

**DETERMINANTS OF PARTICIPATION OF SMALL HOLDER FARMERS
IN MARKETING OF GRAIN AMARANTH: A CASE OF KAMULI
DISTRICT, UGANDA**

BY

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**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH AND
GRADUATE TRAINING IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT FOR THE AWARD
OF A MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED
ECONOMICS OF MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

SEPTEMBER, 2014

DECLARATION

I Stella Namazzi, certify that the work presented in this thesis is from my own research and has not been submitted for the award of any other degree in any other University before.

Signed.....

Date.....

This thesis has been submitted for examination with our approval as University supervisors.

Signed.....

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Signed.....

Date.....

Dr. Florence Birungi Kyazze ,

DEDICATION

To dedicated to my family for being supportive during the entire period of the study.
Especially to my mother, daughter Tahia and Andrew.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I extend my sincere appreciation to AERC for funding my tuition and McKnight Project for funding my research and welfare while pursuing my Masters' degree I would not have been able to undertake this Master's Program without their support.

I would also like to thank my supervisors, Dr. William Ekere and Dr. Florence Birungi Kyazze for their academic guidance, encouragement and moral support which they gave me and this enabled me to complete my report on time.

Lastly, am grateful to my fellow course mates and friends for their skills and knowledge that they shared with me while pursuing this course.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
VEDCO	Volunteer Efforts for Development Concerns
OLS	Ordinary Least Squares
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Association
SACCOs	Savings and Credit Cooperatives
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory Services
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus

ABSTRACT

As a vegetable crop, grain amaranth plays an important role in improving household nutritional and economic status. Grain amaranth is still a new crop in Uganda's farming system, after being introduced by VEDCO in 2005 to curb malnutrition in Kamuli district. Production and consumption of the crop is still limited mainly due to lack of market, this has limited the purpose of production to domestic consumption with no incentive of producing a marketable surplus. A cross sectional study was conducted in Kamuli district to assess the determinants of small holder participation in grain amaranth marketing. A total of 150 grain amaranth farmers obtained through a multistage sampling technique, constituted the study sample. Findings revealed that grain amaranth production and marketing in Kamuli district is dominated by male headed households with land sizes allocated to grain amaranth production averaging 0.08 hectares.

The decision to participate in grain amaranth marketing was positively influenced by; Gender of household head, Education levels of the household head, Grain amaranth yield, grain amaranth selling price, membership in a farmer group while farm size decreased the likelihood of selling grain amaranth. The results further reveal that the education status of the household head and yield positively influenced households to sell more grain amaranth with farmers who had participated more in field days as a promotion activity marketing less grain amaranth.

Yield improvements are critical if increased market participation is to be realized. Therefore, research efforts should be directed towards generation and dissemination of grain amaranth varieties that are superior in production, consumption and nutrition attributes in order to stimulate massive production of the crop that will lead to higher production surpluses being realized.