwahati Assam, India, to be able to identify the barriers and enabling conditions to exit and reintegration of CSWs of Guwahati and to come up with alternative livelihood intervention strategies based on the same. The study was an exploratory study and method used for the study was qualitative approach with the use of research tools like life stories, immersion, focus group discussions and semi structured interview. The study findings showed that the sex work occupation in Guwahati is highly mobile and largely hidden with no designated red-light area and absence of brothels as found in other states in India and other countries. The CSWs can be broadly separated into two namely the high-class sex workers dealing with the higher income clientele and the low-class sex workers who deal with the public. The participants of this study belonged to the lower-class sex workers and it was found that they are more vulnerable to financial hardship, to sexually transmitted diseases, have little to no education and engage in labour intensive occupations. Even though the CSWs in Guwahati are mobile and hidden, which makes it easier for them to continue their work and earn more income; they have mostly entered this profession because of their financial hardships and low level of skills and education. Many of them have a desire to exit the industry if given an opportunity and that they are not into this profession as their first choice of livelihood. It can be said that CSWs in Guwahati share many similarities with their peers elsewhere on the issue of exit and reintegration. However there exist barriers and conditions that remain unique to CSWs of Guwahati, Assam and that entails a contextualized approach to provide recommendations towards any new intervention strategy, which must be preventive as well as rehabilitative.
The Impact of Micro Finance Service on Women Members Livelihood: The Case of Oromiya Rural Saving and Credit Cooperative Union in Tulubolo District of West Shewa Zone, Oromiya Ethiopia

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Abstract
Many poor women in different communities faced social, economic and political inequalities as many poor women in different communities of the country are restricted from involvement in productive activities. To solve or minimize the problem of women, the country facilitated microfinance saving and credit opportunities as they as they are unable to receive from a financial institution (Bank). The aim of this study is to assess if the microcredit services have brought significant positive or negative change in the livelihood of women members(clients) who participated from the beginning in Oromia Saving and Credit Cooperative Union (ORSCCU). At this juncture, the research question is as follows: Did the Credit provided by ORSCCU bring negative or positive change on the livelihood of women members who received credit. In this context, the change is seen with regards to asset ownership, Gender relation in the cooperative, decision making power in household, income and saving of ORSCCU’s women members. The research question is answered through an experiment that entails administering semi-structured questionnaires to individual respondents and open-ended FGD checklists to Focus Group Discussants who a member of the union are 18 individual respondents are purposely selected from regular clients of 2 primary saving & credit cooperatives based on systematic sampling method whereas the focus group discussants are selected from leaders of the client committee and regular clients as well. In the end, the responses collected are analysed using indicators and the study findings depicted that microcredit service provided to women members of ORSCCU improved their livelihood in terms of earning income in the aftermath of participating in small-scale business while contributing to their poverty reduction. It also exhibits the women’s enhanced access and control situation towards household assets (utensils, livestock & poultry production), strengthened capacity (knowledge, attitude and self-confidence), improved decision-making the power of women in the household activities and saving habits transformed from tradition to formal system (Bank). In a nutshell, the study recommends that the ORSCCU should provide space to rural women in it, improve the amount of loan to be offered to its women members, increase saving amount and provide experience sharing and skill training support.
Effect of Women's unregistered migration on their original country household livelihood: The case of Alaba Special Woreda, Ethiopia

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Abstract

This paper is a summary of a research paper submitted to Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences, Netherland in partial fulfilment of Master of Management of Development, Rural Development Gender Youth and Social Inclusion Specialization. The study is conducted in Southern Ethiopia where the number of women migrations to the middle east is the fourth highest among the nine regions in the country. Unregistered women migration is expensive and insecure compared with the legal one. Therefore, this study aimed at identifying the household assets affected by the migration, the shift in livelihood strategy and its effect on livelihood outcomes at the country of origin by taking Alaba special woreda, Ethiopia. Purposive, snowball sampling was used for the interview with 20 HH representatives who has one or more women migrants in the Middle East. In additionally, observation in the interviewee’s households and focus group discussion with 4 stakeholder key informants were undertaken. The data collected from the interview, FGD and observation were transcribed, themed up and analyzed using sustainable livelihood framework.

The findings of the study indicated most women migrants’ household livelihood assets are adversely affected by either partial or total shift in the livelihood strategy from farming to expecting remittances. In the process, four household assets namely, financial, natural, human and social capital are invested towards migration livelihood strategy with a consented household decision-making to achieve better income and improve the household living condition. Nevertheless, the migration livelihood strategy could not help most households because some are not receiving any remittance, and some are receiving remittances but not in a level they expected to achieve their livelihood outcomes. The other few groups have achieved their livelihood outcomes through migration strategy. Accordingly, recommendations for Women and children affairs bureau, youth capacity building office and other stakeholders. The recommendations focused on making the already existing interventions sustainable towards women development and more ideas to strengthen the stakeholder collaboration for a better change.
Donor Involvement in Social Entrepreneurship as an Engine for Women’s Empowerment: Case of Central Uganda

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Abstract
To solve African problems, several foreign constructs have been applied but the challenges remain persistent. With Social Entrepreneurship (SE) being one of the most recent promising strategies to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), there are questions about its’ effectiveness in working towards achieving sustainable development goal 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls). In Uganda, the term social entrepreneurship is relatively new though the practice has been in existence for decades. With a history of failed interventions to same development challenges external actors and development agencies have been trying to solve in Uganda, tendencies of ‘opportunistic use’ of funded projects and constructs have emerged. This thesis aims at investigating the notion that social entrepreneurship is one of the strategies than can advance women’s socio-economic empowerment in Uganda. Moreover, this thesis will also explore motives behind donor support and social entrepreneur’s involvement in the sector as to whether they genuinely care about advancing women’s empowerment or rather pursuing their own agendas. The thesis employed the use of case study approach and the analysis shows a positive relation between social entrepreneurship and social-personal empowerment of women. The results reveal that the economic aspect of social entrepreneurship is still lugging behind due to low market for the products and services but also competition from commercial entrepreneurs and cheaper Chinese products on the market. The study found that there is a correlation between younger educated social entrepreneurs and using social entrepreneurship to achieve personal ambitions such as receiving awards, international recognition, and access to travel opportunities. The study ends by formulating recommendations for further research and lessons for the Ugandan economy.

KEY WORDS: Social Entrepreneurship, Women’s Empowerment, Extra-continental Actors, Donors.

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Abstract
To acquire relevant data, the study specifically investigated the barriers to enrolment and reasons for the drop out of girls. Data were collected through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), semi-structured interviews and observation. Identification of respondents was done through purposeful sampling to get relevant information from specific group of respondents. Girls’ access to secondary school education contribute to the reduction of poverty and improved health and economic well-being of the society. It also impacts the age of marriage for a girl. Following such benefits, multiple global initiatives have paid attention on universalization of education. However, Tanzania like many other developing countries is far from achieving an equal access to secondary education. There is disparity of enrollment between girls and boys whereby boys benefit from gender relations and traditional beliefs and practices which give more value to males than females. Boys are therefore regarded as future bread winner while girls have less value in the society which means such beliefs contributes to prioritizing boy’s education than girls. Due to issues of gender relations, prevalence of patriarchy system, extreme poverty, and lack of knowledge and awareness on the importance of education and dangers of child marriage at family and community levels most of the rural girls are denied of their rights to education and the eventual poverty reduction.

The study found that girls’ enrolment to secondary school education is influenced by lack of knowledge, skills and decision- making power among girls; lack of socio-economic support from the family of a girl; lack of community commitment and awareness on the broader benefits of education for girls and the dangers of not educating girls up to secondary school level; and poor quality of education at school levels and poor policy implementation. Therefore, it is recommended for NGOs in Dodoma region to implement projects in Chamwino District Council (CDC) with innovative strategies to empower and motivate girls towards secondary education by creating more awareness and develop relevant skills to avoid risk behaviours such as early exposure to sex which may lead to teenage pregnancy and child marriage. Also, families and the communities at large need to be sensitized on the importance of gender equality in relation to girls’ access to education and related benefits and the disadvantages of child marriage and teenage pregnancies. Furthermore, policy review needs to be undertaken against the Tanzania’s Marriage Act of 1971 which legalizes marriage of girls below 18 years of age. Another policy issues which need to be reviewed is to ensure that pregnant and married girls are permitted to enroll and be retained in secondary school instead of expelling them. In relation to research, I recommend research on the benefits of retaining pregnant and married girls and the disadvantages of expelling them from secondary schools. This will help to inform the policy makers by providing research-based evidence on the matter.
ABSTRACT

The discourse of inclusive education [IE] has become increasingly one among the predominant theme in academia, development and policy formulation process in our recently time. Many countries have adopted the IE as a part of global and national development strategies that aimed, among other thing, to improve the education rights and access to all humanity regardless their physical and mental situation and capabilities. Yet most of the developing countries, south of Sahara including Tanzania are facing more and a wide array of education challenges that appear to hamper the effective application of the inclusive education [IE] at the ground. Using a study of two selected public school at Ilala district in dare s salaam, Tanzania, this study investigates the barriers hampering the inclusive education in two primary schools in Ilala district, Tanzania. The study employed the qualitative approach whereby the interviews of different education actors such as teachers, students’ parents and key informants from the ministry education and nongovernmental organization were approached for interview. The study also enriched with desk literature review where by both policy and empirical materials were analysed. The study found that inclusive education [IE] in Tanzania becomes a part of major national education reform with some appealing initiations of responses such as being signatory of different international agreement on disability and inclusive education [IE], recognition the rights of the rights of children and society living with the disabilities, and establishment different IE desks and increasing engagement of private sectors and NGO in IE, yet the effective application of the IE policy in Tanzania has encountered several barriers such insufficient teacher training in IE, severe shortage of educational facilities for IE, insufficient and lack of financial resources to effectively carrying out the IE programs, and little awareness of some parents and guardians are also become the major and pertinent hindrance in Tanzania.
EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FARMER PROMOTER APPROACH TO INCREASE FOOD SECURITY AMONG FARMERS. A CASE STUDY OF GIHANGO SECTOR IN RUTSIRO DISTRICT, RWANDA

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Abstract

The small farmer in Rutsiro District, Rwanda faces the problem of food insecurity. For solving this issue, the Rwandan government through the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) has launched the Farmer Promoter Approach (FPA) for increasing their food production and income for helping the farmers to be food secure. Since 2014, the way of operating of the Farmer Promoter Approach’s in Rutsiro District is based on the installation of demonstration plots and the creation of farmers groups called locally Twigire groups. However, the effectiveness of the approach for increasing food security has not been assessed. In that sense, the study aims to assess the effectiveness of the Farmer Promoter Approach for increasing food security among farmers. The effectiveness of Farmer promoter for increasing food security was measured by: Increasing food crops production (food availability), The reaction of small farmers to the Farmer Promoter Approach, Multiplier effects. The methodologies used for gathering the data included desk study, semi structured interviews, focus groups, sector mapping and observation. The data was collected from 34 interviews of small farmers, 3 focus groups of 34 farmer promoters and 2 key informants. The results of the study revealed that most of the small farmers have been reached by a farmer promoter with a basic message on good agronomic practices. Through the demonstration plots the small farmers learn about new agricultural technologies such as erosion control, planting, using fertilizers and using improved seeds, which help them to increase food crop production. This study shows that banana, Irish potato and bean are the main crops of which the production per hectare has increased by using FPA. The Farmer Promoter Approach encourages the multiplier effects which are sharing the knowledge, information and skills between the small farmers. This helps also the local authorities and research organization to transmit their messages. This study identifies the challenges faced by the small farmers such as lack of market or information on markets because the Farmer Promoter Approach does not look at it, lack of crop conservation infrastructure which caused the decay of some crops like vegetables and fruits, some families of farmer promoters have conflicts which limit the some small famers to adopt of the approach. The following are the challenges faced by the farmer promoter: the resistance to change from some small farmers, lack of sufficient knowledge on crop diseases, delay in receiving the material used such as small farmers incentives lists, training books etc, delay in receiving inputs (fertilizers and improved seeds).As conclusion the Farmer Promoter Approach is effective on increasing food availability by increase production and effective on earning income which reads to food accessibility which are dimension of food security but there are other factors which the approach cannot control like climate change, price fluctuation and market.
Role of Agricultural Market Cooperatives Societies (AMCOS) on food accessibility in Tanzania: Case of Mvomero District

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Abstract

The agricultural sector is one of the most significant contributors of Tanzanian national economy and employs about 75% of the population. Most of this population is dominated by smallholders’ farmers who live in rural areas (URT, 2009) who are in vulnerable positions. This situation led farmers to organise themselves and formed cooperatives. Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOSs) serves as a vessel for smallholders’ farmers for improvement of their socio-economic status regarding food accessibility. This study is aimed to explore the success of AMCOSs in the contribution of food accessibility to smallholder female farmers in Mvomero district. The short qualitative research was done in Mvomero district in Tanzania with 17 female smallholder farmers who are members of AMCOSs. The study found that AMCOSs play a significant role for the farmers by facilitating extension services like provision of farm inputs, credits and training. This increases farm productivity and raises the household income of the smallholder farmers and eventually stabilises their food accessibility. Hence, this study concludes that AMCOSs brings a lot of positive effects on the contribution of food accessibility to smallholder farmers. The restrict variable for success depended on the level of active management and networking. Also market access a was restraining variable. Therefore the study recommended further research to be conducted by AMCOSs on market and nutrition access of the small holder farmers.
CONTRIBUTION OF NUTRITION EDUCATION ON FEEDING BEHAVIOUR: A Case Study of Karwasa Village, Musanze District, Rwanda

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Abstract
Garden for Health international (GHI) has been offering nutrition education to mothers in order to prevent chronic malnutrition. The training offered cover different topics related on feeding practice like hygiene and sanitation, breastfeeding, complementary feeding and dietary diversity. The aim of the training is to improve the nutrition status of children under 5 years old through the changing behaviour of their mothers feeding practice. However, GHI lacks information on whether those training has been effective to the community of Karwasa Village, Musanze district, Rwanda where the program were implemented. Data was collected using semi structured questionnaire, key informant interviews, group discussion, and observation. These tools were applied on thirty (30) respondents (15 trained mothers and 15 non-trained mothers), 3 key informants and two (2) group discussion. The results showed that trained mothers are more knowledgeable on nutrition and feeding practice than non-trained mothers, however the study revealed a gap between knowledge and practice. In terms of feeding, the results of this study showed that trained mothers understand the right type nutrition for children. Children under 6 months of age are usually exclusively breastfed, most of the respondents introduced complementary foods at 6 months or between 6 and 12 months for both trained and non-trained. When complementary feeding is introduced, households with different economic capacities feed their children differently. The non-trained mother showed to have knowledge from local women group discussion which found to be important source of information. This study recommends to better educate mothers with practical session on how to feed for their children and to educate fathers more about the importance of their involvement in child care. Community leaders and health workers can be used to pass along messages on child care, in addition to existing community forums where child care issues are discussed.

Key words; Nutrition education, feeding behaviour, chronic malnutrition
The effectiveness of Government programme on aflatoxin mitigation on maize in Tanzania. A case of Chemba district in Dodoma region.

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Abstract

Aflatoxin is the highly toxic, cancer causing poison that contaminates food, produced by the fungus which grows on crops. In Tanzania aflatoxin is a problem in maize and groundnuts, these crops are highly susceptible to fungal infestation and affects the health of consumers. Aflatoxin it causes liver cancer and makes stunts children growth. A project was introduced in Dodoma region by the Ministry of Agriculture has introduced a Technical Consultative Project (TCP) after the problem of aflatoxin in 2016 with the objective of aflatoxins mitigation through the dissemination of appropriate post-harvest management knowledge and raising awareness to communities on the emergence aflatoxin occurrence in Dodoma region. The objective of the research was concerned with assessing the effectiveness of the project to farmers knowledge and practices on aflatoxin mitigation to provide recommendations on the Ministry of Agriculture to address the aflatoxin contamination of maize in Chemba district and disseminate the knowledge to other districts. The research employed a qualitative approach with a case study to the farmers in three villages Soya, Mwailanje and Igunga which were highly contaminated by aflatoxin. Farmers were selectively sampled based on their wealth group status of very poor (VP), poor (P), middle (M) and better off (BO) to find out which group are adopting the recommended methods post-harvest knowledge. The findings of the research show that 85.7% of the respondents of the farmers reported being aware of the recommended post-harvest knowledge of proper drying and storage and for sorting was 97% increased from 60% before the project as a way of mitigating aflatoxin in maize, they were informed through village meeting after the problems of aflatoxin in their villages. The adoptions of the recommended post-harvest knowledge were shown to be good by 41.33% since data collected was for one season of 2017 after the project. After the project farmers has started to follow the recommended knowledge including the use of plastic sheet, increase sorting activities of their maize and dehulling to the machine, the use of PICS bags and pallet during storage. These have helped to reduce the health problems among the communities. Majority of farmers in the study area found to be aware in the recommended post-harvest methods for aflatoxin mitigation, but they had a challenge of price and its availability of PICS bags. Therefore, if aflatoxin contamination is to be solved in Tanzania at the stage of post-harvest, it is recommended that, the Ministry of Agriculture to continue with the awareness of post-harvest knowledge to farmers in groups, villages meeting using the Field Agriculture Officers, also in Farmers days exhibitions and World Food day to air out the proper methods of post-harvest by distributing the Swahili leaflets and broadcasting the effect of aflatoxin via local radio by emphasizing harvesting, adequate drying, sorting and storage will enable to spread the knowledge.
Practising on-farm diversification and its contribution to food accessibility among smallholder farmers of Balcad district, Middle Shabelle region, Somalia

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Abstract
On-farm diversification is considered an optical farm plan decision for mitigating the varying degree of risks and uncertainties, which surround agricultural production, and has a benefit of increasing household income. On-farm agricultural diversified is widely practised in Balcad District, but smallholder farmers earn low income as evidenced by poor living standards amongst the smallholder households. The theme of the research was “To assess how on-farm diversification activities contribute to the household food access and the ability of the household to purchase food”. The study was carried out in Balcad district of Middle Shabelle Region, Somalia, during mid of July to end of August 2018. The study purpose was to find how on-farm income-generating activities is a significant determinant of the ability of the household to purchase food. The study was used in desk research and field research. The desk research is carried out by literature review and 24 household interview and 8-observation conduct field research. The result of the farmer’s interviewed revealed that 90% of them were educated and 10% does not have an education background. The respondent was planting different crops and livestock on their farmland. Cash crop (sesame) was a significant crop 37% of the respondents involved, while staple food like maize and sorghum were the second crops. Some respondents have involved food crop and livestock at same, this livestock was using as back up when they need money and using as a coping strategy to sell it. The primary reason found for practise on-farm diversification, 42% of respondents perception mentioned that they benefit to increase their household income, while the remaining interviewees found different purpose such as to avoid risks related to farm and to meet the household necessity. The findings showed that remittance contributes the key role to enhance on-farm diversifying. On the other hand, smallholder farmers do not get any of the government support whether of extension service or others. On-farm diversification was found to have a positive relationship with household income. Access to the income positively influenced household food access. However, there is Lack of capital, poor seed quality and lack of government service have negatively affected on-farm diversification. The study findings that cumulated in the form recommendation are expected to help Somalia Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation for development of future projects.

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Abstract
Innovation Platforms (IPs) have been developed as forums that disseminate best practices in agricultural development and research and are being tested as equitable, dynamic spaces bringing together heterogeneous actors to exchange knowledge and harness opportunities in experimental learning, research, dissemination and diffusion of improved technologies. However, knowledge and understanding of their implementation remains limited due to their incoherent structure and conduct. Using the case of Promotion of Enterprises and Livelihood Development (PELIDO) innovation platform in Kinoni, Lwengo District Western Uganda, a theorized conceptual model of “Structure-Conduct”, was used to explore the role PELIDO in scaling up the adoption of improved seed technologies. The study’s methodological approach incorporated a mix of methods approach using literature, in-depth interviews, observations, focus group discussions and key informant interviews. The study revealed that membership and composition of the IP harnessed resources, generated knowledge, created networks and was key in disseminating information, inputs, research and extension to small scale farmers. Communication and coordination eased the flow and exchange of information, facilitated learning, increased trust, collaboration and fostered participation. Through inclusive participation, gender awareness was created, incentives disseminated, and levels of adoptions increased. However, there were inconsistencies with communication and coordination between the actors and the IP leadership coupled with challenges in the resource base of the IP and distrust among the members. Incentives accelerated participation despite the IPs limited resource base to sustain the incentives in the long run. Though the study affirmed the IP’s major role in the adoption of improved seed varieties, the structure and conduct of the IP was incoherent with the goals of the IP hence the proposed recommendations of; decentralizing the IP structure to increase membership and stakeholders, setting up of intermediary monitoring and feedback teams and facilitating the formation of community based equitable resource distribution community initiatives within the IP as the best strategies to adopt to improve the performance of IPs.
Assessing the Influence of Livelihood Assets on Livelihood Strategies and Household Food Security among Smallholder Maize Farmers, the Case of Bole District of Ghana.

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ABSTRACT
The livelihood strategies of farm households depend on the conditions of their assets and farm households cope with risk and shocks through portfolios consisting of different types of assets. Thus, discussing the influence assets have on livelihood strategies of farm households helps in understanding their livelihood conditions and in formulating appropriate livelihoods improvement policies. In this study, the influence of farm household livelihood assets on livelihood strategies in the Bole District of Ghana was first theoretically analyzed, then a qualitative study on livelihood assets available to these households, the influence of these assets on livelihood strategies, the influence of the strategies on food access and availability and then the challenges these households face was conducted. These were analyzed by first transcribing and reading to identify meanings, then coded systematically. Once all the meanings were identified, themes and statements were generated. Evaluation of each meaning was done to ensure that the theme accurately and adequately captured its meaning and addressed the research problem. The specific conclusions that are made are that; Natural capital and physical capital have a significant influence on household livelihood strategy, the more natural and physical assets they have the more they choose to engage in farming only. Also, the more human capital and financial capital a household possesses the more they engage in off-farm activities aside from the farming. Social capital has no important influence on household livelihood strategy, and eventually, the consumption of food will increase with households that participate in off-farm activities in addition to farming.
Assessing the effects of intra-household dynamics on Food Security: The case of beneficiaries of Resilience in Northern Ghana (RING) in the Sagnarigu Municipality of Northern Region Ghana

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Abstract

The study examined the effects of intra-household dynamics on household food consumption and accessibility among beneficiaries of Resilience in Northern Ghana (RING) project within the Sagnarigu Municipality in the Northern Region of Ghana. The project engages rural women in the production of leafy green vegetables through drip irrigation, orange flesh sweet potato (“alaafe wuljo”), Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) and ruminant rearing. The study was commissioned by RING for possible recommendations for the improvement of the project.

Forty households from four wards, Kuphehi, Batanyili, Garizegu and Wovoguma (10 from each) were purposively sampled based on their marital status and how long they have been on the project. The study used questionnaires (including WFP FCS and FAO-HFIAS) and topic list to gather primary data from the beneficiaries whilst open interviews were conducted for data from key informants (field officers) responsible for the selected wards. Secondary data were sourced from journals, reports, articles and books.

Findings revealed that, women had little or no access and control over resources within the households. It also revealed that, women have no power over decision making over production and sales within the household and as such, households where women have no control and access recorded low food consumption score and accessibility.

The study therefore concluded that, intra-household dynamics influence consumption, accessibility and the food security of these households.
Should Urban Safety Nets promote urban agriculture for the poor to improve their food and nutrition security? A case study of urban agriculture settings in Kolfe Keraniyo and Nifas Silk lafeto sub-cities, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Abstract
The main aim/objective of this research is to understand the opportunities for Ethiopia’s Urban Productive Safety Net Program (UPSNP) to promote Urban Agriculture (UA) as an activity to improve food and nutrition security outcomes for the urban poor. The study was done in two sub-cities of Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia, Kolfe Keraniyo and Nifas Silk lafeto (woreda 2 & 5). Both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods were used in the study. In total three Focus Group Discussions were done and a total of 45 households purposively sampled were administered a semi-structured questionnaire. The study used the Food Consumption Score to measure households’ food consumption, their main sources and the main food groups consumed. In order to answer the main research question ‘What is the potential of urban agriculture when promoted through the Urban Productive Safety Net Programme to improve food and nutrition security of the poor in Addis Ababa.’ the study tried to answer the following sub research questions: the impact on food and nutrition security of the urban poor (non UPSNP beneficiaries) currently involved in urban agriculture and those that benefit from the UPSNP and are involved in informal urban agriculture; Current challenges faced by those involved in urban agriculture; How do important stakeholders and actors in the Urban Productive Safety Net Programme think about the potential of urban agriculture as part of the UPSNP, and What are the requirements and approaches for the UPSNP to promote urban agriculture amongst UPSNP beneficiaries in ways that increase their food and nutrition security?. The findings show the importance to include UA in the UPSNP program and its potential to contribute to improved food security. The study found that a considerable number of UPSNP clients is informally practising UA. Major institutional actors such as the World Bank and Ethiopia’s Federal Urban Job Creation and Food Security Program agency do however not support the idea to promote UA through the UPSNP. UA is not considered in the UPSNP Programme Implementation Manual (PIM).

The study shows that UPSNP clients engaged in informal UA have better FCS scores than UPSNP clients not being engaged in UA. Poor households not being UPSNP clients but engaged in UA have higher FCS compared to poor households not engaged in UA. UA results in improved food availability at the household level with the major share of production consumed by the household. Critical challenges for UPSNP households to have the ability to engage in UA include; limited access to land, lack clean water for production of crops, lack of technical support from the agricultural extension and seasonal pasts and disease in addition to floods. This research recommends Ethiopia’s newly established UPSNP programme to include UA as one of the labour-intensive works in those areas where there are critical challenges to pursue UA successfully.

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Abstract
It has been discovered by studies conducted that small-scale dairy farmers have received support from both the government and private sector but however, their contribution to national milk production has been minimal. The research sought to understand the realities faced by small scale dairy farmers by investigating constraints and opportunities of small-scale dairy farmers in achieving sustainable livelihoods in dairy programs with the aim of proposing solutions to the Ministry of Agriculture on how they can best support the small-scale farmers. The study revealed that small-scale farmers are faced with many constraints ranging from environmental and socio-economic. In the context of the small-scale dairy farmers their vulnerability context and transforming structures play a pivotal role on their livelihood opportunities and how they participate in dairy production. On the vulnerability context these farmers are faced with constraints such as disease outbreaks, death of dairy cows, low milk production, low yields on fodder production and a harsh economic environment characterized by high inflation rate and cash shortages. In addition, to this there is a migration of the youth out of the country to look for employment, which raised the issue of inheritance, who will take up the dairy enterprise after them. With these challenges in mind, it restricts them from scaling up and increasing their milk production. There exist structures that can support the livelihoods of the small-scale dairy farmers, but the policies and institutions are restricting the dairy farmers. For example, the small-scale farmers cannot access bank loans because they meet up to the requirements of the banks. This in turn makes it difficult for them to scale up because they lack enough resources. In the case of DRP the program its mandate is also to support small-scale dairy farmers but however, it seems the program faced challenges especially on the implementation part which resulted in death of dairy cow, abortions and irregular supply of sexed semen. In turn which inevitably had a negative impact on the livelihoods of small-scale dairy farmers. There is need for advocacy to improve relations of small-scale farmers with such structure who have power over them by creating links where they also have the power to decide what is suitable for them. Based on this research it outlines how small-scale dairy livelihoods are been affected by many challenges, some which are beyond their control. However, from understanding their livelihoods these small-scale farmers are resilient and have the capacity to scale up in dairy production if there exists supporting structures and processes that are specifically designed to address their needs and support their livelihoods.
An Investigation into social capital constraints and opportunities that contribute towards the sustainability of agriculture group irrigation schemes projects. A case study of Chirobi farm, Mazowe District, Zimbabwe.

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Abstract

Irrigation around the globe is seen as one of the solutions to food security in farmers households. Zimbabwe is a country whose economy is agriculture based, with most of its people residing in the rural areas and relying on rainfed agriculture as source of livelihood. Government of Zimbabwe has diverted funds towards irrigation development and rehabilitation along with sourcing investment partners in the sector to curb against food insecurity disasters like the Elnino induced drought of 2015/2016 season. Evidence of recurring irrigation schemes rehabilitation programmes by government is worrisome for a country already struggling economically. On this backdrop there exist a knowledge gap by the Ministry of Agriculture’s department of Irrigation development of the role to which the social capital context plays within the irrigation schemes operations and maintenance to bring out sustainability. This research sought to determine the social capital constraints and opportunities that contribute towards improved irrigation schemes productivity, which ultimately leads to scheme sustainability. In this research the dimensions of social capital used are bonding, bridging and linking which encompass aspects to do with personal relationships, social networks, civic engagement, trust and cooperative norms. To achieve this a case study was done at Chirobi farm in Mazowe district of Zimbabwe, comprising 68 farmers who were the first irrigation center pivot beneficiaries of the Brazil MFA programme. 34 farmers were interviewed using stratified random sampling technique. 3 key informant interviews were done as well as 3 focus group discussions with men, women and IMC. Research managed to outline the value of social capital and that since irrigation schemes are usually a common pool resource they are bound to need collective action in operation and maintenance for productivity and sustainability to be achieved. The social networks, relationships and shared norms and values were found to be of paramount importance to note by irrigation scheme implementing agencies, as they can be taken advantage of in building cohesion, ownership and responsibility of project assets. Bonding and bridging social capital are high at the farm and leading to norms of reciprocity like exchange labour and lending of money for scheme operations. Religion was found to play a major role in cooperative actions as well as avenue for establishment of interpersonal trust, shared norms and values. The farmers have poor linking social capital in terms of external institutional networks like farmer organizations or agricultural institutions involvement. Perceived financial conflicts over misuse of funds was found to be leading to decrease in trust with management. Involvement of farmers in the project initial stages of this irrigation scheme was minimal and farmer involvement need to be increased in project cycle to create responsibility and ownership of infrastructure. As such some of the recommendations are: 1. Encourage and Create conducive environment and platforms for farmers to join external organizations and social action groups. 2. Capacity building programmes of IMC in financial management and leadership skills. 3. Buttress women participation and recognition in decision making through capacity building and women tailor-made irrigation programs and organizations. Overall for sustainability to be achieved there is need to take account of the prevailing social capital to use as instruments for collective action and achievement of farm productivity.
Analysis of peanut butter processing in improving household food security. A case of Embakasi west sub-county, Nairobi.

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**Abstract**

The main objective of this study was to investigate how small-scale peanut butter processors can use the enterprise as a strategy to access food in the households in Embakasi West Sub-County. As a partial fulfillment of a master’s degree in food security at Van Hall University of applied sciences, the study was in line with the Kenya’s strategic objective of achieving food security for her people. The study tried to examine characteristics of small-scale peanut butter processors, players in the peanut butter value chain and their roles and how each of the players contributes to the success of the enterprise. In addition, the study explored quality standards requirements of peanut butter processing, available market channels and/or marketing association and if these satisfactorily address food insecurity through making good sales to access household food and possibly achieve recommended dietary food diversity. In addition, the study targeted small-scale peanut butter processors because of the important role they play in the informal settlement, in alleviation of poverty and income generation to have access to food in Embakasi West Sub-county. This study has reviewed that there is little research in the field of peanut butter processing on small-scale and established that this study being a partial value chain which starts mainly from the wholesalers has left the researcher with unanswered questions regarding trends of raw material supply since information on peanuts seasonality of production and other agronomical data could not be accessed. Questionnaires focus group discussions and observation were some of the tools used to collect data from peanut butter processors and traders. Interviews were conducted with individual and group processors, wholesalers, Retailers, Hawkers, to collect information about their sourcing of peanut butter raw material, processing and marketing of the peanut butter product. Random selection of the respondents in each category was carried out. More information was obtained from the Sub-county Agricultural Officer (SCAO) from Department of Agriculture Office in the Sub-county. The study established that there are no marketing channels and marketing associations for peanut butter processors and the supply of peanut butter raw material is erratic. In addition, there is lack of knowledge of processing regulations to food safety and hygiene, proper business and management skills and marketing techniques. For instance, about 10 percent of processors had business records which were poorly organized. However, there is widespread information to processors on sorting and grading of peanuts and physically testing of signs of aflatoxin prone peanuts. This manual procedure of carrying out aflatoxin prone peanuts exposes consumers to food poisoning risks. Erratic fluctuation of raw material price and supply put the processor and the consumers to uncertainty. The markets for the processors were informal and very insecure. Although processors have know-how on peanut butter processing equipment are manual with considerable level of hygienic problems to consumers, lack of energy-saving technology and minimum marketing information. Lack of marketing channels and marketing associations expose processors to low bargaining power and thus deny them the available market opportunities only accessible to players with good linkages.
ENHANCING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOYBEAN COOPERATIVES AND AGRO-PROCESSORS IN RWANDA CASE OF MUHANGA FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (MFPI) AND ABAHUZAMURIMO COOPERATIVE.

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Abstract
Soybean is one of six crops of special consideration in Rwanda on which it takes to accelerate sustainable agricultural and rural development. The Rwandan government has supported investors to invest in modern commercial soybean processing industries. Despite subsidy provided by the government, farmers are still supplying low quantity/irregularly supply due to poor market linkage to agro-processors. The objective of this study was to investigate factors that prevent ABAHUZAMURIMO cooperative to supply soybeans regularly to Muhanga Food Processing Industries (MFPI) by gaining an insight into their current relationship with an aim to formulate recommendations to improve the relationship. The main research question was “What are challenges facing business relationship between ABAHUZAMURIMO cooperative and Muhanga Food Processing Industries (MFPI)?” Four sub-research questions were formulated to answer the main research question. To find the answers to these questions a literature review was conducted on soybean functioning in Rwanda as well as firm-farm relations theories. Field research was done by using a 2-2 Trade tool (tool for self-assessment of firm-farm relations) that is based on semi-structured interviews, a self-assessment survey, and debriefing meeting through focus group discussion. The survey results were processed and analysed per challenge area. Next to that, a focus group discussion for debriefing meeting was held with both actors to get an in-depth picture on reasons for the level of scoring and degree (dis)agreement during the survey. The price issue is the main factor affecting the relationship between cooperative and MFPI, which need an urgent improvement to strengthen business relationships. Both the MFPI and the farmers agreed on the poor communication exists in their relationship and poor cooperative management, the study found out that there is no a strong relationship between MFPI and ABAHUZAMURIMO Cooperative in managing irregularly supply of raw material (soybeans) and no mechanisms put in place by MFPI to enhance collaboration relationship in soybean supply. Regarding enhancing the relationship between cooperative and MFPI, the study proposed recommendations to the different stakeholders to strengthen their partnership by knowing their duties and roles. The study recommended the increase of bargaining power on price to farmers and MFPI staff to prevent other buyers and cooperative needs reinforcement through cooperative management. A good relationship with different stakeholders was recommended to RYAF to enhance and to facilitate the relationship.
Livelihood strategies of the poorest of the poor farmers in Southern Leyte, Philippines

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Abstract
Poverty has remained one of the major challenges in the rural sectors in the Philippines. Among the countless development interventions, microfinance (known as microcredit at its early stage) was shed a new light on in 1970’s. Since then, continuous innovations diversified the products and services and the microfinance industry has been still in a growing trend until present. On the other side, the negative aspects of microfinance were revealed especially last decade and the performance of some microfinance providers was questioned and criticized. One of the major issues of financial inclusion is the inappropriate practice of the risky loans provision to the most vulnerable groups who were not originally the target of the microfinance. The influence of some financial service providers (FSPs) involved in this type of lending practice has been getting more significant due to the increasing pressure on the clients caused by the severe competition among the FSPs. This research aimed at gaining knowledge and insight on the livelihood strategies of the poorest of the poor farmers to protect the family members from financial deficiency and coming up with the recommendations on what could be done to improve the quality of products and services of the microfinance providers. By primary and secondary data collections, vulnerability context, livelihood assets, influence of financial infrastructure and the coping mechanism of the target households are captured with utilization of the Sustainable Livelihood Framework adopted by the DFID. In primary data collection, semi-structured interview and focus group discussions with the target farmers, key informant interviews with key stakeholders, and observation were conducted in Manila and Maasin city, capital of Southern Leyte. The analysis of the research results and findings concluded that there are four (4) main strategies of the target households to protect the family members from financial deficiency. Those are 1) to increase income generating activities or diversification of the income sources 2) practice of mutual support in the community, 3) wise choice of loan product usage including the decision of not taking loans and 4) cascading information of “wise choice” among the households who are closely communicated in the community. Based on the conclusion, four (4) recommendations were derived, which are 1) strict implementation of the cash flow analysis in client screening procedures, 2) operationalization of the financial literacy training to the loan clients, 3) supporting intervention for the group enterprises and 4) diversification of insurance products especially of crop and property. The research results are applied to the actual business of the author, which is the consulting service provision for the financial service providers and the other stakeholders in financial inclusion.
Assessing the Vulnerability of Pastoral Communities to Food Insecurity in the Face of Climate Change: A Case Study of Moroto- Karamoja, Uganda.

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ABSTRACT
Karamoja region has the highest prevalence of poverty and food insecurity in Uganda and because climate change is a potential threat to achieving food security, especially in the world’s most food insecure regions, there is need for assessment of vulnerability of Karamojong pastoralists to better understand their food insecurity in the context of changing climatic conditions. The study was conducted in Moroto, Uganda and it assessed food security outcomes of pastoralism; for different household categories (i.e. female headed vis-à-vis male headed households and ‘poor’ vis-à-vis ‘rich’ households) and differences that existed in the household vulnerabilities in terms of Sensitivity, Exposure and Adaptive capacities. Structured and semi-structured interviews were conducted in twenty-eight (28) households, four (4) key informant interviews, (3) Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Household Hunger Scale (HHS) was administered to 10 respondents selected randomly from FGD participants. The Sustainable Livelihood Framework (SLF) and Hunger and Climate Vulnerability Index (HCVI) were adopted for analysis of the data.

The results show that pastoralism remains the most feasible livelihood option as crop farming cannot guarantee food availability due to its sensitivity to unpredictable weather patterns. Findings from HHS show high prevalence of food insecurity among Karamojong pastoral households with 90% of the sampled households reporting a lack of resources to secure access to food. Female headed households are more food insecure than male headed households because they have limited access to and control over productive assets. All rich households are food secure; they have FCSs above the borderline (>42). 71.4% of poor households are stressed and food insecure. Exposure, Sensitivity and Adaptive capacity Indices show that female headed households are the most vulnerable category followed by the poor and the male headed households. Rich households are the least vulnerable to food insecurity and climate risks because they have a wide range of assets and alternative sources of income to depend on. Vulnerability of Karamojong pastoralists to food insecurity in the face of climate change can best be addressed through; facilitating implementation of sustainable and context specific livelihood alternatives, strengthening veterinary service delivery, prioritizing targeting of female headed households in food security interventions and introduction of inclusive long-term social protection programmes for households who cannot cope with effects of climate change.
ABSTRACT

In Northern Ghana, shea nut tree it often referred to as the Northern “cocoa” supposedly to signal the potential of Shea-nut as a weapon against poverty and to alleviate and empower women in terms of their financial status. This study was conducted to assess the contribution of shea butter extraction on women income and household food accessibility in Kumbungu district. The researcher employed mixed methods of data collection approach in this study among rural women in Kumbungu. Purposive, simple random and snowballing sampling techniques were used to select out communities and respondents. Semi structured interview, observation and focus group discussions were applied to collect the data. The collected data was cleaned for completeness and analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) windows version 21.0 and word excels 2013. Findings from the study showed that, a bigger part of the value share (71%) was taken by the traders followed by the butter extractors with about 22.5% of the value share, the least were the pickers who took about 6% of the share. Based on the results, the researcher concluded that, majority of the respondents was females due to their dominance in the shea butter extraction business in rural area like the study district. The income status of women involved in the shea butter extraction groups (cooperatives) was in a way improved which they said assisted them to provide food for their households in times of the lean season within the year. The researcher recommended that, the Ghana government one district, one factory policy should put factory in the study area to produce shea fruit juice and jam for local use and export that will directly create a new other way of generating income from the shea business for the women. Take 11 minutes 33 seconds of your time to watch a full mini video documentary of the Shea butter extraction process observed by the researcher during field work at the Kumbungu district. Connect to internet and follow the link below or Copy link and pates in your browser address bar to watch video. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_59Rlj8c_rl&feature=youtu.be
Abstract:
The impact of drought on developing country like Ghana cannot be underestimated most importantly if Ghana as nation wants to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2 which are aimed at reducing extreme hunger and poverty by 2030. This paper therefore aims to compare on how households in Worubogu farming community in the Northern Region of Ghana were responding to drought impact. There was lack of knowledge as to how farming households were coping to reduce drought vulnerability. Hence the study was aimed at identifying their coping strategies and why they used the kind of coping strategies in the area. The findings are to be used by government through the ministry of food and agriculture (MoFA) to help design programmes and policies to help reduce drought vulnerability in the district. Findings showed that farmers were using different coping strategies to mitigate drought impact. These coping strategies ranged from off-farm coping strategies and on-farm coping strategies. On-farm coping strategies identified were mixed cropping, late planting etc. whereas On-farm coping strategies identified were migration and other income generating activities in Worubogu community. Data was collected farmers using qualitative research methods like face-face interviews, observations, focus group discussions and a key informant interview. Challenges that farmers encountered with drought were reduction in crop yield and increased cost of production, lack of access to timely information and high cost of drought resistant and high yielding seeds.
More information

More information on programmes and admittance procedure available at:

www.vhluniversity.com/vhl-studies/master-/master-of-agricultural-production-chain-management
www.vhluniversity.com/vhl-studies/master-/master-of-management-of-development
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