

**ASSESSING THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE OPERATION WEALTH CREATION
OPERATION (PWC) PROGRAM TO HOUSEHOLD POVERTY REDUCTION: A
CASE STUDY OF NYAKABANDE SUB-COUNTY, KISORO DISTRICT**

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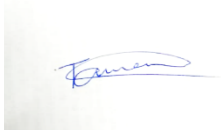
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DECLARATION

I **Tuyizere Phionah** hereby declare that, this research report is my original work and confirm that it has not never been submitted for consideration for another degree or professional certification. Furthermore, this work explicitly acknowledged both my contributions to this work as well as those made by the other writers.

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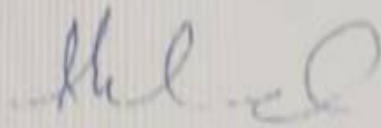
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APPROVAL

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this research to the Almighty God, who has given me the courage, grace, wisdom, and favor to continue my academic career.

To my siblings, who have always supported and loved me, and to my parents, Mr. Ngororano Emmanuel and Mukankusi Judith, for bringing me into the world and helping me grow into a decent person.

I dedicate this work to Mrs. Rwamuhanda Florence, my research supervisor, for her academic support, encouragement, and tolerance during my research. Her guidance has been extremely beneficial to my development both academically and professionally. Additionally, I dedicate this research to my son Paul Rwabugiri and my own cherished family. My academic career and development have been propelled by your love and unwavering support. I am incredibly appreciative of your support, prayers, and faith in me; they have been a continual source of motivation.

Finally, I want to thank all of my lecturers at BBUC for making this research study a success. I am grateful for all of your coaching and for helping me establish a solid academic career. May God bless you all abundant.

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Lastly, I acknowledge my classmates for their collaboration and shared learning experiences that made this academic pursuit truly memorable.

ABSTRACT

This study assesses the contribution of the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) program to household poverty reduction in Uganda. Initiated in 2013, the OWC program was established to enhance agricultural productivity, create employment, and improve household incomes through the distribution of agricultural inputs and advisory services. The research explores the extent to which OWC interventions have contributed to improving livelihoods and reducing poverty among rural households. A mixed-methods approach was employed, combining quantitative data collected from beneficiary households with qualitative insights from key informant interviews and focus group discussions. The findings indicate that while the program has led to increased access to agricultural inputs and some improvements in crop yields, challenges such as delayed input delivery, limited follow-up support, and lack of market access have hindered its full potential. The study concludes that although the OWC program has made notable strides in poverty alleviation, its impact can be significantly enhanced through better coordination, capacity building, and integration with broader rural development strategies. Recommendations are offered to improve program efficiency and sustainability for long-term poverty reduction

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

The primary aim of this research is to determine the impact of Operation Wealth Creation on alleviating poverty in Nyakabande sub-county. Poverty reduction refers to strategies and efforts aimed at improving the living conditions of people with low income by increasing access to basic needs, education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. This research was triggered by the persistent poverty levels in Nyakabande Sub-County despite the implementation of the Operation Wealth Creation program, aiming to assess its effectiveness in improving livelihoods and reducing household poverty in the area. This chapter will include context for the research problem statement, aims and goals research inquiries/hypotheses extent of the research rationale importance, theoretical framework

1.1 background of the study

This research focuses on two primary variables: Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) as the independent variable and poverty alleviation as the dependent variable. OWC was founded in Uganda as a step towards livelihood transformation through the modernization of farming and economic empowerment. Despite its agenda, poverty continues to be a challenge, especially in rural counties such as Nyakabande Sub-County, Kisoro County. Despite OWC aiming at improved farming productivity, access to finance, and market linkages, numerous challenges prevent it from having a serious contribution in reducing poverty among beneficiaries. The success in OWC relies on successful implementation, effective allocation of resources, participation by the community, and effective monitoring mechanisms, all of which have been inconsistent in various regions.

As UBOS (2016) recommends, poverty is mainly comprehended in monetary units on the basis of a person's monthly or yearly spending compared to the poverty line. However,

poverty goes beyond monetary deprivation it allows limited access to quality education, healthcare, sanitary water, accommodation, and economic opportunities.

In Nyakabande, households are challenged by low crop production, inadequate infrastructure, lack of finance, and limited markets, and economic development remains a challenge despite policy initiatives like OWC. Land tenure and variable weather patterns also impact farming activity, thereby constraining income opportunities. The reduction in poverty cannot be entirely through households' increase in incomes.

OWC was established as a way of addressing the challenges through the supply of agricultural inputs, expertise, and market connections with a goal of raising productivity and generating sustained incomes. However, delayed distribution of inputs, lack of follow-ups, poor monitoring, and lack of livelihood diversification have compromised its impact. Many beneficiaries have still been struggling with the lack of knowledge on modern agronomic practices, post-harvest management, and business sustainability, thereby affecting their ability to graduate from subsistent farming into a position of being serious business farmers. Additionally, implementation, transparency, and policy execution efficiencies have limited the overall impact on poverty reduction by the program. With economic transformation through Vision 2040 by Uganda, there is a need to refine the OWC methodology in a bid to enhance accountability, efficiency, and fair distribution of resources in support of sustained poverty reduction. This study seeks to evaluate the effectiveness of OWC in reducing poverty in Nyakabande Sub-County, assess existing barriers, and recommend practical solutions for improvement. This background is presented in four sections including: Historical perspective, Theoretical Perspective, Conceptual Perspective and Contextual Perspective as clarified below.

1.1.1 Historical perspective

Historically, there has been rise in poverty levels among the developing nations despite rapid pace in development. The gap between the rich and the poor nations of the world is wider than ever. According to a recent estimate, 1.4 billion people are trapped in extreme poverty and reside in developing countries (IFAD, 2011). There have been global efforts in eradicating poverty. In 2000, the United Nations launched the Millennium Development Goals, a coordinated international effort to eradicate poverty and raise living standards worldwide by 2030. Even a more ambitious global effort to eradicate poverty, called the Sustainable Development Goals, was adopted in 2015.

It is estimated that 83 million people have escaped extreme poverty in the first years after the goals were adopted between January 2016 and July 2018. Africa has 23% of the poor people in the world and twenty-eight (28) poorest Countries are found in Africa with the poverty rates of above 30%. It is estimated that by the year 2030 over 300 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa will still be in extreme poverty and success in eradication of poverty will still depend crucially on what happens in Africa. Studies have shown that the adoption of 2000 Millennium Goals played a significant part in accelerating the process of poverty reduction in the world. The implementation of anti-poverty programmes and poverty reduction strategies in individual countries became a routine part of national development plans, however there are disparities in how different countries responded and implemented these plans. Till today, most African countries have not been successful in reducing poverty levels among their populations.

Uganda is among the Sub-Saharan African countries that have registered the highest rates of poverty reduction but still remains among the poorest countries in the world. According

to the Uganda's 2016 Poverty Assessment report, Uganda has reduced monetary poverty at a very rapid rate. The proportion of the Ugandan population living below the national poverty line declined from 31.1% in 2006 to 19.7% in 2013. Similarly, the country was one of the fastest in Sub-Saharan Africa to

An estimated 83 million individuals have risen above extreme poverty in the initial years following the adoption of the goals, between January 2016 and July 2018. Africa is home to 23% of the world's poor, and it houses twenty-eight (28) of the poorest nations, each with poverty rates exceeding 30%. By the year 2030, it is projected that more than 300 million individuals in Sub-Saharan Africa will remain in extreme poverty, and the achievement of poverty eradication will heavily rely on developments in Africa. Research indicates that the implementation of the 2000 Millennium Goals significantly contributed to speeding up the global poverty reduction efforts. The execution of anti-poverty initiatives and poverty alleviation strategies in various countries turned into a customary element of national development agendas, but there are variations in how diverse nations reacted and carried out these initiatives. Up until now, numerous African nations have struggled to decrease poverty rates within their communities.

Uganda is one of the Sub-Saharan African nations that have experienced significant poverty reduction, yet it continues to be one of the poorest countries globally. As stated in Uganda's 2016 Poverty Assessment report, the country has swiftly decreased monetary poverty levels. The percentage of the Ugandan population residing below the national poverty threshold decreased from 31.1% in 2006 to 19.7% in 2013. Likewise, the nation was among the quickest in Sub-Saharan Africa to

To alleviate or eliminate poverty, the government of Uganda has implemented several strategies; one such strategy is the President's Initiative to combat Poverty and hunger.

The Poverty Alleviation Department (PAD) at State House was created in 2000 under President Yoweri Museveni. In 2003, the department was tasked with developing wealth generation models focused on enhancing productivity and value enhancement. In 2013, the president initiated Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) to effectively drive national socio-economic transformation, emphasizing the increase of household incomes and wealth generation by converting subsistence farmers into commercial farmers. This research aimed to examine the role of Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) in poverty alleviation, focusing specifically on Kisoro District, with Nyakabande Sub-County as a case study

1.1.2 Theoretical perspective

In comprehending poverty, no single theory was adequate alone: a comprehensive approach was utilized in this report. Classical Theory of Poverty Classical theories formulated in the 18th and 19th centuries encompassed theories regarding both value and distribution. The traditional theories of poverty contended that the results of market exchanges are efficient, and thus wages accurately represent individual productivity.

Classical Poverty theorists view poverty as a result of individual choices, suggesting that the poor lack the "self-control" necessary to enhance their productivity. Consequently, poor decisions made by individuals can result in them ending up in a state of poverty or a "welfare trap." Therefore, they perceive individuals as mainly accountable for their fate, effectively opting to be poor (e.g. by establishing single-parent households). Classical theorists regard state interventions in the shape of aid negatively, seeing them as a cause of economic inefficiency due to creating incentives that do not align between impoverished individuals and society overall. The classical theorist views welfare programs

as possible contributors to or perpetrators of poverty due to reliance on welfare assistance. This is true with Ugandan government welfare programmes such as Vulnerable Family Support Grant (VFSG) never yielded the intended results and was phased out in 2015 (Auditor General Report, 2015).

Classical poverty theorists also defended government involvement whenever impoverished individuals required support measures to address widespread economic incentives. This perspective aligned closely with the research on Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) as OWC is a presidential initiative in Uganda designed to convert subsistence farmers into commercial farmers to eradicate poverty. Neoclassical Poverty Theory Classical theorists argue that people are ultimately accountable for poverty, thus forming a basis for laissez-faire policies.

Neoclassical (mainstream) economics is more varied and offers reasons for poverty that exceed individual control (particularly, market failures). The neoclassical recognized the reason for poverty beyond individual's control -- lack of social as well as private assets, market failures that exclude the poor from the credit markets and with certain adverse choices to be rational barriers to education, poor health and advanced age and barriers to employment for lone- parent families (Farkas, 1996).

When looking at Classical and neoclassical approaches collectively, their primary strengths lie in employing (measurable) monetary units to assess poverty and the ease with which policy recommendations can be implemented. They also emphasize the impact of incentives on personal behavior and the connection between income and productivity. Nonetheless, the methods emphasize their excessive focus on the individual (neglecting, for example, connections with the community) and the concentration on solely material resources to eliminate poverty. Neoclassical theorists emphasize

efficiency and price stability, asserting that competitive markets provide both equity and growth

They argue that liberalization will reduce the global and national inequalities created by protectionism in developing countries, as well as the rigidities, price distortions, and monopoly rents stemming from state intervention in LDCs (Pen, 2009).

They argue that free trade will move industry from high-wage to low-wage nations, asserting that rational prices and free markets will enhance profit rates and investment motivation, subsequently raising employment and, over time, wages.

Similar to classical theorists, neoliberal poverty theorists advocate for state intervention and approaches to eradicate poverty. This likely clarifies why the Ugandan government implemented various Poverty Alleviation Programs and initiatives such as the Rural Farmers Scheme during the early

In the 1990s, Entandikwa was established before 1996, followed by Bonna Bagaggawale in 2007, Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) in 2013, the Youth Capital Venture Fund which evolved into the Youth Livelihood Programme, and presently Emyooga, launched in October 2020, aimed at eradicating poverty. Considering the neoclassical theory's premise, particularly that government intervention and policies must be implemented to eradicate poverty, the researcher utilized neoclassical theory as the second theoretical framework for the study.

1.1.3. Conceptual perspective

Poverty can be understood in three fundamentally distinct ways. At first, it is considered a material condition, where individuals or families are seen as impoverished when their income or consumption fails to meet basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, and

healthcare. Secondly, poverty is often viewed as a complex issue, with its nature being dynamic and shaped by various social, political, and economic influences unique to each situation. Thirdly, poverty is viewed as a relational condition, in which systemic disparities and social interactions, including factors related to gender, employment, and access to land, restrict individuals' ability to improve their well-being. The United Nations, in 1998, characterized poverty as a fundamental lack of opportunities and choice, and, concomitantly, a deprivation of human dignity. The scenario deprives an individual of effective participation in activities within a society and, in most instances, entails elements of segregation, exposure, powerlessness, and inaccessibility to basic services. This broad definition is echoed by Compassion International (2020), which defines poverty as more than a lack of economic resources but as the presence of hunger, inadequate housing, lack of access to education and healthcare, unemployment, and vulnerability. These complex experiences define poverty in its depth and requires all-inclusive solutions. In recognition of the depth, the Government in Uganda has undertaken a range of anti-poverty programs, placing special focus on the agricultural sector as a basic driver of economic development. These programs have included support for research, support for irrigation systems, seed provision, development of agricultural finance platforms, and development of input extension services targeted at rural areas (Hall et al., 2017). Such initiatives demonstrate a recognition that poverty goes beyond income levels and incorporates greater access to resources and opportunities. The intellectual model around poverty dictates the formation and implementation of policies and programs in poverty reduction efforts (Schiller, 2008). Despite implemented strategies, there was a remarkable lack in comparative reviews in their effectiveness (Blank, 2007). Over time, diverse perspectives have influenced government welfare policies, each shaped by different

understandings of poverty. Rank (2001) emphasized the importance of identifying the root causes of poverty, which he grouped into individual, cultural/neighborhood, and structural factors. In Uganda's Kigezi Region, the rate of poverty increased significantly from 12% in 2017 to 28% in 2020 (UBOS, 2021), highlighting the urgency of re-evaluating current strategies and addressing poverty from multiple interconnected dimensions.

1.2 Conceptual perspective

Reducing poverty is frequently referred to as promoting economic growth that will consistently elevate as many individuals as possible above the poverty threshold. However, numerous diverse goals align with "poverty reduction," and we need to decide among them. There are trade-offs between tackling current and future poverty, helping as many poor people as possible and focusing on those in chronic poverty, and measures that tackle the causes of poverty and those which deal with the symptoms (Barder, 2009).

Poverty can be categorized into two types; Absolute poverty is defined by extreme lack of essential human requirements, such as food, clean drinking water, sanitation, healthcare, housing, education, and information. It relies not just on earnings but also on availability of services.

The Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) Programme is a presidential initiative focused on enhancing the lives of rural farmers, executed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAAIF) in partnership with the UPDF. Operation Wealth Creation was established following the reorganization of the National Agriculture Advisory Programme (NAADs), which began in 2001 with the primary aim of facilitating the transition of the agriculture sector from subsistence to commercial farming. Over the years, the NAADS programme faced

challenges including corruption, mismanagement of funds, politicized beneficiary selection, and poor seedling distribution (Barbara et al., 2015). Under the Operation Wealth Creation initiative, NAADS supplemented a broad array of agricultural inputs including crop seeds, planting materials, livestock, fish fingerlings, and value addition machinery targeting food security and special groups of interest like youth and women (MAIF, 2020). These actions were meant to increase agricultural productivity by supplementing agricultural production through the supply of inputs and production smart tools.

1.3 Statement of the problem

Uganda has been quite successful in poverty reduction since 1986, with the share of persons living below the international poverty line of \$1.90 a day decreasing from 53.2% in 2006 to 34.6% in 2013, and the national poverty line close to halves from 38.8% in 2003 to 19.7% in 2013 (Uganda Bureau of Statistics [UBOS], 2014; UBOS, 2018).

These developments are in line with Uganda's international development targets like the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are incorporated into national plans like the National Development Plan and Vision 2040 ((MoFPED, 2015). Even with all these developments and the launch of programs like Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) in 2014, designed to make subsistence farmers into commercial farmers, there was a disturbing increase in poverty in recent data. Poverty levels rose from 19.7% in 2012/2013 to 21.4% in 2016/2017, unemployment was 58% in 2014, and poor people increased from 8 million in 2017 to 8.3 million in 2020 (UBOS, 2018; UBOS, 2021). In the Kigezi Region, covering Kisoro District, poverty jumped from 12% in

2017 to 28% in 2020, a development which put into question the impact on OWC in the regions (UBOS, 2021). The problem is economic and social in nature, deeply affecting household livelihoods, food security, and overall quality of life, particularly for vulnerable groups such as rural subsistence farmers and women-headed households in Nyakabande Sub-County, Kisoro District. These populations often lack sufficient access to resources, markets, and infrastructure needed to fully benefit from OWC and similar interventions. The challenge involves multiple actors, including government bodies, local leaders, implementers, and beneficiaries, whose roles and interactions impact program outcomes. Without clear evidence of OWC's contribution to reducing poverty, cycles of deprivation, unemployment, and inequality may persist. Addressing this gap by assessing OWC's real impact in Nyakabande Sub-County will provide crucial insights to guide policymakers and improve program effectiveness, thereby supporting sustainable poverty reduction and economic development in the region.

1.4 General Objective

- I. To assess the contributions of Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) program towards poverty reduction in Nyakabande Sub-County, Kisoro District.
- II. To find out the challenges experienced in the implementation of Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) program in reduction of poverty in Nyakabande Sub- County, Kisoro District.
- III. To propose strategies to mitigate the challenges experienced in the implementation of operation wealth creation in reduction of poverty in Nyakabande Sub- County, Kisoro District.

1.5 Specific objectives

- I. To assess the contributions of the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) program to household poverty reduction in Nyakabande Sub-County, Kisoro District.
- II. To identify the challenges faced during the implementation of the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) program in reducing poverty in Nyakabande Sub-County, Kisoro District.
- III. To propose practical strategies for addressing the challenges hindering effective implementation of the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) program in poverty reduction within Nyakabande Sub-County, Kisoro District.

1.6 Research Questions

- I. How has the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) contributed to poverty reduction in Nyakabande Sub-County, Kisoro District?
- II. What are the challenges affecting the implementation of Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) in the reduction of poverty reduction in Nyakabande Sub-County, Kisoro District?
- III. What strategies can be implemented to mitigate the challenges affecting the effectiveness of Operation Wealth Creation in reducing poverty in Nyakabande Sub-County, Kisoro District?

1.7 scope of the study.

1.7 Scope of the study

1.7.1 Geographical scope

This research took place in Nyakabande sub-county, located in Kisoro district in south West. The soils in Nyakabande sub-county like in other parts of Kisoro district, are mainly

volcanic and ferralitic in nature (NEMA 2001) and 25% of households in Nyakabande sub-county own less than an acre (0.4 ha) of land, the middle group owning 1-5 acres (0.4-2 ha) of land is at 64%.

1.7.2 content scope

The study assessed the contributions of Operation Wealth Creation and poverty reduction in Nyakabande sub-county where OWC was perceived as independent variable and poverty reduction as dependent variable. The researcher examined the different activities implemented under OWC, assessed the contribution of OWC towards poverty reduction, and also assessed the challenges faced by OWC towards poverty reduction in Nyakabande sub- County-Kisoro district.

Time scope

This research concentrated on the previous seven (7) years (2013-2020) following the founding of OWC in 2013. This timeframe was highlighted because Operation Wealth Creation efforts had reached nearly all regions in Uganda and made a significant impact by 2020

1.8 Significance of the Study

This research study was presented as part of the undergraduate program to partially meet the criteria for obtaining my Bachelor of Social Work and Social Administration degree.

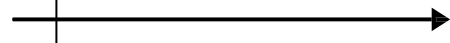
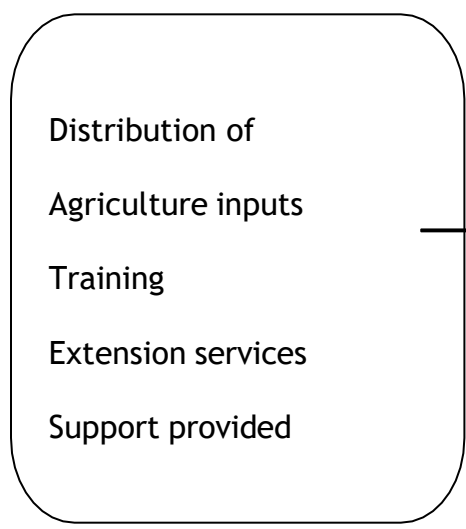
The research, analyzed and presented objectively, will provide various stakeholders with insights into their performance, identify gaps, highlight challenges, and address some issues relating to poverty reduction and Operation Wealth Creation.

The research will help the community understand that Operation Wealth Creation is essential for alleviating poverty in Kisoro district.

1.9 Conceptual framework

Operation Wealth Creation

Independent Variable



Household Poverty Reduction

Dependent variable



Source: Researcher, 2025

Definition of key terms

Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) Program. A government initiative in Uganda aimed at transforming subsistence farming into commercial agriculture through the provision of agricultural inputs, training, and support services to farmers to improve productivity and livelihoods.

Contribution. The impact or influence that the OWC program has on improving conditions, specifically relating to reducing poverty among beneficiary households.

Household Poverty Reduction. the process or outcome of decreasing the level of poverty within a household, typically measured by improved income, food security, access to basic needs, assets, and overall living standards.

Assessment. The systematic evaluation and analysis of the OWC program's effectiveness in achieving poverty reduction among households.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

Poverty remains among the most pressing socioeconomic challenges in Uganda, and it is mainly characteristic in rural regions whose livelihoods are strongly linked to farming. To counteract the issue, the Government of Uganda has implemented a range of poverty reduction mechanisms, among them, the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) program. The chapter contains a theoretical background based on neoclassical poverty theory, a review of OWC contributions and challenges, mitigation mechanisms, a methodology review, the research nexus, and a chapter summary.

2.1 Literature review

Neoclassical Poverty

Neoclassical Theory of Poverty was selected as the most fitting theoretical lens. In contrast, classical theory blames most poverty on poor individual decisions and lack of self-discipline, the neoclassical approach considers larger structural and market-related conditions that contribute to poverty. The neoclassical approach understands that poverty occurs as a result of market failure, lack of access to credit, education, and job opportunities, and social barriers such as age, and health status, among others, (Farkas, 1996).

The neoclassical theory sits well in the Ugandan case, and especially in understanding government-led initiatives like Operation Wealth Creation (OWC). The initiative aims to remove selected economic participation barriers by offering subsistence farmers agricultural inputs and capacity development. The theory upholds the argument for government intervention, arguing that policy by the government can be used in the

correction of market imperfections and in inducing inclusive economic development (Pen, 2009).

Thus, in this study, the neoclassical poverty theory informs the understanding of poverty reduction mechanisms in Uganda, particularly through programs such as OWC. This theory generates a balanced perspective on both personal and systemic causes of poverty and supports the application of state-initiated programs as pragmatic solutions in uplifting livelihoods.

2.2 Empirical Review

Contributions of OWC toward poverty reduction

The Operation Wealth Creation programme was instituted by the Government of Uganda with the overall vision of turning subsistence farming into commercial farming as a poverty reduction programme. The programme has been effective in poverty reduction in households, mainly through the supply of improved agronomic inputs including seeds, seedlings, and livestock. Tumwesigye and Mugisha (2021) noted that access among farmers to improved inputs through Operation Wealth Creation was improved, and thus improved production in agriculture, resulting in a better food security status and improved incomes in households.

Additionally, OWC contributed significantly in raising the level of income among smallholder producers through value addition and access to markets. Through Nabirye et al. (2019), it is observed that connectivity both among producers and markets was enhanced through the programme, thus ensuring that the producers were compensated with improved prices for their crop. This boosted the financial stability among households

and allowed them participate in more money-generating activities

In addition, income increase, program was associated with social impacts including higher school enrollment and improved health status. The farmers who were beneficiaries in OWC were able to pay school fees and hospital bills, thereby contributing indirectly to human capital formation (Kaggwa & Atim, 2020). These non-monetary outcomes demonstrate the multifaceted nature of poverty reduction through OWC.

But implementation has been uneven by region as a function of differing infrastructure and local capability in leadership. As Nanyanzi and Byaruhanga (2021) documented in their study, sites with capable local institutions and farmer groups did better with OWC. These findings are in line with the idea that localized implementation strategies are significant determinants of the program's success.

While all relied on cross-sectional interviews within households and surveys, most did lack longitudinal data, which would be informative on the continuance of successes in the long term. For instance, Mugabi and Kizza (2020) cited the-short term nature of most impacts following the seasonal changes in deliveries of inputs. The study attempts to fill that void by utilizing mixed methods in monitoring both the short and long-term changes in welfare in households in Nyakabande.

Additionally, there is limited evidence on the research on gendered outcomes on OWC. However, initial evidence confirms that OWC has clearly benefited households headed by women through selective measures such as distributions of small livestock (Mukasa & Namugga, 2019). Such gendered outcomes are important in ensuring that all poverty

reduction strategies are all-inclusive.

Lastly, the study contributes to the growing literature by siting OWC 's contribution within a sub-county rural context

. It tries establishing a cause-and-effect relationship between OWC activities and noted reductions in poverty indicators such as income, food security, and ownership of assets in Nyakabande Sub-County.

2.3 Challenges in the Implementation of OWC

In spite of its successes, the Operation Wealth Creation initiative has faced important implementation challenges which have hampered its impact. One of the most reportedly recurrent challenges is the premature release of agricultural inputs. As Kintu and Kirabo (2020) note, the failure to distribute in a timely manner seeds and livestock ends up in missed planting seasons and, thus, low crop production as well as low morale among farmers.

The politicization in the selection of beneficiaries is yet another problem. Some research, e.g., Akampurira et al. (2022), cite cases in how inputs were allocated based on political affiliation rather than need. This operates negatively on the credibility of the program and denies deserving households access to benefits, thereby widening the poverty gap.

Additionally, OWC has been characterized by poor farmer education and capacity building. Lacking support, a greater portion of the farmers are unable to utilize the inputs in the most efficient way. Inefficient extension services render the programme unsustainable and ineffective, particularly among the new input beneficiaries, as posited by Kyeyune and Kasule (2021).

Lack of coordination among the stakeholders has also been cited as a fundamental bottleneck. The programme incorporates numerous agencies ranging from the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS), local governments, and the military. Lwanga and Mukama (2023) posit that lack of clearly laid communication protocols and overlapping responsibilities lead to duplication and lack of smooth efficiency.

Poor monitoring and evaluation systems compound the above complications. The lack of adequate follow-up on the use of inputs and results hinders determining the success of the program. Ssebunya and Tusiime (2020) emphasize the need for good data systems as a source of timely decisions and course correction in programs. In addition, logistical challenges like a lack of storage houses and poor transport systems limit the efficient supply of inputs, especially in regions with hilly terrains, like Kisoro District. Transport challenges, as noted in a 2019 study by Turyatunga and Kabuye, delayed deliveries and in some instances spoiled the quality of inputs, e.g., perishable seedlings and vaccines. This study integrates participatory rural appraisal (PRA) techniques in order to gain a deeper understanding on these challenges from a community perspective. The investigation aims at obtaining the views of various stakeholder groups, including farmers, community leaders, and implementers of programs, in order to generate practical understanding that

can be used in informing future improvement of programs within Kisoro and similar districts

2.4 Strategies to mitigate OWC implementation challenges

Overseeing implementation challenges in OWC is a multifaceted approach. Timely distribution is an overarching method in which farmers receive seed and animals at a time they can be put into productive use. Mwesigwa et al. (2020) indicate integration of agricultural calendars in the supply systems in a way that aligns supply and planting seasons.

Another effective strategy is the digitalization of beneficiary records and program processes. By using digital tools such as mobile applications and biometric identification, the program can improve transparency, reduce fraud, and enhance tracking. Nabunya and Sserwadda (2021) observed that digital systems reduced administrative errors and helped in real-time monitoring of distribution activities.

Effective implementation also requires improved coordination among the actors. This means establishing clear roles and mandates for all actors in OWC, from the central government departments all the way through to the local councils. The formation of the coordination committees on the district level streamlined implementation and reduced conflicts, as noted by Namara and Kabonesa in 2022.

Capacity development in on-going extension and training services in the field of agriculture is also a critical mitigation activity. The farmers need inputs provision as well as knowledge on how the inputs can be used. Akello and Tumuhimbise (2021), in a research study, indicated that trained households were more productive and most likely to be retained in

the program.

Community participation in planning and evaluation is also a method that can increase ownership and responsibility. Participatory planning guarantees that the inputs provided are meaningful in the area and in the existing agro-ecological conditions. Kaggwa et al. (2023) cite that community-centered approaches boosted trust and improved the reporting mechanisms among beneficiaries and by the program managers. Further, inclusion of the mechanisms for giving feedback and solving grievances can allow for early detection and correction of problems. The systems allow farmers a chance to complain in case of problems ranging from low-quality inputs or lack of inclusion in the beneficiary register. Addressing the concerns early allows the program managers to remain credible and effective (Namusoke & Batungi, 2020).

The research embraces case study research approach in determining how the above approaches have been implemented in Nyakabande Sub-County and whether and how they have been translated into improved OWC implementation. Particular focus is put on local innovations and adaptative actions that have emerged in response to systemic constraints and can be utilized in scaling up best practices in similar contexts.

2.5 Research gap

While there exists a profuse record of literature on the effects of the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) programme in curbing poverty in Uganda, critical gaps persist in understanding its long-term efficacy and reach. The bulk of literature, as developed by Tumwesigye and Mugisha (2021) and Nabirye et al. (2019), centers on the programme's short-term increases in productivity and incomes based mainly on cross-sectional data.

This restricts understanding whether benefits realizing from the programme are sustained in the long term. As Mugabi and Kizza (2020) noted, there is a need for longitudinal study in determining whether programme results persist after initial distributions of inputs and peak-season harvests. Additionally, there remains a lack of adequate study on how OWC programme interventions contribute to the programme having a larger, multi-dimensional impact on poverty, as in access to education, and healthcare and accumulation over the long term despite initial inclusions by Kaggwa and Atim (2020).

Additionally, most published work undertakes a macro-level or district-wide approach, thereby excluding localized sub-county dynamics that may significantly affect program efficacy. For example, in spite of Nanyanzi and Byaruhanga's (2021) work on district-wide disparities, it does not factor in unique community levels such as leadership efficacy, infrastructure differentials, and customary practices. This lack of representation is most problematic in underserved and rural areas like Nyakabande Sub-County in Kisoro District, in which logistical challenges may complicate program implementation (Turyatunga & Kabuye, 2019). Furthermore, most evaluations are top-down and make limited use of participatory mechanisms that could afford greater voice to populations. Low beneficiary integration limits the ability to develop responsive, context-adaptive interventions congruent with the reality and lived realities of intended populations.

The other important deficiency is in undertaking adequate exploration into gendered outputs. Despite Mukasa and Namugga (2019) acknowledging certain benefits accruing to female-headed households, there is no in-depth disaggregated exploration into how participation in and benefits realized through OWC are affected by gender. This deficiency

restricts the development of evidence-informed, inclusive policy in promoting equitable poverty reduction. Accordingly, despite many reports on relationships between improved livelihoods and OWC activities (Tumwesigye & Mugisha, 2021; Nabirye et al., 2019), few evidence-based inquiries are made into establishing causative relationships. Until the specific contribution of OWC is clearly distinguished from all the rest of socio-economic determinants, there is a challenge accurately assessing the actual programme impact. These knowledge gaps render it most compelling in undertaking this study, whose specific contribution is a more robust, localized, and inclusive assessment in determining the role played by OWC in enhancing poverty reduction in Nyakabande Sub-County.

2.6 Summary of the Chapter

This chapter established a theoretical and empirical foundation in deciphering the contribution by Operation Wealth Creation in poverty reduction. The neoclassical theory of poverty was used as the broad framework, stressing the inter-play among structural market failure and government interventions. The empirical literature referred to OWC's significant accomplishments in lifting agricultural productivity but noted significant implementation issues. Recommended strategies in the form of timely input distribution, value addition through improved coordination, and capacity development appeared as potential solutions. The methodology review underscored the use of mixed approaches, and the existing gaps in research offered justification in undertaking this localized and theory-informed study.

CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter gives a depiction of the research methodology, including the approach, design, study site, sample selection, data collection, and data analysis procedures.

3.2 Research approach

The researcher adopted both quantitative and qualitative approaches in providing a vivid picture into the effect that the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) programme has on poverty reduction in households in Nyakabande Sub-County, Kisoro District

3.3 Research design

The study adopted a descriptive survey study design in examining the contribution made by the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) initiative in mitigating household poverty in Nyakabande Sub-County, Kisoro District. The design was suitable in obtaining thorough and accurate data from a cross-section of OWC beneficiaries and stakeholders, and it allowed the researcher to describe current economic well-being in a household, nature of support provided, and perceived impact on levels of poverty. Through quantitative and qualitative data measurement, the study established relationships and patterns among participation in the OWC initiative and dependent variables such as income, food security, and assets ownership. The approach produced a greater understanding of the program effectiveness and gained insight into informing policy and implementation strategies in the future

3.4 area of the study

The research was carried out in Nyakabande Sub-County, Kisoro District, in southwestern Uganda within latitudes 1°12'S and 1°27'S and longitudes 29°36'E and 29°50'E, with an

average elevation of approximately 1,900 meters above sea level, presenting a temperate climate and fertile soils well-suited for farming (UBOS, 2021). Mainly Nyakabande has a rural area among the roughly 280,000 populations in Kisoro District. The sub county inhabitants basically depend on subsistence farming and small-scale farming, and growing crops like Irish potatoes, beans, maize, bananas, and vegetables, in addition to livestock keeping involving cattle, goats, and poultry (Kisoro District Local Government, 2020). Agriculture is the primary economic activity and the theme of the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) initiative, aimed at transforming farmers from subsistence farming into a more commercial form. Even with propitious circumstances, poverty levels are on the higher side; poverty incidence within Kisoro District increased from 12% in 2017 to 28% in 2020 (UBOS, 2021), propelled by constraints ranging from limited access to modern farming inputs, low infrastructure, poor access to markets, and lack of financial services concerns OWC was established to eliminate. Therefore, Nyakabande presents a typical rural scenario in which to evaluate how effective OWC delivers on reducing poverty in households.

The survey aimed at a total of 80 respondents, consisting of 10 local government officials District Community Development Officers (DCDOs), Community Development Officers (CDOs), and parish chiefs and 70 beneficiaries among community members who are targeted by the program. These participants shall offer useful views on both implementation and impact of the OWC programme both at household and institutional levels.

3.5 Sources of Information primary data sources

Primary data source

The primary data was collected directly in the field through structured questionnaires, and discussion interviews with important stakeholders. These were beneficiaries who were enjoying the OWC programme in Nyakabande Sub-County, local government administrators, field implementers of programme, extension officers, and community leaders.

secondary source of data

Secondary data was obtained from readily available documents, reports, and publications within the study area. These include government statistics and reports from the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), Local Government documents from Kisoro District, Ministry of Agriculture reports, published research articles, policy papers on poverty and agricultural programs, and analyses on the OWC program. The secondary data provided background and context, as well as comparative data, which helped in informing the analysis on the contribution and role of the program in poverty reduction.

3.6. Study Population

The study population was key stakeholders in or affected by the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) programme in Nyakabande Sub-County, Kisoro District. They are homes that are direct beneficiaries of the OWC programme, primary subsistence farmers targeted by the programme in their farming activities, government administrators in the sub-county involved in coordinating development activities, implementors of the OWC programme responsible for coordinating and conducting activities, extension officers in the field involved in extending technical support to the farmers and community leaders involved in guiding and ensuring participation by the community. These groups in total are the primary

data sources in assessing the impact of the OWC programme on poverty reduction at the household level in the study area.

3.7 Determining Sample Size

To find out the sample size in this study on the contribution of the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) initiative on poverty reduction in households in Nyakabande Sub-County, Morgan and Krejcie's (1970) equation was applied. See appendix 3 on page 44.

Sampling procedures random sampling procedures in an effort to select participants from the targeted 85-person sample. The researcher utilized a mixed sampling design integrated with purposive and basic sampling processes. participants, whose sample size was 80.

purposive Sampling

This technique utilized in the selection of primary informants with special knowledge or positions in the OWC program. These are the leaders in the local government, OWC program implementors or administrators, extension workers, and leaders in the community. Because there are specialists few in number, there is a certainty through purposive sampling that only relevant stakeholders are engaged.

Random Sampling Technique

This technique was used in determining households as beneficiaries within the OWC programme in Nyakabande Sub-County. The programme registers were used in generating the beneficiary households' list, and the beneficiaries were randomly chosen, and thus all households were provided with an equal chance, ensuring low bias.

Table 3.1: Respondents and Their Roles

Category	Role in Study	Sampling Technique	Number in Sample	Description of Respondents
Household	Provide firsthand information on OWC program impact on household poverty reduction	Simple	46	Subsistence farmers directly benefiting from OWC
Local Government Officials	Offer insights on policy, planning, and oversight of poverty reduction programs	Purposive	15	Officials involved in development and poverty initiatives at sub-county/district level
Community Leaders	Offer perspectives on community participation and program acceptance	Purposive	5	Local leaders influencing community mobilization

3.7 Data collection procedure

Data collection procedure began with acquiring official clearance from the University and local permission from the local authority at Nyakabande Sub County. This was later followed by training research assistants. Questionnaires and interview guides were developed and pilot-tested for clarity and reliability. Primary data were gathered from OWC beneficiary households through the use of questionnaires, and from other key informants like local government officials, farm workers, and community leaders through

interviews. Data were tape-recorded, transcribed, and made safe to ensure confidentiality. Ethical protocols like informed consent, free will participation, and anonymity was upheld throughout the study to ensure integrity and compliance with standards of research.

3.8 Research instruments

Questionnaire

A guided questionnaire was employed to interview selected members of the community in Nyakabande Sub-County to obtain data relevant to the study. The questionnaire consisted of a mix of closed and open-ended questions to help acquire quantitative and qualitative data regarding the participants' knowledge of the OWC program its goals, strategies, and usage. It also asked questions touching on the impacts of the program on poverty reduction, income, food security, and livelihood. Closed questions were applied to measure the dimensions such as the number of beneficiaries and aid received, while open-ended questions brought forth community members' experiences, implementation challenges, and views regarding OWC's effectiveness.

Interview Guide

An interview guide was utilized for conducting semi-structured interviews with key informants as direct program beneficiaries of the OWC program. The tool consisted of open-ended questions so that answers could be flexible and detailed. The interview sought to understand how the OWC program has affected their family income, food security, asset ownership, and overall well-being. The interview also examined their opinions about whether the program has been effective in reducing poverty and if they face challenges in accessing the resources provided. For example, queries can be framed as: "How has the OWC program improved your family's economic condition?" or "What are the challenges you

faced in getting OWC services?" It will provide qualitative data that voice out the people, giving an indication of the actual impact of the program and weaknesses in its implementation or effectiveness.

3.9 Quality control

To ensure quality control in this study, data collection instruments like interview guides and questionnaires were prepared and pre-tested very carefully by conducting a pilot study to identify and correct any inconsistencies or unclear points. Training of research assistants in effective data collection techniques and ethical concerns to minimize interviewer error and bias. Regular supervisions and spot-checks were performed during data collection to maintain correctness and completeness of response. Double-checked data input was maintained, and data cleaning processes were performed to detect and correct errors or missing values. Finally, quantitative as well as qualitative data were subjected to thorough validation and cross-checking for better reliability and validity of the study.

3.10 Data analysis

Quantitative data were collected using closed-ended questions in structured questionnaires administered to OWC program beneficiaries and analyzed using SPSS version 20. Descriptive statistics like frequencies, percentages, and means were employed in providing summary descriptions of demographic profiles, participation rates, kinds of assistance received, and economic effects such as income levels and food security

Qualitative Data Analysis

Qualitative data were gathered using open-ended questions in structured questionnaires and semi-structured interviews of selected informants, including local government representatives, OWC implementers, agricultural extension agents, and local leaders. The data were transcribed and analyzed using thematic analysis to identify patterns and

themes on contributions, challenges, and strategies ascribed to the OWC program. It focuses on areas such as input accessibility, income fluctuation, service delivery efficiency, stakeholder collaboration, and community views. The coding was done manually or via NVivo software, whereby every answer was labeled according to the applicable indicators, such as efficiency of the programs, sustainability, participation from the farmers and satisfaction. This in-depth analysis provided context and deeper understanding of the quantitative findings, especially in relation to how OWC helps avoid household poverty, the type of implementation issues, and efficacy of suggested mitigation measures

3.11 Ethical issues

The researcher obtained ethical clearance from Uganda Christian University (BBUC Campus) prior to embarking on the study in order to guarantee adherence to research and academic ethics. Additional support will be garnered from the Chief Administrative Officer of Kisoro District and Nyakabande Sub-County leaders for access to the community and administrative backing. Permission from all participants was sought after informing them on the purpose, benefits, and voluntariness of the study. Participants were guaranteed confidentiality, anonymity, and the freedom to withdraw from the study at any moment without consequences. No force or fraud was applied, and all information gathered were kept safely and used only for research purposes

Expected limitations

The study anticipates minimal response availability of potential respondents who may be hard to reach. Some beneficiary homes or informants may be distant or have busy schedules, and the researcher may struggle to reach them. This can affect the representativeness and completeness of data collected.

Furthermore, the study foresees that recall bias shift is also a probable limitation. The participants may lack ability to recall properly some aspects about their experience of the OWC program, income changes, or difficulties encountered during implementation. This tends to make the reliability of provided information questionable.

Moreover, communication and language problems may also affect data quality. Difference in language ability or inconsistency in interpreting questions can lead to errors or incomplete responses, especially when technical terms are used. It may limit the level of detail and accuracy of the information gathered.

Moreover, non-response or refusal to participate could influence the study. Some individuals may refuse to participate due to concern about privacy, lack of trust in researchers, or fear of consequence. This could result in low sample size and impact the external validity of the findings.

CHAPTER FOUR: PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

4.0 Introduction

This chapter offers, examines, and explains the information gathered during the field research on the impact of the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) initiative on decreasing household poverty in Nyakabande Sub-County, Kisoro District. The results are structured according to the distinct goals of the study, encompassing the benefits of the OWC program, the difficulties faced during its execution, and the recommended approaches to enhance its efficiency. Qualitative and quantitative data are displayed through tables, charts, and narratives to provide clarity and richness in interpretation

Table 4.1: Response rate

Item	Questionnaires administered	Questionnaires returned	Percentage
Questionnaire	66	65	98.5

Respondents' socio-demographic characteristics

4.3.1 Age of the participants

The age distribution data bracket data shows that out of the 65 respondents, the majority were middle-aged adults, with the most represented age being 46 years 13 respondents (20.0%). Other highly represented ages include 45 (12.3%), 44 (10.8%), and 42 (10.8%), further confirming the dominance of respondents in their mid-40s. Moderate representation came from ages 47 and 49 (each with 9.2%) and ages 34 and 38 (each with 6.2%), indicating a broader middle-aged demographic. Lower representation was observed among younger and older age groups, such as age 35 (4.6%), ages 43 and 67 (3.1% each), and ages 56, 57, and 60 (each with only 1.5%), suggesting minimal participation from these extremes of the age spectrum.

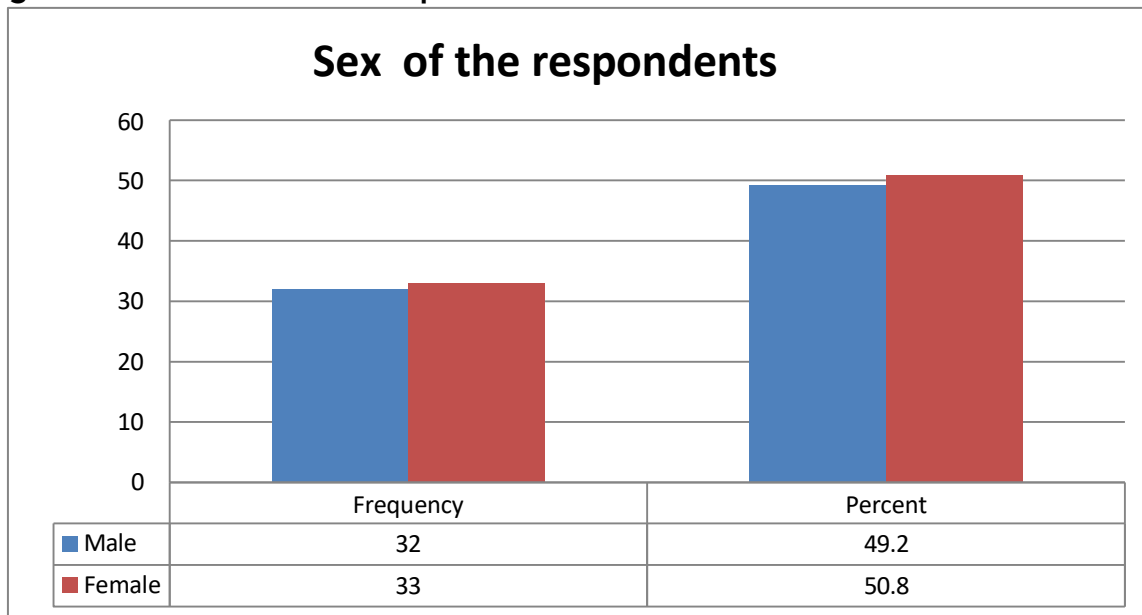
Table 4.2: Age of the respondents

Variable	Variable option	Sample (n)	Percentage (%)
Age bracket of the Respondent	34	4	6.2
	35	3	4.6

4.1 Gender of the respondents

The figure 4.1 below presents both the frequency and percentage distribution of male and female participants in the study. Out of the total respondents, 33 were female (50.8%) and 32 were male (49.2%), indicating a nearly equal gender distribution. The bar chart visually confirms this balance, with the bars for both genders being almost the same height. This near-equal representation suggests that the study sample is gender-balanced, providing a fair basis for gender-related analysis or comparisons.

Figure 4.1: Gender of the respondents



The findings indicated that among all respondents, 32 participants, accounting for 49.2%, were male. This suggests that nearly half of the participants in the study were men. The

figure indicates that males were almost equally represented in the study. Their involvement guaranteed that their perspectives and experiences were represented. This degree of representation enhances the trustworthiness of the results.

Conversely, 33 participants, constituting 50.8%, were women. This indicates that women slightly exceeded men in the study sample. Their participation emphasizes the inclusive nature of the research process. The presence of women guarantees a balanced view of gender perspectives. It further aids in comprehending dynamics related to gender.

In general, the ratio of male to female respondents was quite even. The slight variation of one respondent indicates almost equal involvement. Maintaining this balance is crucial for preventing gender bias in the research. It gives a more precise representation of the intended population. This form of representation boosts the reliability of the study findings

4.2 House hold size

The information on household size shows the spread of participants according to the number of individuals residing in their households. The most common household size is 6 members, reported by 19 respondents (29.2%), showing that larger families are quite typical among the participants. This is followed by households with 4 and 8 members, each reported by 13 respondents (20.0%), also suggesting that medium-to-large family sizes are common. Smaller household sizes are less frequent, with 3 members reported by 8 respondents (12.3%), 7 members by 7 respondents (10.8%), and 5 members by only 5 respondents (7.7%). Overall, the data reflects a trend toward moderately large household sizes among the surveyed population.

Table 4.3: House hold size

Variable	Variable option	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Household size (Specify the number of people in your household)	3	8	12.3
	4	13	20.0
	5	5	7.7
	6	19	29.2
	7	7	10.8
	8	13	20.0

Other demographics characteristics of the respondents

The data shows that all 65 respondents (100%) identified as farmers or peasants, indicating a uniform occupational background among participants. Additionally, all respondents (100%) reported having received agricultural inputs from the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) program. This suggests that the study targeted beneficiaries of the OWC initiative, and that the program has achieved full outreach within this sample group. The uniformity in both occupation and program reach may also imply a well-targeted distribution of agricultural inputs to the intended beneficiaries.

Table 4.4: Other demographics characteristics of the respondents

Variable	Variable option	Sample (n)	Percentage
Occupation	Farmer/peasant	65	100
Have you received agricultural inputs from the OWC program?	Yes	65	100

4.3 Contribution of OWC to poverty reduction

The findings indicate that the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) program has had a generally positive impact on beneficiaries, with 46.2% of respondents having attended 1-2 agricultural trainings and 33.8% attending more than four, showing active participation in capacity-building activities; however, 20% have not received any training, highlighting a gap in outreach. Additionally, 56.9% of respondents reported a significant increase in household income since joining the program, though 43.1% experienced no change, suggesting uneven economic benefits possibly due to implementation challenges. Similarly, while 58.5% observed improvements in crop yields, 41.5% did not, indicating that a considerable portion of participants may still lack sufficient support, inputs, or face other agricultural limitations.

Table 4.5: Contribution of OWC to poverty reduction

Variable	Variable option	Frequency (n)	percentage
1. How many trainings related to agriculture have you attended through OWC?	None	13	20.0
	1-2	30	46.2
	More than 4	22	33.8
2. Compared to before joining OWC, how has your household income changed?	No change	28	43.1
	Significant increase	37	56.9
3. Have your crop yields improved since participating in OWC?	Yes	38	58.5
	No	27	41.5

Additionally, findings show a decrease in poverty among families. The information

indicates that most participants (75.4%) report a monthly household income of under UGX 100,000 indicating widespread low-income levels among participants, while only 24.6% earn between UGX 100,000 and 300,000. In terms of asset ownership, 52.3% possess land and some farming tools, and 47.7% own land, livestock, and farming tools, reflecting modest asset accumulation. Regarding food security, half of the respondents (50.8%) reported sometimes experiencing food shortages, 41.5% never face shortages, and only 7.7% rarely do, suggesting that food insecurity remains a challenge for many households. Access to health services appears relatively adequate, with 66.2% reporting availability in their communities, though 33.8% still lack access, indicating room for improvement in essential service delivery.

Table 4.5: Poverty reduction

Variable	Variable option	Frequency	Percentage
What is your current estimated monthly household income?	Less than UGX 100,000	49	75.4
	UGX 100,000-300,000	16	24.6
Do you own any of the following assets?	Land and some farming tools	34	52.3
	Livestock, farming tools, and land	31	47.7
How often does your household experience food shortages?	Never	27	41.5
	Rarely	5	7.7
	Sometimes	33	50.8
Do you have access to health	Yes	43	66.2

services in your community?	No	22	33.8
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4.4 Qualitative analysis from the key informants

In the qualitative analysis, the research aimed to gather insights from key informants regarding the impact of the operation wealth creation program on alleviating poverty in Nyakabande Sub-County. It seems that the text you provided is incomplete themes that merged included increased agricultural productivity, limited or unequal impact, and improved household income.

Results indicate that there has been improved household income One respondent stated that. *"The program helped some farmers increase their yields, especially those who got quality seeds and guidance."* (R, 001)

Another study respondent stated

"Yes, people have received support like seeds, and a few have improved their household incomes through better harvests." (R, 004)

Another study participant stated that. *WC has enabled farmers to access better inputs which have improved yields, especially in Irish potatoes and beans.* (R, 008)

However, according to the key informant the program has gained limited or unequal impact. For example one study participant stated *OWC has contributed to poverty reduction to some extent, but not all beneficiaries have experienced real change.* (R, 003)

Another study participant stated. *There is little change. Some people got inputs late or didn't receive any at all.* (R, 006)

4.5 Similarly, another study participant stated

It has helped a few people reduce poverty, but most inputs go to the same individuals every year. (R, 009)

Challenges in OWC Implementation

The data indicates that a significant majority of respondents (69.2%) have experienced delays in receiving agricultural inputs through Operation Wealth Creation (OWC), pointing to a key operational challenge in timely service delivery. When it comes to extension services, half of the participants (50.8%) rated them as fair, while 30.8% considered them poor and only 18.5% rated them as good, highlighting concerns about the quality and effectiveness of these services. Additionally, 58.5% of respondents believe that funding for OWC activities is inadequate, which may contribute to the challenges reported. Regarding monitoring and evaluation, a majority (58.5%) expressed satisfaction, though only 12.3% were very satisfied and 29.2% remained unsure, suggesting a need for more transparency and stakeholder engagement in the oversight processes of OWC.

Table 4.6: Challenges in OWC Implementation

Variable	Variable option	Frequency (n)	Percentage
Have you experienced delays in receiving agricultural inputs from OWC?	Yes	45	69.2
	No	20	30.8
Have you experienced delays in receiving agricultural inputs from OWC?	Yes	45	69.2
	No	20	30.8

How would you rate the availability of extension services provided through OWC?	Good	12	18.5
	Fair	33	50.8
	Poor	20	30.8
Do you think funding for OWC activities is adequate?	Yes	27	41.5
	No	38	58.5
How satisfied are you with the monitoring and evaluation of OWC activities?	Very satisfied	8	12.3
	Satisfied	38	58.5
	Not sure	19	29.2

The qualitative analysis on the major challenges have you observed or encountered in the implementation of the OWC program in this area identified themes include Delayed or Untimely Distribution of Inputs, Favoritism and Lack of Transparency and Weak Coordination and Follow-up.

Theme 1: Delayed or Untimely Distribution of Inputs

R1: "The inputs often come late, and by the time they arrive, the planting season is over."

R6: "Lack of training on how to use the inputs properly limits their effectiveness."

R7: "Some inputs are of poor quality, and others are not suitable for our soil."

Theme 2: Favoritism and Lack of Transparency

R2: "Some farmers are favored while others are left out, even if they registered."

R8: "The program lacks transparency. Sometimes the beneficiaries are not even from the villages where the support is targeted."

R9: "Inputs are distributed without a proper needs assessment."

Theme 3: Weak Coordination and Follow-up

R3: "There is little to no monitoring. After giving out seeds, no one checks whether they

are used well."

R4: "Coordination between OWC officers and local leaders is weak, leading to duplication and confusion."

R10: "There is no feedback mechanism for beneficiaries to report problems or give suggestions."

4.8 Strategies to Mitigate Challenges Respondent Code RS 001 stated:

"There is need to increase the timely delivery of agricultural inputs so that farmers can plant on time and avoid losses."

Respondent Code RS 007 stated. *"Government should train the beneficiaries on how to manage the inputs they receive, especially those who are receiving for the first time."*

Respondent Code: RS 020 stated. *"They should involve local leaders and community members in planning and distribution so that what people receive is what they actually need."*

Respondent Code: RS 046. **Strategy.** *"Monitoring and follow-up should be done regularly to ensure that the support given is being used for the intended purpose."*

Respondent Code: RS 056. **Strategy.** *"OWC officers should work closely with farmers and give technical guidance, not just drop inputs and go away."*

CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings from the study as a result of the analysis carried out in Chapter Four. The findings are noted following the study targets, which are; establishing the contribution on the reduction in poverty in response to the Operation Wealth Creation programme; understanding the challenges faced in the implementation of the OWC programme into poverty reduction; and providing recommendations on how challenges faced in the OWC programme implementation in Nyakabande Sub-County, Kisoro District, could be mitigated

5.1 Contribution of OWC to poverty reduction

The research findings indicate that the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) programme has impacted recipients in Nyakabande Sub-County in a positive way, especially in the aspects of capacity building and improvement in household income. Since 46.2% of the respondents have been involved in 1-2 agricultural trainings and 33.8% in over four, it is quite clear that the program has improved on educating farmers and building their skills. These findings are similar to what Nabukeera and Mwesigwa (2020) noted, wherein they realized OWC played a significant role in enhancing the knowledge in farming by the farmers if the trainings were well conducted. The 20% who never got any trainings depict a concerning area in outreach and inclusion, and it is in line with Mugisha et al. (2021), who noted OWC's trainings fail on occasions in reaching the farming populations that are left in most marginal positions or are found in a distant area, as a result of logistical and coordination challenges.

Additionally, the data indicate that 56.9% of the respondents noted improved household income after being in the OWC program, a fact corroborated by Kiggundu et al. (2020), who contend that access to extension services and inputs under OWC enhances economic stability in households. However, the 43.1% reporting no change in income indicate continuing implementation hitches like delay in input supply, limited access to markets, and lack of technical support, all of which are also echoed by Kasaija and Bbaale (2022), who noted that OWC inconsistent service supply hinders its outright ability to lift all targeted beneficiaries from poverty. Moreover, while 58.5% of the respondents noted improved crop production, a corresponding 41.5% did not, a reflection that access to inputs in isolation is inadequate. This conclusion is echoed by Turyahikayo and Mwesigwa (2019), who emphasized the need to complement input supply with continuous provision of technical support and monitoring so as to ensure productivity benefits trickled down in all directions. In general, while the OWC program is promising, its lopsided effects underscore the need for widened coverage, special trained, and continuous follow-up.

5.2 Poverty reduction

The study results indicate the long-drawn characteristic of low household incomes and low accumulation of assets by study participants in Nyakabande Sub-County, echoing patterns established in recent literature on rural poverty in Uganda. The evidence indicates that 75.4% of respondents receive less than UGX 100,000, which points to pervasive poverty. This is in line with Kasaija and Bbaale (2022), who observed that numerous rural households in Uganda remain below the national poverty line, mainly as a result of inadequate access to productive resources and precarious markets. In a similar vein, Nabukeera and Mwesigwa (2020) contend that low levels of income in rural regions indicate structural

constraints, including a lack of employment opportunities and weak value chains in the production and processing of agricultural commodities.

Economically, the research shows that despite 47.7% of the respondents having land, livestock, and equipment, and 52.3% owning land and a few farming equipment, accumulation of assets is low. These results are echoed by Tumushabe et al. (2021), who observed that despite relative ownership of land among rural groups, lack of diversification into livestock and other income-generating assets hinders economic progress. Economically, the results on food security indicate that 50.8% of the respondents at a point in time encounter food shortages, revealing persistence in vulnerability to hunger. This aligns with Akello and Nsubuga (2019), who established that seasonality, low access to inputs, and low crop and animal production levels are among the causes of periodic food insecurity in rural households. Positively, 66.2% of the respondents access a doctor or nurse, though 33.8% lack access, representing a deficit in access. According to Mugisha et al. (2021), access disparities in the case of Uganda are usually attributed to infrastructure, personnel, and geographical coverage by some populations. Overall, the results together highlight the value and need for targeted support by promoting income generating activities, building the resilience of households, and access by households in rural settings to basic services.

5.3 Challenges in OWC Implementation

The results of this study indicate serious implementation gaps in the execution of the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) program, most prominently in the timely release of agronomic inputs. The study established a staggering 69.2% of the respondents' citing delays, a testament to logistical and coordinating inefficiencies. This confirms Mugisha et

al. (2021), who observed that planting cycles are impacted and total agronomic production declines through adverse effects on timely distributions of inputs. Kasaija and Bbaale (2022) were no different in their concerns, and they attributed incidents of such delays, among other things, to bureaucratic inefficiencies and failure in sub-county level planning. These are systemic issues that water down farmers' trust in government-sponsored agronomic interventions and make all such programs difficult to sustain.

The study also shows that while 50.8% of respondents rated extension services as fair, a significant 30.8% found them poor, and only 18.5% considered them good. This reflects broader concerns about the quality and reach of extension services in Uganda. According to Kiggundu et al. (2020), limited technical capacity and low staffing levels among extension officers hinder the delivery of adequate support to farmers, thus reducing the effectiveness of government agricultural initiatives. Furthermore, the perception of inadequate funding by 58.5% of respondents corroborates Nabukeera and Mwesigwa's (2020) findings, which indicate that underfunding compromises not only service delivery but also follow-up activities like training and monitoring. While the majority (58.5%) expressed satisfaction with OWC's monitoring and evaluation (M&E), the low number of those "very satisfied" (12.3%) and the 29.2% who were unsure suggest a gap in feedback mechanisms and transparency. Turyahikayo and Mwesigwa (2019) argue that effective M&E systems require active stakeholder engagement and regular feedback loops to ensure accountability and learning across all program levels.

5.4 Strategies to Mitigate Challenges

The five respondent inputs provide a more effective strategy in overcoming challenges in implementing Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) in Nyakabande Sub-County, in line with

prevailing literature. Respondent RS 001 insisted on punctual delivery of inputs to prevent planting lags and losses. This resonates with Mugisha et al. (2021), whose study found that input supply lags by themselves significantly diminished productivity and eroded farmer confidence in the support programs in Uganda. Like in the case above, Respondent RS 007 suggested first-time beneficiaries receive input management training. This is in line with Nabukeera and Mwesigwa (2020), whose study noted that inadequate technical knowledge among farmers diminishes the effectiveness of government agricultural programs and suggested well-structured, in-depth training sessions for greater adoption and long-term impact.

Community participation in planning and allocation was strongly urged by Respondent RS 020, a recommendation supported by Turyahikayo and Mwesigwa (2019), who noted that village participation leads to increased transparency, relevance, and fair allocation of resources. Regular monitoring and follow-up was termed essential by Respondent RS 046, also a recommendation supported by Kasaija and Bbaale (2022), who noted weak monitoring as a main challenge impacting OWC's accountability and knowledge-building. Furthermore, RS 056 mentioned the effectiveness of OWC officers' technical advisory. This evidence is supported by Kiggundu et al. (2020), whose study noted that farmers who directly gained extension support noted improved levels of production and income. These findings all point to potential in timely supply, capability development, participation by community members in planning, continuous monitoring, and technical advisory in improved poverty reduction schemes such as OWC.

5.5 Conclusion

The Operation Wealth Creation initiative in Nyakabande Sub-County has played a significant role in contributing towards poverty reduction, mainly through the provision of training in agriculture, inputs, and improved access to healthcare. Improved knowledge and skill acquisition through participation in trainings were mentioned by many, and improved households' incomes as well as increased crop production were mentioned by others, citing OWC potential in uplifting rural livelihoods.

All the same, persistent challenges in delayed input supply, spasmodic extension support, inadequate technical trainings, and uneven access to basic services have been mitigating against the full realization of the potential benefits.

The study upholds the fact that despite the positive contribution by OWC towards poverty reduction, its impact remains patchy due to implementation inefficiencies, low coverage, and gaps in support in services. Therefore, there is a need for strategic improvement in programme implementation towards scaling up equity and effectiveness. Recommendations The government ought to simplify the distribution and supply channels of the OWC's agric inputs in a timely fashion in order to reach beneficiaries during peak planting seasons since delayed supply affects productivity and farmers' confidence.

Recommendations

In order to guarantee prompt delivery, particularly during crucial planting seasons, the government should optimize the logistics and distribution networks of agricultural inputs under OWC. Delays jeopardize farmer confidence and production.

Tailored capacity-building programs should be designed for different categories of

farmers, including first-time beneficiaries. Training should go beyond input usage to include agribusiness skills, post-harvest handling, and market access strategies.

Recruitment and deployment of more qualified extension officers are crucial. The government should also invest in regular refresher courses and provide adequate tools and mobility for extension staff to improve service outreach and quality.

The government should involve local leaders and farmers in the planning, monitoring, and evaluation of OWC activities. Community engagement fosters transparency, ownership, and ensures the relevance of interventions. Beyond agriculture, the government should implement complementary interventions to address structural barriers to poverty reduction, including access to markets, infrastructure development, and rural employment generation.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR HOUSEHOLD BENEFICIARIES

SECTION A: Demographic Information

Age:

Gender:

1. Male 2. Female

Household size (Specify the number of people in your household:

Occupation (specify):

SECTION B: Contribution of OWC to poverty reduction

Have you received agricultural inputs from the OWC program?

- Yes 2. No

How many trainings related to agriculture have you attended through OWC?

1. None 2. 1-2 3. 3-4 4. More than 4

Compared to before joining OWC, how has your household income changed?

1. Decreased 2. No change 3. Slight increase 4. Significant increase

Have your crop yields improved since participating in OWC?

1. Yes 2. No

Do you have better access to markets to sell your produce since OWC started?

1. Yes 2. No

SECTION C: Poverty Reduction

What is your current estimated monthly household income?

1. Less than UGX 100,000 2. UGX 100,000-300,000

3. UGX 300,000-500,000 4. Above UGX 500,000

Do you own any of the following assets? (Tick all that apply)

1. Livestock 2. Land 3. Farming tools

4. Household electronics (radio, TV)

How often does your household experience food shortages?

1. Never 2. Rarely 3. Sometimes 4. Often

Are your children currently attending school?

1. Yes 2. No

Do you have access to health services in your community?

1. Yes 2. No

Section D: Challenges in OWC Implementation

Have you experienced delays in receiving agricultural inputs from OWC?

1. Yes 2. No

How would you rate the availability of extension services provided through OWC?

1. Excellent 2. Good 3. Fair 4. Poor

Do you think funding for OWC activities is adequate?

1. Yes 2. No

How satisfied are you with the monitoring and evaluation of OWC activities?

1. Very satisfied 2. Satisfied 3. Unsatisfied 4. Very unsatisfied

SECTION E: Program Effectiveness

How timely is the delivery of inputs?

1. Always on time 2. Sometimes delayed 3. Usually delayed

How would you describe your participation in OWC activities?

1. Very active 2. Somewhat active 3. Not active

Overall, how satisfied are you with the services provided by OWC?

1. Very satisfied () 2. Satisfied () 2. Unsatisfied 3. Very unsatisfied

SECTION F: Strategies to Mitigate Challenges

What improvements would you suggest for the delivery of inputs in OWC programme?.....

How can training and capacity building be enhanced in OWC programme?.....

What can be done to improve coordination among stakeholders in OWC?.....

Do you think increasing funding will improve OWC's effectiveness?

1. Yes 2. No

Are you satisfied with recent changes made to address challenges in OWC?

Yes 2. No

Thank you for participating

APPENDIX 2:

Interview Guide for Key Informants

- I. In your opinion, how has the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) program contributed to reducing poverty in Nyakabande Sub-County?
- II. What major challenges have you observed or encountered in the implementation of the OWC program in this area?
- III. What strategies would you recommend to improve the effectiveness of the OWC program in reducing poverty in Nyakabande Sub-County?

APPENDIX 3

Morgan and Krejcie table of sample size determination

<i>N</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>S</i>
10	10	220	140	1200	291
15	14	230	144	1300	297
20	19	240	148	1400	302
25	24	250	152	1500	306
30	28	260	155	1600	310
35	32	270	159	1700	313
40	36	280	162	1800	317
45	40	290	165	1900	320
50	44	300	169	2000	322
55	48	320	175	2200	327
60	52	340	181	2400	331
65	56	360	186	2600	335
70	59	380	191	2800	338
75	63	400	196	3000	341
80	66	420	201	3500	346
85	70	440	205	4000	351
90	73	460	210	4500	354
95	76	480	214	5000	357
100	80	500	217	6000	361
110	86	550	226	7000	364
120	92	600	234	8000	367
130	97	650	242	9000	368
140	103	700	248	10000	370
150	108	750	254	15000	375
160	113	800	260	20000	377
170	118	850	265	30000	379
180	123	900	269	40000	380
190	127	950	274	50000	381
200	132	1000	278	75000	382
210	136	1100	285	100000	384

Note.—*N* is population size. *S* is sample size.

Source: Krejcie & Morgan, 1970