

PhD CITATIONS FOR 2023 GRADUATION

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Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

SEBULIBA Esther

Farmers' choices of shade trees for enhanced soil fertility in the Bugisu coffee agroforestry system, Uganda



Mrs. SENKOSI, SEBULIBA Esther studied *Farmers' choices of shade trees for enhanced soil fertility in the Bugisu coffee agroforestry system, Uganda*. Arabica coffee (*Coffea arabica*) production is one of the major sources of livelihood for farmers in the fragile steep slopes of Mount Elgon, highly susceptible to the climate change effects particularly soil fertility decline. This is anticipated to reduce Arabica coffee yields. Agroforestry has been promoted as a climate smart practice/technology to enhance in part the fertility of soil, and hence increase yields of coffee. However, it is noteworthy that while an array of studies has determined the factors that influence farmers use of trees in crop/animal farming systems, limited attention has been paid to *the rationale behind what drives farmers to make the different choices of shade trees and practices in the Mt. Elgon Coffee Agroforestry system*. This study sought to enhance information that would guide coffee farmers on the appropriate selection of shade trees to fit their various contexts for soil fertility enhancement in the coffee agroforestry system in Uganda. The study revealed in addition to access to tree planting materials, farmers' choice of a shade tree in the coffee fields was inclined to farmers' perceived multiple associated benefits beyond soil fertility improvement. Therefore, in promoting use of shade trees, provision of appropriate information particularly on farmers' prioritized tree benefits should guide efforts to enhance integration of shade trees in coffee fields and any other agroforestry systems. This study was funded by the German Academic Exchange Service, DAAD scholarship under RUFORUM, and supervised by Dr. Prossy Isubikalu, Prof. Nelson Turyahabwe, and Prof. Majaliwa Mwanjalolo.

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