



THE IMPACT OF COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENTS ON THE PASTORAL COMMUNITIES IN UGANDA: A CASE OF KARAMOJA SUB-REGION

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ABSTRACT

Land grabbing has been an issue in very many places in Uganda Karamoja sub-region in particular, this is largely brought about by government in a bid to attract foreign investment. Land grabbing has happened in very many places in Uganda affecting especially the pastoralists whose land rights are customary. The purpose of the study was to determine the impact of commercial agricultural investments on the pastoral communities of Karamoja sub-region. Data was collected using the interview guide for focus group discussion and interviews. A population of pastoralists and agricultural officers both males and females took part in the study. Agricultural officers from the district were interviewed and focus group discussions were held among pastoralists. The data gathered was analyzed making use of qualitative content analysis. It was discovered that pastoralists in Karamoja sub-region encountered challenges as a result of commercial agricultural investments in their areas. Some of the findings included; forced settlement, loss of grazing land, loss of cultural heritage, death of animals, low yields of animal products to mention but a few. From the study, it was concluded that commercial agricultural investments affect to a large extent negatively the pastoral communities of Karamoja sub-region. The following recommendations were made: that Government should act quickly to design, move a bill, enact and enforce a law to protect pastoral communities who own land under customary tenure system. Pastoral communities should be mobilized into communal land associations to defend their land rights and livelihood and should be adequately compensated and resettled.

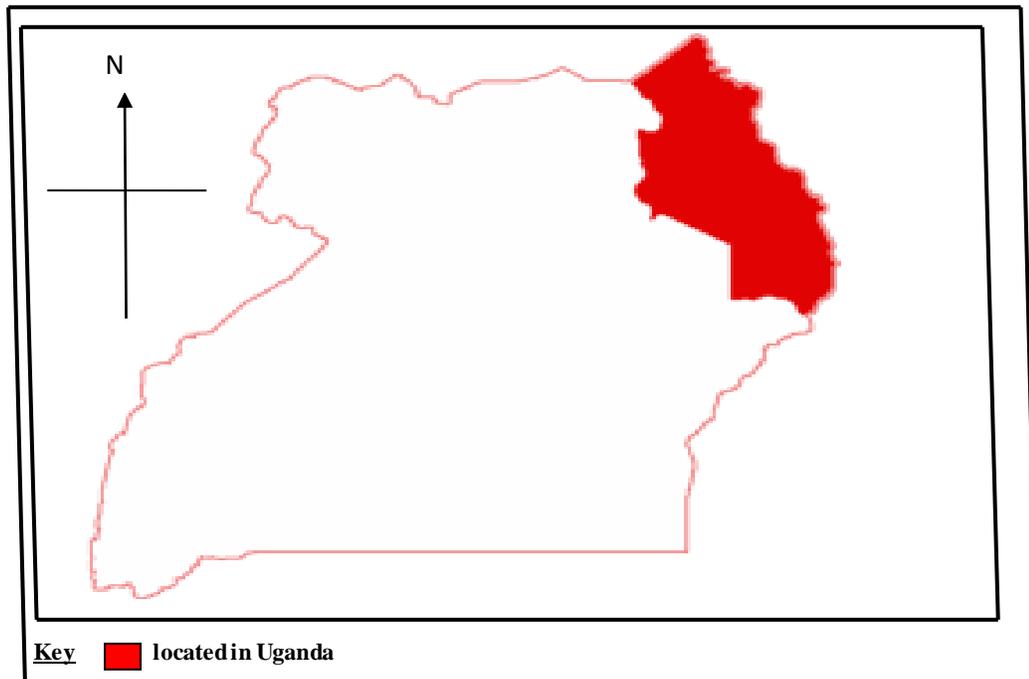
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INTRODUCTION

The existing commercial Agricultural investments seem not to benefit pastoral communities in Karamoja sub-region in Uganda. This was viewed from at least four perspectives, namely; the historical, theoretical, conceptual and contextual or study context (Bakkabulindi, 2004: 37 – 38).

Historical perspective

Karamoja region is located in the north east of Uganda between longitudes 33-35 East and latitude 1-4 North. It comprises seven districts; Nakapiripiriti, Moroto, Kotido, kaabongo Abim, Napak and Amudat district (Office of the Prime Minister, 2009).



Source: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (2013)

The region is bordered by Kenya to the east and Sudan to the north: the internal neighbouring districts are Katakwi, Kapchorwa, Kumi, Kitigmu, Lira, Pader and Sironko. The sub-region covers 27,511sq km, with a population of 1,017,400 (UBOS 2007 population programme). The Karamoja sub-region suffers the highest poverty levels about the national average in the country, with 70% of the total population living below the poverty line (UNDP, Human Development Report Uganda, 2007). The sub-region is semi arid with the majority of the population leading of pastoral or agro- pastoral lifestyle.

Karamoja is chronically food-insecure. It is characterized by generally low rainfall distribution, reliability and soil fertility. This influences the type of activities and determines the livelihoods in the sub-region. The sub-region has been affected by consecutive years of crop failure and low livestock productivity due to below normal weather conditions. Unlike the rest of the country, with two rainy seasons and two planting seasons, Karamoja has one rainy season and one planting season, (O.P.M, 2009).

Cyclical droughts and erratic rainfall have affected crop productivity and pasture for livestock in the sub-region, thereby having a direct negative effect on the livelihood of the population. The extended dry spells extend pressure on water availability in most parts of the sub-region, with average distance to water for livestock at four (4) kilometers. Since 2007, the sub-region's livestock which is an integral element of food security has been decimated by diseases from a paste de petites ruminants, and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, while staple crops such as sorghum have been hard hit by crop fungus.

The sub-region suffers severe environmental degradation, poor infrastructures and high prevalence of diseases such as malaria and diarrhea among children, poor health practices, and poor sanitation conditions. Coupled with high poverty levels, the situation has eroded people's coping capacity, leaving them a precarious vulnerability state, (O.P.M, 2009). However, the explanation of the Office of the Prime Minister falls short in explaining the impact of commercial agricultural investment on the pastoral communities of Karamoja sub-region thus the urgency of this study.

In 2011, the Karamoja sub-region was the site of an important fossil discovery. Paleontologists discovered the remains of Uganda pithecus major, a 20 million year old ancestor of present day primates.

“It is a highly important fossil and it will certainly put Uganda on the map in terms of the scientific worlds” Said Martin pick ford, one of the researcher involved in the discovery (BBC News 2 August, 2011).

The southern districts of Moroto, Nakapiripiriti and Napak, are inhabited largely by the Nilotic Karamojong ethnic group, which consists of three clans: Mathaniko, Nokora and Pian. The Tepetu are found in Moroto district and in Nepak Mountains, and there are said to be a few of the original inhabitants, the Oropom in the region. The Pokot live in Amudat district, neighboring Kenya and also reside across the border in Kenya. Kotido district largely inhabited by the jie as Kaabong district by the Dodoth (ordodoso), together with the few Ik (aka Teuso) .Abim district is inhabited by the Ethur, comprising the Jabwor in the north as in the south. The name Karimajong while strictly belonging to the southern clans of Matheniko, Bakora and Pian, is applied to the Jie and Dodoth due to the similarities in the language and culture. (Stokes, 2009).

Significant numbers of the people of Karamojong belong to and attend both the Catholic and Anglican churches. There has been a small population of Moslem Karamajong people for several decades particularly around Moroto. Many especially those who did not attend school, retain their traditional religious beliefs, and for some Christians or Muslims is something of a veneer over this. (Katalemwa et al., 2005).

Theoretical perspective

Modernization theory observes traditions and pre-existing institutions of primitive societies as obstacles to modern economic growth. Modernization which is forced upon a society might induce violation and radical change, but according to modernization theorists this is generally worth it. Critics point to traditional being destroyed and slipping away to a modern form of poverty without ever gaining the promised advantages of modernization (Peter, 2013). Aarts (2009) theorizes that, Land grabbing is currently a big challenge for African countries because of increased interest by foreign agricultural investors to acquire massive piece of land in rural Africa, though the land dispossession of rural African communities date back to colonial and post independence eras, land grabbing has intensively picked pace since the global crisis of 2007 – 2008. Cotula (2009) adds that, generally countries short of agricultural land supply are looking elsewhere, particularly to Africa, in order to meet their agricultural needs. Though many land deals involving foreign investors are arguably legal, in most cases, rural communities are dispossessed of land that they have routinely used for ages in order to accommodate domestic policy decisions promoting foreign agricultural investments. FIAN (2009) note that, there is also evidence that the validity of some contracts directly entered into between foreign investors and rural communities has been in doubt. This largely therefore merits labeling many of the land deals as “land grabbing” Pastoralists have been affected by investors pursuing hunting/ tourism interests that are known to have destabilized pastoralist communities. The investors from rich countries trying to secure their own food supplies have the potential to undermine the food security of the countries hosting investments thus pastoralists being the marginalized group are threatened by land grabbing.

Conceptual perspective

Cotula (2009) conceptualizes commercial agriculture as a large-scale production of crops for sale, intended for widespread distribution to wholesalers or retail outlets. In commercial farming crops such as wheat, maize, tea, coffee, sugarcane, rubber, banana, cotton harvests are sold into world market. Commercial agriculture includes livestock production and livestock grazing. Operationally, commercial agriculture in this study meant a progression from diversified farming where farmer’s intention is to produce goods for sale primarily for widespread consumption by others.

According to Andrew (1996) pastoralism refers to a stage in the development of civilization between hunting and agriculture and also to away of life dependent on the herding of livestock. Operationally pastoralism in this study meant a branch of agriculture concerned with raising of livestock. This involves animals such as Camels, goats, cattle and sheep. According to Cotula (2009) Land grabbing is the continuous issue of large-scale land acquisition, the buying or leasing of large piece of land in developing

countries, by domestic and transnational companies, government, and individual. Operationally, in this study land grabbing meant land run (sometimes “land rush”) usually refers to an historical event in which previously restrictions from land are removed.

Contextual perspective

Most land in Uganda is owned under customary tenure system. The law recognizes customary ownership as being equal to ownership with freehold titles, and the landowners are entitled to the same compensation, whichever system of ownership they hold their land under (LEMU, 2009). Uganda has received a significant increase of investments, both domestic and foreign in agricultural sector. There are accusations of land grabbing in Karamoja sub-region. Although the government has in the recent past been praised for its intervention in Karamoja sub-region, complaints about land continue. It is claimed that over 6100 hectares of land measuring about 17500 acres located at Kimancharin and Moruita sub-counties in Nakapiripiriti district have been sold and leased to agricultural companies without the consent of the customary land rights owners. This has created challenges to the pastoral communities in Karamoja sub-region. Addressing politicians from the area at Moroto District headquarters on February 7th, 2012 the First lady and minister for Karamoja Affairs Janet Museveni was asked why land is dished out without its owner’s permission. “Why is our land being given out to dubious investors? You are our minister and we want answers from you and the Government,” said Matheniko county MP, Dr. John Baptist Lokii, amidst wild cheers from aggrieved crowd. Additionally he said that, the leaders insist Government and private investors induce local leaders and elders with money, food, trips and other petty goodies to have them sign give away contracts. The elders cannot read and write. They are just given small *posho* and *ajon* (a local brew) and told to thumb-print here and there. It is inhuman to exploit someone’s ignorance and lack of experience for self reasons. Ms Museveni said her office is not responsible for handling such cases and advised the region leaders to ask their local authorities and the minister of local Government!

The worry is that, the population is growing and over 67% of land in Karamoja has been given away to investors and only a small piece of land is remaining.(The observer,2012) Therefore it was important to find out whether commercial agricultural investments have an impact on the pastoral communities of Karamoja sub-region. This was more important considering the economic and social hardships that the ordinary and vulnerable groups were going through in the Karamoja sub-region. Thus pastoral communities in Karamoja sub-region should be provided with durable solutions to overcome the negative effects, caused by large-scale commercial agricultural investments in the region.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study was to establish the effect of commercial agricultural investments on the pastoral communities in Karamoja sub-region.

Specific objectives of the study included:

- To find out how commercial Agricultural investments affect pastoral communities in Karamojasub-region and
- To suggest sustainable strategies for mitigating negative impacts of commercial Agricultural investments on pastoral communities in Karamojasub-region.

Research questions:

- What is the effect of commercial Agricultural investments on the pastoral communities in Karamojasub-region?
- What kind of sustainable strategies for mitigation negative impacts of commercial Agricultural investments on the pastoral communities in Karamojasub-region?

It is hoped that, the findings will be useful in a number of ways; the findings will help the government to realize the negative impact of commercial agricultural investment on the pastoral communities in Karamoja sub region. The research will enable the government to come up with matching solutions on the negative effects of commercial agricultural investments in pastoral communities in Karamoja sub region.

In addition the people in the affected pastoral communities by commercial agricultural investments will be provided with durable solution to curb the likely negative impacts.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

In this study, an attempt was made to review the existing relevant literature to the study. It was reviewed along three major themes of the study: pastoralism, land grabbing and commercial agricultural investment. Although a number of researchers have conducted various studies on the above themes, few if not any have focused on the impact of commercial agricultural investments on pastoral communities in Karamoja sub-region.

Pastoralism

Pastoralism was created from mixed farming. Advantages of mixed farming include reducing risk, spreading labor, and re-utilizing resources. The importance, the advantages and disadvantages differ to the social-cultural preferences of the farmers and to the bio-physical conditions as determined by rainfall, radiation, soil type and diseases (Bates & less 1974). There is another theory that states pastoralism is created from hunting and gathering. Hunters of wild goats and sheep were knowledgeable of herd mobility and the need of the herd animals. Hunter gatherers were dependant on food for subsistence. Hunters of wild goats and sheep were mobile and ensured herd in their seasonal round. Undomesticated herds were nominated to become more controllable for the pastoralist nomadic hunters. Pastoralism occurs in uncultivated areas and wild animals eat the forage from marginal lands and humans survive from milk, blood, and often meat of the herds. Pastoralists do not exist at basic subsistence. Pastoralists often compile wealth and participate in international trade. Pastoralists have trade relations with agriculturalists, culturalists and other groups. (Moran & Emilio, 2006)

Pastoralists often use their herds to affect their environment. Pastoralism is found in many variations throughout the world. Composition of herds, management practices, social organization and all other aspects of pastoralism vary between areas and between social groups. Many traditional practices had also to adapt to the changing circumstances of modern world, including climatic conditions affecting the availability of grasses. Pastoralism is a successful strategy to support a population of less production land, and adapt well to the environment. For example in the savanna, pastoralists and their animals gather when rain water is abundant and the pasture is rich and scatter during the drying of the savanna. (Bates, 1998: 105)

Pastoralists occupy the semi-arid cattle corridor that sweeps across Uganda in an arc from Rwanda and Tanzania borders in the south west to the easter border with Kenya. The seven districts of Karamoja in the East are Uganda's least developed, with supportive government policies and important international development assistance (PENHA, 2007). Pastoralists live under harsh conditions of water scarcity, diseases and inadequate pasture they can only survive by shifting seasonally. Some pastoralists were faced into normadism years back after their land was gazetted into national parks like Queen Elizabeth, Kidepo and Lake Mburo. Traditionally, pastoralists had access to grazing resources and relative freedom of movement in the "cattle corridor" that sketched from southwest to northwest Uganda. With growing pressure on land, the pastoralists can no longer access the corridor. As a result, some pastoralists were forced to migrate to Tanzania and DR Congo in 1980s and 90s. Despite of the harsh conditions in which they live, pastoralists produce a considerable percentage of meat and milk consumed by Ugandans as well as the hides and skins from which our country earns foreign exchange. The pastoralists have not benefited form the government programs like National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) and Universal Primary Education (Samuel, 2011).

Karamojong cattle herders have practiced mobile pastoral system for a long time without moving great distances. Since the colonial periods, different Uganda governments have adopted anti-pastoralists policies leading the pastoralists to lose their land vital for survival of the herds on which they depend. Attempts to forcefully settle pastoralists have resulted in an anticipated social crisis, setting the stage for

an emerging conflict over the allocation and use of resources. All post independent governments have pursued policies similar to those of their predecessors. It was only after the National Resistance Movement (NRM) came to power in 1986 that attempts were made to address the root cause of the crisis in Karamoja (Muhereza, 2010).

There is need for the government to recognize the contribution of pastoralists to the economy and address their plight once and for all. In 2012, the government instituted a technical committee to draft a national policy on nomadic pastoralism that would address their problems in a sustainable manner but to-date the matter has not been concluded. The pastoralists are a voiceless minority that needs to be protected as stipulated in (Article 14 of the ILO Convention 1989). The convention singles out nomadic people and shifting cultivators as minority groups that need protection. As an advocate for their rights nomadic pastoralism is no longer attainable in Ugandan with a population growing at an annual rate of over 3%. The government should, therefore, expedite the process of enacting the policy and the necessary instruments that would address the plight of pastoralists. The policy should focus on creating incentives for the pastoralists to settle and engage in sustainable farming. Such incentives include; investment in the provision of water for livestock in dry areas, disease control and improvement of livestock market infrastructure (Samuel, 2011). However, it not yet established whether commercial agricultural investments have an impact on the pastoral communities of Karamoja sub-region

Land grabbing

“Land grabs” are now of the biggest issues in Africa. Over the past few years, companies and foreign governments have leased large areas of land in some of Africa’s poorest countries. Many commentators have raised concern that poor villages will be forced off their land and agri-business will marginalize family and yet land is central to the livelihoods of millions of people in Africa (BBC, 2012; 22 February). In many African countries, agriculture has suffered from years of neglect and investment is needed to improve productivity and market access but not all investment is good and growing evidence strongly indicate that large land deals are not the way to go. Many investments have failed due to insufficient soil fertility, financing difficulties and over ambitious business plans. For example, in Mozambique and Tanzania, some large bio fuels projects have now been abandoned. Even where investments are profitable, it is often difficult to see how they contribute to poverty reduction. The jobs created are few: short-lived and low-paid-and public revenues are limited by tax exemptions (BBC, 2012). Some of the world’s poorest people are losing the land, water and natural resources that have supported their livelihoods for generations.

In Uganda for example, 20,000 people claim to have been evicted from their land and legal cases are pending before courts of law. Not every deal is a “land grab” but for local people, the context in which the deals are being concluded tends to make negative out comes more likely. Many land deals are being negotiated without transparency and local consultations. In many parts of Africa, local farmers, herders and gatherers only have insecure legal rights to the land they see as theirs. Much land is owned by the state which can allocate it to out side investors even against local opposition (Eden, 2012).

While international law provides relatively effective protection for foreign investment, international Human Rights Law remains inaccessible and ineffective for people using land. This would be an unmitigated disaster for Africa if allowed to continue to any extent. The people who are buying/leasing the land have no interests in Africa only in growing food for their own use. These internationals are never friends of Africa. They will pollute and destroy African land with chemicals to ensure Africa rely on the West for food. Entering into land deals with companies has to be done carefully and with transparency as often more than not, the poor villagers are losing their land and other resources with nothing to sustain in the future. Many such land deals are done to benefit rich business houses in connivance with greedy and corrupt politicians at the cost of the villagers (Robert, 2012).

Research in Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Mozambique, Senegal and Tanzania indicate that land grabbing is currently a big challenge for African countries because of increased interests by foreign agricultural investors to acquire massive pieces of land in rural Africa. Though the land dispossession of rural Africa

communities dates back to colonial and post colonial era, land grabbing has intensively picked pace since the food crisis of 2007-2008 (Bouke 2009).

Land grabbing is a grave concern because land deals are affecting massive pieces of land. In most cases the land is not marginal as Government and investors have presented. Available evidence in 2009 indicated that land deals in Ethiopia involved an estimated 602760 hectares; in

Ghana, they affected 162580 hectares, The Mozambique Government is promoting the country as a southern African agro fuel hub and in 2007 alone, and agro fuel investors in Mozambique applied for rights to close to 5 million hectares in the country (FIAN, 2010).

In 2007, Senegal's minister of bio fuel and renewable energy confirmed that there were interests by investors to establish an irrigated agricultural zone ranging from 60,000 to 6,000,000 hectares for the production of ethanol in the country. In 2008, it was reported that investors in Tanzania were interested in producing biomass for either ethanol or bio-diesel on land measuring from 30,000 to 2,000,000 acres. Host African governments are playing a major role in enabling land grabbing, despite its great potential to side track African government from the goal of revitalizing

their agriculture for economic growth under the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). For example, Mali's government backed investments include a 100,000 hectares allocation to a subsidiary of a Sovereign wealth fund (SWF) based in Libya (Ngugi, 2009). Long ago, many rural African dwellers could boast of having land as the tangible asset that they could utilize in perpetuity, subject to traditional terms of use. Today, many livelihoods are insecure because it is quickly becoming lucrative for foreign agricultural investors to acquire pieces of land in Africa. However, the irony is that this interest in foreign agricultural investments seems to have little or nothing to do with addressing the acute need for investments in small scale farming at national level (Aarts, 2009). Though the land in the respective sub-Saharan countries is formally owned by the state, governments are aiding and abetting the grabbing of land that is in practice used by members of rural community. Alternatively, they are active land grabbers of such land themselves.

The latter situation applies to regional governments or organizations that are acquiring land in other African countries, as well as national governments that are pursuing eviction policies that are essentially grabbing land for rural minorities (Cutula, 2009). However, the researcher contends that in their analyses, they underestimated the effect of commercial agricultural investments on the pastoral communities in Karamoja sub-region.

Commercial agricultural investments

Growing pressure on land, for instance due to accelerated growth in land – poor and population rich countries, urbanization, climate change or the production of non food crops, leads to growing interests of governmental and private sectors in fertile land. Investors originate from industrialized countries as well as land poor Asian and middle – eastern countries, while African countries constitute important target areas. Even though large scale agricultural investment, is increasingly present in the public debate, surprisingly little is known on the nature and consequences of land deals (John, 2012).

In the early decades of development in 1960s, some developing countries had already initiated large scale agricultural projects to produce food and cash crops. This approach soon faced criticisms on the ground that it would marginalize smaller producers. Attention then shifted to preaching small-scale rural development approach which was nothing more than encouraging farmers to do things in traditional ways: organic farming, agro-forestry, and small irrigation scheme among others. As time progressed and the world population growing the demand for food, energy and other necessities increased (Getachew, 2012). During the recent global food crisis, many admitted that smaller hold farmers were too poor to feed themselves let alone producing enough to feed the growing population in the world. Africa, with a population less than that of India, is always regarded as a continent with abundant land resources, most of which not yet utilized for various reasons, such as environmental constraints and lack of technology, infrastructure and government policy support. In 1980's and 1990's, the world bank and IMF attempted to encourage African governments to support investment initiatives in agriculture and other resource

sectors in order to promote commodity export and enable Africa to participate in the global economy (John, 2012). Today international organizations like Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) have taken active steps to encourage investments in Africa, agriculture with the aim of increasing the production of food, bio fuel and industrial materials.

More importantly, the steep rise in food prices as its political consequences drove many countries to excess Africa in search of agricultural lands. However, critics argue that the idea of large scale investment is nothing more than another development fallacy that could once again end up marginalizing small producers and degrading the environment. Governments show no respect for customary land rights and so they expropriate land to pave way for large scale projects, often without proper compensation and designing alternative settlement. In short, the business of investment in the African agriculture in recent times has become referred to as “land grab”, “agrarian colonialism” and “land rush”, among others. However, their arguments fall short in explaining the effect of commercial agricultural investment on pastoral communities in Karamoja sub-region.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Karamoja sub-region. The study focused on the investigation of two major issues: the extent to which commercial agricultural investments affect pastoral communities in Karamoja sub-region and also to find out sustainable strategies for mitigating negative impacts of commercial agricultural investments in Karamoja sub-region. The respondents were pastoralists and agricultural officers from the District in Karamoja sub-region.

The survey research design was employed for purposes of the study. Bell (1993) argued that the survey is a method of research that describes what people see over and beyond. The method was therefore chosen because it was appropriate in situations like this research where descriptive information was required. This made the research largely qualitative as well. In this method, focus group discussion and interviews for key informants was used. One focus group discussion of about eight people was held in Kimacharin and another one of eight pastoralists in Moruita sub-county, in Nakapiripiriti district. Finally, the researcher manipulated the collected data for purpose of drawing conclusions that reflect on the interests, ideas, and theories that initiated the inquiry. The study targeted a population of pastoralists and agricultural officers. Convenient sampling was used and it comprised of 16 pastoralists and 10 agricultural officers. The study focused on people with knowledge and first hand experiences of the issues under the study. These were the people willing to take part in the study (Best, 2000). The researcher used the interview guide to the pastoralists and agricultural officers. These people were chosen because they were knowledgeable of the issues under the study. The data gathered was analyzed making use of qualitative content analysis. Main themes were then generated from the data analyzed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Effect of commercial agricultural investments on the pastoral communities in Karamoja sub-region

On the effect of commercial agricultural investments on pastoral communities in Karamoja sub-region, in a focus group discussion held at Kimacharin and Moruita sub-counties in Nakapiripiriti district on 1st to 2nd April 2013 respectively, pastoralists stated that their land was grabbed by the so called investors and now their movement is restricted which resulted into the deaths of their animals and low yields of animal products. The results were in agreement with Muhereza’s (2010), study in the literature review who contended that, Karamoja cattle herders have practiced mobile pastoral system for a long time without moving great distances. Since the colonial period, different Uganda governments have adopted anti-pastoralist policies leading to the pastoralists to lose their land vital for survival of the herds on which they depend. Similarly the finding also agreed with Eden’s (2012) study who mentioned that some of the world’s poorest people are losing their land, water and natural resources that have supported their

livelihoods for generations. In Uganda for example, 20000 people claim to have been evicted from their land and legal cases are pending before courts of law.

Interviewees reported that, pastoralists are forced to migrate in the areas where water and pasture is scarce; most of them lost their cultural heritage and their families are broken. The study was in agreement with Samuel's (2007) study who mentioned that pastoralists live under harsh conditions of water scarcity, diseases and inadequate pasture and they can only survive by shifting seasonally. Some pastoralists were forced into nomadism years back after their land was

gazette into national parks like Queen Elizabeth, Kidepo and Mbuho. Traditionally, pastoralists have excess to grazing resources and relative freedom of movement in the 'cattle corridor' that stretched from south west to northeast Uganda. With growing pressure on land, the pastoralists can no longer excess the corridor. As a result, some pastoralists were forced to migrate to Tanzania and Dr Congo in 1980 and 90s. Despite of the harsh conditions in which they live, pastoralists produce a considerable percentage of meat and milk consumed by Ugandans as well as the hides and skins from which our country earns foreign exchange. Similarly, the findings agreed with Muhereza (2010) who noted that, attempts to forcefully settlement pastoralists have resulted in an anticipated social crisis, setting the stage for an emerging conflicts over the allocation and use of resources. Given the views expressed by the above scholars and the findings of the current study. It is made clear that there is an effect exerted by commercial agricultural investments on the pastoral communities in Karamoja sub-region and therefore there is need for the government to recognized the contribution of pastoralists to the economy and address their plight once and for all.

Sustainable strategies for mitigating negative impacts of commercial agriculture investments on pastoral communities in Karamoja sub-region

On the sustainable strategies for mitigating negative effects of commercial agricultural investments on pastoral countries in Karamoja sub-region, in a focus group discussions held at Kimacharin and Moruita sub-counties in Nakapiripiriti district on 3rd April 2013 and 4th April 2013 respectively pastoralists reported that: government should put funding to provide durable solutions to curb the likely negative effects that have affected the livelihoods of pastoral communities in Karamoja sub-region. Also interviewees reported that Government should resettle the pastoral communities back to their land and compensate the so called investors. Additionally, they reported that, government should also seek information on other factors affecting pastoral communities in Karamoja sub region for example prolonged drought, insecurities related to civil wars, diseases and poverty. The results were in agreement with Samuel's (2011) study who noted that, there is need for the government to recognize the contribution of pastoralists to the economy and address their plight once and for all. In 2012, the government instituted a technical committee to draft a national policy on nomadic pastoralists that would address their problems in a sustainable manner but to-date the matter has not been concluded. The pastoralists are a voiceless minority that needs to be protected and stipulated in Article 14 of the ILO of convention (1989). The convention singles out nomadic people and shifting cultivators as minority groups that need protection. Given the view of the current study, the government of Uganda should enact the policy and necessary instruments that would address the plight of pastoralists in Karamoja sub-region.

CONCLUSION

1. This study revealed that pastoralists in Karamoja sub-region lost their land to the so called investors and then their movements was restricted which resulted into the deaths of their animals and low yields of animal products.
2. The study also concluded that pastoralists in Karamoja sub-region are forced to migrate in the areas where water and pasture is scarce.
3. It was also revealed that most pastoral communities in Karamoja sub-region lost their cultural heritage and their families have been broken.

4. The study results suggested that government should up funding to provide durable solutions to curb the likely negative effects that have threatened the livelihoods of pastoralist communities in Karamoja sub-region.
5. The study results, also suggested that Government should settle the pastoral communities back to their land and compensate the so called investors. Additionally it was also suggested that government should seek information on other factors affecting pastoral communities in Karamoja sub-region, for example prolonged drought, insecurities related to civil wars, diseases and poverty.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations emanate from the study.

1. Government should act quickly to design, move a bill, enact and enforce a law to protect pastoral communities who own land under customary tenure system.
2. Pastoral communities should be mobilized into communal land associations to defend their land rights and livelihood.
3. Pastoral communities should be adequately compensated and resettled.
4. Civil society organizations (CSOs) should ensure that in their programmes, they build capacity of pastoral communities regarding fearfulness which hinder their ability to challenge land grabbers, and demand accountability from their accounting officers.
5. Comprehensive studies on land grabbing should be under taken throughout Uganda.
6. NGOs initiate campaigns, networks and consortia against agreements and frameworks (local, national, regional and global) that promote land grabbing and violations of pastoral community rights.
7. International financial institutions (IFIs) such as World Bank and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) should not fund projects that do not have reducing poverty and ensuring environmental sustainability as their primary focus.
8. Government should recognize the contribution of pastoralists to the economy and design away of boosting their economic activity so that their livelihoods can be improved.
9. Government should also seek information on other extraneous variables affecting pastoral communities in Karamoja sub-region for example; prolonged droughts, insecurities related to civil wars, diseases, poverty and address them.

Due to financial and time constraints the study based on the impact of commercial agricultural investments on pastoral communities in Karamoja sub-region. However, there other factors which affect pastoral communities unaddressed for example prolonged droughts insecurities related to civil wars, poverty and diseases.

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