

**LAND CONFLICTS AND HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY IN LYANTONDE  
SUBCOUNTY LYANTONDE DISTRICT**



**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE DIRECTORATE OF GRADUATE STUDIES,**

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**STUART UNIVERSITY**

**BY**

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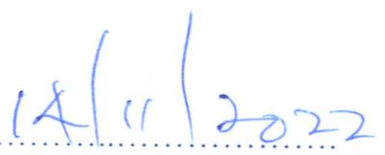
**DECLARATION**

I, **Mugumya Francis Ntambazi**, hereby declare that this research dissertation is a result of my original work and has not been submitted to any University or institution in partial fulfillment for any award.

Signature:.....



Date.....



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**APPROVAL**

This research dissertation has been done by Mugumya Francis Ntambazi under our supervision and is now ready for submission with our approval.

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this dissertation to the family of Ntambazi for the support and guidance offered to me during this research study without their efforts, it would not have come to the end successfully.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

To begin with I thank the Almighty God for the breath that I have to this minute, the wisdom and the strength He has given me that has helped me to complete this piece of research successfully. I thank you Lord so much.

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### **Definition of significant terms as used in the study**

**Food security:** This is when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

**Food availability** - Sufficient quantities of appropriate, necessary types of food from domestic production, commercial imports or donors that are consistently available to the individuals or are within reasonable proximity to them or are within their reach.

**Land conflict** can be defined as a social fact in which at least two parties are involved, the roots of which are different interests over the property rights to land: the right to use the land; to manage the land; to generate an income from the land; to exclude others from the land; to transfer it and the right to compensate for it. A land conflict, therefore, can be understood as a misuse, restriction or dispute over property rights to land.

## **ABSTRACT**

The study examined the effects of land conflicts on food security in Lyantonde rural sub county Lyantonde district. It was guided by the following objectives; to analyze how family land conflicts, ethnic land conflicts and land grabbing amidst existing land laws have impacted on food security in Lyantonde rural sub county.

This study used a descriptive cross-sectional survey research design with mixed approaches of data collection and analysis. The study population comprised of community members, the RDC, Police officers, political and civil leaders of villages in Lyantonde Sub County, members of district and sub county land board and a sample size of 391 respondents participated. Data was collected using semi structured questionnaire and interview guide. Quantitative data collected data was analyzed by use of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) while qualitative data was analyzed by use of both thematic and content analysis.

The study established that people in Lyantonde occupied Mailo land, customary land, Freehold and a few on Leasehold land. Unresolved land ownership, incompatibility of cattle keeping with crop farming unclear boundaries, population growth were leading causes of family and ethnic land conflicts which have culminated into death of animals, destruction of crops, Killing of villagers, loss of originally owned land, reduced food production, reduction in income which have all affected food stability among conflicting families and community at large in the study area.

The study established that there exist cases of land grabbing in Lyantonde rural sub county manifested through forceful evictions and dubious land deals though on a moderate rate. It was revealed that land grabbing is majorly conducted by rich local private individuals and statehouse operatives due to the presence of absentee land lords, poor land tenure system, corruption,

poverty, connection to statehouse and poor implementation of land laws leading into mass displacement of people, landlessness hence food insecurity. The study established that majority of the people living Lyantonde Rural Sub County do not know land laws and had less trust in courts of law since they take a very long time with many procedures to give judgment overland conflicts and are very corrupt. The study recommends that; alternative source of livelihoods should be provided to the people, traditional institutions should be strengthened, land boundaries between clans or communities should clearly be defined, demarcated and documented and, also, there should be strong stakeholder collaboration in land administration.

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.0. Introduction**

This chapter presents the background to the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, objectives of the study, research questions, and scope of the study and significance of the study. The variables for this study are land conflicts as independent variable and food security as a dependent variable.

#### **1.1. Back ground to the study**

Food security has always been on international development agenda since the Rome Declaration of the World Food Summit in 1996 and re-affirmed by the participants in the World Food Summit five years later (FAO, 2017). The MDGs made food part of the first Millennium Development Goal (UN, 2009). UN has echoed food security once again by making it Goal number 2 of the 17 Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) at the UN 2016 conference (UN, 2017).

It is believed that there is more than enough food to feed everyone in the world and yet the number of people facing hunger is still unacceptably high (Bridge, 2014). The number of people facing hunger increased from 777 million in 2015 (FAO, 2017) to more than 820 million in 2018 with two billion people experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity worldwide (FAO; IFAD; UNICEF; WFP; WHO, 2019). The Food and Agriculture Organization (2017) observed that land conflict is a key driver of food insecurity globally, much of which is observed in the

Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, South-Eastern Asia and Western Asia, especially in countries that are plagued by land conflicts.

Land-related conflicts are increasingly becoming a threat to rural economic activities such as agriculture in most sub-Saharan African countries (Deininger and Castagnini, 2006). The prevalence of these conflicts is escalating at a time when crop yields are stagnant or even declining for some countries in the region (Ssenyonjo, 2016). It is therefore apparent that, as governments grapple to enhance agriculture through modern technology adoption and revamp the agriculture sector's performance to meet the high and increasing demand for food, land tenure security becomes crucial in attaining the first Millennium Development Goal (World Bank, 2016). However, institutions governing land, including the protection of property rights, conflict resolution mechanisms, and enforcement of contracts are still weak in most African countries to curb the conflict threat (Marfo, Musah& Abukari,2019). Coupled with population pressure and land scarcity, land conflicts have raised concerns over likely food insecurity and high poverty incidence in the affected areas (Deininger and Castagnini, 2006). Also, land conflicts affect portfolio choice of crops and social capital (Azechum,2017). In addition, small-scale land conflicts have a potential to turn into widespread civil wars, thereby threatening food security (NRC, 2020).

In Nigeria, land is increasingly becoming a source of conflicts with unending tensions (Abegunde, 2018). During land conflicts, agricultural activities are usually affected but information concerning the extent to which agriculture productivity is jeopardized is scanty. Land conflicts have affected food security by creating food shortages, which disrupts both upstream input market and downstream output markets. In areas where there are land conflicts,

crops cannot be planted, weeded or harvested thereby decreasing the level of agricultural production (Wehrmann, 2017). In Nigeria, land conflicts continue to hamper and shrink agricultural productivity and have not only affect farmers' income and food security (Abegunde, 2018). Prominent among these land conflicts are ownership or boundary conflicts between clans, families or communities, user conflicts between individual land users and discrimination against women and settlers. According to Abegunde (2018), land related conflicts have been a major cause of food insecurity in northern Nigeria.

In Kenya, agriculture is a major means of livelihood for over 70 per cent of the population, a major source of raw materials for the agro-allied industries and a potent source of the much-needed foreign exchange (Mwenjeri, 2019). However, over the years, the agricultural sector has witnessed a tremendous decline partly due to scramble for fertile land coupled with contradictory or inconsistent land laws mostly instituted with little or no stakeholder engagement have communal land conflicts with their adverse effects on food security (Wanjiku, 2018). Kenya has over time experienced inter-communal conflicts over fertile land amidst high population growth increasing unbearable pressure on this natural resource (GOK, 2017). This created great competition for land for development by government leading to mass land acquisitions and mass land evictions by land grabbers leaving small scale farmers being landless threatening their food security situation in most parts of the county (Wanjiku, 2018)

In Uganda, land conflicts continue create insecurity over ownership and access impeding land improvement translating into low agriculture output per hectare (Deininger and Castagnini, 2006). In Apac, district, rural households experience land conflicts and have led to significant

impacts on their agricultural productivity (Mwesigye and Matsumoto, 2013 & Auma, 2016). The prevalence of these unresolved land use conflicts creates a challenge for settlement upgrading and subsequently better land use management and this has been the main factor behind food insecurity. The problem of land conflicts is fueled by the fact that land does not expand while people and other living organisms relying on it for survival, keep on increasing, putting on an immense pressure on the limited land available resulting into land conflicts (Bahigwa, 2014).

Buganda region has been a center of ever increasing land grabbing cases, conflicts of land ownership and conflicts between crop growers and pastoralists (Ssenyonjo, 2016). Lack of clear land boundary demarcation and documentation coupled with the increasing land value has equally resulted in many land litigations and clashes in many parts of the region. Many groups do not see land as only a resource but also as an ancestral heritage and god (Bahigwa, 2014). This has therefore resulted in competition by many groups to gain power of ownership and control over land in order to promote their identity (Mayiga, 2017). Hence, any attempt to alienate it from them poses as a threat of cutting their relationship with the ancestors. Mayiga (2017) further identified the vesting of lands on the cultural institution institution, introduction of commercial farming and urbanization as major drivers of land conflicts in the area which have a direct effect on food security.

In Lyantonde district, land conflicts have emerged as a critical issue of concern today than ever before (Lubuka, 2019). Land has continuously been getting scarce, land markets developed and some individuals started selling land from their native areas at a relatively higher price, acquiring more land in sparsely populated areas. Others just settled on unoccupied land without any permission and, given the land abundance, neither the government nor the absentee owners

bothered to claim the land (Lubuka, 2019). With land value increasing, the original owners started claiming land from the immigrants, which has led to increased tenure insecurity and high incidences of eviction-related conflicts. In the host/receiving communities, populations were highly heterogeneous, the consequence of commingling of immigrants from different ethnic/tribal backgrounds. Tribal heterogeneity makes it hard to establish informal conflict resolution mechanisms common to all tribes in a community. Secondly, the mixing of tribes weakens and, in most cases, lead to a breakdown of previous ethnic-specific land customary tenure arrangements and commonly agreed-upon procedures of resolving conflicts found in the place. Coupled with the weak formal institutions, land evictions have escalated in those areas (Ssekabira, 2018).

These conflicts have created uncertainty amongst land users threatening their agricultural productivity and food security. As a result, the government of Uganda has endeavored to establish the land Act(1998), land commission, District Land Boards however, the community still experience lots of challenges from land use even after several attempts on resolving land use conflict (Lubuka, 2019). There are several cases reported on land conflicts ranging from loss of properties, loss of lives, land grabbing, forced displacement of persons, insecurity, enmity, disharmony among disputants and continuous destruction of crops all of which have rendered the community food insecure (ACODE,2019). However, the information ascertaining the extent to which land conflicts have impacted on food security in the area is scanty and thus the need for this study using Lyantonde Rural Sub Countyin Lyantonde District as the case study.



## **1.2. Problem Statement**

In Uganda, 85% of Uganda's rural population depends on land for livelihood and survival (Bamugemerire, 2019). In Buganda, land is the way of life as the Kingdom's cultural aspirations are based on land hence titles like "Ssaabataka" for the Kabaka. Clan heads and elders in Buganda are known as "Abataka". However, this scenario isn't only prevalent in Buganda. Land is a major asset across the country (Mayiga, 2017). It is the biggest means of production since our economy is agricultural based. This has led to incessant conflicts over it in most parts of Uganda today. The most recent being skirmishes that led to the loss of lives in Apaa in northern Uganda (Mayiga, 2017). Land disputes are widespread in Uganda and are conservatively estimated to affect 7% of agricultural landholdings (Tatwangire, 2018). Demand for land required for public use, private sector-led development, and by speculators is on the increase in most parts of the country, including in Lyantonde district. As a result, land conflicts are threatening agriculture production and food security. These disputes, some of which have turned bloody, have displaced thousands of people, leaving them with no land for cultivation turning most parts of the country food insecure (Musumba, 2019). As a result, Uganda's food security situation remains alarming with nearly half of Uganda's 7.3 million households being food insecure (Ssewanyana & Kasirye 2010; WFP, 2015; OPM, 2017; IPC, 2017 & IPC, 2018). Food security is a major challenge facing Lyantonde District. More than 85% of the people in the district struggle to produce food amidst contestations over land (ACODE, 2018). In the District, the food security situation is worsening as many households are unable to meet the nutritional demands as most of them consume less than two meals per day. It's estimated that child wasting below 5 years accounts for 6% and underweight in children at 13% in the district (Lyantonde District LGDP11 2015/2016 - 2019/2020). This could be blamed on the increasing cases of

ethnic land conflicts, land grabbing and family conflicts over land in the area (Turyahabweet *al*, 2017). However, the extent to which these land conflicts have impacted on food security is not clearly documented thus necessitated the study to establish the effect of land conflicts on household food security Lyantonde Rural sub county Lyantonde district.

### **1.3. Purpose of the study**

The general objective of this research was to find out the effects of land conflicts on household food security Lyantonde Rural sub county Lyantonde district.

### **1.4 Objectives**

- i. To assess the effect of family and ethnicland conflicts towards household food security Lyantonde Rural sub county
- ii. To ascertain how land grabbing affectshousehold food security Lyantonde Rural sub county
- iii. To analyze the effect of land laws towards household food security Lyantonde Rural sub county

### **1.5 Research Questions**

- i. What is the effect of family land and ethnic conflicts towards household food security Lyantonde Rural Sub County?
- ii. How has land grabbing affected food security in Lyantonde rural sub county?
- iii. What is the effect of land laws towards food security in Lyantonde rural sub county?

## **1.6. Scope of the study**

### **1.6.1 Geographical scope**

The study was carried out in Lyantonde Rural sub county Lyantonde district. Lyantonde rural sub county borders with Lwengo district to the east, Kaliro sub county to the north, Lyantonde town council to the south and Kiruhurasub county to the west. The sub county is composed of 5 parishes which include Biwolobo, Kalagala, Katovu, Kirowooza and Kyewanulawith 29 villages. Most households in Lyantonde rural sub county are engaged in subsistence agriculture. The most grown crops include; bananas, cassava, sweet potatoes, maize, millet, coffee, onions ground nuts and Irish potatoes. A considerable number of the households practice livestock production and the animals reared are cattle, goats, sheep, pigs and poultry. The area has been considered due to the ever increasing cases of land disputes include family wrangling in which members of the same family are fighting over land, inter-clan land disputes and other wrangles involving businessmen evicting poor people (Lubuka, 2019).

### **1.6.2 Content scope**

The study was about the effects of land conflicts on household food security Lyantonde Rural sub county Lyantonde district. It was guided by the following objectives; the researcher analyzed how family land conflicts, ethnic land conflicts and land grabbing amidst existing land laws have impacted on food security in Lyantonde rural sub county. The study considered food availability and stability as indicators of food security.

### **1.6.3 Time scope**

The study was carried out basing on the information between 2015 and 2020 in order for the researcher to draw valid conclusions. This is because was the time that has witnessed increased cases of land evictions in the area resulting into land conflicts (Lubuka,2019).

### **1.7. Significance of the Study**

This study is significant in the sense that it provides new knowledge concerning proper utilization of food and storage among its rural peasants; hence contribute to the expansion of literature on the problems that affects food security. Secondly, the study is important because it will help the policy makers to improve policy strategies on food security.

This study will be carried out with the hope of assisting the policy makers to design appropriate interventions to address land conflicts and bring about peace in the area that is conducive for development.

Conflict is known as one of the factors that hinder development; therefore, if the different ways in which land conflict hinders development are identified, it can be easier to identify solutions and implementation process as well.

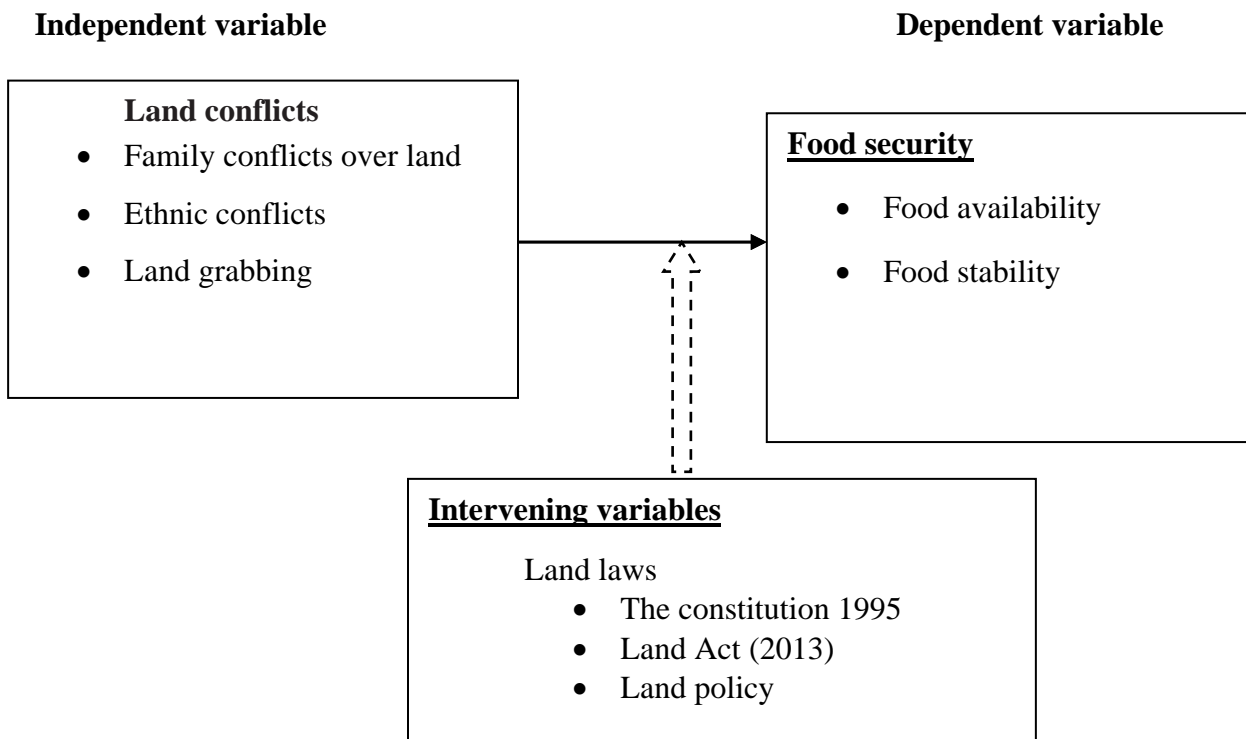
The study would avail data on effects of land conflicts on development which data may be essential to other researchers, planners and non-governmental organizations and agencies that sometimes give aid.

The findings would contribute to the academic advancement by providing more literature on the effects of land conflicts on community development in Lyantonde rural sub county.

## 1.8 Conceptual framework

The study is conceptualized on the premise that household food insecurity in Lyantonde depends on the extent of land conflicts as described in the figure below;

**Figure 1.1: Conceptual frame work**



**Source: Kisembo (2009) and modified by the researcher**

As can be observed from figure 1.1, it is conceptualized in a way that the land conflicts in place causes food insecurity. Land conflicts are independent variables operationalized in terms of land grabbing, family conflicts and ethnic conflicts while food security is the dependent variables measured in terms food availability, Food access, food utilization and food stability moderated by the land laws including the land act, the constitution of Uganda and policy.

## CHAPTER TWO

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

#### 2.0. Introduction

This chapter reviews the literature relevant to the study and attempts to bring out other researches which are directly or generally related to the research topic. It describes the theoretical literature review, empirical review and research gap of the study.

#### 2.1. Theoretical review

The study was anchored on the theory of entitlement which was developed by Sen in 1981. According to the theory, while people are entitled to production resources, inheritance and transfer, trade and own labour entitlements, food shortages arise mainly due to decline in exchange entitlements due to a number of factors including under developed infrastructure and limited income given differences in physical and natural endowment. Sen believed famine can exist amidst food availability as long as an identifiable group of people have limited access to available food or suffer a food exchange failure. That the struggle for land generates conflicts which limits resource use. Thus land conflicts become an inevitable aspect in influencing command over food for individuals' households'. Over years, Sen's theory of entitlement has attracted a lot of interest and criticism among different researchers. For example, while Sen (1981, pg 75-78) believe that income highly determines one's level of entitlement and hunger, Kula (1989) contend that famine can also occur in periods of high income as long as there is no food to buy. De Waal (1989) also notes that poverty has not got a significant relationship with famines. Osmani (1993) also shows that choices of people's entitlements depend more on one's test and preferences and not necessarily income. Anderson & Cook (1999) adds that achieving

food security is a holistic approach. It requires having consistent safe foods available in stores, acceptability of food sources and anxiety of food availability or supply. An analysis of households' food security should therefore consider both demand and supply factors.

## **2.2. Actual literature reviewed**

### **2.2.1. Family land conflicts and food security**

In Uganda and many other parts of Africa, land is heritable once the head of the family dies; land conflicts normally arise as all family members struggle to get a share of the deceased's economic fortunes, including land (Kiwawulo, 2014). Consequently, as a conflict mitigation measure, the deceased's land is subdivided into small segments and distributed among all conflicting family members. Flintan (2011) describes land fragmentation as "Broken Lands: Broken Lives". Flintan argues that after splitting the land, pastoralist farmers find it hard to overcome the effects of drought due to the fact that small farms are sometimes owned by independent individuals who may not allow pastoralists to encroach on their farms or water catchments in their land. Eventually, it becomes difficult for the poorest pastoralists, without adequate land, to feed their herds of cattle throughout protracted drought seasons. This evidently lowers the dairy output, which worsens household income and food insecurity. Therefore, the more the pastoralist families multiply, the more the likelihood of land conflicts and land fragmentation.

Evidence from Uganda suggests that land fragmentation among family members severely affects commercial farming because when land is split into small plots, it becomes hard to use mechanized methods of farming, which drastically lowers the crop output potential of the land (Luyombya 2015). For instance, reports from Uganda's Kyenjojo District indicate that each home possesses an average of 1.5 acres to grow food crops, vis-à-vis seven acres ten years ago,

(Kiwawulo, 2014). Subsequently, some farmers have resorted to either renting more land expensively or producing less quantities of food on their meagre plots. The factors contributing to low agricultural output include time losses incurred while travelling to different scattered plots of land, wasted space during border demarcation, insufficient monitoring of scattering pieces of land, and the failure to use certain kinds of machinery like harvesters (Raghbendra, Hari and Subbarayan, 2005; Sundqvist and Andersson 2006). Therefore, land conflicts lead to land fragmentation and eventual lowering of food production, all of which translate into food insecurity.

Simmons (2013), in a desk review of scholarly works established strong evidence on the linkage between family land conflict and food insecurity. Family land conflict can reduce the amount of food available, disrupt access to food by people, limits food preparation facilities and block access to health care and facilities and also increase uncertainty about the availability of satisfying future food needs (Simmons, 2013). Survey research conducted by Uyang et al. (2013) revealed that, boundary dispute is a significant cause of food security problem in the Obudu Local Government Area of Cross River State of Nigeria. Frequent communal land conflicts in the area have exacerbated food insecurity. Land conflicts lead to the loss of properties and lives coupled with the loss of food systems thereby creating food emergencies where food prices are escalated. This situation pushes many young abled bodied men to migrate out of the area to non-conflict areas halting agricultural activities (Uyang et al., 2013).

Mayiga (2017) acknowledged that land is the most important means of production, for which it is itself a factor leading to most family conflict in Uganda. Family members remain fighting over



land throughout the year, attending courts and police stations without having time for agriculture which has made these families to experienced unending acute food insecurity (Mayiga, 2017). He however highlighted six other causes of land conflict among people, namely: weaknesses in the police force to investigate and gather evidence over land conflicts in a timely manner; poor judicial system which both depends on police inefficient investigation and consuming too much time in disposing land cases; rapid growth in population of the nation; the activities of the growing population exacting pressure on the available land; inefficiency and confusion in all the country's land registries; and finally, political interference with court orders over land matters.

Assessing the impact of land conflicts on agricultural production and for that matter food security in Uganda, Auma (2016) sighted among others that family land conflict lead to loss of farm land, forces people to reduce farm size and farm investment. The protracted land conflicts also waste a lot of time of parties involved. In some cases, at the time the conflict is resolved, the farming season may be over. All these reduce food production and for that matter availability. These land conflicts also result in rural-urban migration and sale of labour making life unpleasant (Auma, 2016). The declining food security condition often lead to rise in illegal practices such as stealing of non-harvested crops by community members (Auma, 2016).

A major cause of communal land conflicts in Nigeria is boundary dispute since the boundary area is becoming a very critical factor for agricultural production (Otite& Albert, 2001; Dunmoye, 2003; Ogwuda, 2010; Okpiliya, Ekong, &Eni, 2013). Goshit (2004) observed that communal land conflicts fueled by increasing boundary disputes were due to population pressure and these were compounding the problem of food insecurity in Nigeria. Izugbara, Ugal, &Ukwai (2003) and Olayemi (1996) noted that competition for access to and control of socially

valued environmental and economic goods such as land, water resources, and economic trees was responsible for many of the communal clashes in Nigeria. Studies on the effect of family land conflict on food productivity in developing countries (Ageoili, Perez, & Rosegrant, 1995; Sambe, Avanger, & Alakali, 2013; Okpiliya, Ekong, & Eni, 2013) showed that several boundary disputes resulting to communal conflict, especially in Africa have impeded food productivity. Arising from an empirical study which found a correlation between communal violence and food security in Africa, (Sambe, Avanger, & Alakali, 2013)

Family land conflict has its attending effects on the communities and individual groups that are involved in it. According to Anyaoha, Chikaire, Ogueru, Utazi and Godson (2018), a good number of people have lost their lives due to land fight; and some incidences of family land conflict create hatreds among family members which goes on from one generation to another. Moreover, individuals and communities who lose their rights to land due to conflict find themselves in deep and excessive poverty, due to decline in productivity, food insecurity and enhanced food scarcity; and a fall on the income level, health challenges and retarded growth and development of communities. Land disputes often results in several deaths and severe injuries during conflicts especially in situations where it is a communal land dispute (Fischer and Ferlie, 2013).

Unending family conflicts overland are enemies of food security (Salem, 2013). There is a well-established correlation between the exposure of countries to family boundary land conflicts and the deterioration and long term stagnation of their food security. The conflict disrupts food production through physical destruction and plundering of crops and livestock, harvest and food

re- serves. Land conflicts also prevent and discourage farming and also interrupt the lives of transportation through which food exchanges. According to Chizea&Iyare (2006), scramble for scarce economic resources exacerbate conflict, undermine the rule of law and spawn a culture of violence and impunity, the consequence of which is a threat to food security. Earlier studies by scholars have attested to the relationship between scramble for scarce economic resources and communal conflicts (Onwudiwe, 2004; Irobi, 2005). In a study of the relationship between scramble for scarce economic resources and food security, Hazen & Horner (2007) found that scramble for scarce resources was on the increase in Nigeria. Essentially, their study revealed the scramble engendered communal land conflict, which forced many people to flee their homes and villages. Thus, they concluded that scramble for scarce economic resources was likely to increase the problem of food insecurity in Nigeria. Food security was negatively affected by scramble for scarce economic resources in other parts of Africa (Migot-Adholla, Peter, Benoit, & Frank, 1991; Carter, Weibe, &Blarel, 1994).

### **2.2.2. Ethnic land conflicts and food security**

The land conflict between Fulani Herdsmen and small holder farmers in Agogo area in the Ashante Region has brought untold hardship to many farmers. According to Opoku (2015), this rampant stand-off has resulted in loss of lives including breadwinners of families, destruction of crops and even reduction of agricultural production, reduced income among others. There are instances the Fulani will deliberately destroy farm crops which lead to reduction in income and stifle family access to food. This also threatens the stability of food in the area and that of health care delivery as a clinic in Bebome community has to be closed due to the worsening security

situation (Opoku, 2015). By far land conflicts are major drivers of food scarcity and diseases in the area and many areas.

The extent of damage and the impact on food security depend on the type of land conflicts. For example, individual-versus-individual land conflicts may not be as detrimental as inter-communal land conflicts. Intercommunal land conflicts tend to be more destructive than other conflicts because they involve many people. Normally when a community or tribe fights another, both sides lose lives and property. For instance, in 2013, communal land conflicts between the Nko and Oyadama tribes were among the most devastating inter-communal conflicts in Nigeria: farms were demolished, houses smashed, livelihoods ruined, and people injured and killed (Abul, et al. 2013). The situation is even more precarious when intercommunal violence erupts due to an unclear land boundary as each side seeks to extend its boundary (Otite and Albert 2001; Dunmoye 2003). For instance, the boundary between the Kuku tribe of Kajo-Keji County in South Sudan and the Madi tribe of Moyo district in Uganda has been one of the most fatal land conflicts. In 2014, during the census exercise in Uganda, South Sudanese authorities of the Kuku tribe arrested Ugandan officials including the Chairman, LCV of Moyo District. This sparked violence that led to heavy losses: 14 people died, 49 people were injured, 545 houses were set ablaze and 486 cattle were stolen (Muhindo 2015). Further, communal land conflicts tend to concentrate in regions where cultivable land and water are scarce, like the arid and semi-arid areas of the Sahel, Uganda and Kenya (Hendrix and Brinkman 2013).

Furthermore, evidence from Uganda indicates that violence resulting from land boundary-related conflicts tends to be prolonged, thereby threatening potential agricultural investors (Rugadya 2009). In western Uganda, the Banyoro-versus- Bakiga inter-ethnic land conflict has lasted for a

decade and could explode again. Recently, in northern Uganda, communities in Atiaka and Palaro sub-counties, in Amuru and Gulu districts respectively, prohibited each other from farming in Mede, a ten kilometre stretch of land at the border of two sub-counties (Komakech 2014). Similarly, in the neighbouring district of Pader, the Olet communal farming land is contested by the Awere and Puranga sub-counties. This conflict is exacerbated by the fact that individual land-grabbers have also started demanding or claiming certain parts of the same land. The contested land has been a communal grazing land for a long period of time. Therefore, individuals are also exploiting lack of clear ownership to grab some pieces of land. What aggravates the situation is the fact that politicians capitalize on land conflicts to gain political mileage at the expense of peaceful resolution of the conflict. Consequently, as Komakech (2014) recounts, over a hundred heads of cattle were stolen from Kraals in the disputed land, which further heightened the stakes and endangered the livelihoods of farmers who depend on dairy products.

Uganda has been a traditional host to refugees since the 1940s. Uganda is one of the countries that offered shelter to European refugees, especially from eastern Europe, during World War II (Lomo, Naggaga and Hovil 2015; Mwesigye, 2014). Following the independence struggles in Africa, Uganda received another batch of refugees. However, the recent and current batches of refugees are largely linked to Africa's internal political violence, such as in the DRC, South Sudan and Burundi. While the host communities warmly welcomed refugees associated with Africa's independent struggles in the 1960s and 70s, the current wave of refugees is harassed by the host communities that feel marginalized or neglected by their own government and perceive refugees as a threat to their livelihoods. Refugees are accused of occupying land while some

Nationals are landless. They are also accused of degrading the environment; encroaching on gazetted forests and swamps in search of firewood (Bagenda, et al. 2003; Ahimbisibwe 2013).

Inter-communal land conflicts in Uganda are similar to those in South Sudan where pastoral communities are regularly in conflict with fellow pastoralists and cultivators, although the South Sudanese conflicts are much more severe and devastating (Turyamureeba 2012). However, in Uganda this form of land conflict is still deemed as a security threat and a stumbling block to nation-building as it divides people along economic and ethnic lines. This type of conflict normally exists in communities where nomadic pastoralists co-exist with crop cultivators. For example, in 2014 the Alur cultivators in Hoima District, western Uganda, clashed ferociously with nomadic

pastoralists, leading to the death of about five cows and the destruction of close to twenty houses (Mugerwa 2014). While the crop cultivators accused the cattle keepers of encroaching on zoned farmland, the cattle keepers also faulted the cultivators for straying into pasture land. In Kasese District, similar inter-communal conflicts exist between the Bakonjo cultivators and the Basongora pastoralists and they are attributed largely to land scarcity due to increasing population and competing land uses. The government owns close to 65% of the land in the district, including Queen Elizabeth National Park, rendering the natives landless and squeezed in the remaining 35% of the district land (Namubiru, 2009). The government land is gazetted, though the Basongora cattle keepers encroach on it, attracting violent evictions. Left without choice, the Basongora pastoralists compete for the remaining land with the Bakonjo and Banyabindi cultivators, sparking violent communal land conflicts. This form of conflict exists in other districts, such as Bulisa, Kibaale and Isingiro.

An ethnographic study conducted by Massoi (2015) on land conflicts and livelihood on pastoral women in Kilosa District of Morogoro, Tanzania revealed that land conflicts disrupt access to resources like land, water, herbal medicine, cooking equipment, food stores, income and sometimes force people to change their dietary practices and preferences. The situation is no different from the Obudu Local Government Area of Cross River State of Nigeria where communal land conflicts are reported to have exacerbated food security (Uyang et al, 2013). These land conflicts, apart from leading to loss of lives and food systems, they lead to migration of workforce out of the conflict areas disrupting agricultural activities (Uyang et al., 2013).

In rural areas reported cases of conflicts between farmers and livestock keepers are on the increase due to decreasing natural resources (Mayiga, 2017) a state which forced those communities to enter into conflict fighting over common resources like land, water and pastures (Mayiga, 2017). Violent clashes between farming and pastoral communities over land use have been common for decades in Central and East Africa, but their increasing frequency and persistence have turned regions into areas of low-intensity conflict (Bainagana,2013).The spontaneous clashes between crop farmers and pastoralists in Kilosa (Bahaet al., 2008), and long standing conflicts in Loliondo area between Sonjo farming communities and Maasai pastoralists starting in 2000 (HAKI-ARDHI, 2010) are among of the examples of land disputes which has left serious scars among smallholder communities in Tanzania. These crashes have at the end effected production in the regions.

### **2.2.3. The influence of land grabbing towards food security**

A “land grab” refers to those land acquisitions that have caused displacement, dispossession and disenfranchisement; or, according to the Institute of Development Studies, it may also more broadly refer to the mass purchasing of agricultural lands by transnational companies (Scoones, 2009). Land grabbing is occurring on a scale and at a rate faster than ever known before (Food First, 2017). When over one-hundred papers were presented at the International Conference on Global Land Grabbing in 2017, not one positive outcome could be found for local communities; such as, food security, employment and environmental sustainability (ibid). When such acquisitions occur in places of conflict, post-conflict and/or weak governance there is less monitoring and control and even greater negative impacts (Mabikke, 2017). Furthermore, large-scale land deals increase local food insecurity, as arable land produce is exported rather than reaching the local market; and smallholder farmers must purchase foods as opposed to harvesting it on their lands (Food First, 2017).

Brown (2017) argues that land purchasing is a part of the global struggle to ensure food security. Food-importing countries are securing overseas supplies by attempting to control the entire supply-chain of food-stuffs, and thus avoid any potential problems that may arise in the process. Furthermore, he notes, that these deals are not only about food security but also water security. Countries such as Saudi Arabia used to produce much higher levels of wheat internally; however, due to declines in available fresh water these land deals have secured required sources of both food and water (Bunting, 2017). Woodhouse and Ganho (2017) argue that the role played by water access in land grabs cannot be under-estimated, including the competition between local and investor in acquiring access to water resources and to sustainable water usage, as well



as coping with the problems of creating pollution and chemical run-off. Case studies in Ethiopia demonstrate that access to, and rights of, water sources disproportionately favor investors over local smallholder farmers (Bues, 2017).

A study conducted by Deininger and Castagnini (2004), Milu and Gitau (2013) in Kenya found that conflict-free land registered higher yields than disputed land which registered 5-11% lower output. A later study by Mwesigye and Matsumoto (2013) put the food productivity losses of disputed land at seventeen percent. Two possible reasons for the lower yields of disputed land were suggested. One is the lack of time for farmers to tend to gardens on disputed land because such farmers spend a lot of time in courts or local tribunals. Secondly, it could be that part of the garden is deliberately destroyed by the other contending party. Mwesigye and Matsumoto (2013) further categorize the forms of land conflicts and the impacts they have on food production. They found that eviction related to land conflicts poses a great danger to food security, and they concluded that land eviction lowers crop yields by 36% which is higher than the impact of other forms of conflict. The reason for the higher productivity losses could be that the evictees may harvest the crops before they are fully ready for harvesting to pave the way for new occupants or the evictors. Lower productivity translates into food insecurity since the evictees have no hope of returning to the land from which they are evicted.

Mubende District found in central Uganda, about 107 miles from Kampala, the Capital of Uganda continues to be the center of conflicts(Mayiga,2017). The district has many minerals, the most important one being gold. Valuable minerals and fertile soils have attracted many investors to the district, including international mining, forestry and commercial agricultural firms. This is

in-line with the Government's Plan for Modernization of Agriculture (PMA), hatched in 2000. In this plan, the Government aimed at commercializing agriculture through turning smallholder and subsistence farmers into commercial farmers and also attracting foreign skilled farmers. This necessitated the amalgamation of small farms and the acquisition of more land from peasants to pave the way for large-scale commercial farmers (FIAN 2012). However, this came at a very big cost to the ordinary local communities whose ancestral lands have been leased to foreign firms without following the due diligence procedures stipulated in the statutory laws. Available evidence (Grainger and Geary, 2011) indicates that inhabitants persistently lose their lands to local elites who either fraudulently acquire the land for speculative purposes or connive with top military, politicians and international investors to violate the land rights of the hapless communities through brutal evictions. It is thought that the poor are easy to evict because they do not have the economic power to defend their land rights legally (Musisi 2014). The impacts of evictions without fair compensation have been far reaching. General vulnerability, characterized by destitution, apathy, fear, and food insecurity, has persisted due to lack of economic interventions to rescue the evictees from the state of economic destitution in which they find themselves. The operations of two international companies from Germany and the UK are of particular interest.

Equally adverse for food security, is the tendency of rich land-grabbers to acquire land not to produce food but for speculation purposes (Lavigne, 2000; Rugadya 2009). Such rich people fence the land and speculatively leave it unproductive for about five years to gain value before selling it expensively. What is taking place in Uganda, Okot (2013) notes, is akin to what occurred during the enclosure system in Britain from the 14th to the 18th centuries, when the rich and privileged ruling class acquired huge tracts of land, displacing many people, some of

whom became labourers on their former land. The difference is that while the land-grabbers in Britain used mechanized methods of farming to produce more food and filled the food stores and supermarkets, in Uganda the few who attempt to farm the grabbed or otherwise acquired land use rudimentary methods of farming, which result in low harvests. They lack modern farming methods, tools and other inputs like tractors, improved seeds and fertilizers. Moreover, many of the vulnerable Ugandans who are thus displaced from land become food insecure and relocate to urban centers such as Kampala. In towns, they may resort to negative coping mechanisms, such as theft, burglary and prostitution. Such rural-urban migration also deprives the rural areas of able-bodied young men and women who would otherwise contribute to food production.

The United Nations director of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) called these land-lease deals ‘neo-colonialist’ (Economist, 2017b). This statement was echoed by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who warned of a new wave of colonialism (Associated Press, 2017). Bunting (2017) envisions a “dystopian future in which millions of the hungry are excluded from the land of their forefathers by barbed wire fences and security guards as food is exported to feed the rich world.” The wider view must, however, include the role of local/national government in facilitating, and in some cases encouraging, the sale of arable land and displacement of peoples. Other analysts have more cautiously labeled the vast selling of agricultural lands to investors as the third wave of outsourcing. The first wave consisted of investors looking for locations with cheaper labour. The second wave was the out-sourcing of middle-class jobs to places such as India because of its advances in information technology. This may be the third wave: the out-sourcing of growing and harvesting of food supplies to locations where there is cheap fertile land.

Land grabbing potentially could boost local food production and food security if agricultural investment on the grabbed land is carried out responsibly on the contrary putting land to other uses besides agriculture could adversely affect local food production and food security. Haralanbus (2009) for instance indicate that as land grabbing leads to increased investments in food production flowing to rural areas of developing countries. It could present essential benefits and opportunities for promoting the livelihoods of poor rural communities. On the other hand, Andersen (2010) also believes that if the risks associated with land grabbing such as natural resource degradation, loss of indigenous farming practices and food insecurity are not addressed, it could lead to failure to become a development strategy for the host countries.

Oxfarm (2012) revealed that access to land is critical to small scale food producers, lack of it defines landless farm workers and this is feared by many small holders as it will mean losing food security and opportunities for development. It is the most marginalized groups in society who are most susceptible to land grabbing which prevents it as a crucial issue in poverty reduction and human rights. He also revealed that in most of the sub-Sahara countries the majority of agriculture based land deals are for export commodities including biofuels and cut flowers. Therefore, unrestricted export clauses in contracts together with small scale food producers losing their key productive assets may well worsen rather than improve food security.

According to UNHS (2017) Uganda grows about 16 major crops these include (maize, millet, sorghum, rice), root crops (cassava, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes), pulses (beans, cowpeas, field peas, pigeon peas) and oil crops (ground nuts, soya beans, simsim) this all affect competition on the world market due structural rigidities and conflicts in the countries including conflicts associated with land matters especially in rural settlements where mostly crops listed above are

grown. Oxfam (2018) that land grabs have shifted production away from crops destined for local consumption towards crops that are for export or for the production of bio fuels and siting of industries, this threatens the welfare and survival of the people as food insecurity and lack of jobs, displacement and reduced living standard becomes the order of the day.

#### **2.2.4. The effect of land laws towards food security**

Legal matters related to land have a direct impact on food production and security. Rugadya (2009) asserts that land conflicts, especially in Uganda's oil-rich Bunyoro sub-region, hinder food production as neither of the claimants can legally exploit the disputed land until the case is resolved by courts of law. Indeed, when a court issues standing court injunctions in a land case, none of the litigants involved can legally use, lease or sell the disputed land. In a previous study (Deininger and Castagnini 2006; Milu and Gitau, 2013) found that about five percent of households interviewed in Kenya had land cases pending and the legal battles protracted for eight years or more. This implies that the land was unproductive for eight years or more. It also indicates that the land loses market value as no food producers can lease, buy or develop it until the case is decided. Besides, time that would have been used to produce food is wasted in courts or community land tribunals.

Similarly, Khadiagala (2001) and MISR (2002) emphasize that the high costs involved in land legal battles make it virtually difficult for the poor to win legal cases. The rich normally elude the community or local land tribunals and present their cases in the high court which is normally at the district headquarters far away from the community. In Uganda, when the rich land-grabbers lose the case at the district, they normally appeal to a higher court in Kampala. Given the transport costs and legal fees involved, the poor normally give up in favour of the rich. The

situation is worse for the poor and vulnerable women-headed households because they cannot easily afford to pay lawyers or bribe the judicial functionaries.

A focus on women's access to land reveals a daunting experience. In Uganda, while there have been tremendous efforts to implement policies aimed at actualizing women's land rights, a lot remains to be done. Women constitute the majority of farmers in the country, most of the land belongs to, and is controlled by, men. Bikaako and Ssenkumba (2003) portray this situation succinctly when they state, "Women in Uganda provide 70-80% of all agricultural labour and over 90% of food crop production and processing, but only 7% of the land in Uganda is owned by women." This directly translates into food insecurity, especially in female headed households. According to a study conducted by Deininger and Castagnini(2004), while 33% of agricultural producers in Uganda attested that they lost land because of conflict, the chances of female-headed households losing land through conflict were eleven percent (11%) higher than those of male-headed households. Even pending conflicts have a great impact on farm output: women and the elderly are easily psychologically and physically intimidated and prevented from returning to their gardens. Rivals may even uproot seasonal crops or cut some perennial ones. Such actions also scare farm labourers from returning to weed or prune the crops. Moreover, as mentioned before, such contested land cannot easily be sold, rented or leased to investors (Binswanger, et al. 1995; Kasanga and Kotey 2001). As a result, widows may lack labour, partly because potential labourers perhaps scared of offering their labour in such circumstances. Moreover, widows' household incomes decline as revenue from land-rent drops. All this directly leads to low productivity and food insecurity.

## CHAPTER THREE

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the methodology that was used to collect the required data for the study. It describes the research design, area of study, population of the study, sample size and sampling procedure, sources of data, data collection methods and instruments. In addition, it covers the data collection procedure, data processing, analysis and interpretation, and limitations of the study.

#### 3.1. Research design

This study used a descriptive cross-sectional survey research design with mixed approaches of data collection and analysis. Descriptive cross-sectional survey research design was used because it gives a realistic description of the existing phenomena and therefore making it capable of generalizing facts. Kombo and Tromp (2006) opine that a descriptive study is not a mere fact-finding mission, but also, may result in solving a problem based on the conception of valuable insights. Descriptive survey research designs are used in preliminary and exploratory studies to allow researchers to gather information and summarize, present and interpret data for the purpose of clarification. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), the purpose of descriptive research is to determine and report the way things are, and it helps in establishing the current status of the population under study. Surveys are a self-report study that requires the collection of quantifiable information from the sample. They are useful for describing, explaining or exploring the existing status of two or more variables, (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2008). The employment of both research approaches allowed triangulation that enhanced the validity and reliability of the study.

### **3.2. The Study area**

The study was carried out in Lyantonde rural sub county Lyantonde district. Lyantonde rural sub county borders with Lwengo district to the east, Kaliro sub county to the north, Lyantonde town council to the south and Kiruhurasub county to the west. The sub county is composed of 5 parishes which include Biwolobo, Kalagala, Katovu, Kirowooza and Kyewanulawith 29 villages. Most households in Lyantonde rural sub county are engaged in subsistence agriculture. The most grown crops include; bananas, cassava, sweet potatoes, maize, millet, coffee, onions ground nuts and Irish potatoes. A considerable number of the households practice livestock production and the animals reared are cattle, goats, sheep, pigs and poultry. The area is food insecure and there have been instances of disputes of land ownership among community members who are even multicultural.

### **3.4 Study Population**

Population refers to an entire group of individuals, events or objects having a common observable characteristic as Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) posit. The study population comprised of community members, the RDC, Police officers, political and civil leaders of villages in Lyantonde Sub County, members of district and sub county land board. Lyantonde district has a total population of 3964 households with 19348 inhabitants (UBOS, 2019). Therefore, the study considered a target population of 19348 respondents.

### **3.5 Sample Size**

Sample size is the number of respondents included in the sample, the size of sample being selected justified and should be stated. A total of 363 respondents were chosen for the study to represent the total population in the area following Kothari (2004) who asserts that for a sample



to qualify as optimum, it should meet the requirements of efficiency, representativeness, reliability and flexibility. More this is intended to get a variety of views and unbiased response which is to make this study a reality. The sample size was determined using the formula forwarded by Yamane (1967) as below.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where;

N : Number of target population that conforms to the characteristics of the sample required,

E: Margin of error (5%).

Sn : sample size

Given the target population of 3964 households,

$$Sn = 3964 / 1 + 3964 (0.05)^2$$

$$Sn = 3964 / 1 + 3964 (0.0025)$$

$$Sn = 363$$

Basing on the above, the researcher used a sample size of 363 households.

Respondents for each category was computed based on their weight, according Neyman (1934) allocation formula as follows;

$$nh = \frac{(Nh)n}{N}$$

N

Where:

n - Total sample size,

$N_h$  - The population size for stratum h,

N- The total population

**Table 3. 1: Summary of the Target Population, Sample Size and Sampling Methods**

<b>Target population</b>	<b>Target population</b>	<b>Sample size</b>	<b>Sampling technique</b>
community members	3929	335	Simple random sampling
Political and civil leaders	20	13	Simple random sampling
district and sub county land board members	09	09	Purposive sampling
RDC	1	1	Purposive sampling
Police Officers	5	5	Purposive sampling
<b>Total</b>	<b>3964</b>	<b>363</b>	

### **3.6 Sampling selection**

This study employed purposive sampling. Purposive sampling process involves intentionally handpicking individuals from the population based on the authority of the researcher's judgment. Thus, purposive sampling techniques were used in selecting respondents during data collection on the ground that, it helps the researcher to select only those respondents he/she believed could be capable of delivering the required information (Kothari, 2004). This were used when selecting local leaders in the area believing that they have the necessary required information in regards to set objectives of the study information and avoiding unnecessarily data error.

For purposes of this study, simple random technique was also employed to select community members whose views were significant for the effectiveness of the study. Kothari (2004) affirms that this type of sampling is also known as chance sampling or probability sampling where each and every item in the population has an equal chance of participating in the study sample and each one of the possible samples had the same probability of being selected. The random sampling technique is meant to eliminate bias and allow for generalization of the findings to the rest of the sub county under study. The method ensured high degree of representativeness by subjects and it can easily be used when the population members are similar to one another on important variables.

### **3.7. Data collection methods**

This study used both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods. Quantitative data was obtained through the questionnaire survey method while qualitative data was obtained from interviews of key respondents.

#### **3.7.1 Questionnaire Survey**

The questionnaire survey was the major method used for data collection. Questions for respondents were designed and administered; this involved the use of a set of questions printed in a definite order. This were used to collect information from community members. Semi-structured questionnaires were used to generate quantitative data. The questionnaires were designed according to the objectives of the study so as to generate data for each objective. The questionnaire method helped to generate statistical data that was used in quantitative analysis so as to meet the objectives of the study. The researcher and his research assistants administered structured questionnaires to community members because most of the respondents may have difficulty in reading and writing.

### **3.7.2 Interview method**

The interviews were guided by unstructured questions composed of mainly open ended questions. Open ended questions were used to capture perceptions and feelings of the key informants. The interviews helped the researcher to obtain data that may not have been effectively got through the questionnaire and this help guard against confusing the questions since the information from the interviews availed some clarity, helping the respondent to give relevant responses. Using these interviews, very personal and sensitive information was obtained from the district board members, village and sub county leaders in Lyantonde Sub County. This face to face encounter required maximum cooperation from respondents (Mugenda, 2003). This method is preferred because it is flexible enough to allow the interviewer to ask supplementary questions.

## **3.8. Data Collection Instruments**

### **3.8.1 Questionnaire**

A set of predetermined and structured questions about subject and was given to the respondents the respondents to respond in writing. The questionnaires contained both open and close ended questions. Bryman (2008) adds that in open ended questionnaires: the respondents can answer questions in the same terms as those imposed on them by the response choices; they allow unusual responses to be derived; they give the respondents the room for more elaboration so as to make the answers understandable. The reasons for choosing open-ended questionnaires is that: it helped to stimulate free thought, ask for creativeness, search for more details and also it facilitates getting enough information from many respondents in a short period of time. In this instrument, the researcher used open and close ended questions to collect firsthand data from the community members.

### **3.8.2. Interview Guide**

According to Kothari (2004), interviews involve a set of questions intended to collect information through verbal communication between the researcher and respondents. This were used to collect information about the subject from community leaders. This study used semi-structured interview. This technique is used to collect qualitative data by setting up a situation that allows respondents to talk about their opinions on a particular subject. The focus of the interview was decided by the researcher and there was areas that the researcher was interested in exploring. It gave respondents the room to express their full emotions and getting more clarifications. The researcher overcame any limitations by ensuring that the questions are clearly set as to be understood by the respondents in order to get the relevant data as required. The guide helped to standardize the interview situation and to obtain required data. The use of the interview guide made it possible to collect information that would have been impossible to collect using questionnaires alone, such as in depth information on the subject matter, clarifications and captured varied opinions of respondents.

### **3.9. Data Quality Control**

As observed by Vogt (2007), a number of studies have used this instrument and found both their reliability and validity values to be acceptable to the population being studied and in a different context have thus recommends for testing the validity and reliability of the instruments. The instruments were pre-tested to determine their validity and reliability.

#### **3.9.1 Validity of instruments**

Basheka (2016) defined validity of data as the extent to which the study accurately reflects or assesses the specific concept one wishes to measure. Validity tests were conducted for content,

criterion and construct validity test how well the instrument is representative, captures relationships between the variables as well as measures the concepts (Saunders et al, 2009; Vogt, 2007; and Sekaran & Bougie, 2013). This study used triangulation to ensure validity of research findings prior to the administration of the research instruments. The instrument was checked by experts including the supervisors of the researcher. Content validity ratio was used to calculate the Content Validity Index, using formula below;

$$CVI = \frac{\text{Total Number of items rated by all respondents}}{\text{Total Number of items in the Instrument}}$$

A content validity index of 0.7 and above according to Amin, (2005) qualify the instrument for the study.

**Table 3.2: Showing content validity index of the instruments**

Research instruments	Total number of items	Number of instruments rated as valid	Content valid index
Questionnaire	24	22	0.92
Interview guide	12	09	0.75

Table 3.2 shows that the content validity index of the questionnaires was 0.92 and the of interview guide was 0.9 since the content validity index above 0.75 according to Amin (2005) imply that instruments are valid. It can be concluded that the instruments used in this study were valid.

### 3.9.2 Reliability of instruments

This is the measure of the degree to which a research instrument yields consistent results after repeated trials (Kothari, 2004). Random error being the deviation from the true measurement, it influences the instrument's reliability by reducing on it whenever it is high. Reliability threats always existed in research studies and do arise from inaccurate data coding; ambiguous instructions; interviewer/interviewee fatigue and bias. In this study, the researcher addressed reliability by reducing on the inaccuracy of both the instrument and the researcher's scoring thus reducing on the inconsistencies in the measurements that would affect the reliability of the collected data. Reliability of instruments in this study was attained through employing the internal consistency method of assessment using the Cronbach's coefficient Alpha computation to determine the items' correlation among themselves. In this method, scores of a single test was done on a sample subject, where a score on 1 item is correlated with those from other items in the instrument. According to Kothari (2004), an alpha of 0.7 or higher is sufficient to show reliability; implying that the closer the alpha to 1, the higher the internal consistency reliability. Below, is the expression of the Cronbach's coefficient Alpha or Kuder-Richardson (K-R) 20 formula;

$$KR20 = \frac{(K) (s^2 - \sum s^2)}{(S^2) (K-1)}$$

Where;

KR20= Reliability coefficient of internal consistency

K = Number of items used to measure concepts

S<sup>2</sup> = Variance of all scores

$s^2$  = Variance of individual items

From the researcher's computation results that was obtained above, the higher the coefficient the higher the item correlation among themselves.

**Table 3. 3: Showing Cronbach's Alpha of variables**

Alpha	Variables	No. of items
.91	The effect of family land and ethnic conflicts towards food security	11
.87	How land grabbing affects food security	6
.95	The effect of land laws towards food security	7
.81	Measures	6

Table 3.3 shows that Cronbach's Alpha for each variable was above 0.7 and since according Sekaran & Bougie (2010) the Cronbach's Alpha of above 0.7 is considered satisfactory. Thus, the instruments used in this study were taken to be reliable.

### **3.10. Data Analysis**

#### **3.10.1 Quantitative data analysis**

The quantitative data analysis consisted of numerical values from which descriptions such as mean and standard deviations were made (Kombo & Tromp, 2006). The researcher used both descriptive and inferential statistics to analyze data. After participants responding to the questionnaires raw data was cleaned, sorted and entered using statistical data entry form designed in Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software for analysis according to the objectives of the study. Questionnaire data was obtained from questionnaires each questionnaire



was given a unique serial number extracting of inertial summaries by data reduction using soft numbers coding by categorizing data, sorting and filling was carried out. Statistical package for the social sciences (SPSS) version of 23 was used to aid the processing and summarizing of information got from the questionnaires.

### **3.10.2 Qualitative data analysis**

After collecting data, it was processed and analyzed. The qualitative data was analyzed by sorting out major themes, concepts and ideas that relate to the variables of the study so as to make meaning and draw conclusions. Qualitative data analysis involved both thematic and content analysis and was based on how the findings relate to research objectives, content analysis were used to edit data and reorganize it into meaning full short statements. The thematic analysis were used to organize data into themes and codes were identified. After collection, data was assembled according to the themes, it was compared to the quantitative data. Later on data was interpreted by making explanations from the variance and in relation to the themes, categories of the research questions and it was illustrated and substantiated by quoting the respondents. The contents of the data collected was analyzed objective by objective and reported alongside the quantitative data.

### **3.11. Ethical Consideration**

The ethical considerations that was adopted in this study was guided by the recommendations made by Saunders et al, 2012 which argue that participation in research should: be voluntary and based on informed consent; ensure there is no harm to the participants; be anonymous and confidential; and not deceive subjects.

## **Confidentiality**

The data collected from the participants was kept as confidential and was used for the purpose of the fulfilment of the requirement for the award of the degree of Master of Arts in public administration and management. Key ethical issues such as privacy, anonymity of the respondents, and maintenance of the conditions of the data provided by individuals were given priority. The participants were also informed of the content of the research and the result of the study was published to benefit the participants.

**Informed consent:** Before study respondents' consent was sought, get permission from the relevant authorities and ensure that only questions that are directly related to the study are administered. In addition, no inducement was given to respondents and for individual unwilling to be part of the research, he/she was permitted to opt out of it or delegate to one of his or her junior.

To avoid any harm that might affect participants, the researcher paid special attention to the physical and psychological comfort of participants throughout the research process as well as in any communication leading to or following the discussion. Participants were not pressurized to answer questions that they feel uncomfortable with, and are offered the opportunity to withdraw from the study at any point, highlighting the discretionary nature of their participation.

**Plagiarism:** All major works and statements in the study were dully cited with source clearly indicated, within text and properly referenced.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS**

#### **4.0 Introduction**

This chapter provides the presentation, analysis and interpretation of research findings. The first section presents biographic characteristics particularly age, gender, marital status and education level of respondents captured in the study. The last section showed one variable distribution while at the same time establishing linkages between carefully selected variables related to the study with the aim of understanding associations between them.

#### **4.1 Response rate**

The response rate is the percentage of people who responded in the study (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). This is calculated by dividing the number of the completed surveys by the total number of respondents that were contacted and then multiplying the results by 100. This same procedure can be done for each item in the questionnaire to determine the response rate for the respondents. However, if the response rate is 50% or less, it shows that the data is inadequate for analysis, but if the response rate is 60%, it indicates that the data is good for analysis and if it is 70% and above, then the data is very good for analysis (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). The researcher planned to collect questionnaire survey data from 365 respondents. However, not all the respondents returned the questionnaires fully filled with appropriate data. The response rate was as presented in Table 4.1.

**Table 4. 4: Response rate**

<b>Instrument</b>	<b>Target response</b>	<b>Actual response</b>	<b>Response rate</b>
Questionnaire	348	279	80.2%
Interview guide	15	12	80%
<b>Total</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>291</b>	80.2%

As shown in Table 4.1, the response rate for the study was 80.2% whereas non-response was 19.8%. This was achieved as the researcher was able to get back 279 questionnaires. Out of 348 questionnaires that were sent to the field making a response of 279 out of 348 responses expected. This implies that 80.2% were able to attend to the researcher. This presented a total response rate of 85.5%.The researcher considered this response rate above 50% that is regarded to be good enough. Amin (2003) on the other hand notes that for the survey studies of this nature response rate of 70% is considered valid. This therefore means that the findings of this research can be considered valid.

#### **4.2. Biographic characteristics of respondents**

Biographic characteristics of respondents were considered in this study not to answer any question but to give an insight on the socio-demographic representation of the sample in this study. They included sex distribution of respondents, age, marital status, education levels and the occupation of the respondents.

**Table 4. 5: Biographic information of respondents**

<b>Sex of respondents</b>		
<b>Sex of respondents</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Male	177	63.4

Female	102	36.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Age</b>		
18-35years	92	33
36-50years	157	56.3
Above 50years	30	10.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Marital status</b>		
Married	211	75.6
Single	56	20.1
Widow(ed)	12	4.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Occupation of respondents</b>		
Farmer	143	51.3
Business	40	14.3
Pastoralist	59	21.1
Employed	37	13.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Duration of residence</b>		
Less than 10 years	53	19
11-20 years	69	24.7
21-30 years	136	48.8

More than 30years	21	7.5
Total	<b>279</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:Primary data, 2021**

**4.2.1 Sex of the Respondents**

The findings in table 4.2 show that 177(63.4%) of all respondents were male and 102(36.6%) of all respondents were female. This implies that majority of the respondents were males. This is because land in Uganda is majorly controlled by men (Rwangire&Muriisa, 2021). The findings are in line with the study done by Ogola (2013) who reported that customary law governs almost all the rural land and customary tenure rules are recognized such as land rights are acquired through patrilineal inheritance arrangements where sons inherit land from fathers. Women have only secondary access rights through the male family members. These are findings support by Sango (2003) and Hoza (2009) who found that it is likely that the majority of men are involved in land conflicts as opposite to women, because men are the heads of the households and are the ones who own land in the study area. The study also revealed that typical characteristics of most African societies whereby most households are male-headed while very few of the households are headed by females were relevant in the study area.

**4.2.2 Age of Respondents**

The findings suggest that, noticeable percent 249(89.3) of all respondents were between 18- 50 years of age and 10.7% of all respondents were of the age 50 and above. This entails that majority of the respondents were people who need land for their livelihood. Furthermore, this implies that the most active age on land seekers were between 18-50 years who scored 89.3 % of all the respondents. This finding is in line with the view by UNESCO (2006) that the productive

man is the one whose age is between 18 to 50 years and a very old individual is likely to be less productive than the one in active age, depending on the nature of the job.

#### **4.2.3. Marital Status of Respondents**

Marital status is a situation with regard to whether one is single, married, divorced or widowed. The findings in table 4.2 show that, 211(75.6%) of all respondents were married and 56(20.1%) of all respondents were single and 12(4.3%) of all respondents were widows. From the findings it can be concluded that the majority of respondents who participated in the study were married. This could be attributed to the critical need for land to grow food for the family. This can be an indicator that a stable family can engage itself in agriculture for its livelihood than unstable one. Maksi (2013) argued that most of the families affected with land conflicts are the married ones. Furthermore, the findings are supported by the study conducted by Emanuel and Ndimbwa (2013), who argue that large number of married respondents are the most vulnerable to land conflict because of family responsibilities, as their survival depends on land resource.

#### **4.2.4 Occupation of the Respondent**

Majority of the respondents in the area of the study were predominantly farmers 143(51.3%), 59(21.1%) were pastoralists while the least 37(13.3%) were employed by government and non-government organisations in the area. This implies that most respondents were farmers. These findings are supported by Takeuchi and Marara (2011) who stated that majority of African population in rural areas are farmers who depend on land as their means of production. They added that it is impossible for them to ensure food security without land. According to Pacific

(2012), the results indicate that having the highest percentage of respondents engaged in farming is attributed to strong land holding for food security.

### **4.3. Family and ethnic land conflicts and household food security Lyantonde Rural sub county**

#### **4.3.1. Duration of using land for food security**

Respondents were asked to describe the durations they have spent on lands using it for food security.

**Table 4.3. 6: Duration of using land for food security**

<b>Duration</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Less than 10 years	14	5
11-30 years	74	26.5
Above 30 years	191	84.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Primary data, 2021**

Results as reflected in the above table reveal that 14(5.0%) had lived on the land for less than 10 years, 74(26.5%) had lived for a period between 11 to 30 years, while 191(84.2%) had lived for a period of 10 years and above. These results mean that any person occupying any part of the land before the coming in force of the 1995 Constitution qualifies to be a bonafide occupant of that land and therefore cannot be evicted. Therefore any attempt to remove them would result into more land conflicts.

#### **4.3.2. Nature of land ownership in Lyantonde Rural Sub county**

Respondents were asked to describe the nature of land ownership of the land they were using for food production and their responses were as follows.



**Table 4.3. 7: Nature of land ownership**

<b>Nature of land ownership</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Mailo land	111	39.8
Customary land	79	28.3
Freehold	68	24.4
Leasehold	21	7.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Primary data, 2021**

Table 4.3.2. Indicates that majority of the respondents that 111(39.8%) occupied Mailo land. Most of the respondents who participated in the study noted they lived on Mailo land that belongs to the Buganda Kingdom and they were consistently paying obusuulu to the kingdom. Mailo ownership rights were well recognized by Article 237(1) of the 1995 Constitution of Uganda. The findings are supported by an extract obtained from the interviews where one of the local leaders said that, “*Ettaka lyona mu Buganda lya Kabaka*” meaning *all land in Buganda is for the Kabaka*”. This was in line with the 1995 constitution which recognizes Mailo land owners. Busuulu under the constitution were to be determined by the minister whereas the Busuulu & Envujjo Law of (1927) stipulates that tenants do not hold full ownership rights; they must pay rent to the Mailo owner, and face some restriction on what they can do on the land. This was a common phenomenon in Lyantonde rural sub county Lyantonde District where areas most land belong to the Buganda Kingdom and the sitting tenants pay Busuulu to the Kingdom. Such land could form a source of land conflicts in the area especially where the locals were greeted with messages of eviction. Nonetheless, respondents revealed fact that the tenants seemed not to understand the issue of land ownership rights. That kind of indifference meant that

Mailo land tenants could be exploited leading to land loss in one way or another. As a result most tenants have not been able to grow perennial crops on these lands reducing their food security as a result of lack of tenure security.

During the study, 79(28.3%) of the respondents indicated that they occupied customary land. These respondents indicated that they inherited land from their parents. The finding can be supplemented by a qualitative extract obtained from the interview about customary land as communal that:

*“Customary land here is commonly used by members of the group say a family, recognize that part or all of the land they hold, is occupied and used by only individuals and families for their own purposes and benefit.”* During the interview with the RDC, she noted with concern that *“family land is often mismanaged in this area. Most people live on land claiming it is family land without any form of documentation. Families are found of fighting over ownership of this land with any written evidence. I think there should a law forcing everyone to register his or her land”*.

This land ownership is related to Ugandan Constitution of 1995 and the Land Act of 1998 Section 23 (2) which stipulates that for purposes of customary land ownership, the family shall be considered as a legal person and shall be represented by the head of the family. Further still, scholars including Mwebaza and Zziwa (2011), highlight that land conflicts linked to customary land were handled in accordance with area specific customary land arrangements. However, due to ambiguous land laws, especially with regard to the relationship between land-owners and land tenants, the mandated institution failed to resolve the land conflicts. The families experiencing

prolonged family and ethnic land conflicts end up experiencing worst hunger situations since these land conflicts disrupt food production.

During the study, 68(24.4%) held Freehold land in Lyantonde rural sub county. The study found that free hold land tenure system allowed owners of the land to have a deed to their land which allowed them to hold the registered land indefinitely. This statement was fully supported by some of the literature as laid in chapter two where, for example Article 26(2)(a) of the Constitution provides that, “*The taking of possession or acquisition is necessary for public use or in the interest of defence, public safety, public order, public morality or public health.*” In addition, to the above statement, the Land Acquisition Act (1965) states that land could be acquired for “public purposes and for matters incidental thereto and connected therewith. Uganda’s courts had interpreted these provisions narrowly to mean that the property must be used to promote the general interests of the community, not the particular interests of any private individuals or institutions. The above documentation clearly showed the importance of the Constitution and the Land Act of 1965 and their importance to the prevention of land conflicts. This trend of issues has presented a social dishonour and only increased chances of more land conflict within the district.

During the study 21(7.5%) of the respondents indicated that they occupied Leasehold land. Respondents in the study believed that Land use under the leasehold land tenure system, was usually for a specific period of time known to both parties. The statistics suggests that the respondents were aware that lease hold land tenure system involved having a lease from the freeholder or landlord (the Government for this case) to use the land for a number of years. The leases are usually long term running from 5- 49 and 99 years for the case of Uganda. In an interview held, with one of the religious leaders. He had this say;

*“Something interesting about this tenure is that, when the term of the leasehold goes down to zero years, then the land reverts to the freeholder. A lease with a term of zero years is clearly worthless, and all other things being equal, the shorter the lease, the less it is worth. The value of long leases stays fairly stable, but the value of short leases can drop rapidly.”* (A one religious leader in Biwolobo parish).

The statement above can be supported by the Uganda National Land Policy (2011) which stipulates that the incidents of leasehold tenure, which were basically standard, included the conferment of full power of disposition and the compulsory registration of title. The policy further reveals that public policy regards freehold as the property regime of the future, to the extent that the current law provides for conversion from leasehold tenure or customary tenure to freehold. The statistics obtained could be linked to the Uganda Land Policy (1998), which states that land ownership of each surveyed parcel be recorded in a formal land registry, and a title deed issued, which serves as proof of ownership. The title was important because it was the only legal and conclusive evidence one had of ownership. It also contributed to tenure security because it could be security against eviction. It minimized on land disputes. Nonetheless, a portion of the respondents who disagreed reveal transfer right weaknesses. During the study, it was revealed that by the time a land that had been leased is passed to another holder, it is already depleted without fertility which affects crop group growth. This is worsened by absence of money to buy fertilizers to make this land valuable which makes farmers to grow crops while producing low output making them food insecure as crops produced on this infertile pieces of land are less and of poor quality rendering household food insecure through most parts of the year.

### 4.3.3. Respondents involvement in land conflicts

Respondents were asked if they had ever been involved in land related conflicts and their views were presented in table 4.3.3.

**Table 4.3. 8: If respondents had ever been involved in any land conflicts**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	297	100
No	00	00
<b>Total</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Primary data, 2021**

During study, all the respondents 279(100%) showed that they have ever been in land conflicts.

During the interview with land board member, he was quoted saying

*With the value attached to land in Lyantonde and with invasion of statehouse operatives and members close to the first family whom you cannot accuse anywhere, everybody in Lyantonde rural sub county and the district in general has a story to tell about land conflicts”*

### 4.3.4. Nature of land conflicts ever involved

Respondents were further asked to identify the nature of land conflicts and their view were summarized in table 4.3.4.

**Table 4.3. 9: Nature of land conflicts ever involved in**

<b>Duration</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Dislocation of land boundary	119	42.7
Grabbing by a family member	19	6.8

Grabbing by a member of another clan	44	15.8
Taking over land forcefully by government	21	7.5
Farm boundaries	76	27.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:Primary data, 2021**

From table 4.3.4 above, majority of the land conflict cases relate to dislocation of land boundary while the minority are related forceful acquisition of land by government. During the interview with one of the church leaders was quoted saying

*“we don’t know what is currently wrong, the new Buganda kingdom chiefs in the area are very corrupt , they are currently relocating boundaries of people who paid fully their busulu to the kingdom to other rich men. This is the main factor causing conflicts in this area”*

#### **4.3.5. Existence family and ethnic land conflicts in the area**

Respondents were asked if there could be family and ethnic land conflicts in the area

**Table 4.3. 10: Ifthere could be family and ethnic land conflicts in the area**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	279	100
No	00	00
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:Primary data, 2021**

From table 4.3.5, all the respondents 279(100%)had witnessed family and ethnic conflicts in the area. This was confirmed by the RDC who indicated that *“most family heads in this area believe that one should write a will when he is totally bedridden and when he dies, conflicts arise among*

*children. However we have taken time to sensitize community members to get documents about their land and always write will and give them to people they trust or government agencies because nobody knows when he will die as they normally that children should also toil to buy their own land before being customary land”.*

This implies that that as a result of family and ethnic conflicts in the area, most time that would be devoted to agriculture for increased food production is wasted in fights and settlement of land conflict cases which families’ food security of conflicting families.

#### **4.3.6. The factors leading to family and ethnic land conflicts in the area**

Respondents were asked to drivers or the factors leading to family and ethnic land conflicts in the area and the responses were recorded on table 4.3.6.

**Table 4.3. 11: Reasons for family and ethnic land conflicts in the area**

<b>Causes of family and ethnic land conflicts</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Unclear boundaries	99	35.5
Break down of traditional institutions	19	6.8
Population increase	61	21.9
Unresolved land ownership	21	7.5
Incompatibility of Cattle keeping with crop farming	62	22.2
Nepotism	17	6.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Primary data, 2021**

From the study, 99(35.5%) of the respondents indicated that family and ethnic conflicts unclear boundaries. During the interview with one of the local leaders in Lyantonde rural sub county, he had this say“*“The major problem in Lyantonde is unclear boundaries between the Mailo and free hold land. People don’t know where the Mailo separates with the land under free hold. Most people believe that they are living on kabakasland ” (Interview, November 2021).*

*Another local leader was quoted saying “the balaro in this area assume that crop growers have no contribution to the economy of Uganda. Even when there boundaries, they always to expand their formally small farm lands to accommodate their animals, they don’t consider them relevant which forces farmers to fight for their lands to support their families”*

The above findings are in agreement with Bagenda et al, (2002) that most land in Uganda is not formally demarcated. In line with findings, Walker (2003)found out that the allocation of land, rights, power and entitlements can be cited as the cause in conflicts ranging from ethnic conflicts



in the Balkans to civil rights movements. The findings are consistent with Holden et al., (2018) who urge that land conflict emanates from the small size of land holding and individuals want to expand their farm land through building extension on private land. Furthermore, there is no modern and clear boundary among the plots of the farmers. Exposure to encroachment by neighbors is more common in areas where plot borders are poorly demarcated. Deininger and Castagnini (2004) in Uganda and Yamano and Deininger (2005) in Kenya came across with the same finding. Large numbers of farm land disputes reach to the local land administration are caused by exceeding boundaries. The result are consistent with Sackey (2010) who said that, unclear boundaries are another cause of land conflict particularly in the unplanned areas. Un-surveyed plots normally do not have clear boundaries and may lead to land disputes. She added that in such areas people indicate these boundaries with landmarks such as stones and growing trees and after sometimes these marks get destroyed or transferred and it results into boundary disputes.

From the study, 61(21.9%) of the respondents suggested that land conflict in the area are as a result of population increase. The study revealed that the population in the area had increased overtime but the land has remained the same exerting pressure to get land for cultivation, animal grazing and development which has resulted into conflicts.

During the interview with the RDC she was had this say;

*“People in this area cannot be stopped from producing, we have sensitized to use family planning but all in vain. Majority are poor, they can get land to support their family livelihood but they continue to produce year after year. As these people are producing,*

*the land to support their families has not increased at all. This has led to unending straggles over land”.*

The study findings are supported by Bogale et.al, (2008) who noted that increased scarcity of cultivatable land, which can support a family of rural households provokes for action by households towards protecting their interest. This findings are in agreement with Mosore, (2011), Siyum et al., (2015) that population growth is linked to land use conflict by the additional land that is required for livelihood. The findings concur with Kamoga 2016) who attributed land conflicts to the surge in population which inevitably leads to a reduction in the land available per capita because land does not increase. In the 1980s and the 1990s, when Uganda was sparsely populated, citizens owned large portions of land and rarely conflicted. However, with uncontrolled population growth that needs food daily, controlling land conflicts is a big mountain to climb. A hungry poor person is likely to be angry and capable of using all measures available to survive, regardless of whether they are legal or illegal. This is in line with the study done by Kolers, (2001) who comments that, increase of human population and increase of diverse human needs of people contributes to higher demand of land which results to scramble for land and hence creation of land conflicts in the community.

From the study, 62(22.2%) of the respondents urged that land conflicts in the area are as a result of incompatibility of cattle keeping with crop farming. The study found that land conflicts also exist between pastoralists and cultivators. It was reported that pastoralists wittingly or unwittingly let their cows graze on and destroy crops belonging to fellow residents. The conflict between Balaro and cultivators in the area is almost legendary. Therefore, this competition for land reignites old inter-ethnic rivalries. The cultivators accuse the Balaro of despising them,

being arrogant, selfish, and careless. The cultivators struggle to put the arable land available under cultivation which land the cattle keepers want to keep as pasture land for grazing their cows. The struggle between the cattle keepers and crop farmers was seen to be one of the causes of the land conflict in the area. Bagenda et al (2003) indicated that livestock were often wandering into gardens and destroying crops occurred and cultivators were settled amicably through compensation to the affected party. Therefore the situation has been complicated by the land conflict because each party treats the other as an enemy.

The study also show that 21(7.5%) of the respondents indicated that land conflicts in the area have been fueled by unresolved land ownership. Findings have revealed that the desire of villagers to own large pieces of land has led to farmer pastoralist conflicts. It was explained by respondents that many pastoralists who have a large number of livestock, tend to take land by force so as to avoid overgrazing and sustain their cattle's. This likewise applies to farmers who ambitious in increasing production. This was echoed by one chair person who noted that

*“ .....in this area balalo are a very big challenges especially closre to the first family, theyhave money, guns and power. They graze large heards that destoy crops of cultivators. When accused they use all means that be to ensure that these cases are never resolved. If they cultivators do not leave and accept to incur losses. These cases remain unresolved”*

These revelations are consonant with the findings of Ahimbisibwe (2013) who also concluded that unresolved land ownership was fermenting tensions among contesting parties over land.

### 3.3.7. Households foodinsecurity situation in the area

Respondents were asked if they always have enough food throughout the year and the responses were recorded in table 4.3.7.

**Table 4.3. 12: Ifthere are household experiencing food insecurity in the area**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	297	100
No	00	00
<b>Total</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:Primary data, 2021**

From table 4.3.7, all the respondents 279(100%)noted that there household in the area experiencing food insecurity. Majority of people in the area understood food security as the ability of all families to be able to get enough food from either farm production or buy enough grains from the market to feed the family from the time of harvest to the next harvest.

During the interview with district agriculture officer, he had this say.

*“To say you are food secured depends on the ability of your farm produce to feed your family from one harvest to another or your ability to buy enough food to stock for the family which can feed them all year round”*

This is contrary to earlier reports that households in Uganda have sufficient grains from farm production to their food security (WFP, 2016).

### 4.3.8. Taking all meals throughout the year.

Respondents were asked if there was a time in a year when their household skipped a meal and responded as follows.

**Table 4.3. 13: If there was a time in a year when the respondents’ household skipped a meal**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	182	65.2
No	97	34.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Primary data, 2021**

In response, to if respondent had ever missed any meal, 182(65.2%) noted to have ever missed while 97(34.8%) denied. During an interview with one of the community leaders she indicated that most community members are food insecure in that some do not have where to grow food, are poor and others depend on food from the market. She continued to narrate as follows.

*“ ..... I may not be able to tell that so and so often miss meals but what I know most people in this area wake up take porridge and then wait for around 4 to 5 pm to take their meal that acts as both lunch and super. There are families that experience this throughout the year..... ”*This implies that the area experiences food insecurity.

Respondents were asked to explain how family and ethnic conflicts have impacted on food security in the area.

#### **4.3.9. Effects of family and ethnic land conflicts on food security in the area**

Assessing the effects of family and ethnic land conflict on food security, majority of respondents believed that land conflicts have negative effects on food security as reported in table 4.3.9.

**Table 4.3. 14: How family and ethnic conflicts have impacted on food security**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Reduced food production	66	23.7
Reduction in income	42	15.1
Crop and cattle destruction	56	20.1
Killings of villagers	43	15.4
Poverty	39	14
Loss of originally owned land	33	11.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:Primary data, 2021**

From the study, 66(23.7%) of the respondents indicated that family and ethnic conflicts have led reduced food production. In an interview with sub county community development officer, he was quoted saying

*“...land conflicts have fully touched on the survival of mankind in this area. Community members living in contested pieces of land only grow crops that mature shortly and annual in nature due to the fear of their crops being destroyed. This has affected long term food security situation in the area. People are still having memories of whatObey,the former employee of the office of the prime minister did to all three villages that were forced to leave the contested land making them leave their food in the gardens that were un claimable.”*

*Another respondent said ‘Land conflicts have led to reduction in output and income of crop farmers as a result of the destruction of crops by cattle. The balalo intentionally this ’*”The findings are in line with Oladele et al, (2011) who noted that conflicts affect farmers negatively.

This is mainly due to loss of farmland, reduced capital investment and time wastage. Since rural community, rely on their produce mainly for home consumption, reduced production result into food scarcity / insecurity. The victims of land conflict are therefore vulnerable to malnutrition, as result on inadequate food, which in Uganda are known to affect women and children most and is a main factor for 60% death of children under five years of age (USAID, 2010). More so, in the course of conflict resolution, the victims has to spent money or saving which reduces the capital investment. Sometime, as was pointed out during the interview, they failed to pay for family needs such as school fees for their children and some food stuffs. Reduced production also undermine potential for future growth (Deininger & Castagnini, 2005). To this end, it is important to highlight that a broad ranging interventions by the government to prevent land conflict is necessary. This in the long term may reduce food insecurity, which lead to malnourishment especially of children. Managing malnourished children is expensive in terms of provision of food supplements.

From the 43(15.4%) of the respondents indicated that land conflicts have resulted Killings of villagers especially the bread winners which have facilitated food insecurity in the area. Killings have also affected production and development in the society. The death of brad winners from land conflicts often affect the agricultural productivity of the household because agricultural activities of the household are not accomplished and worked on time. The findings are in line with Msuya(2013) that as men comprise the majority of warriors, they suffer to a greater degree from direct conflict, injuries and killings from fight. Furthermore, Zikhali (2008) found that agricultural productivity is very sensitive to labor availability, particularly household labor. Moreover, in absence of the household head there are problems in relation to management and

controlling activities. This implies that family and ethnic land conflicts negatively affect food production consequently leading to food insecurity in the study area.

#### **4.4. How land grabbing affects household food security Lyantonde Rural sub county**

##### **4.4.1. The level of land grabbing**

Respondents were asked the level of land grabbing the area and their responses were summaries in table 4.4.1.

**Table 4.4. 15: How respondents rated the level of land grabbing**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
High	29	10.4
Medium	187	67
Low	63	22.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Primary data, 2021**

From the study, majority of the respondents 187(67%) indicated that land grabbing was on a medium rate while the minority 29(10.4%) indicated that it was high. In an interview one of the local leaders he indicated that anytime in the future land grabbing will be high given the value hand has been attached to. He had this to say

*“Since the coming of Ben Kavuyya and Keith Muhakanizi , land grabbing is order of the day . These men came with big bags of money, buying parishes and evicting villages, if you refuse to accept any amount of their choice, they buy others and enclose you inside and sometimes they come land tittles claiming that they buy the land you have been staying for years. Even you go to court or police, they even fear them. We only need God’s intervention”*



#### 4.4.2. Causes of land grabbing

Respondents were asked the factors that have contributed to the cases of land grabbing and they responded as follows.

**Table 4.4. 16: Causes of land grabbing**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Presence of absentee land lords	29	10.4
Poverty	88	31.5
Corruption	19	6.8
Connection to statehouse	16	5.7
Existence of unutilized land	09	3.4
Land Tenure System	71	25.4
Poor implementation of land laws	47	16.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:Primary data, 2021**

From the study, 29(10.4%) indicated that land grabbing was fuelled by Presence of absentee land lords. The study revealed that there people who could sale from Kampala land that they don't own in the area. During the interview with the RDC, she had this to say

*“People here are don't care, I have case that I have been handling during lockdown, people bought land with even land title belonging to someone who had sold his land before his death. The person originally bought has a sale agreement and these absentee land lords claim the land belongs to them and there are well connected. They want to evict these local and poor household here. Despite their having support from other leaders in the community, I am going to allow them evict the whole village”*

The findings are in line with Muriisa, Mbabazi and Twinamastiko (2014) who observed that people who had previously settled on the land are said to have sold the land and trials to investigate the sale by communities were met with hostility and violence since land grabbers who were mostly absent landlords got support from government operatives to prevent repossession of land by local residents.

From the study land grabbing in Lyantonde rural sub county has been fueled by Land Tenure System as advanced by 71(25.4%) of the respondents. Majority of the people in the area lived on mailo and customary land tenure systems, and the land Act 2010 as amended provides how tenure particularly customary system can be secured. However most of them had no any document indicating their tenure. Majority were ignorant about how the land tenure system operates. It is this ignorance that land grabbers have exploited (Muriisa, Mbabazi and Twinamastiko 2014). The land act 1998 and 2010 (as amended) provides that proof of ownership of land under customary land tenure system shall be possession of certificate of registration. The constitution of Uganda article 237 (4a) provides that people may apply for certificate of ownership of land but does not oblige them to do so, and this makes them vulnerable to land grabbing. Indeed, much of the land grabbing especially by speculators has been a result of this individualized land ownership in the region and lack of registration of customary tenure. It is worth emphasizing therefore that the customary tenure system has provided for easy access by land grabbers. The law (Uganda constitution, Section 237(1), The Land Act of 1998 (Cap 227) provides for the existence of four types of land tenure to exist in Uganda. In all the four types of tenure except for the customary tenure where ownership is acquired by simple registration, ownership and claim of ownership of land is proven by possession of land title.

From the study, 88(31%) of the respondents indicated that poverty has been behind land grabbing in the study area. It was said that, people can sell off land that does not belong to them and run away in order to earn a living. This especially exists in clan systems where different clan members can own land without clear demarcations. In families, family heads mostly men can wake up one morning and sell off family land without the wife's consent who only learns about it after receiving notices of eviction. The incident has continued to happen in spite of the provisions of the 1998 Land Act, the 2004 amendments to the act and the 1995 constitution that provide for ownership and protection of women and children to family property. It is stated in the 2004 amendments that any transaction on land/property that takes place without the agreement of the other spouse is regarded null and void. However, the situation has continued to happen where men sell land without letting their wives know about the deal. The study further established that police and other enforcement agencies always sideline with the rich leaving the poor in a miserable to only God.

One local council informed the researcher that *“when Ben Kavuya came, he informed all the residents in this area that all the land they are living on is his. They either buy themselves or they leave at no cost. On the next day he came with security that evicted over 250 homes of which majority did not get any compensation and nobody talked since he came with police who had guns ready to kill any person resisting eviction”*.

The above findings are consistent with Muriisa Mbabazi and Twinamastiko (2014) that the role of the state is to serve and protect the citizens. This is made possible by use of state organs, the police, the judiciary, and the military and other state institutions. The other role of the state is to invest and to attract investment. With regard to state institutions, instead of protecting citizens there is increasing evidence from many studies that institutions of the state such as the police and

the military and in some cases the judiciary have instead served the interests of land grabbers and not protected people.

From the study, 19(6.8%) of the respondents attributed land grabbing to corruption in the area. The corruption tendencies that exist among some officials further explain the persistence of the phenomenon. For example “the government stopped the issuance of land titles in this area, but the rich continue to get titles, fence off the land and leave to urban areas” one of the local leaders in Biwolobo village noted. The continuous acquisition of the land titles in spite of the government’s ban can be explained by this factor but also confirms the behavioral character of the powerful actors against the powerless as explained by (Weingast and Wittman, 2006) in the political economy approach. Cases of some government officials (politicians and army generals) being named in land grabbing; especially with the selling of communal land is also another point to mention.

The study shows that 9(3.4%) of the respondents noted that existence of unutilized land has triggered land grabbing in the study area. This has been worsened by majority of the land belonging to absent landlords. It’s these existing vacant lands at relatively low prices that attract a lot of “potential investors” to initiate deals of purchase since they look idle and cheap. This factor coincides with the findings of Muriisa et al. (2014) in their book “Land Deals in Uganda: An Invisible Hand in Land Grabbing and Rural Development”. The absentee land lords are mostly chiefs and royalists from Buganda Kingdom who own land titles on the land they do not physically stay on. Because of their centrality, they can easily be approached by the people intending to acquire land. With the issue of the need to compensate bonafide occupants well known to them, they are always quick to give away the land to foreign investors who later battle with the eviction of the people.

#### 4.4.3. Main parties behind of land grabbing

Respondents were asked to describe the groups of people orchestrating land grabbing in the area and they responded as in table 4.4.3.

**Table 4.4. 17: Main parties behind of land grabbing**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Foreign investors	9	3.2
Rich local private individuals	58	20.8
Local business people	33	11.8
Banks	16	5.7
State house operatives	163	58.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:Primary data, 2021**

Table 4.4.3 shows that majority of the respondents 163(58.4%) indicated that State house operatives are people close the first family are behind land grabbing in the area of whom majority are balaro, 58(20.8%) suggested rich local private individuals while the minority were investors. This implies that land grabbing is majorly orchestrated by government officials in the area.

#### 4.4.4. Effects of land grabbing on food security in the study area.

Respondents were asked how land grabbing has affected food insecurity in the area and the following responses were recorded.

**Table 4.4. 18: Main consequences of land grabbing**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Mass displacement of people	89	31.9
Unemployment due to lack of agricultural land	64	22.9
Loss of lives	57	20.4
Lack of compensation of farmers who lose land	32	11.5
Lack of access to water points	37	13.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Primary data, 2021**

Table 4.4.4 show that 89(31.9%) of the respondents indicated that land grabbing has resulted into mass displacement of people as a result of evictions in the area which has negatively impacted on peoples livelihood. During evictions, people’s property, gardens of food, shelter are destroyed. In Biwolobo parish, people’s houses were burnt down, banana plantations cut down and cassava gardens destroyed. People have since abandoned their gardens which are now turning into bushes in fear of being cut down again. The overall impact of this is loss of food and incomes. People no longer have the courage to work on their gardens since they think that they can lose the gardens anytime. Interviews with leaders indicated that they encourage people to use the land maximally so that in case there is compensation to be met by the landlord, it is in bigger sums of money. But this contradicts what some people have already gone through in form of loses and many families have lost morale to work. In an interview with a key informant he had this to say;

*“I don’t what is wrong with Ugandans, Ben Kavuya has been evicting people in this area, however, he seems not be human. He has forced people to leave but their former*

*banana plantations are now being replaced with pine trees. This is bound to affect food security in the future”*

The study findings are in agreement with Mwesigye (2014) that mass land grabbing results in land dispossession, deprive farmers of livelihoods and increase the probability of rural impoverishment. Land grabbing has hidden effects and the process undermine farmers’ abilities to maintain their farming activities and sustain their livelihoods as small farmers are often forced out of agricultural. The direct loss of agricultural land increases vulnerability even when alternative land access is found (Milu & Gitau, 2013). Land grabbing strongly disadvantage farmers in general and poor farmers in particular, reducing rather than improving household food security.

The study shows that 64(22.9%) of the respondents indicated that Unemployment due to lack of agricultural land has resulted from land grabbing in some villages. Land forms a very significant part in the lives of rural people in Africa (Cotula, 2009). It’s their source of employment through farming and in Uganda, a total 65% of the population is engaged in agriculture mainly subsistence farming with little for sale (UBOS, 2012). In Uganda, 40.7% men and 50.2% women of the entire population is employed by the agricultural sector (International Alert, 2013). So a big group as this loses jobs and incomes when their land is fraudulently taken away.

#### **4.4.5. Other effects of land grabbing in the area.**

Responses under this theme were sought to identify other effects of land grabbing in the area. Respondents were asked to reveal what they think are other effects of land grabbing in the area.

Respondents were asked to indicate whether they strongly agree (SA), agree (A), Not Sure (NS), disagree (D), and strongly disagree (SD) using a five Likert scale. The analysis was done using frequencies and percentages. The percentage above 50% on either side indicated either a disagreement or an agreement with the statement put before the respondents. The analysis further grouped strongly agrees and agree to mean agree; and strongly disagree and disagree to mean disagree. The elicited responses were shown in the table 4.4.5.

**Table4.4. 19; Effects of land grabbing in the area.**

Statement	SA	A	NS	D	SD
Land grabbing has disrupted access to agricultural land threatening food security	162 58%	100 36%	8 2.7%	3 1.1%	6 2.2%
Land grabbing has created food emergencies by increasing food prices	157 5.3%	111 39.8	11 3.9%	0 0%	0 0%
Land grabbing has led to migration of workforce out of the conflict areas disrupting agricultural activities	78 28%	186 66.6%	9 3.2%	6 2.2%	0 0%
Land grabbers are dispossessing and disenfranchising land owners making them landless	153 (55%)	112 (40%)	14 (5%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0%)
land grabbing has forced smallholder farmers to purchase foods since they have nowhere to cultivate	105 (37.5%)	146 (52.5%)	0 (0%)	28 (10%)	0 (0%)
land grabbers often evict farmers denying them chance to harvest the crops	84 (30%)	112 (40%)	28 (10%)	42 (15%)	14 (5%)
As a result of increased loss of land and farmland scarcity, much of the agricultural labor force has been	139 (49.8%)	98 (35.2%)	28 (10%)	0 (0%)	14 (5%)



made redundant as well as pushed into distress labor migration					
Land grabbing has increased poverty levels in the area affecting food affordability from the market	105 (37.5%)	146 (52.5%)	14 (5%)	14 (5%)	0 (0%)
Land grabbing has shortened fallow periods	167 (60%)	112 (40%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0%)
Land grabbing is worsening soil quality in the area as grabbers degrade environment	126 (45%)	56 (20%)	50 (18%)	28 (10)	19 (7%)

**Source:Primary data, 2021**

From the study,262(94%) of the respondents agreed that land grabbing has disrupted access to agricultural land threatening food security while 6% disagreed. The findings are consistent with Bahati and Homan-Smith, (2014) who urge that land grabbing result into changes in the system of survival or replacing it with an unfamiliar one without proper preparation of the community or individuals can be harmful to that entity. The rural people survive on subsistence farming, where families work together to grow food for consumption with little surplus to sell. But HF introduced the plantation system of farming, where workers labor long hours and earn less for their work. With the plantation, the company introduced division of labor and remuneration patterns by which more women are employed for less pay, in contrast to a family working together to grow its own food. These findings also coordinate with the views of Mann (2017) that in situations where common livelihood assets such as land, forests and water bodies upon which the livelihoods of majority of the people in rural communities depend on are grabbed, it undermines people's ability to enjoy sustainable livelihoods such as farmers whose livelihoods depend on land as an asset.

In the study, 195(70%) of the respondents reported that land grabbers often evict farmers denying them chance to harvest the crops. It was revealed that land that was grabbed from the people in most part of Lyantonde rural sub county have been transformed into farms and pine forests. These do not contribute directly towards food security of the majority as most banana plantations and gardens were cut down and owners evicted. These findings are in line with Deininger (2010) that land grabs have shifted production away from crops destined for local consumption towards crops that are for export or for the production of bio fuels and siting of industries, this threatens the welfare and survival of the people as food insecurity and lack of jobs, displacement and reduced living standard becomes the order of the day.

#### **4.5. The effect of land laws towards household food security Lyantonde Rural sub county**

##### **4.5.1. Awareness of laws governing land in this area**

Respondents were asked if they were aware of any laws governing land in this area

**Table 4.5. 20: If the respondents could be aware of any laws governing land in this area**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	63	22.6
No	216	77.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:Primary data, 2021**

From table 4.5.1 majority of the respondents 216(77.4%) were not aware of land laws. Majority indicated that they knew all the land in Buganda belonged to Kabaka and therefore thought there security was Guaranteed provided they paid busulu. However they concerned with unending conflicts on land are always suspicious of any government move towards land as they claim it's

about to take away their land. The 1995 Uganda constitution provides for the security of tenure, but people do not know that there is a land law, they are not aware of their rights and how to secure them. The 1900 Buganda agreement created a stream of absentee landlords. This was repealed by subsequent land laws such as the 1975 land decree allowing other people to occupy land at will and also the 1995 constitution which recognized the rights of occupancy by the bonafide occupants. According to the Land Amendment Act 2010, bonafide occupants can be evicted only when they fail to pay ground rent. It is the ignorance of law that has made land wrangles, land grabbing a phenomenon in the area.

#### 4.5.2. The land laws understood by the respondents

Respondents were asked the land laws they were familiar with and the following responses were recorded.

**Table 4.5. 21: The land laws understood by the respondents**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Land act	20	7.2
Land policy	39	14
Land byelaws	4	1.4
None	216	77.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:Primary data, 2021**

From the study, 216(77.4%) of the respondents did not know any land governing land, 39(14%) indicated to understand Land policy, 20(7.2%) suggested land Act while 4(1.4%) indicated land byelaws. This implies that most residents of Lyantonde rural sub county are not informed about the land laws of Uganda which has been the reason for increased cases of land grabbing in the study area. The finds are in line with the findings of Muriisa et al. (2014) that it is the ignorance of law that has made land wrangles, land grabbing a phenomenon in Uganda. People are evidently not aware of the land law and the government has not made any efforts of educating people about the land laws and support especially the peasant population by sensitizing them on what to do to guarantee their security of tenure.

#### 4.5.3. Reporting of land conflict cases

Respondents were asked where they normally report land conflict cases and they reported as follows.

**Table 4.5. 22: Where land cases are normally reported**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Police	56	20.1
Local councils	114	40.8
Land board	16	5.7
Court	42	15.1
RDC	51	18.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:Primary data, 2021**

From table 4.5.3, majority of the respondents 114(40.8%) indicated that they report land conflict cases to local councils, 56(20.1%) indicated police, 51(18.3%) suggested the office of the RDC while 42(15.1%) indicates courts of law and 16(5.7%) indicated land boards. This implies that most residents in the area have more trust in their own local councils compared to courts of law.

#### 4.5.4. Necessity to report land conflicts to the courts of law

Respondents were further asked if the respondents find it necessary to report land conflicts to the courts of law and their responses were recorded on table 4.5.4

**Table 4.5. 23: If the respondents find it necessary to report land conflicts to the courts of law**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	59	21.1
No	220	78.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Primary data, 2021**

Responses from table 4.5.4 indicate that majority 220(78.9%) find it not necessary to report land conflicts to courts of law while minority 59(21.1%) had no problem with reporting to courts of law. In an interview with one of the key informants, she had this to say

*“...you are talking about courts here in Lyantonde, courts here work for rich, if you go there you are just wasting your time. There are very corrupt, work under instructions and they don't care provided you are not connected and you are poor. Going to court in this area is just a wastage of time and a means of confirming the land to the land grabber. A person like Keith Muhakanizi gives orders to judges and there is nothing they can do other than working according to the instruction”*

#### **4.5.5. The period it takes courts to resolve land conflicts**

Respondents were asked to describe the time it takes courts of law in the area to resolve land related conflicts and they responded as follows.

**Table 4.5. 24: The period it takes courts to resolve land conflicts**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1-5years	87	31.2
Above 5 years	192	68.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:Primary data, 2021**

From the study, 192(68.8%) of the respondents indicated that most cases take above 5 years before being resolved while 87(31.2%) indicated 1-5years. This means that most cases take a long time before being resolved by courts of law. This could partly explain why most respondents had low confidence in the judiciary system in the area. In an interview with one of the key informants, he had this say

*“Most people who took their cases to court have lost hope of getting justice because of very long time these cases have been their only to listen to postponements. The courts buy time as they are negotiating with rich on how to steal or grab land from the poor. Even when justice seem to come after like 10 years having wasted much time , it comes when people have already lost hope. Justice delayed is justice denied”.*

This implies that that prolonged judgment on land conflict cases limit community members from food production on conflicted land hence affecting their food security.

#### 4.5.6. Effectiveness of courts of law in resolving land conflicts

Respondent were inquired about effectiveness of courts in resolving land conflicts and they responded as follows;

**Table 4.5. 25: Effectiveness of courts of law in resolving land conflicts**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Courts take a very long time to resolve land conflicts	87	31.2
Courts are very corrupt	159	57
Land conflict resolution lack clear regulation	7	2.5
There are many unnecessary references to the Constitutional Court as a delay tactic	10	3.6
Land conflict cases are highly political	16	5.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Primary data, 2021**

From table 4.5.6, majority of the respondents 159(57%) urged that courts of law are very corrupt. The study revealed that the courts are often abused by the rich and those connected to statehouse. The courts are only to legitimize land grabbing by the rich and the connected. The study findings are in agreement with Alden Wily(2012) that statutory courts and judicial processes are used to authenticate and legitimize the land grabbing actions of state-backed corporations in the eyes of the local people. This is done by having the contestations over land sorted out in court when in actual sense there are underhand processes going on. In this case study, the statutory court which is the “legal extension of state power on the ground (Wolford et al., 2013)



Table 4.5.6 shows that 87(31.2%) of the respondents noted that courts take a very long time to resolve land conflicts. Respondents indicated that courts of law are normally interested in other cases not land. The respondents claimed that issues of land administration and conflicts resolution on land used by communities had not been given due consideration as expected whereby, in some cases, the courts had not been taking appropriate efforts to deal with indicators of land conflicts until conflicts escalate and become violent. During the study, one of the key respondents said “...*this is the cultivation season, but we are currently unable to cultivate our farms due to the long-running disputes without solutions, so we are planning to organize a strike to pressurize the responsible authorities to give us our right*”. The findings concur with Wehrmann (2008) argues that people, especially those in a position to resolve conflicts, often ignore land conflicts until they cannot be controlled any longer, that is to say tension escalate and violence rises to a level which threatens major parts of society. In other cases, political motives contribute to hinder provision of timely solutions to land conflicts where those in position use the existing conflicts for political gains.

The study shows that there are many unnecessary references to the Constitutional Court as a delay tactic as shown by 10(3.6%) of the respondents. In an interview with one of the key informants, he had this say;

*"... There is a recent judgment in which the case was in favour of one of one of the residents in Biwolobo II . However, it was later realized upon further investigations that other party bought the land from the rightful owner. The problem is that the person who assisted in his documentation was an imposter who gave him a fake document. After*

*understanding the situation, Maska high court nullified the case and it has now stated a fresh. I think this case will never end”*

The findings are in line with Sackar (2016) that land conflicts are fueled by conflicting land-court judgments. These cases take long to be resolved while there are sanctions which limit farmers from doing any activity on the protested lands which increases food insecurity. Conflicting land-court judgments are normally characterised by multiple sellers, multiple filing in either the same or different court of jurisdictions, poor coordination between Land Court and Lands Commission, poor data management, lack of system automation or centralization, improper documentations, fake documentation and the use of quack surveyors. The sale of the same piece of land by different individuals is an indication of an inherent land conflict which could result in conflicting court judgment which may involve judgment between original acclaimed owners on one hand, and new acquirers on the other. These finding would be further investigated and the final results used as the basis for the development of a database of adjudicated databases that would link the Courts and Lands Commission so as to minimize incidences of conflicting land court cases. Findings such as fake documentation, use of quack surveyors, and an inefficient land administration system delay land conflict judgment which in turn affect food security among antagonizing parties.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1. Introduction**

The study examined the effects of land conflicts on household food security Lyantonde Rural sub county Lyantonde district. It analyzed how family land conflicts, ethnic land conflicts and land grabbing amidst existing land laws have impacted on food security in Lyantonde rural sub county. The economy of the study area is basically agrarian with majority of its population living in rural areas and it is subsistent agriculture which depends on land for survival. Thus, farmers are sensitive on their land and come across easily to farm land conflict when their land is affected negatively which has impacted on their level of family food security.

#### **5.2. Conclusions**

Despite the numerous interventions by both governmental and non-governmental agencies towards improving the food security situation, there is still high prevalence of food insecurity in the area. Notwithstanding the fact that majority of the people are food crop farmers, food from own farm production is not always enough to feed the families all year round. There is however sufficient food in the market, but a vast majority of household are poor which has affected their ability to access food from the market.

##### **5.2.1. The effect of family land and ethnic conflicts towards household food security**

###### **Lyantonde Rural Sub County**

The study established that people in Lyantonde occupied Mailo land, customaryland, Freehold and a few on Leasehold. Unresolved land ownership, incompatibility of Cattle keeping with crop farming unclear boundaries, population growth, fragmented land and land tenure system are the

main cause of farm land conflict which many of the farm household respondents regarded on it but these are not the only causes of family and ethnic land conflict. Furthermore, scarce high value land, high demand for land, inheritance problem have led to family conflicts in the area which have led to death of animals, destruction of crops, Killings of villagers, loss of originally owned land, reduced food production, reduction in income which have all reduced of food stability among conflicting families and community at large in the study area.

### **5.2.2. How land grabbing affects household food security Lyantonde Rural Sub County**

Land grabbing in the Lyantonde is real and manifests itself through a number of different ways, including through forceful evictions and dubious land deals. The study indicated that there exist cases of land grabbing in Lyantonde rural sub county though on a moderate rate. It was revealed that land grabbing is majorly conducted by rich local private individuals and statehouse operatives due to the presence of absentee land lords, poor land Tenure System, corruption, Poverty, Connection to statehouse and poor implementation of land laws. The study revealed that land grabbing has led to mass displacement of people, Unemployment due to lack of agricultural land, Loss of lives and lack of security among farmers to grow long lasting food and cash crops. Therefore, land grabbing significantly affects household food production and annual income of the local people which limits people's ability to enjoy sustainable livelihood and be able to practice agriculture as their main source of livelihood.

### **5.2.3. The effect of land laws towards household food security Lyantonde Rural Sub County**

The study unearthed that majority of the people living Lyantonde rural sub county do not know land laws. The study revealed that land cases are normally reported to the local councils, RDC

and people had less trust in courts of laws as they claimed that courts work in the interests of the rich and the connected. The study revealed that courts even when tried take a very long time with many procedures to give judgment overland conflicts and are very corrupt as justice delayed is justice denied. Land dispute or conflict results from a number of factors ranging from improper/lack of documentation, ignorance, lack of knowledge of family history, conspiracy on the part of seller of land to defraud buyer and its associated multiple sales of lands, forced encroachment, and issue of inefficient land administration system. Many of these issues are capable of resolution at the local level through mediation and arbitration given proper education and orientation. Land disputes, however, may lead to conflicting land court judgments in the absence of coordination between the Land Courts and Lands Commission. This problem is compounded by poor data management, lack of qualified personnel and adequate infrastructure.

### **5.3. Recommendations**

#### **5.3.1. The effect of family land and ethnic conflicts towards household food security**

##### **Lyantonde Rural Sub County**

The researcher recommends training and seminars to be given priority. The district management must initiate adequate training regarding Land laws and the law of inheritance ensuring that it is provided to all village council's members and to the community at large. Central and Local Government Authorities and Policy makers need to continuously advocate and train village leaders (by considering that village governments change after five years of election) and community on land management and good governance so that they acquire the basic knowledge, skills and competence required for the land management.

Because of the importance and value of land continue to increase daily, the researcher comments that, land should be among the key sectors to be given priority and full funded by the central government rather than currently where it is left to be funded by the local government authorities which lack capacity of funding to the maximum. It should be considered as a special sector like education, health, roads and water sectors which are given special care by the central government.

Community should participate in the village resource allocation and management. During the time of allocating land resource the village governments, should make sure that the community of the particular village participate fully and must understand the challenges facing the community related to land resources.

In order to make sure that people understand the land laws the researcher advises the ministry responsible for the land to make efforts of giving awareness about the land laws and policy through different media like public televisions and leaflets.

### **5.3.2. How land grabbing affects household food security Lyantonde Rural sub county**

Since peoples access to farmland had worsened after the land grabbing incidents happened, the landlords and other stakeholders in the Lyantonde rural sub county should negotiate with the members of the host community to provide land on a leasehold basis to the farmers so that they still have access to land and are in position to practice agriculture.

With the reduction in income levels of most household heads after land grabbing, local people affected should mobilize themselves into cooperative societies so as to lift their scarce resources together to enable them to secure loans from banks, acquire modern equipment that will promote growth of their business and in the long run their well-being.

Land related issues like inheritance and land grabbing are clearly stated in the regional and national land proclamations. However, farmers come across to conflict because of inheritance and grabbing land. Thus, the problem is lack of understanding the land laws and proclamations. Therefore, the government of Uganda and Buganda land board should distribute the land proclamations legislated every time through the local land administration to the farmers in order to increase the awareness of the community on the land laws.

Finally, the government of Uganda needs to improve regulation of all processes of land acquisition, monitor and supervise land offices more and their bearers. There is also need to put stringent measures to curb corruption in land title processing, operationalize all lower land offices as well as the land fund to ensure fair compensation to the locals. Having legislation alone is not enough; the government needs to do more to popularize those legislations in the local languages people understand most especially those that were approved by cabinet in 2010.

### **5.3.3. The effect of land laws towards household food security Lyantonde Rural sub county**

There is the need for proper coordination between the Land Courts and the Lands Commission to ensure proper administration of land. Also investigation into land adjudication process and their implementations thereafter will be worthwhile.

There is also a need to ensure a robust system of land administration and judgment implementation will be a step in the right direction to promote land tenure security, instill confidence in the general public and promote efficient land market.

#### **5.4. Areas for further research**

There is a need for future researchers to conduct the study on assessing contribution of the village councils on land conflict management since most respondents reported most land conflicts to the councils.

The study was conducted in Lyantonde rural sub county only yet food security and land conflicts affected the whole district. Thus the study should be carried out in other sub counties to make general conclusion.

The study should be conducted on land tenure system and food security in Lyantonde sub county Lyantonde district.



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**APPENDIX I: Questionnaire for community members**

Dear Respondent,

I am **Mugumya Francis Ntambazi** a student of Masters of Public Administration and Management of Bishop Stuart University carrying out an academic research on the effects of land conflicts on household food security Lyantonde Rural sub county Lyantonde district. Therefore, the success of this research project will substantially depend on your help and co-operation. I hereby request you to respond as honestly as possible and to the best of your knowledge. The information provided will exclusively be treated with utmost confidence. Please give answers in the spaces provided and tick (tick the appropriate)

**SECTION A: Bio Data of Respondents**

**1) Sex of the respondent**

Male   
Female

**2) Age of the respondent**

18- 35 years  35-50 years   
50 and above

**3) Marital status of the respondent**

Single  Married   
Others specify .....

**Main economic occupation**

Farmer  Pastoralists   
Business  Employed   
Other (specify) .....

**Duration of residence**

- Less than 10 years
- 11-20 years
- 21-30 years
- More than 30 years

**Section B: The effect of family land and ethnic conflicts towards household food security**

**Lyantonde Rural sub county**

1. For how long have you been using this land?

.....

2. How is land owned in this area?

- Private ownership
- Communal ownership
- State ownership

Others specify.....

3. Have you ever experienced or got involved in a land conflict?

Yes

No

4. If no, in above, do you have neighbors who are having a land conflict?

Yes

No

5. What was the nature of the land conflict?

- Dislocation of the boundary of the land
-

Grabbing of the land by a brother/member of family

Grabbing of land by a member of another clan

Taking over land by force by the government

Any other form/type (specify) .....

6. Could there be cases of family and ethnic land conflicts in this area?

Yes

No

7. What could the reasons causing family and ethnic land conflicts in this area?

Unclear boundaries

Breakdown of traditional institutions

Population increase

Others specify.....

In the past one year, was there a time when your household ran out of food because of lack of money or other resources?

Yes

No

In the past one year, was there any time when you had to skip a meal because of lack of money or other resources?

Yes

No

Is there any relationship between family and ethnic land conflict on food security?

Yes

No

How have family and ethnic land conflict affected the availability of food in your community

Reduce food production levels

Reduction in income

They lead to depletion of food stalk

Others specify .....

**Section C:How land grabbing affects household food security Lyantonde Rural sub county**

How do you rate the level of land grabbing in this area?

High

Medium

Low

What could the main causes of land be grabbing in this area?

Presence of absentee landlords

Poverty

Existence of unutilized land

Corruption

Others specify

.....

What could be the main parties behind land grabbing cases in this area?

- Foreign investors
- Rich local private individuals
- Local Business people
- Banks

Others specify .....

What has been the main consequences of land grabbing in this area?

- It has led to mass displacement of people
- Unemployment due lack of land for agriculture
- Loss of lives
- Lack of compensation to farmers who lose land
- Lack of access to important water resources

Others specify .....

**Please indicate the extent to which Grabbing affect food security**

<b>Scale</b>	5	4	3	2	1
<b>Response</b>	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree

<b>Statement</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Land grabbing has disrupted access to agricultural land threatening food security					
Land grabbing has created food emergencies where food prices					
Land grabbing has led to migration of workforce out of the conflict areas					



disrupting agricultural activities					
land grabbers are dispossessing and disenfranchise land owners making them landless					
land grabbing has forced smallholder farmers to purchase foods since they have nowhere to cultivate					
land grabbers often evict farmers denying them chance to harvest the crops					
As a result of increased loss of land and farmland scarcity, much of the agricultural labor force has been made redundant as well as pushed into distress labor migration					
Land grabbing has increased poverty levels in the area affecting food affordability from the market					
Land grabbing has shortened fallow periods					
Land grabbing is worsen soil quality in the area as grabbers degrade environment					

What could be other ways in which land grabbing has affected food security in this area?

.....  
.....  
.....

**SECTION D: The effect of land laws towards household food security Lyantonde Rural sub county**

Could you be aware of any laws governing land in this area?

Yes

No

If, yes what they be?

Land act

Land policy

Others specify .....

In case of land related conflicts, where do you normally report them?

Police

Local council

Land board

Court

6. After experiencing the land conflicts, do community members find it necessary to go the courts

of law?

Yes

No

7. If yes, how long does it take courts in this area to resolve cases related to land conflicts?

Less than 1 year

1-5yrs

Above 5yrs

How effective are courts of laws effective in resolving cases related to land conflicts?

Courts take a very long time to resolve land conflicts

Courts are very corrupt

Land conflict resolution lack clear regulation

There are many unnecessary references to the Constitutional Court as a delay tactic

Land conflict cases are highly political

Others, specify .....

How have the existing land laws influenced food security situation in this area?

.....  
.....  
.....

**Thank you for your time**

### **Interview guide for local and civil leaders in the area**

1. How often do you receive cases of land conflicts in this area?
2. What nature of land conflicts do you often receive?
3. What factors could attribute the above forms of land conflicts?
4. Who are the key actors in those conflicts and how?
5. How can you describe the food security situation in this area?
6. What could be the factors leading to food shortage in this area?
7. Share with me how community members usually survive during the periods of food shortage in the area?
8. What strategies have you put in place to promote food security in the area?
9. How have the existing land conflicts affected land food security status of community members in this area?
10. What land conflict resolution mechanisms have put in place in this area?
11. What measures need to be put in place to minimize land conflicts in this area?

**Thank you for your time**

## **Interview Guide for the RDC**

1. Share with me your experience with land conflicts in Lyantonde rural sub county.
2. What could be the main forms of land conflicts in Lyantonde rural sub county
3. What could be the main drivers of these conflicts in this area?
4. How often do you experience family related land conflicts in the area?
5. How have these family conflicts influenced food security situation in the area?
6. Could there be any cases of land grabbing in Lyantonde rural sub county
7. Who are the main perpetrators of land grabbing in Lyantonde rural sub county?
8. What could you describe as the effect of land grabbing on food security in in Lyantonde rural sub county
9. To which extent could you blame the current land conflicts to the existing land laws in the area?
10. What mechanisms have you put in place to minimize cases of land conflicts in Lyantonde rural sub county
11. What do u think needs to be done to minimize cases of land conflicts and improve in Lyantonde rural sub county

**Thank you for your time**

## **Interview Guide for the police officers**

1. Share with me your experience with land conflicts in Lyantonde rural sub county.
2. What could be the main forms of land conflicts in Lyantonde rural sub county
3. What could be the main drivers of these conflicts in this area?
4. Share with me your mandate in handling conflicts in this area?
5. How often do you experience family related land conflicts in the area?
6. How have these family conflicts influenced food security situation in the area?
7. Could there be any cases of land grabbing in Lyantonde rural sub county
8. Who are the main perpetrators of land grabbing in Lyantonde rural sub county?
9. What could you describe as the effect of land grabbing on food security in in Lyantonde rural sub county
10. To which extent could you blame the current land conflicts to the existing land laws in the area?
11. What mechanisms have you put in place to minimize cases of land conflicts in Lyantonde rural sub county
12. What do u think needs to be done to minimize cases of land conflicts and improve in Lyantonde rural sub county

**Thank you for your time**

## **Interview guide for Buganda land board and district land board members**

1. How often do you receive cases of land conflicts in this area?
2. What nature of land conflicts do you often receive?
3. What factors could attribute the above forms of land conflicts?
4. Who are the key actors in those conflicts and how?
5. How can you describe the food security situation in this area?
6. What could be the factors leading to food shortage in this area?
7. What strategies have you put in place to promote food security in the area?
8. How have the existing land conflicts affected land food security status of community members in this area?
9. What land conflict resolution mechanisms have you put in place in this area?
10. What challenges do you experience in mitigating land conflicts in the area?
11. What measures need to be put in place to minimize land conflicts and improve food security in this area?

**Thank you for your time**