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Paper Title

*Digital Control Systems*

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# Abstract

This study investigate the benefits and challenges of the implementation of Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS) using the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, specifically Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) Government flagship programme as a case study.

The study uses descriptive and purposeful sampling method to collect the data from 85 companies the Ministry has engage to supply fertilisers and seeds for the flagship programme.

The study assess (GIFMIS) effectiveness and complex role in contactless technology competency associated with the use of GIFMIS in financial management.

Multiple regression analysis is used in the sections of accounting, budgeting, stores and internal audits where GIFMIS implementation is successful.

The results reveal, that GIFMIS is effective tools and play complex role in public financial management, in transparency process in paying companies who have supply the Ministry fertilisers and seeds.

The lack of ICT competency hindering the smooth operation of the system.

# Keywords

Contactless in ICT Competency, Integrated Financial Management Information Systems, Public Financial Management, Top Management Support.

# Organisation’s Profile

The Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) campaign was launched on April 19, 2017 in Goaso in Ahafo region by the President, His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo.

The Planting for Food and Jobs has five (5) modules namely; rearing for Food and Jobs (RFJ), Greenhouse Villages, Planting for Export and Rural Development (PERD), Agricultural Mechanisation Services Centres (AMSECs) and Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ).

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture under the leadership of the Minister, Hon. Dr. Owusu Afriyie Akoto is implementing the campaign for the president. The campaign has enabled a greater community participation of smallholder farmers and unveiled incentives of agricultural utilization to attract the private sector investments.

The Planting for Food and Jobs campaign is to address the inadequate use of productivity-enhancing technologies, low use of quality planting materials (seeds and fertilisers) and weak market linkages.

The situation before 2017 was characterized by, little incentive to attract the youth into farming, marketing infrastructure for farm produce was woefully inadequate, yields of most crops were far less their potential yields, the farm extension service was near collapsing, less than 11% Ghanaian farmers used improved seeds, under 20% used fertilisers and the budget allocation to the sector was steadily dwindling.

The initiative of Planting for Food and Jobs has a greater focus on creating an enabling environment through enhanced availability of improved inputs of seeds and fertilisers at reduced cost, reduce costs of production, increased productivity, increased farm profitability and incomes, increased supply of food stuffs to market centres and increased availability of raw materials for agro industries. The increased use of the input in farms also leads to the creation of substantial farm level jobs. The expanded area of cultivation has given room to intensification activities as well as expansion in harvesting of crops yields.

# Situation Faced

The operation of manual system of accounting since the colonial era in the public sector, although the aim of financial accounting management among state institutions is to reduce cost of resources through irregularities, fraud by government workers and prevent wasteful of improper spending. The financial environment of the world is continuously changing, particularly due to the effects of globalization (S. Kr, Chandrani, 2019), financial accounting is extremely helpful for preparing future planning, budgeting and financial forecasting (Goodkind, Kowal, 2016). The institute of cost and management accountants London, has defined management accountant as the application of professional knowledge and skill in the preparation of accounting information in such a way as to assist management in the formulation of policies and in the planning and control of the operation (ING Bank, 2016). According to American accounting association, the methods and concepts necessary for effective planning for choosing among alternative business actions for control through the evaluation and interpretation of performances (U.S. Gov, 2016). Since 1984 the World Bank has promoted integrated financial management information system (IFMIS) as the core component of reforming PFM in low-income countries (Combaz, 2015). Recent studies indicate that many organizations fail to realize significant returns on investments in IT projects (Kofahi, Alryalat, 2017). An integrated financial management information system is an integrated technical package that computerizes budget management and accounting system for government (World Bank, 2015). It offers a great potential for increasing participation, transparency and accountability (World Bank, 2015).

New York Times reported recently on the transition to contactless payment and the fact that cash is no longer as convenient as it once was especially as people fear its germ-spreading potential(Brunkhorst, 2020). In order to achieve the primary objectives of a business enterprise, financial planning helps to determine in advance the financial activities which are necessary in financial planning (Tsi, 2016). This information which is usually recorded and supplied by the accountants manually is processed and communicated with the help of computers in management information system (Goodkind, Kowal, 2016). Financial knowledge helps individuals to make better financial decisions as much as it helps financial markets to function well (Tsi, 2016). Therefore, financial education has been observed to gain more significance for community groups, business, policy makers, educators and government since 1990s (Barmak, 2015). The determinants of individual financial decision making have been examined in many studies for to look for a remedy for the inefficiency of individual financial behaviors (Lusardi, Mitchell, 2014; Tang, Baker, 2016). Financial knowledge is crucial to helping individuals make better financial decisions as well as the financial markets to function well (Ramirez, Emily, 2017). Entrepreneurs need to be financially literate, the most common cause of business failure is poor financial control stemming from an ignorance of the basics of business finance (Barrow, 2016). As contactless payment, Bbot’s software allows dine in customers to use their phone to scan a QR code that launches the restaurant’s menu (Ryan, 2021).

# Actions Taken

In 1999, the Budget and Public Expenditure Management Systems was lunch and reform by Public Financial Management with the objective of enhancing the budgetary and financial reporting systems of the public sector.

Technology may smooth the path in hospitality speeding up transactions and orders and spreading word about a business online (Manzoori, Janie, 2019). As contactless payment, Bbot’s software allows dine in customers to use their phone to scan a QR code that launches the restaurant’s menu (Ryan, 2021). Patrons can then use their device to place an order and pay, without having to handle a physical menu or check (Ryan, 2021). Many business may begin to more widely embrace delivery services, contactless payment methods and mobile ordering changes that are both convenient and necessary (Brunkhorst, 2020). The near field communication (NFC) chip card can communicate with a credit card terminal and authenticate a purchase as long as the embedded card is a few inches from the terminal’s reader, there is no need to insert the card and the entire process is quick (Brunkhorst, 2020). The coronavirus is accelerating a shift toward a cashless future raising new calculations for merchants and enriching the digital payment industry (Brunkhorst, 2020). Most people over the age of 65 years use information and communication technology to maintain family and social connections and to access information related to health and routine activities (Vroman et al, 2015). Contactless payments are taking hold globally and forward-thinking U.S. financial institutions should be intent on leveraging the safety economic and strategic benefits contactless cards represent (‘How MasterCard is helping consumers”, March 26, 2020).

### Development

Ghana Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS) was introduced in 2010 by the president of the Republic of Ghana, against this background to do away with the manual system of operation in the public service organisations.

### Implementation

In 1999, the Budget and Public Expenditure Management Systems was lunch and reform by Public Financial Management with the objective of enhancing the budgetary and financial reporting systems of the public sector. Ghana Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS) was introduced in 2010 by the president of the Republic of Ghana, against this background to do away with the manual system of operation in the public service organisations.

### Evaluation

The operation of manual system of accounting since the colonial era in the public sector, although the aim of financial accounting management among state institutions is to reduce cost of resources through irregularities, fraud by government workers and prevent wasteful of improper spending. Ghana Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS) was introduced in 2010 by the president of the Republic of Ghana, against this background to do away with the manual system of operation in the public service organisations. In 1999, the Budget and Public Expenditure Management Systems was lunch and reform by Public Financial Management with the objective of enhancing the budgetary and financial reporting systems of the public sector.

# Results Achieved

The operation of manual system of accounting since the colonial era in the public sector, although the aim of financial accounting management among state institutions is to reduce cost of resources through irregularities, fraud by government workers and prevent wasteful of improper spending. Ghana Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS) was introduced in 2010 by the president of the Republic of Ghana, against this background to do away with the manual system of operation in the public service organisations.

The financial environment of the world is continuously changing, particularly due to the effects of globalization (S. Kr, Chandrani, 2019), financial accounting is extremely helpful for preparing future planning, budgeting and financial forecasting (Goodkind, Kowal, 2016). The institute of cost and management accountants London, has defined management accountant as the application of professional knowledge and skill in the preparation of accounting information in such a way as to assist management in the formulation of policies and in the planning and control of the operation (ING Bank, 2016). Technology may smooth the path in hospitality speeding up transactions and orders and spreading word about a business online (Manzoori, Janie, 2019). As contactless payment, Bbot’s software allows dine in customers to use their phone to scan a QR code that launches the restaurant’s menu (Ryan, 2021). Patrons can then use their device to place an order and pay, without having to handle a physical menu or check (Ryan, 2021). Many business may begin to more widely embrace delivery services, contactless payment methods and mobile ordering changes that are both convenient and necessary (Brunkhorst, 2020). The near field communication (NFC) chip card can communicate with a credit card terminal and authenticate a purchase as long as the embedded card is a few inches from the terminal’s reader, there is no need to insert the card and the entire process is quick (Brunkhorst, 2020). The coronavirus is accelerating a shift toward a cashless future raising new calculations for merchants and enriching the digital payment industry (Brunkhorst, 2020). Financial knowledge is crucial to helping individuals make better financial decisions as well as the financial markets to function well (Ramirez, Emily, 2017). Entrepreneurs need to be financially literate, the most common cause of business failure is poor financial control stemming from an ignorance of the basics of business finance (Barrow, 2016).

### Development

Financial knowledge is crucial to helping individuals make better financial decisions as well as the financial markets to function well (Ramirez, Emily, 2017). Entrepreneurs need to be financially literate, the most common cause of business failure is poor financial control stemming from an ignorance of the basics of business finance (Barrow, 2016). The financial environment of the world is continuously changing, particularly due to the effects of globalization (S. Kr, Chandrani, 2019), financial accounting is extremely helpful for preparing future planning, budgeting and financial forecasting (Goodkind, Kowal, 2016).

# Lessons Learnt

Ghana Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS) was introduced in 2010 by the president of the Republic of Ghana, against this background to do away with the manual system of operation in the public service organisations. The operation of manual system of accounting since the colonial era in the public sector, although the aim of financial accounting management among state institutions is to reduce cost of resources through irregularities, fraud by government workers and prevent wasteful of improper spending.

To keep pace with this change, financing literature is also changing its role in every sphere of financing activities (S. Kr, Chandrani, 2019). The day to day financial transactions are going to get complicated day to day due to multifarious complex financing activities (S. Kr, Chandrani, 2019). To tackle these problems, the area of financial management are also developing rapidly (S. Kr, Chandrani, 2019). Research shows the majority of small businesses fail in their early years due to poor financial management turning the dreams of many business owners and novice entrepreneurs into nightmares (Karadag, 2015). Networked citizen politics characterized by decentralization, swarm-like action and an intensive use of information and communication technologies have been playing an increasing role in worldwide protests and movements often overtaking and circumventing the actions of governments, parliaments, political parties, labour unions, non-governmental organisations, mass media and all kinds of formal democratic institutions (Peña-López, Congosto, Aragon, 2014). MasterCard reports that within the U.S. 60 percent of in-person transactions take place at contactless-enabled locations (‘How MasterCard”, March 26, 2020).

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