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# Functionality of Farmers' Stores and Local Economic Development Initiatives in Oyam District: A Case of Aber Sub-County

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## ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** This study examined the relationship between the functionality of farmers' stores and LED initiatives. Specifically, the study determined the effect of farmers' stores functionality on resource mobilisation; assessed the contribution of farmers' stores functionality on resource management; and assessed the effect of farmers' stores functionality on resource utilisation.

**Methodology:** The study adopted a cross-sectional study design, which employed a mixed methods approach of both quantitative and qualitative methods. The study population consisted of 322 respondents, which involved both political leaders and civil servants of Aber Sub County in addition to members of the farmers' groups. Both the Simple random sampling technique and purposive sampling technique were used to select a sample of 177 participants. The researcher adopted Self-Administered Questionnaires to collect quantitative data and an interview guide to collect qualitative data. Both descriptive statistics (mean, and standard deviation), and inferential statistics (correlation and regression) were used to analyse numerical data. Content analysis was used to analyse qualitative data.

**Findings:** The findings revealed a statistically significant positive relationship between functionality of farmers' stores and LED initiatives. The functionality of farmers' stores yielded a significant effect on resource mobilisation, resource management and resource utilisation. It was concluded that the functionality of farmers' stores significantly affects LED initiatives in Aber Sub County, Oyam district.

**Unique Contributions to Theory, Policy and Practice:** It is recommended that the production and agricultural department of Oyam district local government strengthens the capacity of farmer groups by training them on activities such as value addition and financial management so that they can be in position to mobilise more financial resources. This study contributes an original and empirical-evidence of the functionality of farmers' stores towards LED initiatives in Uganda.

**Keywords:** *Farmer's stores, economic, development, initiatives, functionality*

## 1. Introduction

Local Economic Development (LED) has, in the recent past, gained prominence as a grassroots-based approach to handling community development, especially in the developing world. It is viewed as a strategy for empowering grass-root communities so that they are able to initiate and steer their own development through promoting self-reliance. Historically, LED emerged as a strategy for enhancing development in different parts of the World. The period between 1960s to the early 1980s was marked by economic decline in many developed nations especially in Europe. During that time, a number of countries experienced de-industrialisation and capital flight, coupled with the effects of globalisation, which resulted into adoption and implementation of LED as a development strategy aimed to help in re-engineering several local areas for development. Between 1960s to the early 1980s, there was, in addition, an outstanding move in development philosophy, in which local governments were no longer considered as institutions of local administration but as local entrepreneurs.

Both in the United States of America and the United Kingdom, the period from 1970 culminated into greater focus on local geographical areas as the centres of growth and development. Or instance, there was a policy shift in the United States, which led the Federal Government to perceive her role in addressing underdevelopment of rural areas in the country. During that period, a more structured strategy of LED emerged in the United Kingdom as a response to the neoliberal economic policies of centralised planning (Sandford, 2017). This strategy required several local authorities to embark on a strategy of local economic policymaking that led to the establishment of Enterprise Boards. These Boards were under the stewardship of democratically elected officials and their functionality boosted the lobbying capacity of the local governments thereby compelling the United Kingdom to provide incentives to those subnational units. This, as a consequence, set the ground for LED in the United Kingdom.

Rogerson (2014) revealed three waves of LED evolution occurred; the first wave was from the 1960s to the early 1980s during which local governments were using the locality approach to attract external investment and create an enabling environment for business. The second wave was between the 1980s and the 1990s in which local governments were more focused on internal development. They realised the importance of being self-sustaining, and so they started to develop and retain businesses as part of creating a local industrial base. The third wave is the current one that began in the late 1990s, and it is during this phase that LED is being strengthened by creating partnerships, development of required human resources as well as mobilising private financial resources in the form of credit for entrepreneurial development.

In the African perspective, South Africa is known to be the most successful country in implementing LED initiatives (February, 2018). Both promotion and implementation of LED in South Africa are associated with the apartheid era where cities pursued limited degree of LED in the form of place making (Nel & Rogerson, 2016). However, after the fall of apartheid, the involvement of the South African local governments in LED activities increased as a result of

several legislations compelling the country to get more involved (Fourie, 2018). At present, the role of South Africa's local governments in promoting and implementing LED is guaranteed by the 1996 Constitution, the 1998 White Paper on the local governments as well as the Local Government Municipal Systems Act of 2000 (World Bank, 2018).

The participatory theory gives emphasis to the participation of human kind with the world. The theory was originally proposed by Goethe and has been discussed extensively by a cultural historian Richard Tarnas. The African Development Bank argues that for development to be realisable there is need to ensure that people are involved in the planning, implementation and monitoring of developmental policies. The participatory theorist therefore asserts that LED has to be 'driven by the inhabitants arising out of projects that can lead to job creation and income generation. The theory argues that for LED to become entrenched and play its role in reducing poverty, locals must not only be handed projects to run; there is need to ensure participation between all stakeholders in order to ensure that locals have support structures to enable them make the most of their projects (Beyer et al., 2003).

To this end, the concept of LED refers to the process through which Local Governments, the private sector and the communities form partnerships to mobilize, manage and invest resources effectively into economic ventures to stimulate development and growth of a locality (Development Policy, 2014). It also refers to the process by which both national and local stakeholders collaborate so as to assess the local economy, identify potential opportunities as well as challenges and obstacles, formulate and implement action plans to realize opportunities and resolve impediments. From the above, it appears that LED is an intrinsic component of private sector development (PSD), advancing the country's global competitiveness, developing needed infrastructures, achieving supply chains, and meeting overall economic development objectives.

Obtainable studies have shown that a number of endeavours can help propel LED among them are farmers' stores which have been found to play a leading role. In his study, Kalsa (2019) underscores the significance of farmers' stores among wheat growers in Ethiopia in terms of protection of crop produce from post-harvest pests. Additionally, a study by Megerssa et al (2021) revealed a combination of both traditional and modern storage for maize among farmers in west Showa, Ethiopia as means of protecting them from maize weevils so as to maintain quality and gain better from the market. The two studies appear to suggest a relationship between farmers' stores and LED even if not direct.

Uganda adopted the decentralisation system of governance 1980s and the policy of decentralisation emerged with significant political and administrative powers to the local governments. Upon the enactment of the Local Government Act of 1997, all elements of decentralised governance were incorporated in Uganda's legal framework. The decentralisation policy was then introduced in Uganda's governance system with the overall goal of empowering citizens to take charge of their own development in order to improve their livelihood (Nakimuli, Matovu, & Mwesige 2012). Although decentralisation was meant to bring services nearer to the

people, the poverty levels remained high in many parts of the country especially in rural areas. According approximately half of the Ugandan population lives under the poverty line. About 31.3 million people, or 78 % of population, live in rural areas, where poverty is more pervasive than in urban areas. In a quest to address the gap in the original design of the decentralisation policy, it led to a policy shift in the implementation of the decentralisation system of governance hence the emergence of LED as an additional objective of the decentralisation policy aimed at enhancing development at the local level.The policy of LED was embraced by Uganda to further deepen the decentralisation process, eradicate poverty and ensure inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth and development at the locality level (Nakimuli, Matovu, & Mwesige 2012).

The LED approach is anchored on the participative roles of the technical, political, civil society organisation and the private sector and is key in its implementation (MoLG, 2012). The technical sector has been instrumental in planning and implementation of development programmes, mobilisation and collection of local financial resources and ensuring technical support for local government functionality and technical support in local government functionality and operationalisation. Civil society has interceded between citizens and the state, organised the masses into viable groupings, supported the citizens in nation building, supported local development through advocacy and funded interventions that supplement government programmes. The private sector help to provide microfinance credit services, job and employment creation, productivity through competitiveness and innovation and financial sector promotion (Khambule, 2018). Although LED was introduced to improve on the level of service delivery in Uganda, through the mobilisation, management and investment of resources and to enhance the sustainability of the resources that has already been out in place, many farmers' stores which were constructed under USAID program are currently not operational (Uganda farmer federation, 2018). It is against the background that this study is timely in investigating the contribution of farmers' store to LED initiative in Oyam District Local Government.

Resource mobilisation theory was put forward by McCarthy and Zald (1977). Resource mobilisation theory posits that grievances are not sufficient to explain the creation of social movements. Instead, access to and control over resources is the crucial factor. The resource mobilisation theory of social movements holds that a social movement develops from long-term changes in a group's organisation, available resources, and opportunities for group action (Edwards & Kane, 2014). According to Jenkins (1983), resource mobilisation theory has five main principles: the first principle emphasises the fact that social movement actors are rational beings. This means that any action carried out by social movements towards the mobilisation of resources is carefully thought through. Secondly, social movements are affected by political capital (Emery & Flora, 2006). In this case, the principle suggests that school stakeholders should be conscious of political power and its influence in the mobilisation of resources. Thirdly, power and conflict are sufficient in mobilising SMOs to challenge the allocation and distribution of resources. Fourthly, formally organised SMOs are more effective in mobilising resources than informal

structures. Finally, the effectiveness of SMOs is strongly influenced by the strategies utilised and the political environment.

Resource mobilisation theory, in contrast to traditional social-psychological interpretations, emphasises the importance of structural factors such as the availability of resources to a collective and the position of individuals in social networks, and stresses the rationality of participation in social movements (Zald & McCarthy, 1977; Golhasani & Hosseinirad, 2017). According to Klandermans (2007), resource mobilisation theory is currently the dominant approach in the field of SMOs. Kendal (2006) and Manky (2018) argue that social movements succeed through efficient mobilisation of resources and the creation of both economic and political opportunities for members. Kendal (2006) and Manky (2018) further maintains that movements can mobilise both material and non-material resources. Material resources include money, organisations, human resources, technology, means of communication, and digital and print media, while non-material resources include legitimacy, honesty, relationships, social networks, public attention, authority, moral commitment, and unity. Resources mobilisation is important to this study in that it stresses the ability of a movement's members to acquire resources and to mobilise people towards accomplishing the movement's goals.

### 1.1 Statement of the Problem

The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, in a bead to boost the level of production awarded matching grants to 362 Farmer Organizations in 57 districts in Uganda (ACDP Report, 2021). The Report further reveals that the project funds amounting to UGX 46 billion was disbursed to 270 farmer organizations and a total of 167 stores established and 148 value addition equipment installed by 192 farmer organizations in 24 districts. The total storage capacity established is 42,714 Metric Tonnes. The value addition facilities installed include: 58 coffee hullers, 39 maize mills, 27 rice mills, 15 cassava mills and 7 bean seed sorters, 58 weighing scales, 64 moisture meters and 27 grain driers. According to the Status Report, the total value of the stores established and machinery installed is UGX 74 billion. An additional UGX 13 billion is being disbursed to 170 farmer organizations that have signed Agreements. In Oyam District, although many of such stores were constructed earlier in the year 2001 under USAID program to help farmers store their farm produce during the time of bumper harvest as they wait for better prices, the Report from Uganda farmer federation (2018) indicates that a good number stores are not in operation. While this condition could, in part, be due to the gaps in failure to link those stores to LED initiatives, no study has been conducted to corroborate it. This study was handy as it examined the relationship between the functionality of farmers' stores and LED initiatives in Oyam District.

### 1.2 Purpose of the Study

The study examined the relationship between the functionality of farmers' stores and LED initiatives in Oyam District. The study was guided by three objectives, namely; (i) To assess the

contribution of farmers' stores on resource mobilization among members in Aber sub-county. (ii) To examine the effect between farmers' stores and resource management among members in Aber sub-county. (iii) To examine the relationship between farmers' stores and resources utilization in Aber sub-county.

## 2. Review of related literature

According to De Sylva (2018) resource mobilisation which is a component of local economic development (LED) within a global footprint has been seen as a way of enhancing government involvement in promoting socio-economic development. Rather, it has been seen as a bottom-up approach where the people take charge of their development and government supports via resources mobilisation, skills capacitation and funding. The availability of funds help stake holders to sustain the infrastructure already put in place. Muringani and Dahl and Rodríguez-Pose (2018) in their study also indicated that implementing LED projects within the context of developed and developing regions has two differentiating factors. Firstly, developed regions have the finance and infrastructure to ensure the implementation of these projects. Moreover, there are strong monitoring and support mechanisms. However, within the context of developing regions, resource availability, bureaucracy and, at times, the unpredictable political climate are some of the factors that tend to derail the effective implementation of LED projects.

According to Markle et al. (2017) resource mobilisation under local economic development (LED) is a community driven approach to economic development. It ought to include communities in the planning, implementation, evaluation and sustainability of already established infrastructure. It is therefore important that Local Governments should mobilise communities to fully participate in the LED initiatives which makes the citizens to own the programmes or project by way of coming up with the plan for sustainability and thus ensure their successful implementation. According to Markle et al. (2017) for LED to be sustainably anchored in the Local Government Development Frame-works, there is need to engage communities to catalyse LED from the grassroots level. Communities must be mobilised through self-help drives to participate in the formulation, marshalling of resources and implementing LED initiatives to unlock the production potentials of the respective localities. Civil Society Organisations are so vital in mobilizing communities for development. They possess a wide range of skills but they are particularly important in fostering cohesion, self-help and mind-set change. For LED to take effect, it is important that Local Government, Private Sector, and Civil Society Organisations collaborate and take advantage of their synergies. The main coordination arenas are the budget conferences and quarterly meetings.

Fole, Lixia and Guta (2018) examined the importance of resource mobilization through the community initiatives like the farmers' store as integral parts to survival and sustainability of entities in Malawi. The study, a qualitative approach targeted respondents from 12 NGOs, from which 72 respondents were selected. Primary data collection was collected using focus group discussions, key informant interviews, survey and observations. Qualitative data was analysed thematically and quantitative data was analysed using descriptive statistics. Findings from the

analysis showed that resource mobilization through the farmers' initiatives and technical knowhow by managers affected the survival and sustainability of local NGOs. Resource mobilization strategies were found to be essential to the ability of entities to source sufficient funds to fund projects and programmes.

Barasa and Nyaga (2021) study examined the role of community-based organizations (CBOs) on economic development in Siaya County, specifically their role on resource and stakeholder mobilization in Kenya. The study was anchored on Social Capital Theory but also analysed both System and Conflict Theories. The study provides new and relevant information on the role of CBOs in development to the County governments as devolved systems of government responsible for development and planning thus justifying investment and policy formulation for closer collaboration. Descriptive study was undertaken and targeted and enumerated two respondents per group (total 50) in all the 25 CBOs in Siaya County that were duly registered and had coverage of at least one Sub-County. Using a Likert scale questionnaire, quantitative data was collected. Prior to that, a pilot study was done in the nearby Kakamega County to test the instrument. Descriptive, correlation and regression analysis was applied to the data using SPSS version 21. The findings indicate that; Resource Mobilization by CBOs enhances the organizations' contribution to community economic development, stakeholders' mobilization plays a critical role in community economic development, and the CBOs in Siaya County have managed to increase their impact on economic development at the community level. The study suggests replication in other counties where NGO activity is evident in Kenya, focusing on community based organizations that do not rely on aid as their main income sources. Moreover, a comparative study involving the CBOs from the East African countries should also be considered in future studies.

Ihejirika and Ogbugo (2018) studied the influence of community development projects resource on mobilization in River State in Nigeria. Specifically, the study looks at the intervening role of stakeholders in the projects on resource mobilization by examining how they organize, mobilize and utilize human and material resources for community development projects to economically develop the State. The study used a descriptive research design and surveyed 133 respondents. Statistical analysis of the data included ANOVA. The findings established that community members (specifically leaders) mobilized resources through various fund raising programmes to ensure CBOs effectively implement their community development programmes. This included negotiating for tangible resources such as land, and organizing community participation/human resources to ensure project success. John, Muturi and Nyang'au (2017) investigate effects of community based organizations on resource mobilization as strategies adopted by for its sustainability in Nyamira County, Kenya. The study targeted nine hundred and fifteen social development officers, and community based organization members. Data analysis used descriptive statistics that included Chi square and logistic regression. The findings of the study concluded that resource mobilization influenced strategy adoption by community based organizations for its sustainability.

Much as obtainable studies reflected in the literature have indicated a significant effect, none of the studies was carried out in Oyam District. This therefore provided a contextual gap in terms of geographical scope and therefore provided the rationale to carry out this study.

## 3. Methods and materials

### 3.1 Research Design, area of study and population

**The study adopted a cross-sectional survey design. Cross-sectional studies are studies conducted at one point in time or over a short period. The researcher employed cross-sectional design because this will help in the collection of quantified data at a single point in time so as to improve a systematic description that is factual and as accurate as possible (Amin, 2005). The study was conducted in Aber sub-county, Oyam District. The district comprises of the 11 sub-counties and five town councils. The target population of the study is 322 in the category of Agricultural officer, Senior Assistant Secretaries, members of the farmers group in Aber Sub County. The choice of the staff in the different category in the district is because they are directly involved in the farmers' stores activities. Using Krejcie and Morgan's (1970) table, the sample size of 177 respondents was determined.**

### 3.2 Data Collection Methods

The researcher used two key methods to support the collection of data from the field of the study. These include the questionnaire survey method and the interview method. The research used structured questionnaires to collect quantitative data from members of the farmer groups. Also, face-to-face interview sessions with the key informants were conducted.

### 3.3 Quality Control

The researcher conducted a pilot study where a group of about 10 people who were not be part of targeted respondents to minimize random error took part in the pilot study. The study used the internal consistency specifically the Cronbach alpha embedded in SPSS to run the numerous extracts that represents the different study variables.

**Table 1: Reliability test**

| Variables | Cronbach alpha | No. of constructs |
|---|---|---|
| Farmers' store functionality | 0.725 | 10 |
| Resource mobilisation | 0.751 | 05 |
| Resource management | 0.771 | 05 |
| Resource utilisation | 0.705 | 06 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Overall | 0.947 | 26 |

*Source: Primary Data, 2023*

The data was coded after which, statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) Version 23, will be employed to analyse the data collected. Univariate analysis was carried out using descriptive statistic. Bivariate analysis was carried out to assess the relationship between the functionality of farmers' store and LED initiatives. And Regression analysis was employed to address the purpose of the study which was to examine the contribution of farmers' store in resource mobilisation, resource management and resource utilisation in Oyam DLG.

### 3.4 Ethical Considerations

a) The well-versed informed consent, privacy, confidentiality, and accurately were adhered to during this study. Participants received full details of the study aims, benefits and alternatives with an extended opportunity to ask relevant and applicable questions regarding the research.
b) The researcher took all information provided, by participants, with maximum confidentiality. Honesty was upheld throughout the study when collecting and reporting data, analysis of results, methods and procedures in order to avoid invention, distortion, misrepresentation and or misreporting of results.
c) All citations used and sources were clearly acknowledged by means of references.

## 4. Results

### 4.1 Response rate

Out of the 165 questionnaires administered to the respondents, 160 (96.97%) were returned while out of 10 respondents interviewed, 10 participants took part. Given that any response rate above 50% is considered appropriate to accomplish the study objectives (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003), this suggested that the data collected was adequate for carry out analysis.

### 4.2 Demographic characteristics of the Respondents

The demographic characteristics of the study participants were studied in terms of gender, age, level of education, marital status, and title.

**Table 1: Demographic Characteristics**

| Variable | Frequency | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| **Gender** | | |
| Male | 101 | 63.1 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Female | 59 | 36.9 |
| Total | **160** | **100** |
| **Age of the Respondents** | | |
| 20-29 years | 11 | 06.9 |
| 30-39 years | 75 | 46.9 |
| 40-49 years | 61 | 38.1 |
| 50-59 years | 12 | 07.5 |
| 60 years and above | 01 | 0.6 |
| Total | 160 | **100** |
| **Level of Education** | | |
| Primary | 81 | 50.6 |
| Secondary | 68 | 42.5 |
| Diploma | 08 | 05.0 |
| Degree | 03 | 1.9 |
| Total | 160 | **100** |
| **Marital status** | | |
| Married | 139 | 86.9 |
| Single | 10 | 06.3 |
| Separated | 06 | 03.8 |
| Widowed | 05 | 03.0 |
| Total | 160 | **100** |

| Designation/Title of the respondents | | |
|---|---|---|
| Members | 160 | 100.0 |
| Total | 160 | 100.0 |

***Source: Primary data, 2022***

Majority of the respondents (63.1%) were male while minority (36.9%) were female. However, the finding revealed that gender representation was observed given that the views of both male and female were captured during the study. The findings also indicated that, majority of the respondents (46.9%) were in the age bracket of 30-39 years and this was closely followed by those in the age bracket of 40-49 years (38.1%) while minority (0.6%) were aged 60 years and above. Pertaining educational qualification, majority of the study participants (50.6%) had primary level of education. This is due to the fact that majority of the people who took part in the study were rural farmers. However, they were literate enough to make sense of the data collection instruments. On marital status of the study participant, the study revealed that majority are married people (86.9%) were married couple and this suggests that majority of people who took part in the study are people with responsibility. To sum up, the study showed that people who participated in quantitative data collection were members of the farmer group. This indicated that the study targeted that right people who are into farming activities.

### 4.1 Ownership of the farmers' stores

**In order to assess the contribution of ownership of farmers' store, respondents were assessed on the five (05) constructs.**

**Table 2: Descriptive statistics on Ownership**

| Constructs | N | Mean | Std. Dev |
|---|---|---|---|
| Owning the store enable me to store my produce just after harvest | 160 | 4.77 | .565 |
| Having ownership over the store enable farmers to keep their produce as they wait for better price | 160 | 4.79 | .500 |
| Owning the store make the farmers to keep all their produce together and negotiate for better price | 160 | 4.82 | .404 |
| Owning the store enable me to maintain the quality of my produce | 160 | 4.71 | .560 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ownership over the farmer' store enable us to get financial support from the bank | 160 | 4.35 | .855 |
| Valid N (listwise) | 160 | 4.69 | .577 |

All the constructs used to assess how ownership of farmers' store contribute to LED initiative of resource mobilisation, resource management and resource utilisation showed above average on a Likert scale of 1-5. This suggested that the respondents were in support of all the constructs used to assess the contribution of ownership of farmers' store to LED initiatives in Oyam district. The overall mean of 4.69 suggested that the ownership of farmers' store help in resource mobilisation, management and utilisation in Oyam district. The Standard Deviation of .577 indicated a minor deviation in the views of the respondents. This suggested that a good number of respondents had convergent views. However, the interview held with the key informants indicated that;

> '*The presence of farmers' store in the area is making farmers to bulk their produce, maintain the quality of their produce and to avoid theft of what they have produced'*. (KI10). Also; '*Farmers are in position to get seeds from the farmers' store at low price. There is also training that take place at the farmers on modern farming method which help farmers to increase their level of production'* (KI04)

### 4.2 Accessibility of the farmers' stores

**Table 3: Descriptive statistics on Accessibility**

| Constructs | N | Mean | Std. Dev |
|---|---|---|---|
| Access to farmers' store enable me to safely keep my produce there to protect it from thieves | 160 | 4.48 | .742 |
| Access to farmers' store enable us to carryout value addition | 160 | 4.36 | .754 |
| Access to farmers' store encourage me to produce as I will be sure of where to keep it | 160 | 4.51 | .638 |
| Access to farmers store enable me to attend training there on how to add value on produce | 160 | 4.46 | .627 |
| Access to farmers' store enable me to minimise losses such as rotting of produce due to poor storage | 160 | 4.71 | .540 |
| Valid N (listwise) | 160 | 4.50 | .660 |

All the constructs used to assess how accessibility of farmers' store contribute to LED initiative of resource mobilisation, resource management and resource utilisation showed above average on a Likert scale of 1-5 used by the researcher. This suggested that the respondents were in support of all the constructs used to assess the importance of access to farmers' store to LED initiatives in Oyam district. The overall mean of 4.50 suggested that the ownership of farmers' store help in resource mobilisation, management and utilisation in Oyam district. This also suggested that if members of the farmers' group have access to the farmers' store, they can be in position to do activities like storage of what they have produce, carry out value addition and this in turn will increase on their income level. The Standard Deviation of .660 indicated slight deviation in the views of the respondents. This revealed that most of the people had convergent views. However, the interview held with the key informants indicated that;

> '*At the farmers' store, members are always on group saving, post-harvest handling and how to manage the records of their farming activities'*. (KI14)

### 4.3 Availability of the farmers' stores

**Table 4: Descriptive statistics on Availability**

| Constructs | N | Mean | Std. Dev |
|---|---|---|---|
| Presence of farmers' store encourage us to put all our produce together as we wait for prices to increase | 160 | 4.60 | .649 |
| Presence of farmers' store encourages us to increase on the level (acres) of production as we are sure of where to keep | 160 | 4.52 | .609 |
| Availability of farmers' store make us to be in position to keep our produce together and look for better markets outside our area | 160 | 4.51 | .569 |
| Availability of store encourages me buy more produces and add onto what I have produced for stocking | 160 | 4.41 | .613 |
| Presence of farmers' store enable members to generate income by levying some charges when storing for non-members | 160 | 4.45 | .646 |
| Valid N (listwise) | 160 | **4.49** | **.617** |

Table 5 reveals that all the constructs used to assess how availability of farmers' store contribute to LED initiative of resource mobilisation, resource management and resource utilisation showed above average on a Likert scale of 1-5 used by the researcher. This suggested that the respondents were in support of all the constructs used to assess the contribution of availability of farmers' store to LED initiatives in Oyam district. The overall mean of 4.49 suggested that the ownership of

farmers' store help in resource mobilisation, management and utilisation in Oyam district. This therefore suggest that if the stores are availability and is within the reach of the farmers, it can motivate them to increase on their level of production since they will be sure of the presence of storage facilities. This will make them to avoid selling their produce immediate after harvest due to lack storage. The Standard Deviation of .617 suggested slight deviation in the views of the respondents. This suggested that most of the people had convergent views. However, the interview held with the key informants indicated that;

> '*Many times, farmers what lost their produce through theft and in some cases through fire burning produce in grass thatched house. If the stores are available, farmers who do not have good store or house can take their produce there as they wait for prices of produce to increase'* (KI07).

### 4.4 Management of the farmers' stores

**Table 5: Descriptive statistics on Management**

| Constructs | N | Mean | Std. Dev |
|---|---|---|---|
| Proper management of farmers' store enable farmers to get training of modern farming methods | 160 | 4.60 | .561 |
| Proper management enable the farmers' store to remain in operation for long | 160 | 4.46 | .578 |
| Proper management enable activities like value addition to take place making farmers to get more money | 160 | 4.51 | .620 |
| Proper management of the farmers enable members of the store to get financial support from the bank | 160 | 4.42 | .738 |
| Proper management of farmers' store enable members to have high bargaining power on their crop produce | 160 | 4.62 | .577 |
| Valid N (listwise) | 160 | **4.52** | **615** |

The constructs used to assess how management of farmers' store contribute to LED initiative of resource mobilisation, resource management and resource utilisation showed above average on a Likert scale of 1-5 used by the researcher. This suggested that the respondents were in support of all the constructs used to assess the contribution of management of farmers' store to LED initiatives in Oyam district. The overall mean of 4.52 suggested that the ownership of farmers' store help in resource mobilisation, management and utilisation in Oyam district. This suggests that proper management of farmers' store can make activities such value addition to take place.

This result in farmers getting more income from what they have produced. The Standard Deviation of .615 indicated slight deviation in the views of the respondents. This suggested that most of the people had convergent views.

**5. LED Initiatives**

**5. 1 Resource Mobilisation**

In order to assess the contribution of resource mobilisation among members of the farmers store in Oyam district, respondents were assessed on the six (6) constructs.

**Table 6: Descriptive Statistics**

| Constructs | N | Mean | Std. Dev |
|---|---|---|---|
| Resource mobilisation help to maintain farmers' store | 160 | 4.52 | .558 |
| Resource mobilisation help farmers to buy more produce and stock | 160 | 4.60 | .492 |
| Resource mobilisation help management of farmers' store to increase the size of their store | 160 | 4.58 | .518 |
| Resource mobilisation help members of the farmers' store to start income generating project in their store when not in use | 160 | 4.38 | .606 |
| Resource mobilisation help members of farmers' store to manage their produce while in store | 160 | 4.49 | .536 |
| Resource mobilisation help farmers to get money to improve their storage facilities | 160 | 4.54 | .557 |
| Valid N (listwise) | 160 | 4.25 | 621 |

*Primary Data, 2023*

All the constructs used to assess the contribution of resource mobilisation as a component of LED initiatives were above average on a Likert scale of 1-5 used by the researcher. This suggested that the respondents were not in agreement with the constructs used to assess the contribution of resource mobilisation among members of farmers' store in Oyam district. The overall mean of 4.25 suggested that the respondents were in agreement with the contribution of resource mobilisation to the members of farmers' store in Oyam district in relation to its functionality. The Standard Deviation of .621 indicated slight deviation in the views of the respondents.

### 5.2 Resource Management

In order to assess the contribution of resource management to the members of farmers' store in Oyam district, respondents were assessed on the six (6) constructs.

**Table 7: Descriptive Statistics for Resource management**

| Constructs | N | Mean | Std. Dev |
|---|---|---|---|
| Resource management help members of farmers store to use resources to renovate their store | 160 | 4.51 | .589 |
| Resource management help members of farmers store to increase their level of production | 160 | 4.55 | .510 |
| Resource management help members of the farmers' store market their stored produce | 160 | 4.54 | .500 |
| Resource management help members of the farmers store to open up other stores | 160 | 4.55 | .567 |
| Resource management help farmers to control misuse of funds | 160 | 4.45 | .724 |
| Resource management help farmers to be in position to acquire drying machines | 160 | 4.54 | .534 |
| Valid N (listwise) | 160 | **4.17** | **.645** |

*Primary Data, 2023*

All the constructs used to assess the contribution of resource management as a component of LED initiatives were above average on a Likert scale of 1-5 used by the researcher. This suggested that the respondents were not in agreement with the constructs used to assess the contribution of resource management among members of farmers' store in Oyam district. The overall mean of 4.17 suggested that the respondents were in agreement with the contribution of resource management to the members of farmers' store in Oyam district in relation to its functionality. The Standard Deviation of .645 indicated slight deviation in the views of the respondents. This suggested that most of the people had convergent views.

### 5.3 Resource Utilisation

In order to assess the contribution of resource utilisation, respondents were assessed on the six (6) constructs.

**Table 8: Descriptive Statistics for Resource Utilisation**

| Constructs | N | Mean | SD |
|---|---|---|---|
| Proper resource utilisation help members of farmers' store to maintain their store properly | 160 | 4.50 | .547 |
| Proper resource utilisation help members of farmers' store to increase their level of production | 160 | 4.52 | .524 |
| Proper resource utilisation helps members of farmers' store to get more income | 160 | 4.52 | .536 |
| Proper utilisation of resource help members of farmers' store to construct more stores | 160 | 4.50 | .547 |
| Proper utilisation of resource help members of farmers store to keep their produce and sell when prices are good | 160 | 4.61 | .490 |
| Proper resource utilisation help members of the farmers store to build their individual storage facilities | 160 | 4.51 | .525 |
| Valid N (listwise) | **160** | **4.27** | **.585** |

*Primary Data, 2023*

Results reveal that all the constructs used to assess the contribution of resource utilisation as a component of LED initiatives were above average on a Likert scale of 1-5 used by the researcher. This suggested that the respondents were not in agreement with the constructs used to assess the contribution of resource utilisation among members of farmers' store in Oyam district. The overall mean of 4.27 suggested that the respondents were in agreement with the contribution of resource utilisation to the members of farmers' store in Oyam district in relation to its functionality. The Standard Deviation of .585 indicated slight deviation in the views of the respondents. This suggested that most of the people had convergent views.

**Correlation between the functionality of Farmers' group and LED initiatives**

In order to test the relationship between functionality of farmers' group and LED initiatives, a correlation analysis was carried.

**Table 9: Pearson's correlation analysis**

| Constructs | FFS | RMO | RM | RU |
|---|---|---|---|---|

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Functionality of farmers' store (SF) | Pearson Correlation | 1 | | | |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | | | | |
| | N | 160 | | | |
| Resource mobilisation (RMO) | Pearson Correlation | .667** | 1 | | |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | | | |
| | N | 160 | 160 | | |
| Resource management (RM) | Pearson Correlation | .700** | .731** | 1 | |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | .000 | | |
| | N | 160 | 160 | 160 | |
| Resource utilisation (RU) | Pearson Correlation | .598** | .655** | .752** | 1 |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | .000 | .000 | |
| | N | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 |

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Results of Pearson's correlation analysis presented in Table 10 shows that there existed a positive and significant correlation between LED initiatives and functionality of farmers' store in Oyam district at 99% confidence level. The study established that functionality of farmers' store was positively and significantly correlated with resource mobilisation (r=0.667, P<0.01), resource management (r=0.700, P<.01) and resource utilisation (r=0.598, P<.01). According to the results, improvement in the functionality of the farmers' store through carrying activities like bulking of the farmers' produce, carrying out value addition, looking for better market of the produce in stores, training members of financial literacy positively result to resource mobilisation, management and utilisation. The results also revealed and positive and significant relationship between resource mobilisation and resource management (r=0.731, P<0.01), resource mobilisation and resource utilisation (r=0.655, P<.01), resource management and resource utilisation (r=0.752, P<.01).

### 5.4 Regression Analysis on Functionality of Farmers' Store and LED initiatives

This section presents a finding of the empirical results of the regression analysis. In order to answer the three research objectives of the study, answer the three research questions and test the research hypothesis, a linear regression was run.

**Table 10: Model Summary of Regression on Store Functionality and Resource Mobilisation**

| Model | R | R Square | Adjusted R Square | Std. Error of the Estimate |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | .667[a] | .444 | .441 | .29909 |

*a. Predictors: (Constant), Farmers' group functionality,*

*b. Dependent Variable: Resource mobilisation*

The model summary of the regression test produced an Adjusted R Square of .441, which implies that farmers' store functionality contributed about 44.1% to resource mobilisation among members of farmers' store in Oyam district. The remaining 86.6% was contributed by other factors outside the scope of the study. This suggests that if farmers have ownership over the store, the store is accessible by all the members and there is proper management in place, it can help to make members to mobilise resources through activities such as value addition, negotiating jointly for better prices and also being in position to borrow money from financial institutions as a group. The F-ratio in the ANOVA tests whether the overall regression model is a good fit for the data.

**Table 10: ANOVA for functionality of the Farmers' store and resource mobilisation**

| Model | | Sum of Squares | Df | Mean Square | F | Sig. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Regression | 11.875 | 1 | 11.875 | 132.750 | .000[b] |
| | Residual | 14.849 | 159 | .089 | | |
| | Total | 26.724 | 160 | | | |

a. Dependent Variable: Resource mobilisation

b. Predictors: (Constant), Farmers' store functionality

The aspect of functionality statistically and significantly predict resource mobilization, $F(1, 160) = 132.750$, $p < .05$. Therefore, the regression model is a good fit of the data. The significance level of 0.000 is less than the significance level for 95% confidence and this implies that farmers' store functionality significantly contributes to the resource mobilisation among farmers' group in Oyam

district. Therefore, the null hypothesis that functionality of the 'farmers' store has no significant contribution to resource mobilisation' is rejected in favour of alternative hypothesis.

**Table 11: Coefficients for Regression on Store Functionality and Resource Mobilisation**

| | | Unstandardized Coefficients | | Standardized Coefficients | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Model | | B | Std. Error | Beta | t | Sig. |
| 1 | (Constant) | 1.606 | .254 | | 6.331 | .000 |
| | Farmers' store functionality | .639 | .055 | .667 | 11.522 | .000 |

*a. Dependent Variable: Resource mobilisation*

Functionality of farmers' store had a regression coefficient of 0.639 which is significant at 1% level of confidence. This indicated that functionality of farmers' stores significantly contribute to resource mobilisation among members of farmers' group in Oyam district. The finding therefore suggests that if members of farmer' group can use the store to carry out activities like adding value to what they have produced, stocking all their produce together and then looking for better market as a group, they will be in position to get more income from farming. Also the functionality of farmers' store can help in resource mobilisation through getting financial support from financial institution like Pride that mostly lend to groups. This result answers the first research question which was asking the contribution of farmers' store to resource mobilisation in Oyam district. The result also implies that the null hypothesis that functionality of farmers' store has no significant effect on resource mobilisation is rejected in favour of alternative hypothesis. This result is in support of the qualitative of the key informants in the interview held.

The finding is consistent with that of Fole, Lixia and Guta (2018) who examined the importance of resource mobilization through the community initiatives like the farmers' store functionality as integral parts to survival and sustainability of entities in Malawi. The result showed that resource mobilization through the farmers' initiatives and technical knowhow by managers affected the survival and operations of local NGOs. Resource mobilization strategies were found to be essential to the ability of entities to source sufficient funds to fund projects and programmes. The finding also concurs with that of Barasa and Nyaga (2021) who examined the role of community-based organizations (CBOs) on economic development in Siaya County. The findings indicate that; Resource Mobilization by CBOs enhances the organizations' contribution to community economic development, stakeholders' mobilization plays a critical role in community economic development. The finding also agrees with Ihejirika and Ogbugo (2018) who studied the influence of community development projects resource on mobilization in River State in Nigeria. The findings established that community members (specifically leaders) mobilized resources through

various fund raising programmes to ensure CBOs effectively implement their community development programmes. The finding also supports a study by John, Muturi and Nyang'au (2017) who investigate effects of community based organizations on resource mobilization as strategies adopted by for its sustainability in Nyamira County, Kenya. The findings of the study concluded that resource mobilization influenced strategy adoption by community based organizations for its functionality as organisational development plans and goals are easily implemented by an organised team due to resource availability.

### 5.5 Functionality of the farmers' store and resource management

In order to answer the second objective of the study, answer the second research question which was asking the contribution of farmers' store functionality on resource management in Oyam district and test the second research hypothesis, a simple linear regression analysis.

**Table 12: Model Summary of Regression on Store Functionality and Resource Management**

| Model | R | R Square | Adjusted R Square | Std. Error of the Estimate |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | .700[a] | .490 | .487 | .31733 |

a. Predictors: (Constant), *Farmers' store functionality*

The model summary of the regression test produced an Adj. R-Square of .487, which meant that farmers' store functionality contributed about 48.7% to resource management among members of farmers' store in Oyam district. This suggests that improvement in the functionality of farmers' store has a significant contribution to the management of resources among members of farmers' store in Oyam district.

**Table 13: ANOVA for Farmers' store functionality and resource management**

| Model | | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F | Sig. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Regression | 16.078 | 1 | 16.078 | 159.662 | .000[b] |
| | Residual | 16.716 | 159 | .101 | | |
| | Total | 32.794 | 160 | | | |

a. Dependent Variable: Resource management

b. Predictors: (Constant), Farmers' store functionality

The independent variables statistically and significantly predict the dependent variable, F(1, 160) = 159.662, p < .05. Therefore, the regression model is a good fit of the data. The significance level of 0.000 is less than the significance level for 95% confidence and this implies that farmers' store functionality significantly contributes to knowledge on resource management among farmers' group in Oyam district. Therefore, the null hypothesis that 'farmers' store functionality has no significant contribution to resource management' is rejected in favour of alternative hypothesis. The coefficient of the regression was also determined in this study.

**Table 14: Coefficients of regression for Store Functionality and Resource Management**

| | Unstandardized Coefficients | | Standardized Coefficients | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Model | B | Std. Error | Beta | T | Sig. |
| 1 (Constant) | 1.136 | .269 | | 4.220 | .000 |
| Farmers' store functionality | .744 | .059 | .700 | 12.636 | .000 |

a. Dependent Variable: *Resource Management*

The finding indicated that functionality of farmers' store had a regression coefficient of 0.744 which is significant at 1% level of confidence. This indicated that functionality of farmers' store had a significant effect on resource mobilisation among members of farmers' store in Oyam district. From the finding, ownership, access, availability and management of the farmers' store can help members of the farmers' group to have access to training of how to manage resources. Training on financial can be organised at the store where executive can invite commercial officer to train members on resource management. This result answers the first research question which was asking the contribution of farmers' store to resource management in Oyam district. According to Armstrong (2018), good resource management results in the right resources being available at the right time for the right work. It also ensures that resource managers have on-demand, real-time visibility into people and other resources so they can have greater control over delivery. The result also implies that the null hypothesis that functionality of farmers' store has no significant effect on resource management is rejected in favour of alternative hypothesis. The finding agrees with that of Ahmad and Maqbool (2018), who observed that the amount of resources available to the government is an important factor in the delivery of services, promoting investments as well as creating a good environment for the implementation of local economic development and sustaining the development already put in place. The finding is also in line with that of Kahika and Karyeija (2017) whose study established a significant effect of resource management. The result of the

study supports of Armstrong, (2018) who observed that resource management results in the right resources being available at the right time for the right work.

**Empirical results on Farmers' Store Functionality and Resource Utilisation**

In order to answer the third objective of the study, the third research question which was on the effect of farmers' store functionality on resource utilisation in Oyam district and test the third research hypothesis, a simple linear regression was conducted.

**Table 15: Model Summary of Regression on Store Functionality and Resource Utilisation**

| Model | R | R Square | Adjusted R Square | Std. Error of the Estimate |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | .598[a] | .358 | .354 | .33931 |

*a. Predictors: (Constant), Farmers' store functionality*

The model summary of the regression test produced an Adjusted R Square of .354, which meant that farmers' store functionality contributed about 35.4% to resource utilisation among members of farmers' store in Oyam district. This suggests that improvement in the functionality of farmers' store has a significant contribution to the utilisation of resources among members of farmers' store in Oyam district. The F-ratio in the ANOVA tests whether the overall regression model is a good fit for the data.

**Table 16: ANOVA for Farmers' store functionality and resource utilisation**

| Model | | Sum of Squares | Df | Mean Square | F | Sig. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Regression | 10.665 | 1 | 10.665 | 92.635 | .000[b] |
| | Residual | 19.112 | 159 | .115 | | |
| | Total | 29.777 | 160 | | | |

a. Dependent Variable: Resource utilisation

b. Predictors: (Constant), Farmers' store functionality

The result shows that the independent variables statistically and significantly predict the dependent variable, $F(1, 160) = 92.635$, $p < .05$. Therefore, the regression model is a good fit of the data. The significance level of 0.000 is less than the significance level for 95% confidence and this implies that farmers' store functionality significantly contributes to knowledge on resource utilisation among farmers' group in Oyam district. Therefore, the null hypothesis that 'farmers' store

functionality has no significant contribution to resource utilisation' is rejected in favour of alternative hypothesis.

**Table 17: Coefficients for Farmers' Store Functionality and Resource Utilisation**

| Model | | Unstandardized Coefficients | | Standardized Coefficients | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | B | Std. Error | Beta | T | Sig. |
| 1 | (Constant) | 1.767 | .288 | | 6.137 | .000 |
| | Farmers' store functionality | .606 | .063 | .598 | 9.625 | .000 |

*a. Dependent Variable: Resource utilisation*

The finding indicated that functionality of farmers' store had a regression coefficient of 0.606 which is significant at 1% level of confidence. This suggested that functionality of farmers' store had a significant effect on resource utilisation among members of farmers' store in Oyam district. According to Pale (2018), effective utilization of resources is helpful for the firm as it ensure that resources are used valuably and profitably. The finding therefore suggests that if management of the farmers' store can organise training for the members on resource utilisation, it will enable them to utilise their financial resources more profitably. This result answers the first research question which sought the contribution of farmers' store to resource utilisation in Oyam district. The result also implies that the null hypothesis that functionality of farmers' store has no significant effect on resource utilisation is rejected in favour of alternative hypothesis.

The finding is consistent with those of Ogbugo (2018) who studied the influence of community development projects on resource utilisation in River State in Nigeria. The findings of the study also indicated that proper participation by stakeholders help in enhancing utilization of resources and therefore leading to functionality of the infrastructures which has already been put in place. The finding also agrees with Policy Research Paper (2020), who asserted that farmers' organisation plays a great role in enhancing LED initiatives and this can make them to be in position to sustain the already established community infrastructure. The finding is also in support of Nel and Rogerson (2016) who indicated that proper implementation of LED initiatives help is enhancing the sustainability of the infrastructure which has already been put in place like the community storage facilities. This helps the local community who are involved in farming activities to have available facilities for the storage of their products.

**Multiple Regressions on Functionality of the Farmers' Store and LED initiatives**

To achieve the purpose of this study which was to examine the effect of stakeholder participation on SWM in Lira City.

**Table 20: Model Summary of Regression on Store Functionality and LED initiatives**

| Model | R | R Square | Adjusted R Square | Std. Error of the Estimate |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | .719[a] | .517 | .514 | .26825 |

*a.* ***Predictors****: (Constant), Farmer store functionality*

*b.* ***Dependent Variables****: Resource mobilisation, resource management and resource utilisation*

The results presented revealed that stakeholder participation significantly affect the variance in SWM by 51.4% (Adjusted $R^2$=0.514, p<0.01). This implies that creation of awareness, community consultation, decision making and stakeholder partnership account for 51.4% variation in the management of solid waste in Lira City. The finding concurs with Megerssa, Negeri, Getu, Demissie and Selvaraj (2021) who revealed that a combination of both traditional and modern storage for maize among farmers in west Showa, Ethiopia help them in protecting them from maize weevils so as to maintain quality and gain better from the market. This suggests a better relationship between farmers' stores and LED initiatives. Similarly, Kalsa (2019) underscores the significance of farmers' stores among wheat growers in Ethiopia in terms of protection of crop produce from post-harvest pests. Also, a study by both Basu and Wong (2015) as well as Aggarwal et al. (2017) who indicated that access to good store makes farmers to be in position to keep their produce safely. Further, access to farmers' store enables the farmers to get the opportunity to keep their crop produce safely thereby minimizing such loses.

## 6. Conclusion

Proper functionality of farmers' store help mobilisation of resources among members of the group through carrying out investment, value addition and storing produce during time of bumper harvest and selling during period of scarcity. Farmers' store functionality help in resource management though participation in a cross range of trainings on resource management, leveraging on good communication networks and sharing information on how best to manage what has been produced by the members. Farmers' store functionality in the utilisation of available resources by making members to acquire resource management technique that enables them to gain visibility on how best they can utilise their resources.

## Limitation

This study was conducted in only one local government yet there are nine district local governments in the Lango sub-region; thus, the results may not easily be generalised across the sub-region.

## Recommendations

Based on the conclusions of the finding, the study therefore made the following recommendations.

a) The department of production and agriculture should trained members of the farmers' store and farmer group on resource mobilisation, management and utilisation.

b) Members of the farmers' store should be trained on value addition so as to make to carry out value addition at their respective stores.

c) Government should enhance the capacity of members of farmers' store by giving them financial support so as to increase their level of production.

d) Commercial department of Oyam should train members of farmers' store on financial literacy so as to improve their financial and to make them to be in position to utilise their finances effectively.

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