



# Enhancing Rural Healthcare Access and Utilization Among Smallholder Farmers in Western Uganda Through Interventions: A Three-Year Evaluation

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**Published:** 20 December 2011 | **Received:** 03 October 2011 | **Accepted:** 02 December 2011

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**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18919798](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18919798)

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## Abstract

Rural healthcare access in Western Uganda remains limited for smallholder farmers due to geographical isolation and financial constraints. Qualitative and quantitative data were collected through surveys, focus group discussions, and health facility records. An intention-to-treat analysis was conducted to assess the impact of the interventions. There was a significant increase in healthcare utilization rates from baseline ( $p < 0.05$ ) with an average uptake rate of 78% at three years post-intervention. The interventions successfully enhanced rural healthcare accessibility and utilization among smallholder farmers, demonstrating the effectiveness of community-based educational programmes combined with infrastructure improvements. Sustained support for health education initiatives and continued investment in rural healthcare facilities are recommended to maintain these positive outcomes. Treatment effect was estimated with  $\text{text}\{\text{logit}\}(\pi) = \beta_0 + \beta^T X_i$ , and uncertainty reported using confidence-interval based inference.

**Keywords:** *Geographic, Rural Health, Farmer Access, Utilization Rates, Interventions, Community Engagement, Cost-Benefit Analysis*

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