BIT 2207: Research Methodology
Report

A MOBILE APP(LUSUKU MOBILE) TO ADDRESS MARKET ACCESSIBILITY,PRICE FLUCTUATION AND FARM PRODUCE QUALITY CHALLENGES IN UGANDA

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Abstract

Agricultural marketing information systems in Uganda have traditionally addressed the accessibility to pricing information, overlooking the fluctuations in the quality of market produce and market prices. Therefore, there is need for a more reliable, efficient and automated system to help farmers and buyers in finding information on the marketing and accessing high quality produce. "Lusuku mobile" seeks to address the above issue by means of mitigating the risk of poor quality, price fluctuation and market accessibility of agricultural produce. System analysis was done by "group eight" members to ascertain user and system requirements. Requirements collection was done through review of related literature, observation, and interview of potential end users like the farmers themselves and buyers. The solution has been designed and implemented by our mobile app to physically realize the impact of our objectives. Lusuku mobile works with mobile phones that are running on an android platform. In summary Lusuku mobile is aimed at providing famers with a reliable market and buyers with market information and high-quality produce which we believe is cost effective for all stakeholders.

Contents

Chapter 1

Problem Definition

In Uganda price volatility affects several agricultural commodity markets, causing farmers especially at the bottom of the pyramid suffer great loses and prompting buyers to source high quality produce from foreign markets. Therefore, farmers experience challenges in accessing suitable markets for their produce at acceptable prices and the buyers main challenge is failure to access high quality produce and finding a competitive market. While existing market information systems have provided a solution to accessing pricing information, price fluctuations and low-quality produce have continued to affect agricultural incomes. It is therefore for this reason that group eight has come up with Lusuku mobile to address market accessibility, price fluctuation and high-quality produce challenges through provision of a competitive platform for buyer-seller interaction.

Chapter 2

Introduction

2.1 Background

Uganda has experienced a rapid increase of area covered by mobile phone service. As the information flow increases due to the mobile phone coverage expansion, the cost in crop marketing and finding quality produce is still a challenge, particularly more so in remote areas. This is mostly because of ignorance about existing markets for the produce. This leads to price fluctuations, value loss of the produce as some of them are perishable and poor yields. Therefore, there is a need for more reliable, efficient and automated system to help farmers in finding markets for produce and competitive markets for the buyers of high quality produce. This report describes the product functionality for Lusuku Mobile App system. This document is intended to be used by the members of the project team and project mentor as a monitoring tool to evaluate user satisfaction, check whether its addressing the users challenges as intended.

Chapter 3

Work Done

3.1 Project Goals

3.1.1 The project intended goals include:

To improve small household incomes,improve quality of produce,increase market access,evolve Lusuku mobile app with better access and reach,provide better connectivity and interaction between buyers, farmers and group eight(Developers),improve user involvement.

3.1.2 Objectives

The main objective is to develop an android mobile application that provides a platform for buyers and farmers to interact, provide market information, accessibility and competitiveness in terms of market produce.

3.1.3 Specific objectives

To carry out an investigation on the existing systems that provide information on available markets to come up with a better product.
To design Lusuku mobile app to enable farmers and buyers get access to information pertaining agricultural markets.
To develop and test Lusuku mobile app.

Chapter 4

Conclusion

This mobile Application seeks to improve the livelihoods of farmers especially those at the bottom of the pyramid. Our plan therefore is to add more functionalities in the App and devote more time in improving on our short coming to deliver a fully accomplished mobile App.

References

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[2] Gilbert Maiga: Systems Analysis and Design, Lecture notes for CSC 2202. Faculty of Computing and Information Technology, Makerere University in Kampala, February 2007.