Interviewer Name: Martin Nankunda

Interview date: 07/11/2019

Name of respondent: Lawrence

Household ID: 5610031

Title status: Solo title (but the respondent said they received a joint title)

Age: 52

Marital status: Married

No. of children: 8

No. of people living in the household: 8

Occupation: Farmer

Highest level of education: P.7

No. of years living in the village: 52

Roofing material: Iron sheets

Housing material: Mud and poles

Interview start time: 01:10 pm

Interview stop time: 02:52 pm

Interview Duration: 1:42:06

The interview took place at the respondent’s house. There was an interruption of one gentle man who wanted to speak to the chairman but decided to come later and we continued with the interview and toward the end it started to rain and the respondent had to first remove his coffee which was drying in the compound and we continued with the interview. He had mud and poles house with iron sheets. He has 4 plots of land. 2 are in the same village, 1 is on the neighboring village and another one in the neighboring district of Buhweju. The land that was titled is about 5 and a half acres, it is where he stays and has a banana and coffee plantations. The respondent said they received a joint title and it was conditional to include the wife’s name and they signed together on it, when receiving the title. They discussed about accepting the title because of the words people were saying that their land would be stolen and consulted other people and accepted the offer. According to the man’s sources of income and the properties he has, the ability to educate their children, they are middle class

Together they have 8 children and 2 of their daughters are already married and the rest are boys. The husband is the chairman LC1 of the village. They seem to be happily married according to the man’s words. He believes the tittle does not change their marriage because even when they did not have it, they were happily married but he believes it can earn they money if the need it and get to know how to use it. The husband is a matooke and coffee trader and he is planning to buy 3 quarters of land and plant coffee but have it as family land for all his children and will not share it out to the children

**Warm-up**

I: How has been your day so far?

R: My day is fine maybe be yours

I: It fine too, you are were not home?

R: Yes, I had gone for digging like our usual work

I: Which means you do not dig very far form here because you came quickly

R: Yes, it is not very far, it up there in the hill and I was weeding in the coffee plantation

I: When we were coming, they told us that you are the chairman of this village

R: Yes, am the chairman for this village

I: Ok, how do find leadership in this village?

R: Leadership is easy but at the same time difficult (respondent laughs) because we meet a lot things starting from the community and there is no way I can explain to you but there are very many issues in marriages and you find that it is the chairman that is responsible and I have to resolve them. But they have reduced because people now are more understanding but the common cases we have in this villages, is family conflicts and resolving them is very difficult

R: So, what is the common cause of conflicts in the families in this village?

I: The biggest problem is among the youth who have not yet understood what it means by marriage for example, if she is still young and has a husband and the husband comes back a little late, she thinks that he has gone into other women but it is not something big that would cause them to have conflicts but that is the case. It not that they are fighting about land, no, it is small things of the man coming back late and you find that they have conflicts because women’s hearts are soft, they think that since he is late, he has been with other women

I: So, how do resolve such conflicts?

R: We have our local committee, so we sit with them and everyone tells us their side of the story and we base on that to resolve their issue and they get back together

I: In general, what good things do you find in leadership?

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R: The good things in leadership are many because we get a chance to met different people whom you would not have met if you are not in leadership but we get chances to go for workshops, developmental seminars and you are know at higher levels

I: What are some of the bad things about leadership?

R: The bad things were there like in 3 years back where people acquired more loans and they disturbed a lot of people and as the chairman because you signed for someone and they got a loan that they did not pay, then you should pay it because as I’m speaking it happened to me that there was a young man who took a loan and disappeared but the loan he had taken was from a money lender and when the boy disappeared, I don’t know how the money lenders confused the police, it was early in the morning and I was arrested and they took me to *Bwizibwera* and the judge there for him, did not know what had happened and he followed what was give to him that day and I could not get a police bond and they took to Mbarara. But when the court sat again the judge already knew what had happened, and he told the money lenders that I was a witness that they gave money to someone, but they cannot arrest me as someone you had taken their money. he told them they made a mistake to arrest his fellow leader on such a matter. He directed they to the GISO (government internal security officer) at the subcounty to look for the man that took their money. So, I look at it as a problem that had made me hate leadership

I: Are money lenders allowed to operate in villages?

R: Since then, there is a way government put in energy to limit money lenders and the fact that banks have also increased, the money lenders are not there because they has taken a lot of people’s property so how you can got to the bank and get money and pay back at peace

I: Which banks do you commonly use in this village?

R: Actually we have Saccos for example Bukiro Sacco which has helped us a lot and recently we had a meeting where they said that no the government has taken over it and it is the one over seeing it now and also Able Sacco it has also helped people. then there also others like Muhame, Ankole sacco and recently there is even Issia Sacco

I: So, where do you have an account among the saccos?

R: Me I have been using Bukiro Sacco and there is not any other bank I use, the one that helps me when I need money

I: have you borrowed from this Sacco before?

R: Yes, I have been borrowing there and paying back and I’m a good “client” there

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I: When was the last time you borrowed money from there?

R: Let me see, I should have 7 months that I have paid them so far and I had asked for a year

I: How much money did you borrow?

R: It was not a lot of money; it was just one million

I: Tell me about the process of getting a loan form a Sacco

R: If you need money from a Sacco, first, you need to be a member and have the require amount of shares for example if you need a loan of one million, you need to have more than 10 shares and you have to be saving there. So, you pick a form and you fill after they give you a loans officer and he come and visits you and after visiting like in one week, they call you and give you money

I: In acquiring these loans, are your wives required?

R: Yes, they are because on the forms that we fill there is where your wife must sign and she confirms that if you wanted a million, it is what you have received because some men can bring a form and tell the wife that we need one million but instead get 2 million so it is important that the woman signs for the money that you agreed upon

I: Does it mean that to get a loan you must consult your wife?

R: Yes, you must agree with your wife that we need 1 million, so, what are we going to do with this one million, let’s us reduce the loan amount and get 500,000 shilling and maybe pay school fees for our child and by the end of the term we should have paid back the loan

I: Can you go ahead and acquire a loan if you do not consult your wife?

R: No, there is no way you can get it without your wife’s signature. Maybe a person that can get a loan with out the wife, would have used a wrong way for example, getting another woman and she signs for him as the wife when she is not the wife and that is also our problem as chairpersons because someone will bring a filled form and the wife does not know about it and you stamp it but if it happens that you stamped it unknowingly or you later find out that the woman is not aware, we have phone numbers for the banks, you can call them and they cancel the loan or if he corrects his mistakes you can give him the money

I: So, what did you want to use the 1 million for?

R: That one million did a lot of things, I have my boy the one you have seen, he is in S.4 and I

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also have another one who is I S.2, those are the ones that take a lot of money but when I got this money, I invested it in trade and I have managed to buy 2 quarter and a half of land which I have bought at 1.9 million shillings and still trading so there is no way how it has disturbed me and my things are moving on well

I: You are also a trader? In what?

R: Yes, I trade, now I have been trading matooke and taking them to the town you saw at the main road called *Rushere* but these days they seem not to be moving well because it has been 2 weeks now and I have not received my money which means the market is slow but when I get money I also trade I coffee that you see in the compound. But the coffee you see I have planted it myself and I have not used money to buy more coffee. Even the person that was calling me, I gave him a sack and a half of coffee to take to the machine and he has given me a receipt and it is weighing 68 kgs after milling it and now kilogram of coffee is at 4900 shillings which means that I have 330,000 shillings and I have started harvesting it, I think you saw it when you were coming here. I hope that my coffee will help so much, and I was hoping that I stop taking loans since I have started harvesting my coffee

I: And how much matooke do take to *Rushere*?

R: Where there is a lot of matooke, I take 200 bunches and when they are not many, you take like 150 bunches because you can look for them in the village and you do find them but when they are few I make a loss in transporting them because transport is constant at 200,000 shillings and I always have a “target” of taking 200 bunches which means that each bunch, I take it for 1000 shilling but if they reduce, it will the transport for each bunch will increase and make less profit

I: So, when you take matooke do you sell them at once?

R: Yes, there are other traders there who have stalls and one can take like 50 another 80 and they get finished and I categorize them in their sizes and we agree on the price for each size some can been 15000 to 8000 and everyone take what they can afford

I: How often do you take matooke in a week?

R: I a week I take matooke once

I: So, other than trading is there anything else you do to earn income?

R: It is basically farming, I have my own banana plantation where I get matooke, I have coffee and now it is a season for beans, and we are about to harvest them

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I: And how was your day yesterday

R: Yesterday was of because I went to my work in the garden and when I came back, we were here with my wife chatting and it ended well (respondent laughs)

I: How does your normal day be like?

R: The normal day are for me are Monday to Thursday and I usually do work hear at home. If there is weeding in the banana plantation, millet, onions so you find us doing that. Other days day from Friday I start looking for matooke

**Background, household structure and landownership**

I: Thank you for explaining this to me. I would like to ask you about yourself, your household and your land. First, I would like to know how old you are

R: I’m 52 years

I: Which class did you complete?

R: I studied and finished P.7

I: And how long have you been living in this village?

R: All these years, I have been in this village because my grandfather was from his village, my father was buried in this village, so we are born in this village

I: whom do live with in this house?

R: In this house I have my wife and children

I: And how many children do you have that stay in this house?

R: The children that I stay with here are 6 because I have 8 children all together. 2 are girls and 6 are boy and all the girls are married

I: You had told me about the education of your two children, but how many are I school?

R: I have one who has completed S.6 and he wants to first make some money and resume school studies later but the rest of the children are all in school, other than the other 2 I told you about, one is in P.6, another in P.2 and the last one is in P.1

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I: As a leader and someone who has been in this village for a while, what challenges do you commonly face in this village?

R: The main challenge that we have in this village is lack of money, our earnings are low, but the expenditure is high yet the things that would earn us income, their prices are very low

I: What do you think can be done to solve this problem?

R: I think if the government could help us and bring back our “cooperatives” and “societies” they can help us for example like I have this coffee, it can help improve prices of coffee because everyone would dry their coffee and take it there instead of selling fresh coffee from the garden at low prices. It can even improve the quality of our goods and they attract a higher price

I: When were they stopped?

R: I do not remember well when they were stopped but the old people can tell you how good and important the societies were but now there is a way thing have gone to a lower standard since everyone started selling the way the want

I: And why do you think they were stopped

R: I do not know the reason why government decided to stop them for example, here we have *Banyanyankole* *kweterana* society and is the one that was buying all the coffee here when we were still young. It is our fathers that sold coffee there

I: So, you have matooke and coffee, on how many plots do you them?

R: Up there where I was from, I have coffee, here I have a banana plantation and coffee and also down there I have coffee but I bananas there but there is too much water and the bananas kept falling down so I decided to plant there coffee

I: So, in total how many plots of land do you have?

R: I have different plots in different places, there is also the ones I have recently bought but they are in the neighboring district of Buhweju and the plots that I have here are in 3 parts so that means the other makes them 4 plots

I: So, tell me about the process of buying this plot?

R: First, you have to plan for you children because part of this land where we are, was given to me by my father although I bought more land and added to it but all this land was my father’s land who had more than 8 children and they all share this land. So, I have the same number of

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children and if I do not buy more land for them then they will not be satisfied. It is the usual way of buying land, some tell you he is selling land and you agree, and he makes for you agreement and pay him the money

I: Ok, let’s first talk about the other 3 plots, how big is this one where you stay?

R: I think we measured about 5 acres and a half there. And the one up there, is 2 and a half acres but the other one is down the hill but on the other side and it is in a different village not mine and it is half an acre

I: So, the plot in Buhweju, what do you have there?

R: I was planning to plant ruboster coffee there only the rain has disturbed me but I have already put a tank of water and I want to spray the grass and I plant ruboster because if you look at the ruboster coffee in Buhweju, you feel like shifting and staying there

I: Because I see for you here you have nasaland coffee

R: Yes, I have nasaland here but there is another plot that they want to sell to me in this village, it is about 3 quarters of an acre, I will also plant there ruboster coffee in can I buy that land

I: I would like to take you back and ask you about the processes that you go through to buy land in this village

R: A person comes and find you at your place and tell you that he selling his land or he gets a paper and puts it in the trading center announcing land for sell or you hear it from other people that someone is selling land. So, you get in contact with the seller and visit the land and agree on the amount. You ask if he has used the land as security in the bank, does your wife know about the sale of the land? So, that if you give him money the wife should sign on the agreement and all is well, you get other people in the village they also sign for you on the agreement and take the agreement to the LC and they put a stamp for you.

I: Is it a law that if the wife does not sign on the agreement you cannot sell the land?

R: Yes, and if am buying land and the woman does not sign on the agreement, I cannot give you that money

I: What about you the buyer, do you need to have your wife too when buying land?

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R: Yes, but it depends on how you agree with each other in your marriage. If am making money, I may not go with my wife but she also have a part she plays on that money because if I go to *Rushere* and take matooke, the wife stays at home doing house work and if I get money it means that this money is for the family and if am going to buy land, I buy it for that family so she has to sign but if she does not sign still the land is for both of us and our family. There are people because we do not have the same thinking, who buy land and because the woman has not signed, the land is not hers but it not right.

I: To you, what are some of the good things about including a woman’s name on an agreement?

R: You see, a woman at home is also security for your things at home. Some of the times, we can not all go at the same time as you that death is there. If you die, and there is someone who wants to take that land, the woman can defend it if she has her name on the agreement

I: Has it happened in this village that other people try to grab land from the woman after the man dies?

R: No, that habit is not there in this village and the time I have been in this village, I have not heard anyone trying to claim the widows land maybe I have heard in another village of *Kanyigoro* the was a man called Rwomuyaga but he died, it him that was always in court trying to case people from the land claiming it was his father’s land but in this village I have not seen it

I: And what are the bad thing about including a woman’s name on the title?

R: There is no bad thing about it and in fact it is peace but that’s why I was telling you the when we are in families the cooperation between husband and wife is different. Some do not want to put their wife on the agreement because every on has his or her things, there is no unity, no understanding, some thinks that tomorrow if want to sell my land I can sell if the woman has not put her signature but for me, whether she is on the agreement or not, if I want to sell land, I must sell it for a reason and my wife must know that reason and we agree

I: other than lack of cooperation, why do you think men choose not to include their wife on the agreement?

R: It the same reason that men always think that if they want to sell the land in the future the wife will refuse so when they have their money the will buy land and not include their wives on the agreement and good enough, if it is his money the woman will also not quarrel about not being on the agreement

I: So, is there were you have included you wife’s name on the agreement for the land that you have bought?

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If I go with her on the day of making the agreement, then I put her name but whether she is not the agreement the land is both ours and for our family. I have told you that we have 8 children and the years we are in are for commitment, and do nothing we can have issues on land because the things that we do are for our children and we must first agree in case we want to sell the land

I: Now, that you are in the years of being committed, do you think including your wife on the agreement can mean commitment to your marriage?

R: It depends on the hearts of 2 people, like I have told you that there are people who do there things separately but still having her name on the agreement does not mean marriage. Marriage depends on the hearts of people from the way they started for example, they years I have been with my wife, I know her heart and she know my heart

I: I see you have many plots; do you have workers on your plots?

R: The workers that I have are casual to say that they work for that day when I need them and they go back to their homes because I do not have enough money to pay them a monthly salary but I would want to have them

I: And how much do you pay them?

R: A day is 5000 shillings

**General land**

I: In the next topic, I would like now to ask you about land in general. How do people in this village come to own land?

R: I have been telling people in this village that it is true that we have land but we do not have land because a rich person can come to our village and claim the land the have been calling our land and comes with all the documents for that land. There only thing that can help us is having land titles. if you have a land title that when you know that you have land and if you do not have a land title then know you do not have land.

I: Before you get a title, how people get the land in this village?

R: Most people to get land they start from their parents because in *Banyankole* when you have children you have to give then cooking stones and that is done by giving them land where they can plant their own food and have families. That is why I have told you that am buying more land to give to my children, and they can also add on it by buying more land for themselves.

I: So, tell me how it went to get land from your father

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R: After getting a wife, the gave me my cooking stones which was my share of the land so that I can take care of my wife

I: What about your brothers and sisters?

R: That is what happened to them also that whoever could get married, would be given his land and we were lucky that we were only 3 boys, its is the girls that were many and parent back them had not gone into the dot com system where even girls are given land. But what they could do, there is what called *Irembo* (entrance of a house) and each girl could be give their *Irembo* at their brother’s land. They could divide the girls to the given number of boys and each of the girls has Irembo at the either brother and if her marriage fails, you the brother where she has her *Irembo*, you would take her in and look after her. Even in asking for dowry for girl, there is a cow that would be given to the boy where the girl has *Irembo* and would be that boy to ask for that cow and also give away the girl to the husband. She would your life partner and she separate with the husband she comes to your home and if she needs help you provide it. So, you would be her parent when both your parents are no longer alive

I: Do you think this system was good?

R: I think it was good, but it was not equal and fair because in the past girls were not considered as children, they were taken as some thing for sale, that she will go away and you find that in between there was no equality among children in the home. And that is why women would get married and suffer in their marriage because she knows that if she come back to the brother, she can be also a problem to that family. But now she knows that if have left my father’s land, I have my quarter an acre, if the marriage fails, I will build and stay there

I: Same people say that that why marriages are failing because women know they can go home to their land

R: To I think if you give and to both boys and girls land, it helps to settle their marriages because in today’s world if your sister come back to your land when you also have your family problems, it is not easy but if she has her thing and she goes there, then it can keep peaceful even in her marriage

I: Have you ever sold land?

R: Yes, I have ever sold land like they say that selling does not stop so does buying

I: Can you tell the reason why you sold land?

R: The reason why I sold land is because is one of the most painful things that I have had in me

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life. It was like when you guarantee someone to get a loan and the person fails to pay back the money. it was very painful because I have never sold land to educate children, I have not reached the stage of lacking school fees

I: Oh, I see, how much land did you sell?

R: It was about 1 acre and a quarter

I: When someone says that this is family land, what does it mean to you?

R: I think for the land to be family land, as our culture if a person before he dies, he makes a will and say this land will take by so and so but this land will be my family land but that usually depends on how he got that land for example if he got the land from his father he would not want to give it away to his children. for example, I can have my 3 quarter of coffee that I would not want to share to may children so that it remains for the whole family and takes care of all the children when you are no longer in this life

I: Who has authority over family land?

R: It is the husband and wife if they are still alive

I: And who has authority when they are not alive?

R: like I have told you that I have a plan to plant 3 quarters of coffee and I do not want to share it to my children, it will be of the family. If I die, the woman will authority over this land and if she also dies, it means that the land will have an heir according to the will that will have written

I: You have told me that you always tell people to get titles, what is the difference between a land title and an agreement

R: The agreements are for us the local people and they government know them but they know very little about them but the title is known in the government and I my understanding I know that when you have a title that is when you have land that is “permanent”. For example, I have land at that hill, you might find that there marram soil and if the government wants to use it they have to ask me permission and agree how you will compensate me but if you do not have a title, the government can take that land

I: Can the government take land and they do not compensate it?

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R: Yes, without giving you anything if you do not have security for your land like a title, they just take and go away

I: Has it happen that the government takes someone’s land without compensating them in this village?

R: Yes, when they are expanding road people are not compensated if you do not have a land title

I: On the point do people fear losing their land in this village?

R: Yes, the are afraid but they also see that title as something that is very far from their lives because of the process and the money involved in getting a land title. but most people would want to have titles for their because when we got our titles most people came asking for the ways they can use to also get their own titles

How much do you think people think a title cost?

R: They think it is a lot of money above 2 million

**Baseline awareness of titles**

I: Thank you. I would like to ask about the title to know how think about titles and your knowledge about titling, there are no right or wrong answer we just want to know how you think about titles. what does it mean to have a land title?

R: It means security for you land

I: What is good about having a title?

R: There are a lot of good things for example, like I have told you to get a loan you need to through all the processes that I have told you but if you have a title and you have agreed with your wife they can give you money without going through many processes

I: Tell me about how you got this title?

R: To get this title I think it was a vote because they came with a machine that selected people in this village and I was among the lucky people and they started the “process” and I could take them to all the people that they wanted to see, they ask them their questions an they also ask me mine until the end when I asked them the purpose because we did not know the purpose of asking us questions and they told me that the good thing will come at the end and we shall see them. As were there, they came back and told us that according to what we answered them, we are lucky to receive land titles. they said they will give a title which I will not pay a single coin,

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and they will put people that will do all the process. I accepted the offer with some of my colleagues in the village and some refused. One refused saying that these things had happened somewhere, because he has shifted from *Sheema* district, that he can let people steal his land. We were 5 people from this village but only 4 got the title

I: So, how do you feel now that you have this title?

R: Now that I have this title, I have very high hope that I can gain from this title because of our little education, you do not understand some of the thing but among my children there can be a child and he get knowledge on how to use this title and he money and have where to start from

I: What about your wife, how does feel about the title?

R: In general she very happy, even when they brought the title I was not hear, I had got for my matooke business and they called me that they have brought the title and told them that my wife is there at home she can have it but they said they needed both of us, I was already busy and they told me to wait for them in *Rubindi* with my wife because they cannot give it to one person. When I acme she told exactly what they had told me on phone and in the morning we got on a motorcycle and went to *Rubindi* and I kept communicating with them on phone and they brought it, we signed for it and you can’t even ask me whether it is now because after that I have it to my wife. Because if we got security for our land and you know that women keep well things, I gave it to her

I: What is the one good thing about your title?

R: It is security for our land like I have already told you

I: Ok, do you think this title has changed anything about your marriage?

R: We do not have any problem with it, they gave us our security and we kept it and there no one that has said that let me take it to the bank and get a loan because the land that was titled is this land where we are and I like I have told you that I take loans, cannot make a mistake to bring a loans officer to this land that has a title and they take picture of it because I have other plots of and the question you have asked that has it changed our marriage, we have been the same way we have been in our life

I: Did you discuss about this title before you received it?

R: Yes, we did and the reason why we talked about it, when the words went through that the people who will give us the titles might take our land, we did discussed about it and we continued to ask about it from the people that have more knowledge even those that titled with us

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and have children in ministries and we discovered that the title had no problem. If they wanted to steal land would they even steal the councilor LC 5’s land?

I: Did you discuss about the names to be put on the title?

R: Yes, there is my name and her name

I: So, how did your discuss about these names go?

R: To discuss about these names, they wanted this title to be guaranteed by 2 names, the man’s name and the woman’s name so that you agree and know that what you are going to do is between man and wife

I: So, if did not agree to add the names on the title they wouldn’t have given it to you?

R: You see that is what happened to the other person that refused. That means that the title would have failed because how would it have come without the 2 of you confirming it

I: So, they told you that you had to put both your names on the title?

R: Yes, how else would you confirm it if you are not two because that’s why even when they brought the title, I signed, and the wife also signed

I: Ok, I thought you got a title with only your name?

R: No, both our names are on the title and are all in one thing

I: Before you got this title are there people in this village who were able to get land title

R: Yes, there is our neighbor there in the trading center called Susario Kasisi, he is the one I knew had a land title and another one is called Kanyaryeri and his land is cross the hill and those are the people that I knew had titles in this village

I: So, how do you think they got their titles?

R: The “process” of getting a title I have no idea about it and that is why I told you that this was a vote to get this title and seeing that these people kept coming and visiting us because it would not be easy for me to get a title if I wanted it

I: What would do if you needed a title for your other plots?

R: The chance that I have now is that I have a son whom am the uncle who has studied these things of the title so if I ever need a title, I can contact him, and he directs me to the right ways

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**Intra-household discussions and bargaining**

I: In this next topic, I would like to ask you about your marriage with your wife. How long have you been staying with your wife?

R: The years that we have been staying together we should be below 27 years

I: Are you officially married?

R: Yes

I: Can you tell me about your experience in marriage?

R: To tell you the history of our marriage in short and as I had told you that marriages cannot be the same, because I got my wife when I was an orphan. At the time I married my wife I did have my father and I did not have my mother and when I got this woman, she became my mother and I also became her husband. There is no single reason that she can say that ever since I got her from her father, that she has gone back for that same reason or me saying that you have done this, go back to your home. We have had our disagreements, but we agreed that if we have something that disturbs us, we sit and talk about it and resolve it ourselves and about problems in the marriage, we do not have any issues.

I: Would you say that she supports in the things that you do?

R: The this we do we are always one person

I: What example can you give me how she supports?

R: If I want to get a loan from the bank, if she wasn’t supporting me, my wife wouldn’t sign for me which means that the money that I get, she knows what it going to do

I: What about you, what example can you give me of how you support your wife?

R: For example, I have not given her any reasons to doubt me because some women when the man goes somewhere, they keep their eyes on where he is going to back from because they do not trust them. But when I go to trade my matooke and I delay, my wife will call me to find out if am ok and when I get back, we do not have any problems because I have won her trust

I: Why do think other couples don’t feel supported by their partners?

R: There are many things, but lack of truest in the marriage is the main reason. You find that when a man goes this side the woman does not trust him and when he comes back, he finds

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the woman has also gone into other things and you find that in between them there pulling of a rope

I: You have told me that in most decisions you agree with your wife but who makes the last decision for your household?

R: All the decisions that we make we must agree together and if anyone disagrees then there will be no decision that will have been made

I: So, do you think even other families when it comes to decision making, that what happens?

R: No, like I have told you, families are different, it is not all families because all families have different thinking and different plans for their families because like you asked if the title have changed our marriage, there is one of the people that also received the title with us but have been having disagreement where one wants to have the title, the other wants to get a loan but the woman knew that even if the man gets a loan the money will go to waste and she is the one that knows how she kept the title. And the man is educated, and he knew he could take the title and put some where and he gets money

I: So, to you what does this title mean to your marriage?

R: About our marriage, even before we got this title, me and my wife, we did not have any problems so I can not say that the title has changed our marriage and I do not think my wife can say it has changed something

I: Thank you for explaining this to me. We know that most land is owned by men in Uganda but there some aspects to this system that we would like to understand, especially concerning women. We do have any opinion, but we would like to know what you think about this subject and there is no right or wrong answer. Do women own land in this village?

R: Yes,

I: How did they acquire the land?

R: You see, these days women have their rights and if they have their money, they can buy land and you the man have no right about her land. For example, if she inherited land from her parents and sell it and buy land near so that if it a banana, she can cut it near. So that woman can buy her own land you don’t have to play on her land. But you can eat from it as a man but if she say that the matooke from her garden she wants to sell them and maybe pay her loan because it not only men that take loans and she is the one that cooks the matooke and she knows which one to cook, what can you say? (respondent laughs) would she be right?

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I: But do you think if women get land from their parents should they add them to their husband’s land or the keep them separate?

R: That land can keep her land and tomorrow she can decide whom to give this land if she wants to give it all her children and every on of them gets a piece, that her decision

I: In your view, should woman be allowed to have their own land?

R: That has no problem

I: We have talked about aspects on women, men, land, land use, land ownership and family land, do you think all these aspects would work well or not under family land?

R: If you have family land it means that you can plant your crops and the money you get from that land is for the whole family and you can budget for this money as a family and know that this money will do this and that which means that all these things can work better on family land because you agree together as a family

I: Like you have told me that you want to leave the coffee land as family land, do you think your wife will be included in family land?

R: Yes, because when am not around she will be the one with authority and I don’t know if I have the same thinking as most men but when I got my wife, I took her part of me and the foundation of my family, I started it with my wife and I can’t lie to you that she is outside of this home so if I count a family, it is the wife and her children

I: So, do you have children outside your marriage?

R: Even my wife knows that the years we have been together, I have no child outside our marriage

I: Ok, are widows allowed to stay on the land if their husbands die?

R: Yes, and to make it properly, I had told you about the will that one can write and for some of the wills I have seen the man gives land to all his children and on the part of that land, he also gets a part for wife without conditions like he has left it with her and another child, but her own land and it is the woman to decide whom she can leave this land with

I: What if she does not have children can she stay on the land?

R: I had my own brother that I was following, he even married firster than me, but they never had children with wife and when they could not get a child, he sold the land he inherited from us

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father and shifted with wife to another village of *Kyenshama* but when they were there the man died. We went here for the burial and we left the wife on the land and I think she is still there

I: Do widows remarry sometimes?

R: If she is still young, she can remarry, and she has a right because she is still young but if she old she can stay on the rock and look after her children

I: Can a woman remarry and stay on the land with the new husband?

R: The husband’s land? That one is not married but she just having an affair in secret and you find that she gives birth to a child on that land but the family of the wife like her children of the farmer husband, can not allow that child to have a share on that land. She can raise her child but later give the child to the father because for example, I have my stepmother, when our father died, she remarried her in-law and had 2 children with him, but the woman later died. The land that my father had left, because he had 2 girls with my stepmother and our uncle also had 2 children with her. Our uncle and took her to girls and left the land to the other girls and grew up with me until they got authority to take care of their land

I: If you compare today and the past, has the treatment of widows changed?

R: You mean treatment by the other people or relatives?

I: Both people and relatives

R: I think the best chance they have or the best chance I have in my village, by the time the husband dies, you find that most widows are in the 60 years plus and you find that at that time she does even have children at her home that can disturb her, so she can do whatever she wants on the land. If she still has energy to cook for herself, she will remain there without any problem, so I don’t see any thing that has changed that disturbs the widows on their land

I: what about in the past, we hear that widows could not stay on the land?

R: They were there but in this village, they were not common, because we could here about them in other areas on radio that widows land are being taken away from them but in village around here, I had never heard of it that a widow has been chased away from the land because I know of widows that we grew up together, those that their husbands left when they were still young but they have remained on their land and are now old

I: So, do you think that the treatment of widows today is ok?

R: Yes, the treatment of widows is now very ok

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I: Is there something that you think that has led to this slight change?

R: I think it because of education because when people get more understanding of things, you find that even conflicts reduce

I: But what’s your opinion on what happens to the woman once their husband dies?

R: For me, I think that when a man die, the woman is also a human being, if she is on her husband’s land she should be left to make sure that she can decide on you to use their land until she also dies but the other people should not say that this is a widow, let me treat her like this or that, it should not happen

I: So, in your village do you have couples that have separated?

R: Yes, you find that they do not separate forever but there those disagreements among couples where you find everyone is pulling the other and, in their home, they have separate rooms and they are nit agreeing with one another, they are there

I: What about those that separate for good, the woman or man goes way?

R: No, I do have those one in this village, we have those that are pulling ropes they separate a few days and come back

I: But what authority would a woman have on the land if they separate with the husband?

R: The “government policy” say that the woman should have a quarter of the that land but if the woman is young, and she feel it will disturb her, they simply go away and have another family elsewhere and get married. They rarely come back to follow up on their land but if she already has roots in that family for example, my wife, she can not leave and go just like that, if she insists the government can look into it and give her a share on that land

I: So, are there government laws on this?

R: Yes, they are there

I: And where can a woman take her complaint to get her share of the land?

R: The government has a department but I have forgotten about but there is a person that woman can contact, be it at every police station there is always that person in that department, even at the subcounty there a person in charge of such issues. Is called FIDA? Yes, they can help that woman to get her share of the land

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I: What about at the LC do you have such a person?

R: Even at the LC we should have that person and a woman can go through these levels until she gets what she wants

I: If the cause of separation is because of the man, can a woman’s possessions be taken away from her?

R: If they separate, what can be the woman’s things? You mean like her land?

I: Yes, or even children

R: It depends, a man can separate with wife and say I no longer want to be with you, that when the woman can go to these offices and if it is to share the property, then they can share it and if she wants the children and the children want to go with her, she can have them

I: But do you think if women were able to jointly own land together with their husbands, this can reduce conflict or increase conflicts in the marriage?

R: You see, the point you have asked me, it is there, and it is happening, and I have already told you about it. For example, the title for 2 that you gave to another couple in this village, the man wanted it to take it to the bank and get a loan and woman saw that if he takes it, whatever he is looking for has no importance to the family and you find it causing chaos in the family but still he can not use by himself without the wife but the wife can you use that title because she is in terms with the children and on that title one of the children was required to sign on it

**Land disputes**

I: Next, I would like to ask you about land disputes. As the chairman, what is the common cause of disputes on land?

R: There has not been many cases on land disputes in this village but the few that have been within families where brothers are fighting over land. You find that they have *emigorora* in their land but the other one is removing them

I: So, what happens when there are such disputes

R: One of these reaches at the LC and we see who is in wrong and we put back the *emigorora*

I: What was the last there was a land dispute in this village?

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R: The last dispute I have had in this village was up there in the hill, it was brothers fighting over the boundaries of their land, but we went there as a committee and we resolved it. It was very small; one had planted a tree on the others side of the land, but we resolved it

I: If one of the people in the dispute has a land title, do you think it can help resolve the dispute

R: Yes, if the land has a title, people do not usually play with it because people know that a land title is something very big to have on your land

I: And what do you think should be done to help people who do not have security on their land?

R: I think there should be programs to teach people about the importance of having land titles because even if you wanted to give then for free you can force people to have them but if they are taught about it then people can love it and try to get it

I: Have you ever had any disagreements on land?

R: I had told that on my land I have never had any disagreements be with my brothers, whoever was given his land it is his land and we have never had any problems

I: And who do you think gave you the title?

R: In my thinking, it is the government that gave us the title so that others can learn from it and know the importance of the land title

I: So, do you have questions that you would like to ask me?

R: About the title, I never thought that you would came back and I ask you but I have heard that a title has years where it stops and you have to pay money so that it becomes new again so the question I have asking myself it that when will the title that you gave us expire and we renew them?

I: The title you have will not need to be renewed it means that land you have is your and every that is on that land is your

R: Another thing, can it also be taken to the bank and you get a loan?

I: Yes, the title you have is the some title that man you told me about in the trading center so you can take it to any bank where you have an account and get a loan and thank for your time today.

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