





BASELINE REPORT

MAY 2025

Disclaimer

This baseline study has been conducted following the ethical protocol and data protection guidelines of GOAL International. All respondents or their guardians gave consent for being interviewed and the use of their anonymized information. The data in this study have been collected, processed and analysed with professional quality care. GOAL Uganda remains proprietor of the data and information presented. Any extensive use shall be informed to and approved by GOAL Uganda. Quoting the report is welcomed, but with reference to the INSPIRE project. The content and views in this report do not necessarily express those of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the partners in the project.

Table of Contents

Exe	cutive :	Summary	7
1	Introc	luction	9
	1.1	Study purpose and objectives	9
	1.2	Geographical coverage of the baseline study	10
	1.3	Study Methodology	10
	1.4	Demographics of respondents	12
2	Featu	res of the household	16
	2.1	Group membership	16
	2.2	Access to land	17
3	House	ehold engagement and production	20
	3.1	Household engagements	20
	3.2	Crop production	20
	3.3	Animal production	22
	3.4	Access and availability of farm inputs	24
	3.5	Access to financial services and credit	29
	3.6	Access to information	30
	3.7	Access to water for irrigation	32
	3.8	Farm practices	32
	3.9	Processing	35
	3.10	Sales	35
	3.11	Income	40
4	Challe	enges and Plans	42
	4.1	Challenges in agricultural production	44
	4.2	Plans for expansion	49
5	Conc	usions and recommendations	51
Lis	st of	Tables	
Tab	ole 1	Summary of districts and subcounties under survey	
Tab	le 2	Number of respondents by district - Intervention districts (N:840)	
Tab	ole 3	Number of respondents in control sub-counties by district (N:240)	12
Tab	le 4	Demographics of respondents by district (N:1,100)	12

Table 5	Educational level of respondents by district (N:1,100)	13
Table 6	Accessibility of households to roads and towns by district (in km) (N:1,100)	14
Table 7`	Distance in kilometers to nearest town (N:1,100)	14
Table 8	Preferred means of transport (N:1,100)	14
Table 9	Key characteristics of households surveyed (N:1,100)	16
Table 10	Equal access to land for men and women (N:1,100)	19
Table 11	Farming and business engagement (N:1,100)	20
Table 12	Popularity of crops by district (N:1,100)	22
Table 13	Use of farm inputs by region (N:1,100)	25
Table 14	Type of formal financial service accessed by SHF in 2024 (N:1,100)	29
Table 15	Main sources of information of SHF per region (N:1,100	30
Table 16	SHF farm inputs and farm practices by region (N:1,100)	32
Table 17	Crops for intercropping by region (N:1,100)	34
Table 18	Percentage of produce kept for home consumption by crops and district (N:1,100)	36
Table 19	SHF distance to point of sale by region (N:1,100)	38
Table 20	Importance of home consumption measured as percentage of income by region (N: 1,	100)43
Table 21	Main challenges facing SHFs (N:1,100)	44
Table 22	SHF reporting food insecurity by District (N:1,100)	46
Table 23	Types of natural hazard experienced (N:1,100)	47
List of	Figures	
Figure 1	Percentage of households as member of a group, by region and farm size (N:1,100)	16
Figure 2	Percentage of households as member of a specific groups (N:703)	17
Figure 3	Types of groups and registration status (N: varying per group)	18
Figure 4	SHF with crops grown in 2024 by region (N:1,100)	21
Figure 5	SHF with crops grown in 2024	21
Figure 6	Percentage of households with animals, by region, farm size and gender	22
Figure 7	Farmers with cattle by region (N:1,100)	23
Figure 8	Heads of cattle per household by region	23
Figure 9	Popularity of other animals by SHF	24
Figure 10	SHF spending money on certified seeds by crop type	25
Figure 11	SHF use of inorganic fertilizer by crop type (N:1,100)	26
Figure 12	SHF use of agrochemicals by crop type (N:1,100)	26

Figure 13 &	k Figure 14 SHF use of inorganic fertilizer by region and reasons for not using (N:1,1)	JO)
	27	
Figure 15	Reported difficulty in accessing farm inputs (N:1,100)	28
Figure 16 &	k Figure 17 SHF reporting difficulty in accessing services and average distance to main location	of
inputs	28	
Figure 18	Loan providers used by SHF per region (N:1,100)	30
Figure 19	SHF processing of farm produce by region (N:1,100)	35
Figure 20	Average percentage of produce kept for home consumption (N:1,100)	36
Figure 21	SHF main point of sale of produce (N:1,100)	37
Figure 22	Level of trust with agro-dealers (N:1,100)	39
Figure 23	Annual Household income by region and farm size and gender of the head of HH (N:1,100)	40
Figure 24	Household with annual income less 1 million UGX by region, farm size and gender of he	ad
(N:1,100)	40	
Figure 25	Seasonal agricultural income per household by farm size (N:1,100)	41
Figure 26	Monthly income from livestock per household by farm size (N:1,100)	41
Figure 27	Share of agriculture in total household income (N:1,100)	42
Figure 28	Home consumption as percentage of income by region and gender of head of househouse	old
(N:1,100)	43	
Figure 29	Experience of labour shortage over the year by region, farm size and district (N:1,100)	45
Figure 30	Activities for which SHF are facing labour shortages by region (N:1,100)	46
Figure 31	Measures taken by SHF to be less vulnerable to natural hazards by region (N:1,100)	48

Acronyms & Abbreviations

BDS Business Development Services

DCDO District Community Development Officer

EKN Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

FGD Focus Group Discussion

GESI Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

HH Households

INSPIRE Integrated sustainable production for Inclusive and resilient economies

KII Key Informant Interview

MAAIF Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries

MSME Micro to Medium Sized Enterprise

PSA Private Sector Actor

SACCO Saving and Credit Cooperative Organisation

SHF Smallholder Farmers

TUNADO The Uganda National Apiculture Development Organization

UGX Ugandan Shilling

VC Value Chain

VCA Value Chain Analysis

VSLA Village Savings and Learning Association

Executive Summary

This Baseline study was conducted as part of the inception phase of the INSPIRE project, a five-year initiative funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and implemented by GOAL Uganda and partners. INSPIRE seeks to improve the income and livelihood resilience of 200,000 smallholder farmers across Busoga and Lango sub-regions through sustainable farming systems, inclusive market participation, stronger local advocacy, and more equitable decision-making at household and community levels. The study interviewed 1,100 small-holder farming households (SHFs) from six districts, 364 in Busoga North (with annual legumes farming system), 366 in Busoga South (perennial integrated farming system) and 370 in Lango (annual oil-seed farming system). Of the total number of interviewed households, 583 had access to 2 acres and less, and 517 from 2 to 10 acres, i.e. 53% and 47% respectively. Average farm size is small: 2.85 acres only, with Busoga South only 1.85 acres. Educational level is low; only 27% continued after primary school. Female-headed households comprise for 21% of the sample. A control group was interviewed in sub-counties where no EKN projects are being implemented (255 HH).

Main crops responding households are growing are maize, cassava and beans. In Lango there is a focus more on oil-seeds, in Busoga South on coffee intercropped with banana, and in Busoga North on soya and groundnuts.

Production levels of all crops are very low, and causing a - sometimes arbitrary - yield gap ranging from 40% to 80%. The very low usage of farm inputs like organic and inorganic fertilizer, agrochemicals are main contributing factors. Composting and using manure are hardly done. The inconsistent use of certified seeds - often said even to be fake - are another major cause of these low yields. Major reasons for not using inorganic fertilizer are the high price, and the availability.

A significant part of the produce is meant for home consumption. For instance, for maize home consumption reaches 63%, beans 88% and cassava 74%.

Respondents mentioned a series of challenges affecting their farming. Though there are regional differences, pests & diseases are mentioned by most respondents, i.e. 70%; droughts are according to 67% a major challenge. And low soil fertility according to 47%, with Busoga North in particular. High prices for inputs and low prices for the produce challenging especially those in Lango (66% and 54% respectively). The physical distance to a nearby trading center or town are highest for the districts in Lango.

Looking closer at the ease of purchasing inputs, the study shows that for all inputs accessibility is an important issue, whereby SHFs in Lango suffer most. With seeds 66% finds it difficult to access; for inorganic fertilizer 72% and organic fertilizer 70%. Irrigation equipment is most difficult to find in the districts: 90% indicated that it is (very) difficult.

SHF are poorly organized and lack basically the motivation of cooperation. Only 1% is a member of a cooperative, 2% of a SACCO and 57% of a VSLA. Almost no household is selling its produce collectively.

VSLAs however play an important role for households to make savings and access loans. Very few households have managed to receive a loan from a bank and SACCO, i.e. 1% and 2%, whereas 42% respondents indicated to have acquired a loan from the VSLA.

Processing is taking place at rudimentary level, mostly cleaning, drying and in some cases milling. The letter is related to preparing the product for home consumption, like maize and cassava flour.

Not surprisingly, agriculture and animal keeping (livestock, poultry and piggery) are the main activities of the household, with 95% of households. Of all households 49% said they are only engaged in agriculture. Thirty-nine percent of the respondents mentioned that the household have other businesses as well, mostly like trading, running a small shop, brick-making, boda-riding or making local brew. In terms of contributing to household cash income.

The relevance of agriculture looks smaller than the income figures suggest. Though agricultural income is around 910,000 UGX and that of non-farm businesses 1,3 million on average, it's relevance is much higher. Discounting home consumption into the agricultural income, would increase the total by at least 40%. However, this percentage is likely to be 80% or more since only the home consumption for maize, beans and cassava are discounted, and for just one season. Still 5% of households indicated not to have enough food for almost all months of the year; another 9% not enough for more than 6 months.

Climate-related natural hazards have become more common. Ninety-one percent experienced such a hazard in the last five years. Most respondents indicated to be affected by prolonged droughts.

Women, micro-farmers and female-headed households score on almost all aspects lower than average, in terms of access to inputs, loans, land, and income.

1 Introduction

With funding from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, GOAL Uganda with three other partners (Wageningen University & Research, Resilience Uganda and Agriterra) are implementing a five year Integrated & Sustainable Production for Inclusive and Resilient Economies (INSPIRE) project in rural lowland communities in two regions of Busoga and Lango. INSPIRE aims to contribute to "increased income and livelihood resilience of Small Holder Farmers (SHF) to climate change and market failures". The consortium will implement the project in nine districts: four in Lango (Alebtong, Lira rural, Amolatar and Dokolo) and five in Busoga (Kamuli, Buyende, Kaliro, Luuka and Jinja rural). The project will work with, and through local partners, VEDCO, FINASP and A2N, with ISSD and East West Seed Knowledge Transfer providing technical expertise. A total of 240,000 smallholder households are expected to be reached.

The project is implemented through four pathways to achieve its goal of "increased income and livelihood resilience of SHF to climate change and market failures":

- a) Pathway and Outcome 1: Focuses on inclusive household and community decision-making and action.
- b) Pathway and Outcome 2: Focuses on ensuring SHF farming systems are more sustainable, productive and resilient to shocks
- c) Pathway and Outcome 3: Focuses on SHF actively participating and benefiting in inclusive markets.
- d) Pathway and Outcome 4: Ensures SHF have enhanced voice and influence to address market system issues.

This baseline report for INSPIRE is one of the seven studies conducted during the inception phase of the project between December 2024 and May 2025.

1.1 Study purpose and objectives

The baseline study sought to establish baseline values for key performance indicators and understand the current socio-economic and agricultural conditions of SHFs in six out of nine project districts. More specifically the baseline study was conducted to:

 determine the baseline status of project indicators, including income levels, production volumes, livelihood resilience, and market engagement of SHF households.

- assess the socio-economic, cultural, and environmental context within the targeted districts, including SHF decision-making dynamics, farming systems, and market participation.
- identify the key needs, challenges, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats of SHFs in achieving sustainable production, income growth, and resilience to climate change and market failures.

1.2 Geographical coverage of the baseline study

The baseline study took place in six out of the nine districts: Alebtong, Amolatar, Buyende, Kamuli, Kaliro Luuka. Two sub-counties were selected in the intervention sub-counties and one control subcounty was selected from sub-counties where the project will not be implementing.

The project area is characterized by three dominant farming systems - perennial, oilseeds, and legumes. For each farming system, two districts were selected. The two districts closest to (semi) urban settings (Lira and Jinja) were not considered. For the control sub-counties, those where no other EKN project has been conducted were selected. These considerations led to the following sample frame:

Table 1 Summary of districts and subcounties under survey

District	Intervention subcounties	Control subcounties
Kamuli	Kitayunjwa, Mbulamuti	Wankole
Buyende	Buyende, Ndolwa, Gumpi	Kidera
Alebtong	Abia, Akura, Abako	Amugu
Amolatar	Aputi, Opali	Agwingiri
Kaliro	Gadumire, Namwiwa	Buyinda
Luuka	Nawampiti, Waibuga	Irongo

1.3 Study Methodology

This section includes the study design, sampling methodology, sample size determination, data collection methods and data analysis techniques.

Study design

The study adopted a mixed method approach integrating both qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques. The quantitative component generated measurable components aligned with the project monitoring tracker and results framework, providing a clear basis for monitoring

progress. The qualitative component involved FGDs with SHFs, small private sector companies, and KIIs with government agencies.

Sampling

A multi-level sampling approach was employed for this study. At the first level, purposive sampling was used to purposively select districts from the three farming systems: North Busoga (Kamuli, Buyende), South Busoga (Kaliro, Luuka), and Lango (Amolatar, Alebtong).

At the second level, stratified sampling was applied to select sub-counties since the sub-counties are natural strata with homogeneous characteristics within the chosen districts. At the third level, semi-randomized sampling was used to select SHFs from the household lists, divided into two land size categories (below 2 acres, and from 2 to 10 acres). The study aimed at 50% female respondents.

Sample Size Determination

This baseline design employed a 90% level of confidence with a 5% standard error, that resulted in a sample size of 270 per study group. With a margin of 10 respondents to be potentially deleted, the total number was raised to 280. For the control group the level of confidence remained 90% with a standard error of 10%, resulting in 69 respondents. To accommodate the potential deletion of respondents, the sample size was increased to 80. The distribution is as follows:

Table 2 Number of respondents by district - Intervention districts (N:840)

Intervention sub-counties							
Regions	District	Total	0-2 acres	Above 2 acres			
Langa (290)	Alebtong	210	105	105			
Lango (280)	Amolatar	70	35	35			
Dung and North (200)	Kamuli	128	64	64			
Busoga North (280)	Buyende	152	76	76			
D	Kaliro	112	56	56			
Busoga South (280)	Luuka	168	84	84			
Grand Total		840	420	420			

Table 3 Number of respondents in control sub-counties by district (N:240)

Control sub-counties								
Regions	District	Total	0-2 acres	Above 2 acres				
Lango (80)	Alebtong	60	30	30				
	Amolatar	20	10	10				
Busoga North (80)	Kamuli	36	18	18				
	Buyende	44	22	22				
Busoga South (80)	Kaliro	32	16	16				
	Luuka	48	24	24				
Grand Total		240	120	120				

1.4 Demographics of respondents

A total of 1,100 households were interviewed across 6 districts, out of which 227 (21%) were female-headed and 872 (79%) male-headed households. The main group of respondents was female (51%) and had finished higher primary (45%). More details are provided in the following tables.

Table 4 Demographics of respondents by district (N:1,100)

	Busoga North		Busoga South		Lango		Total
	Buyende	Kaliro	Kamuli	Luuka	Alebtong	Amolatar	
Female respondent	47%	56%	68%	62%	55%	52%	57%
Male respondent	53%	44%	32%	38%	45%	48%	43%

	Busoga North		Busoga South		Lango		Total
	Buyende	Kaliro	Kamuli	Luuka	Alebtong	Amolatar	
Female-headed HH	75%	80%	83%	81%	77%	82%	79%
Male-headed HH	25%	20%	17%	19%	23%	18%	21%

Table 5 Educational level of respondents by district (N:1,100)

	Busoga north	Busoga south	Lango	Grand Total
No formal education	9%	10%	16%	11%
Lower primary	21%	18%	12%	17%
Higher primary	46%	41%	49%	45%
Secondary O-Level	22%	28%	18%	23%
Secondary A-Level	2%	2%	2%	2%
Higher education	1%	2%	4%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Lango had more respondents that lacked any form of formal education, almost double the percentage of Busoga North. The largest share of respondents who completed O-Level secondary education came from Busoga South (28 percent). Twenty-eight percent of the respondents from female-headed households had not received any formal education, versus 7 percent for male-headed households. Respondents from the micro-farms (below 2 acres) had generally received less education than the households with more land (2 to 10 acres), i.e. only 21 percent had entered into post-primary education, versus 32 percent of the households with more land.

All households in this study live outside urban settings, including small trading centers (as per EKN instructions). The table below shows the average distance from household locations to the nearest tarmac road and to the nearest town. Amolatar is clearly the most remote district, with regular floods making the district's accessibility even worse. Kamuli and Luuka on the other hand are much better connected and could benefit much more from (distant) markets. Respondents in most districts mentioned distance and the poor condition of the roads as a challenge in terms of accessing inputs and reaching output markets. High costs of transport are an important constraint for those living in Amolatar, Alebtong and Buyende.

Table 6 Accessibility of households to roads and towns by district (in km) (N:1,100)

	Alebtong	Amolatar	Buyende	Kaliro	Kamuli	Luuka	Total
Average distance to nearest tarmac road (km)	39.3	61.7	31.3	21.1	4.7	13.3	27.0
Average distance to nearest town (km)	18.0	16.1	10.1	10.4	4.2	7.3	11.2

Table 7` Distance in kilometers to nearest town (N:1,100)

	Busoga North	Busoga South	Lango	Total
0-10 km	71%	89%	61%	73%
11-25 km	21%	9%	16%	16%
26-50 km	26-50 km 7%		16%	9%
51-100 km	1%	0%	6%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Most respondents (55 percent) use motorcycles to reach markets, while 23 percent use bicycles and 16 percent walk.

Table 8 Preferred means of transport (N:1,100)

	Alebtong	Amolatar	Buyende	Kaliro	Kamuli	Luuka	Total
Bicycle	20%	28%	37%	33%	24%	2%	23%
Car	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Motorcycle	44%	51%	38%	42%	62%	93%	55%
Public transport	17%	4%	3%	0%	0%	0%	5%
Walking	18%	17%	20%	25%	14%	5%	16%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

DATA COLLECTION, PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS

Data for the baseline was collected though semi-structured survey questionnaires, focus group discussions (FGDs) and a series of interviews with Key Informants (KIIs). Downloaded data was cleaned and analysed using MS Excel. Descriptive statistical analysis was employed to analyse data using frequencies, percentages, and means. The following chapters present a comparative

analysis of results across the three farming systems as they appear in the different regions, as well as by farm size categories. For ease of reference, farms of two acres or less are referred to as "microfarms", while those between two and ten acres are considered "small farms". In some cases, highlights will be presented by district and or by head of household (man or woman).

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

This study adhered to all relevant ethical codes of conduct and requirements for researching human on subjects as per GOAL's standards. Measures were taken to fulfil ethical requirements included signing of consent forms, voluntary participation, confidentiality, and anonymity, and respecting the privacy of participants.

2 Features of the household

The following paragraphs provide a brief overview of the main characteristics of the households included in this study. The average size of a household size is 6.85 persons, significantly higher than the average derived from the census in 2024, which was 4.4 for both regions. One-fifth of the households in Busoga North have more than 11 members. In Lango it is only 3 percent. Households in Lango more frequently include members with disabilities—24 percent compared to 19 percent across the total surveyed population. Overall, 17 percent of households have one member with a disability, while 2 percent have two. The most common types of disability reported are difficulties with walking (31 percent) and seeing (30 percent).

Table 9 Key characteristics of households surveyed (N:1,100)

	Busoga north	Busoga south	Lango	2 acres and less	More than 2 acres	Overall total
Average size HH	7.95	6.83	5.78	6.49	7.26	6.85
Average female in HH	3.95	3.40	2.95	3.32	3.56	3.43
Average dependents	4.72	3.86	2.91	3.70	3.97	3.83
Average female dependents	2.51	2.51	1.67	2.19	2.27	2.23
> 11 persons in HH	20%	9%	3%	8%	14%	11%
HH with persons with disabilities	15%	17%	24%	16%	21%	19%

Households have an average of 3.83 dependents. The dependency ratio ranges from 1.46 in Busoga North to 1.02 in Lango, indicating that in Busoga North, each productive-age individual supports more non-productive members. A lower ratio suggests a lighter burden on the working-age population. This ratio is much higher than the national average of only 0.83. Interestingly, in the census, the productive age starts at 14 years, explaining the rather lower national average.

2.1 Group membership

Most households are member of a group. Lango has the highest proportion at 69 percent, in contrast to Busoga North, which reports the lowest at 56 percent. Micro-farmers and female-headed households are less likely to be members of a group. For those with more than 2 acres, 73 percent are members of a group.

Figure 1 Percentage of households as member of a group, by region and farm size (N:1,100)

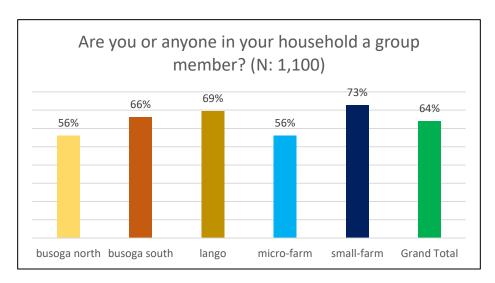
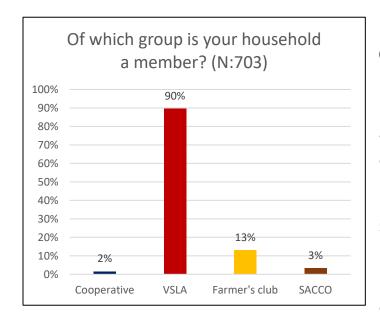


Figure 2 Percentage of households as member of a specific groups (N:703)



Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) are the most common type of group membership. Among households participating in any group, 90 percent have at least one member in a VSLA. This figure is even higher in Busoga North, where it reaches 95 percent.

SACCOs and cooperatives are generally unpopular across all regions, farm sizes, and household head types. In contrast, farmers' clubs or production groups - typically

organized around specific value chains - are slightly more common.

2.2 Access to land

Access to land was mentioned in various conversations with community members and government officials as a challenging issue. Overpopulation and land degradation has resulted in less land available for a growing population, leading to further land fragmentation. The project's gender and inclusion study revealed that access to land remains a significant challenge for farmers who are women, youth, and persons with disabilities. This baseline study reveals that 26 percent of

households mentioned land shortage as one of the major problems in agriculture. In Busoga North the percentage was highest at 28 percent. For female-headed households, the figure stands at 21 percent, which is lower than that of male-headed households. As explained in focus group discussions, single mothers and widows are granted access to land for their survival by their families. As they primarily face a genuine labour shortage, it is labour—not land—that serves as the main limiting factor. Female-headed households have access to nearly half an acre less land than male-headed households – 2.42 acres compared to 2.9 acres, respectively. On average, households have access to 2.8 acres of land.

There is a clear regional difference in land size. Households in South Busoga had access to 1.8 acres of land in total, compared to 3.64 in Lango. For 36 percent of households, part of the land they accessed was rented—averaging 1.54 acres among those who rent land.

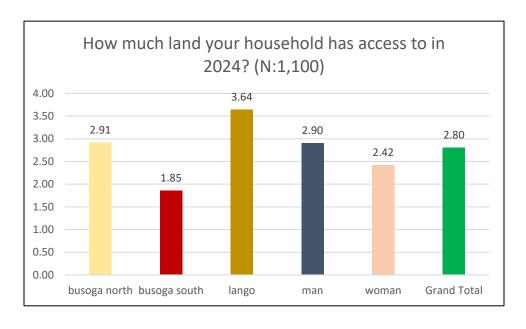


Figure 3 Types of groups and registration status (N: varying per group)

When asked whether women and men have equal access to land they wish to cultivate, 59 percent of respondents said access is easier for men, while only 7 percent said it is easier for women. A total of 32 percent believed access is equally easy for both.

Table 10Equal access to land for men and women (N:1,100)

	Busoga North	Busoga South	Lango	Grand total
Don't know	0%	5%	1%	2%
Equal access	25%	54%	17%	32%
Men easier access	67%	36%	75%	59%
Women easier access	8%	5%	7%	7%
Grand total	100%	100%	100%	100%

3 Household engagement and production

This section presents findings on household engagement in agricultural activities in Busoga and Lango, including priority crops and livestock, as well as the inputs accessed by farmers.

3.1 Household engagements

Nearly all households engage in farming on their own land. However, a higher proportion of households in Lango also farm on land owned by others - 22 percent compared to the overall average of 11 percent. Exchanging labour and working in groups, locally known as 'awak' is common during the activities of land preparation and harvesting. Engagement in micro or small businesses provides supplementary income for households. Typical activities include trading, brickmaking, boda-boda riding, and construction for men, while women are more often involved in tailoring, shopkeeping, and brewing local alcohol. Formal employment and offering farm-related services are uncommon across all three regions.

Table 11 Farming and business engagement (N:1,100)

	Busoga North	Busoga South	Lango	Grand total
Farming on own land	99%	98%	89%	95%
Working on someone else's farm	7%	3%	22%	11%
Micro & small business and work	43%	33%	42%	39%
Someone else's business	0%	0%	5%	2%
Formal employment	2%	3%	5%	3%
Farm-related services	2%	3%	3%	3%
Grand Total	364	366	370	1,100

3.2 Crop production

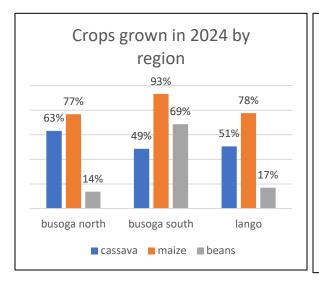
The study shows the wide diversity of agricultural production in the three regions. In Busoga South robusta coffee, intercropped with banana, is an important cash crop. In Lango, oilseed crops like sesame (simsim), sunflower and soyabean are more popular. Maize is the most widely grown crop, cultivated by 88 percent of all households, followed by cassava at 54 percent. Beans are especially popular in Busoga South, thanks to favourable land and water conditions. Nevertheless, 2024 was

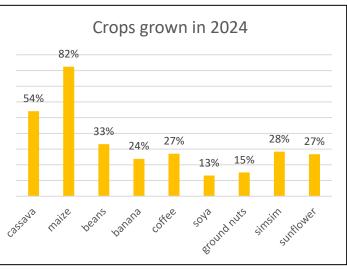
a bad year for bean production according to our study results. Due to prolonged droughts the yields were extremely low.

Besides commercial crops, households were asked about whether they had a kitchen garden. On average 60 percent of households have a kitchen garden, with 89 percent in Busoga North and 51 percent in Lango. Interestingly, female-headed households are slightly less likely to have kitchen gardens, compared to male-headed households, i.e. 56% vs 61%. This may be the result of having access to less land for female-headed households.

The following graph presents the percentage of households growing cassava, maize, and beans across the three regions, based on 2024. The next graph shows the overall distribution of all reported crops across regions. Note that some crops were only included in specific areas: coffee and banana in Busoga South; sunflower and simsim in Lango; and soya and groundnuts in Busoga North.

Figure 4 SHF with crops grown in 2024 by region (N:1,100) Figure 5 SHF with crops grown in 2024





Simsim was grown by 72 percent of households in Amolatar, compared to just 15 percent in Alebtong. In contrast, sunflower was more commonly cultivated in Alebtong, with 33 percent of households growing it, versus only 8 percent in Amolatar.

Maize was more popular in Alebtong and Buyende (82% and 87%, respectively) than in Amolatar and Kaliro, where it was grown by 64 percent of households.

Beans and maize are grown more by micro than by smallholder famers, whereas coffee, bananas and oil seeds are more popular among smallholder farmers with more than 2 acres.

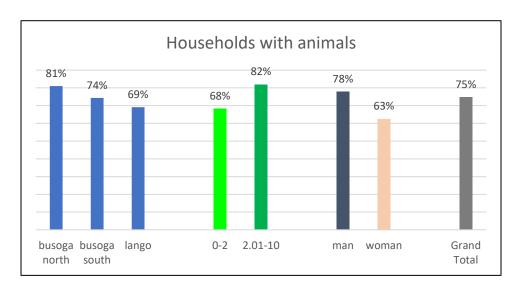
Table 12Popularity of crops by district (N:1,100)

	Alebtong	Amolatar	Buyende	Kaliro	Kamuli	Luuka
cassava	48%	57%	60%	67%	41%	55%
maize	82%	64%	87%	64%	94%	92%
beans	14%	27%	13%	15%	58%	78%
banana					28%	20%
coffee					30%	24%
soya			7%	20%		
ground nuts			14%	17%		
simsim	15%	72%				
sunflower	33%	8%				

3.3 Animal production

Most households keep animals, like cows, goats, sheep and chickens. The next graph shows the difference in ownership by region, land size and gender of head of household.

Figure 6 Percentage of households with animals, by region, farm size and gender



Cattle keeping is closely linked to land availability, with cows primarily kept for meat production. In Busoga North and Lango, most households raise cattle for this purpose. In contrast, Busoga South - where population pressure is highest - has the lowest percentage of households keeping

cattle. However, it leads in dairy production, with the highest share of households keeping cows for milk. This is supported by the presence of several milk cooperatives and processing businesses in and around Kamuli and Jinja, which facilitate market access.

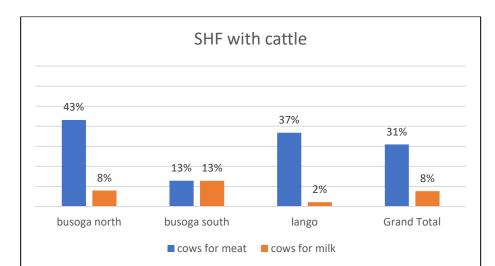
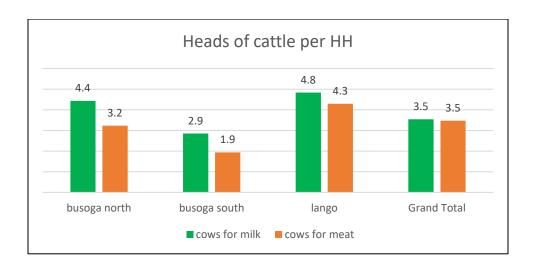


Figure 7 Farmers with cattle by region (N:1,100)

Population pressure, the conversion of land into sugar cane plantations and the privatization of land have reduced the area of grazing. During interviews households mentioned conflicts between cattle keeping households and other households, noting that the frequency of these conflicts is rising. Female-headed households are less likely to keep cattle than male-headed ones - 22 percent versus 33 percent for meat production, and 6 percent versus 8 percent for milk. The lower rates are likely due to limited access to land and the high cost of investment required for cattle rearing.

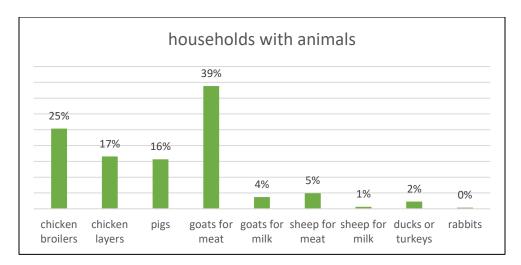
The number of cows kept by households is generally small however: only 3.5 head of cattle on average per household. In Lango the average number of cows is highest among the three regions.

Figure 8 Heads of cattle per household by region



Of all other animals, goats are the most popular to keep for "commercial purposes", at 39 percent. Chickens for meat (broilers) are more popular than layers, at 25percent vs 17 percent.

Figure 9 Popularity of other animals by SHF



Except for ducks, ownership of all livestock is higher among male-headed households compared to female-headed ones. Additionally, households with more than two acres of land are more likely to keep animals than those with smaller landholdings.

3.4 Access and availability of farm inputs

Respondents were asked about their household's use of farm inputs in 2024, both in general and for specific crops. The resulting percentages are not necessarily identical and may - or most likely - differ to some extent. Notably, 14 percent of farmers reported using certified fertilizer; however, this may apply to only one crop, and even then, potentially on just part of their land. Most

frequently mentioned by respondents were 'certified seeds' (41 percent) and use of 'ox-plough' (54 percent). In Busoga South the use of certified fertilizer is quite common at 31 percent - more compared to the other regions.

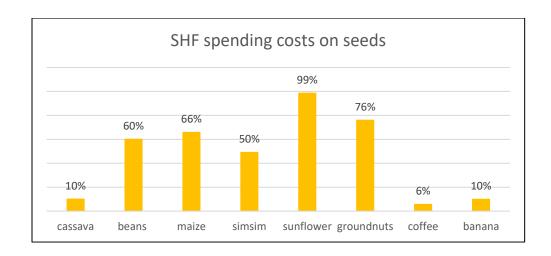
Table 13Use of farm inputs by region (N:1,100)

	Busoga north	Busoga south	Lango	Grand total
certified fertilizer	8%	31%	3%	14%
certified pesticide	26%	19%	12%	19%
certified seeds	34%	47%	42%	41%
improved breed of livestock	5%	6%	1%	4%
vet services	13%	18%	15%	15%
extension services	6%	10%	9%	8%
ox-plough	74%	13%	75%	54%
tractor	3%	2%	1%	2%
market information	2%	11%	3%	6%
Total no. or respondents	364	366	370	1,100

Micro-SHFs scored lower on most inputs compared to those with small farms. For example, 36 percent of micro-SHFs use certified seeds, compared to 47 percent of small SHFs - an 11 percentage point difference. The use of pesticides follows a similar trend - 15 percent for micro SHF versus 23 percent for small SHFs. The most striking difference is in the use of ox ploughs: 42 percent of micro-SHFs versus 69 percent of small SHFs. SHFs with the lowest use of certified seeds can be found in Amolatar district: only 17 percent.

Analysis of crop-related data shows that most households spend money on seeds, although only partially on certified seeds. Certified seed use is particularly common among sunflower growers. In contrast, certified seed use is low for coffee and, to a lesser extent, banana - largely because these perennial crops were not newly planted in 2024, even though they remain under cultivation. For many other crops, farmers tend to rely on leftover seeds from previous seasons or reuse seeds they have produced themselves.

Figure 10 SHF spending money on certified seeds by crop type



Use of inorganic fertilizers and agrochemicals as fungicides and pesticides remains low across the board. Fertilizer use is largely limited to a subset of maize farmers, while for other crops, including coffee (surprisingly), it is exceptionally rare, with less than 2% of farmers applying it. Similarly, the use of manure is extremely limited, with no crop recording usage rates above 2%.

Figure 11 SHF use of inorganic fertilizer by crop type (N:1,100)

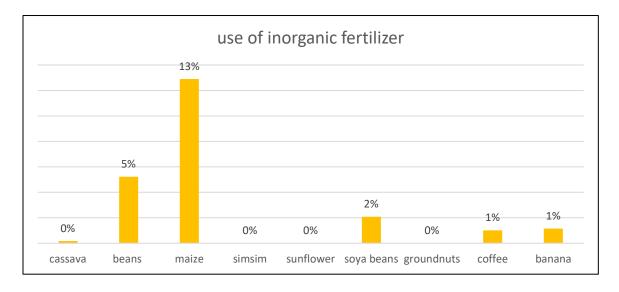
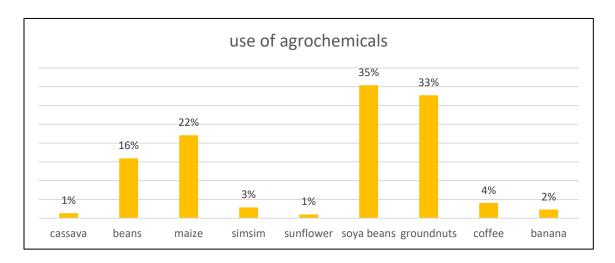
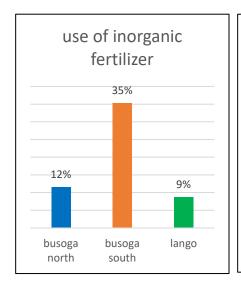


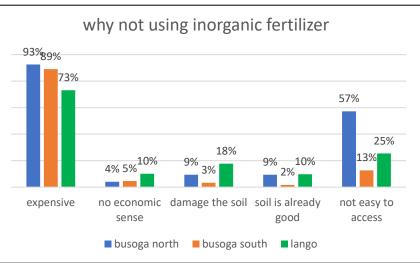
Figure 12 SHF use of agrochemicals by crop type (N:1,100)



The generally low use of farm inputs is attributed to several factors: high costs and limited household funds, a perception - often based on past experience - that such investments do not yield sufficient returns, and limited access to both the inputs themselves and lack of reliable information on their effective use. When asked about the use of agrochemicals in farming, 18 percent of respondents reported using them. However, usage varies significantly by location. In Busoga South, particularly in Kamuli, usage was notably higher at 41 percent, while in Alebtong, only 8 percent of households reported applying agrochemicals in their farming practices. When asked about the main reason for not applying inorganic fertilizer, most respondents mentioned price (84 percent) and availability (33 percent). In Lango 18 percent of the responding households stated that they believe their use will damage their soils.

Figure 13 and Figure 14 SHF use of inorganic fertilizer by region and reasons for not using (N:1,100)





Across all farm inputs, most respondents indicated that access is challenging. Notably, 90% reported that irrigation equipment is particularly difficult to obtain. Households in Lango – especially those in Alebtong and Amolatar – consistently reported the greatest difficulty in purchasing inputs.

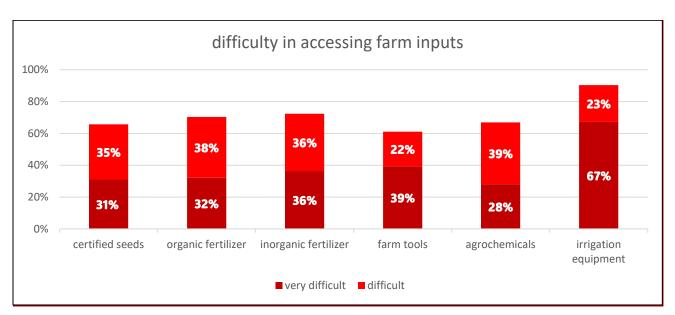


Figure 15 Reported difficulty in accessing farm inputs (N:1,100)

When it comes to services, the picture is slightly less pessimistic, with around 65% of respondents on average reporting difficulty accessing transport and tillage services. Once again, the districts in Lango appear to be the most underserved.

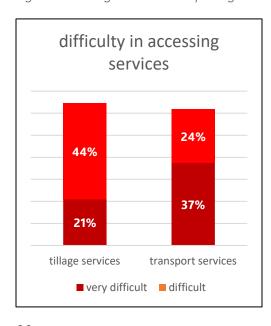
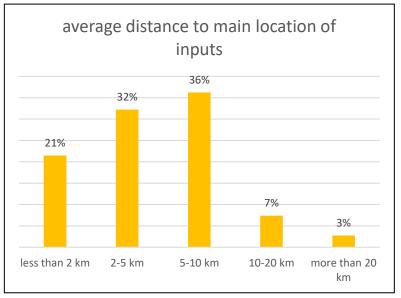


Figure 16 and Figure 17 SHF reporting difficulty in accessing services and average distance to main location of inputs



Looking at geographic differences in the distance to farm input suppliers, Amolatar District in Lango stands out with the highest proportion of respondents (25 percent) reporting a distance of more than 10 kilometers - well above the overall average of 10 percent. In contrast, Luuka and Kamuli districts have the lowest percentages, at 4 percent and 5 percent respectively, indicating relatively better access. When asked who finds it easier to access farm inputs, 38 percent of respondents said men, while 53 percent believed access was equal for both men and women. In Busoga South, only 26 percent felt that women were at a disadvantage.

3.5 Access to financial services and credit

A total of 33 percent of the respondents used some kind of formal financial services in 2024, ranging from 25 percent in Lango to 42 percent in Busoga North. Most popular are savings at 24 percent. Looking at farm size, the data reveals that the smaller households have less access to formal financial services – at only 27 percent for micro-farm households compared to 39 percent for small-farm households. In all aspects, the smaller ones make less use of financial services. Female-headed households also have less access to formal financial services compared to maleheaded households – 29 percent and 34 percent respectively.

Table 14Type of formal financial service accessed by SHF in 2024 (N:1,100)

	Busoga North	Busoga South	Lango	Grand total
Formal loan product	3%	6%	2%	4%
Bank account	4%	2%	3%	3%
Mobile banking	17%	4%	8%	10%
Formal savings product	34%	22%	17%	24%
Other services	2%	4%	2%	3%
No formal financial services	58%	69%	75%	67%
Use of formal financial services	42%	31%	25%	33%

For those receiving a loan (including informal loans), most SHFs mentioned their VSLA as provider. The graph below highlights the significance of VSLAs as a source of loans, particularly in comparison to MFIs, banks, and SACCOs. Notably, 57 percent of households in Lango reported receiving a loan through a VSLA. In contrast, the proportion of households in Lango – and in other regions – accessing loans from formal financial institutions remains minimal.

The primary barriers to formal credit include administrative requirements such as land title or other forms of collateral, documented income, and having an active bank account. From the borrower's perspective, a loan from a VSLA is much more flexible, without time-consuming administrative hurdles, and is easier to pay back.

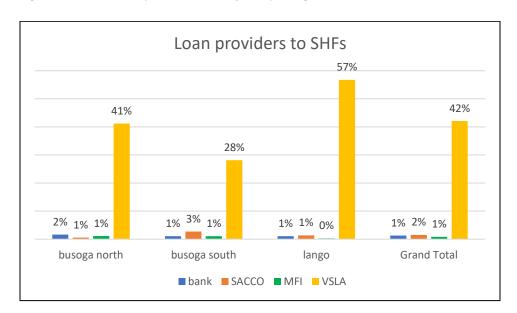


Figure 18 Loan providers used by SHF per region (N:1,100)

3.6 Access to information

Respondents were asked to identify their main sources of farming information—both on technology and market developments. The data reveal a strong reliance on traditional media such as television and radio, as well as informal personal networks, including neighbours and friends. Cooperatives play a minimal role, with only 1 percent of respondents citing them as a source of information. In Busoga South, more than a quarter of respondents reported having no significant source of farming information, while in Busoga North, community meetings appear to serve as an important information hub.

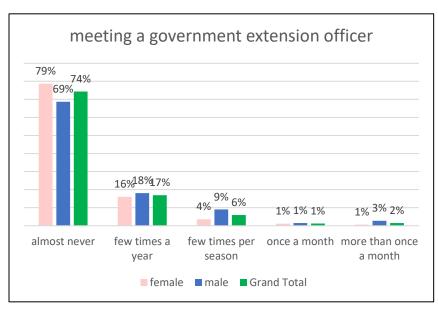
Table 15 Main sources of information of SHF per region (N:1,100

	Busoga North	Busoga South	Lango	Overall
Community meetings	18%	9%	11%	13%
Extension worker	13%	10%	12%	12%
Radio and television	49%	33%	54%	45%

Cooperative and farmer groups	1%	2%	1%	1%
Own reading	14%	3%	3%	7%
NGO	3%	17%	6%	9%
Friends and neighbours	58%	34%	44%	45%
Own experience	0%	2%	4%	2%
No source	14%	27%	19%	20%

Extension workers are another important source of information. These include government-employed extension officers at both district and sub-county levels, as well as agents affiliated with cooperatives or private companies. Despite their presence, the proportion of respondents citing them as a source of information is relatively low. Data show that 74 percent of respondents had (almost) never interacted with a government extension officer. Female respondents were less likely than male respondents to have met with one. However, there was no significant difference between micro- and smallholder farmers in terms of contact with extension officers.

Figure 18: Experience meeting a government extension worker, by gender (N:1,100)



versus 40 percent).

When asked for whom it is more difficult to access information, 41 percent of respondents said it is more difficult for women to access information compared to men. 51 percent of respondents said there is no difference. Interestingly, more male than female respondents answered it was more difficult for women to access information (43 percent

3.7 Access to water for irrigation

Almost all respondents said they depend on rainfall for watering the plants, at 92 percent. Only a few individuals succeeded in having an irrigation system: sprinkler (3 individuals), gravity (2 individuals) and furrow irrigation (2 individuals). Seven percent of respondents reported watering their plants by using a bucket. Of those 84 households that report also using sources other than rainwater, 40 percent take water from a borehole, 35 percent from a stream or lake, and 15 percent from a shallow well.

3.8 Farm practices

Households were asked about their use of farm inputs and farming practices. The table below presents the application rates across the three regions, showing generally modest variation—though some notable differences exist. For example, the reuse of seeds from previous harvests in Lango is only half as common as in the other regions, while the use of manure is particularly low in Lango. In contrast, households in Busoga South report higher use of inorganic fertilizers compared to the other areas.

Table 16 SHF farm inputs and farm practices by region (N:1,100)

	Busoga North	Busoga South	Lango	Total
Application of farm inputs				
High-yielding seeds	23%	32%	29%	28%
Quick-maturing seeds	16%	14%	10%	13%
Drought resistant seeds	10%	14%	16%	14%
Using seeds previous harvest	43%	41%	22%	36%
Inorganic fertilizer	8%	25%	9%	14%
Manure of own animals	17%	18%	6%	14%
Manure bought	2%	2%	2%	2%
Natural pesticides	1%	1%	0%	1%
Compost	1%	8%	1%	3%
Farm practices				
Agroforestry	36%	23%	6%	21%
Crop rotation	73%	22%	86%	60%

Burning crop residues	22%	7%	9%	13%
Intercropping	84%	80%	26%	63%
Improved weeding	31%	5%	10%	15%
Zero-tillage	9%	4%	2%	5%
Grass bunds	0%	1%	4%	1%
Trenches	7%	8%	1%	5%
Contour farming	0%	1%	0%	0%
Mulching	44%	14%	12%	23%
Rainwater harvesting	2%	2%	1%	2%
Total	364	366	370	1,100

Among all sustainable farming practices, intercropping and crop rotation are the most widely applied, at 63 percent and 60 percent respectively. Some practices listed in the table - such as contour farming and grass bunds - are likely to be more beneficial in hilly areas.

The following table provides further insight into the specific crops that are intercropped, highlighting only those with an occurrence of 10 percent or more.

Table 17 Crops for intercropping by region (N:1,100)

	maize	beans	cassava	coffee	banana	soya	groundnuts	sunflower	simsim
Busoga North	Beans (10%) Cassava (34%) Soya (15%	Maize (52%) Cassava (16%)	Maize (55%)			Maize (75%) Cassava (13%)	Maize (60%) Cassava (16%)		
Busoga South	Beans (59%) Soya (13%)	Maize (85%) Cassava (10%)	Beans (21%) Maize (49%)	Maize (11%) Groundnuts (42%) Other crops (16%)	Coffee (52%)				
Lango	Beans (12%)	Maize (17%)							Maize (10%)
% of inter- cropping	61%	75%	51%	79%	76%	83%	76%	94%	18%

3.9 Processing

Twenty-eight percent of respondents reported processing one or more of the crops they produce. In Lango, however, crop processing is significantly less common, with only 6 percent of households engaging in value addition. The most commonly processed crops – though still at relatively low levels – are cassava (25 percent), maize and groundnuts (22 percent each), and coffee (16 percent). For cassava, processing typically involves drying, chipping, or milling; for maize, drying and milling are most common; while for other crops, processing generally consists of drying only.

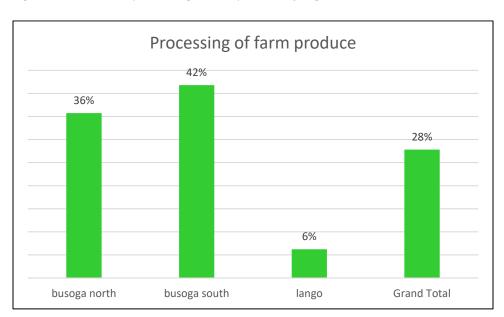
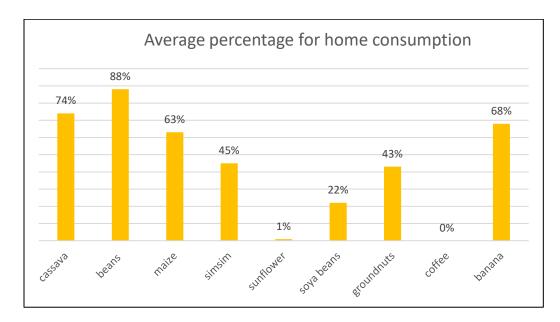


Figure 19 SHF processing of farm produce by region (N:1,100)

3.10 Sales

Almost all respondents reported selling some of their produce at the market, with only 2 percent stating they did not engage in any sales. Among the nine major crops grown in the project area, only coffee and sunflower are produced almost exclusively for the market, with negligible home consumption. In contrast, beans had the highest rate of home consumption at 88 percent, followed by cassava (74 percent), banana (68 percent), and maize (63 percent). For all other crops – aside from coffee and sunflower – households typically retained a portion for home use.

Figure 20 Average percentage of produce kept for home consumption (N:1,100)



The low level of commercialisation (where households produce primarily for the market) is closely linked to low production levels. Farmers are discouraged from investing in external inputs due to a combination of factors: limited market access, low prices for their produce, and high input costs. These constraints reduce incentives to scale up production and hinder the transition toward more market-oriented farming.

Table 18 Percentage of produce kept for home consumption by crops and district (N:1,100)

	Alebtong	Amolatar	Buyende	Kaliro	Kamuli	Luuka	Overall
cassava	65%	78%	62%	67%	88%	92%	74%
beans	73%	79%	75%	85%	90%	94%	88%
maize	39%	41%	50%	60%	88%	90%	63%
simsim	68%	31%					45%
sunflower	1%	7%					1%
soya beans			27%	20%			22%
groundnuts			30%	58%			43%
coffee					0%	0%	0%
banana					68%	69%	68%

For produce sold, most sales went through a trader at the farm gate (57 percent). Selling produce at the local market and to a trader at the trading center was the main point of sales for 34 percent of the respondents. Few made use of an agent (10 percent), and hardly anyone sold to a cooperative. There are notable regional differences in where farmers sell their produce. In Lango, the village agent model is relatively common, with 27 percent of respondents identifying it as an important point of sale. Local markets are also significant in Lango, with 76 percent mentioning them – compared to just 4 percent in Busoga South. In contrast, farm gate trading dominates in Busoga South and North, where 87 percent and 74 percent of households respectively sell directly from their farms.



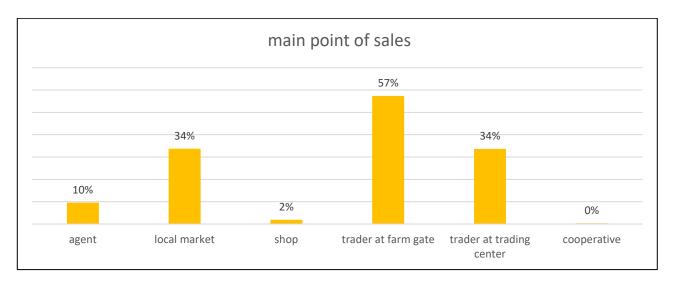


Table 14: Main sources of information (N:1,100)

	Busoga North	Busoga South	Lango	Overall
agent	2%	0%	27%	10%
local market	21%	4%	76%	34%
shop	1%	1%	4%	2%
trader at farm gate	74%	87%	11%	57%
trader at trading center	32%	12%	56%	34%
cooperative	0%	1%	0%	0%
not selling	1%	6%	1%	2%
Grand Total	364	366	370	1,100

For those households selling products, 43 percent said the distance to the most common point of sale was within 2 kilometers and only 5 percent said it was more than 10 kilometers. There are significant geographical differences: for Busoga South 88 percent of the respondents mentioned their main point of sale closer than 2 kilometers; for Lango and Busoga North it was only 19 percent and 22 percent respectively.

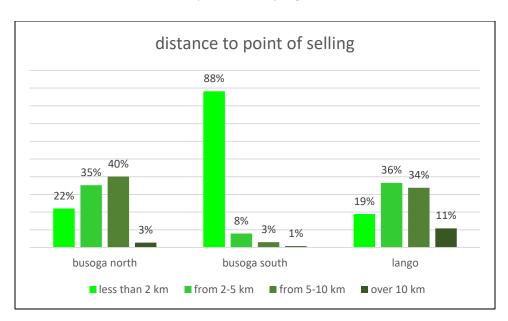
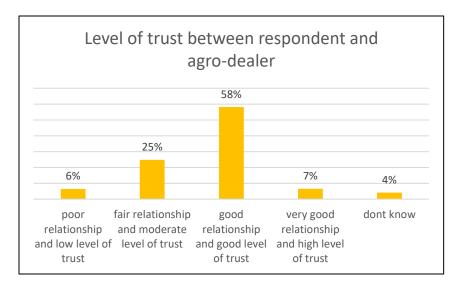


Table 19 SHF distance to point of sale by region (N:1,100)

Group selling of produce is very rare. Only 2 percent of respondents reported selling as a group, and even then, only for part of their produce. Where collective selling did occur, it was mostly through informal groups. Cooperatives were not mentioned by any respondents as the channel through which they sell their produce.

Respondents were asked about to what extent they trusted their agro-dealers and companies they dealt with in the market. The Data showed that a majority consider their relationship good and trust the agro-dealer (65 percent). Only 6 percent of the respondents considered their relationship and level of trust as poor.

Figure 22 Level of trust with agro-dealers (N:1,100)



3.11 Income

The study collected net income data from agriculture, livestock production, and other incomegenerating activities. Income from agriculture was collected by cropping season, whereas animal production on a monthly basis. Annual household income was calculated using these inputs, resulting in an average of UGX 3,440,000 per year. Busoga North recorded the highest average income at UGX 4,060,000 - approximately UGX 900,000 more than households in Lango and Busoga South. Smallholder farmers with less than 2 acres earned UGX 2.6 million annually, compared to UGX 4.3 million for those with 2 to 10 acres. Notably, female-headed households reported significantly lower incomes - 43 percent less than male-headed households! In below graphs the total annual income and the percentage below 1 million UGX are presented by region, farm size and head of household.



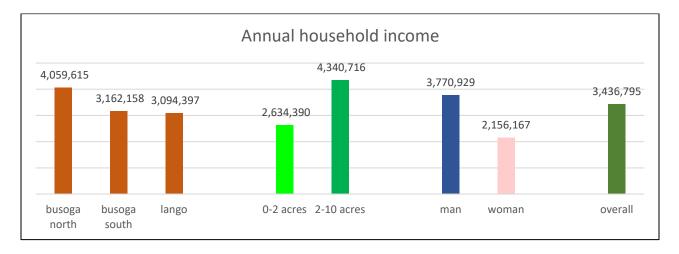
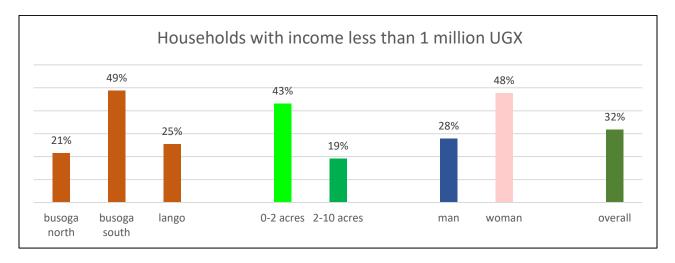


Figure 24 Household with annual income less 1 million UGX by region, farm size and gender of head (N:1,100)



The data show that the highest percentages of households earning less than UGX 1 million per year are found in Busoga South, among those with less than 2 acres of land, and among female-headed households. When focusing on income from agriculture alone, the disparity becomes even more pronounced: 59 percent of farmers with less than 2 acres earned under UGX 250,000 in the last season, compared to only 28 percent of those with more than 2 acres. For livestock production and other business activities, this income gap is significantly smaller.



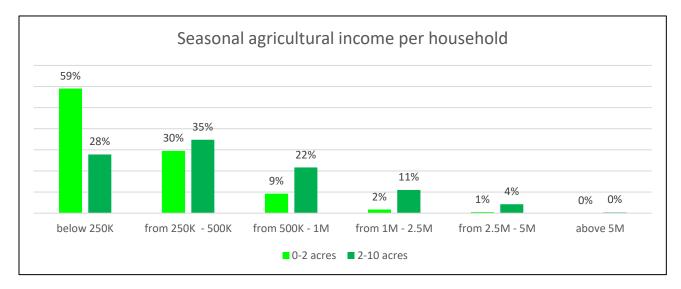
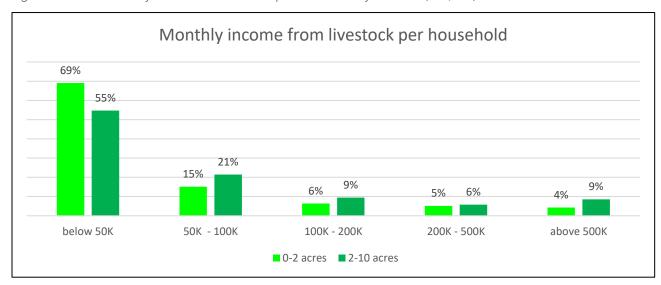


Figure 26 Monthly income from livestock per household by farm size (N:1,100)



The relative share of agriculture in the total household income is presented in Figure 27. Not all members of the household are equally engaged in agriculture. Households may have family members working in major cities and receive remittances from them. Income from poultry, livestock and other businesses were also shown to be an important source. The study shows that these other businesses often consist of jobs like shopkeeping, brickmaking, hairdressing, boda-

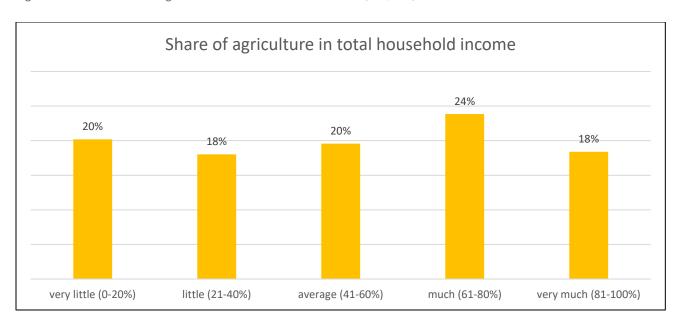


Figure 27 Share of agriculture in total household income (N:1,100)

So far, we have excluded home consumption of the produce of the household as part of the calculated income. In the following paragraphs the value of home consumption will be discounted into the calculated income.

Value of home consumption

A significant share of the produce of cassava, beans and maize are consumed by the household. For the other crops for which data were collected (banana, simsim and groundnuts), home consumption is high as well, 68%, 43% and 45% respectively. Coffee and sunflower are not consumed at home, where soya beans scores 22% home consumption.

	Alebtong	Amolatar	Buyende	Kaliro	Kamuli	Luuka	Overall
cassava	65%	78%	62%	67%	88%	92%	74%
beans	73%	79%	75%	85%	90%	94%	88%
maize	39%	41%	50%	60%	88%	90%	63%

For the calculation of the shadow price (or value of produce) for the produce consumed, we have taken the price the farmers received for the produce sold. In case they hadn't sold anything, the average sales price of the commodity for the specific district has been taken, since prices vary between the districts significantly.

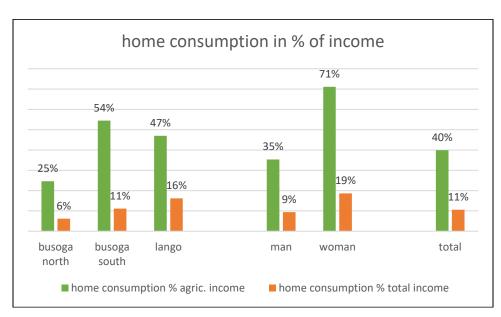


Figure 28 Home consumption as percentage of income by region and gender of head of household (N:1,100)

The value of home consumption is high, reaching even 71% for female-headed households, with an average of 40%. The percentage is likely to be much higher since only the shadow price of three crops could be calculated. It is likely that the percentage is 40% to 50% higher, considering that most of the banana produce, and a main share of groundnuts are excluded from the calculation and that we were only using the figures of one season. The conclusion is that the importance of agricultural production is much higher than its share in total household income suggests. The contribution of agriculture to feed the household is large, especially for female-headed households and micro-farmers, i.e. 71% and 49%.

Table 20 Importance of home consumption measured as percentage of income by region (N: 1,100)

	Busoga north	Busoga south	Lango	Total
total average annual income	4,059,615	3,162,158	3,094,397	3,436,795
home consumption maize	112,812	115,004	108,475	112,079
home consumption cassava	123,413	127,955	362,813	200,255

	Busoga north Busoga south		Lango	Total
home consumption beans	14,732	110,026	30,176	51,581
home consumption total	250,956	352,985	501,464	363,914
home consumption % of agric.	25%	54%	47%	40%
home consumption % of total income	6%	11%	16%	11%

4 Challenges and Plans

4.1 Challenges in agricultural production

Respondents were asked to identify the major challenges affecting their agricultural production. As shown in Table 21, pests and diseases are the most commonly cited issue, mentioned by 70 percent of households. Water shortages and droughts follow closely, with 67 percent citing them as a significant constraint. Low soil fertility is also a major concern, reported by 47 percent of respondents – an unexpectedly high figure considering the very limited adoption of fertilizers, as discussed earlier. Interestingly, poor seed quality and the prevalence of fake inputs – frequent topics in discussions with farmers and agricultural officials – ranked relatively low in the survey results. Field observations suggest that poor germination is not always due to seed quality but often stems from improper handling and field practices.

Poor Markets

Lack of markets for produce is a problem to more SHFs in Lango than elsewhere: affecting 36 percent in Lango compared to 3 percent in Busoga South and 16 percent in Busoga North. High costs of inputs are a challenge to 66 percent in Lango, about twice as high as in other regions. The low market prices for SHF produce in Lango – indicated by more than half of the respondents – make profitable farming more challenging. The physical distance to the market and lack of adequate infrastructure, were reported as important factors.

Table 21 Main challenges facing SHFs (N:1,100)

	Busoga North	Busoga South	Lango	Grand total	
High costs of inputs	35%	29%	66%	43%	
Land shortage	28%	26%	24%	26%	

	Busoga North	Busoga South	Lango	Grand total
Fake inputs	7%	10%	12%	10%
Low soil fertility	61%	52%	28%	47%
Pests and diseases	79%	63%	69%	70%
Lack of markets for produce	16%	3%	36%	19%
Soil erosion & degradation	11%	1%	3%	5%
Water shortage & droughts	70%	58%	72%	67%
Weeds	56%	53%	40%	50%
Water accumulation & rainfall	13%	9%	8%	10%
Poor quality seeds	24%	21%	27%	24%
Labour shortage	10%	3%	24%	13%
Post-harvest losses	13%	5%	30%	16%
Low price produce	19%	9%	54%	27%
Grand Total	364	366	370	1,100

Labour shortages

Labour shortage was initially mentioned by only 13 percent of respondents as a key challenge, with the highest proportion in Lango at 24 percent. However, when the issue was explored further in discussions, a significantly higher percentage (45 percent) acknowledged labour shortages as a problem. This concern was particularly pronounced among respondents in Lango and those with more than 2 acres of land, with 65 percent and 58 percent respectively identifying it as a major constraint.

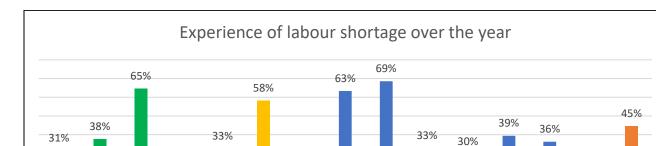


Figure 29 Experience of labour shortage over the year by region, farm size and district (N:1,100)

0-2

2.01-10

Labour shortages are most common during land preparation, weeding and harvesting of crops.

alebtong amolatar buyende kaliro

kamuli

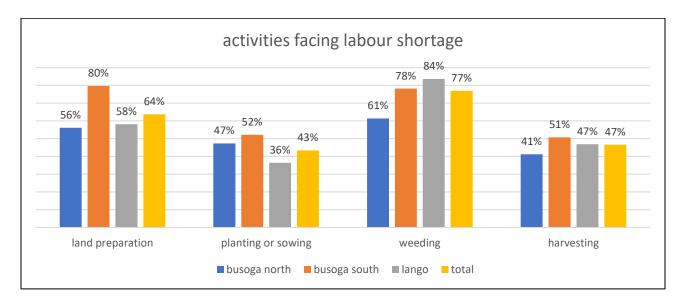
overall

busoga

south

busoga north

Figure 30 Activities for which SHF are facing labour shortages by region (N:1,100)



For animal keeping, the percentage of respondents indicating labour shortages was much less, with only 14 percent of respondents reporting an issue, with notably Lango higher at 33 percent.

Food insecurity

Food insecurity was highest in Lango: 29 percent of all respondents indicated that the household had not enough food for six months or more. For Amolatar District the figure was even higher at 32 percent. In other districts, the food security situation appears significantly better, with 0 percent, 1 percent, and 2 percent of respondents in Luuka, Buyende, and Kaliro respectively reporting severe food insecurity. Female-headed households show slightly higher levels of food insecurity: 8 percent reported not having enough food in almost all months, compared to 4 percent among male-headed households.

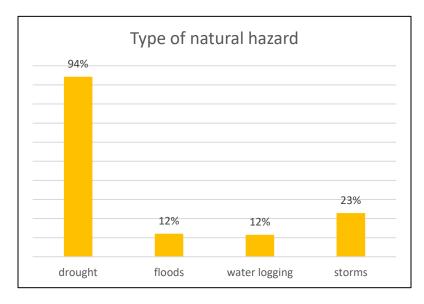
Table 22 SHF reporting food insecurity by District (N:1,100)

	Alebtong	Amolatar	Buyende	Kaliro	Kamuli	Luuka	Overall
Not enough in almost all months	10%	15%	1%	2%	6%	0%	5%
Not enough in about half of the months	18%	17%	5%	4%	4%	6%	9%
Not enough in some months	59%	51%	42%	52%	46%	38%	49%
Enough food in almost all months	14%	18%	52%	41%	44%	57%	37%
Total	281	89	202	162	170	196	1,100

Climate-related disasters

Households were asked whether they had experienced any natural disasters in the previous 5 years. Out of 1,100 respondents 91% confirmed to have been impacted by climate-related natural disasters, with minimal variation across the regions. Common types of disasters reported include prolonged droughts, floods, storms and waterlogging. Droughts were mentioned by most households at 94 percent, and without variation between the regions. Waterlogging (12 percent overall) is more common in Busoga North and Lango, with Buyende at 19 percent and Amolatar at 25 percent. Storms were reported to be more prevalent in Busoga North compared to other regions, with Buyende at 39 percent and Kaliro at 33 percent.





Households were asked how they coped with the immediate impact of these hazards. The majority – 79 percent – did not take any action, either because they did not feel the need or lacked the capacity to respond. Only 10 percent felt an urgent need to change their farming practices. Some households resorted to selling assets such as livestock or land (8 percent) or taking

a loan (6 percent) to cope. There were no significant differences in responses by region, district, or land size. However, female-headed households were less likely to act, with 83 percent reporting no short-term response.

Respondents were asked whether they had adjusted their farm practices to be less vulnerable to potential natural hazards. Farm diversification was mentioned by 22 percent of the respondents, with those in Busoga South scoring highest at 29 percent. Busoga South also scored highest in adopting agro-forestry practices, at 26 percent). In contrast, only 5 percent of the respondents in Lango reported to have taken agro-forestry measures. Other possibilities such as irrigation, water

and soil management, change of seeds had few reported adopters. 62 percent of the respondents did not change any of their farm practices. 70 percent of the female-headed households were not taking any measures or doing things differently, compared to 60 percent for male-headed households.

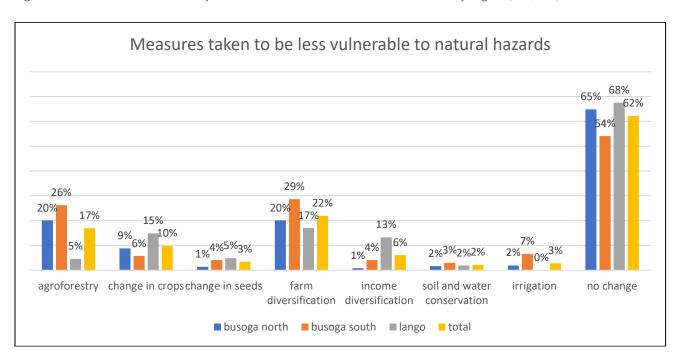


Figure 31 Measures taken by SHF to be less vulnerable to natural hazards by region (N:1,100)

Gender inequality and limited power of micro and smallholder farmers

The baseline study reveals a perceived disparity in access to credit, land, farm inputs, and output markets between men and women. Findings from the Markets for Youth gender and inclusion study suggest that similar perceived and actual disparities affect young people and persons with disabilities. Although the primary focus of this baseline was on households, respondents were asked whether men and women – and in some cases, smallholder farmers – have equal access to key agricultural resources. Where possible, data were disaggregated by household head, showing that female-headed households consistently score lower on many indicators compared to maleheaded households.

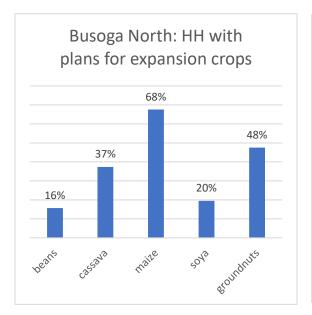
A complete analysis of gender equality and social inclusion with a prime focus on SHFs is presented in the project's GESI report.

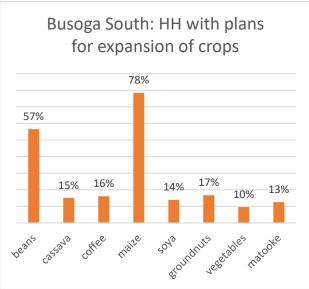
4.2 Plans for expansion

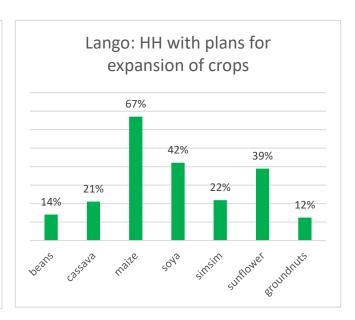
Respondents were asked whether they had plans to increase the production of specific crops or the number of animals they keep. For livestock, 9 percent of respondents indicated plans to expand, with no significant difference between male and female headed households. However, regional variation was evident: respondents in Busoga South were about twice as likely to plan for herd expansion compared to those in Lango and Busoga North: 13 percent versus 9 percent and 5 percent, respectively. When it comes to crop production, interest in expansion was nearly universal, with fewer than 1 percent (only six respondents) reporting no plans to increase crop production.

Expansion of crops

Figures 30, 31, 32: Plans for expansion of crops by region





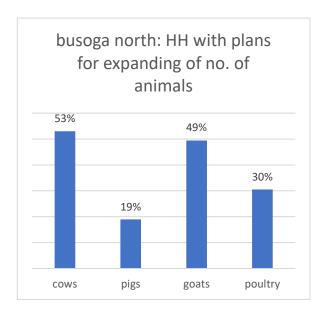


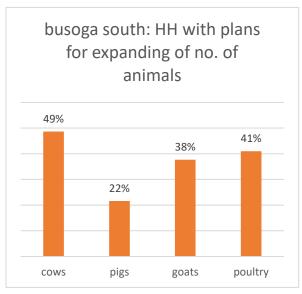
Maize appeals to most respondents as the crop to invest in. Beans scores high in Kamuli, and oil seeds (soya and sunflower) in Lango. Groundnuts and cassava are most popular in Busoga North.

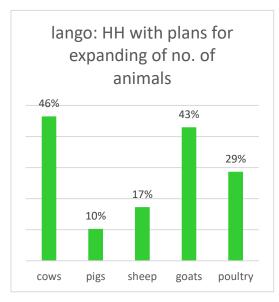
Expansion of heads of animals

Cows are the most popular animal to invest in among reposndents (49 percent) with goats as second most popular (23 percent). A significantly higher percentage of male-headed households reported plans to invest in cows compared to female-headed households—52 percent versus 39 percent. In contrast, poultry attracted more investment interest from female-headed households, with 37 percent indicating plans to invest, compared to 32 percent of male-headed households.

Figures 33, 34, 35: Plans for expansion of number of animals by region







5 Conclusions and recommendations