

ISRG Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (ISRGJAHSS)



ISRG PUBLISHERS

Abbreviated Key Title: ISRG J Arts Humanit Soc Sci

ISSN: 2583-7672 (Online)

Journal homepage: <https://isrgpublishers.com/isrgjahss>

Volume – II Issue-II (March – April) 2024

Frequency: Bimonthly



NATIONAL INSECURITY AND CHALLENGES OF FOOD SECURITY IN NIGERIA: A Case study in Jigawa State, Nigeria.

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| **Received:** 18.03.2024 | **Accepted:** 23.03.2024 | **Published:** 30.03.2024

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Abstract

The study is aimed to analyze the National insecurity and challenges on food Security in Nigeria, taking Jigawa State as a case study. The incidence of food insecurity is particularly devastating in developing countries and a lot of resources are being channeled towards programs aimed at eradicating food insecurity by various international organizations and governments of developing nations. The objectives of the study were to describe the socio-economic characteristics of the farmers, determine food security status and security challenges affecting food security in the study area. The total population of fifty (50) from five local government areas of the state were randomly selected and use in the study. The instrument used for data collection was questionnaire. The data collected were analyzed using frequency and simple percentage for answering the research questions. The study finds out that the lingering national insecurity has affected farming activities in some part of the state there by making the respondent food insecure. The study recommended that government should take all necessary means to curtail the occurrence of banditry, farmers-herders conflicts and all other form of criminal activities to ensured peaceful coexistence among citizens.

Keywords: Food security, National insecurity, International organization, Nigeria.

Introduction

The key thrust of Nigeria's Agricultural renaissance is to diversify its economy by making Agriculture the hub of economic growth while also achieving a hunger- free Country. A hunger- free Country is one that is food secure. Food security has become a national priority for the country considering that a vast majority of its 198.1 million population is food insecure (FMARD, 2016). Food and nutrition insecurity- is prevalent in Nigeria despite its favorable agro- ecological endowments .It has a total landmass of 92.4 million hectares, out of which only about 32 million hectares or 34.63 percent are under cultivation .Nigeria therefore , lacks

both the capacity and capability to cater for the food and nutrition requirements of its teeming population .As such, food insecurity and the prevalence of under- nutrition in Nigeria are among the worst globally (Fadare *et al*, 2019).

Undoubtedly, there are immense potentials in Nigeria's Agricultural sector, which if properly managed would unleash income growth for farmers, food and nutritional security and employment opportunities as well as elevate the country to the ranks of leading players in global food markets.(FMARD,

2011). However, there are various barriers to repositioning Nigeria's Agricultural sector. These include among others uncompetitive environment for Agro- business, underinvestment, corruption, lack of access to credits as well as quality Agricultural inputs, weak implementation policies, poor market access and national Insecurity (Downie, 2017). The threat to the Agricultural sector is insecurity from both the Bokoharam and Fulani herdsmen. In the North east of Nigeria, the sustained terrorist activities of the Bokoharam have had negative impact on Agricultural activities. Not only are farming activities incapable of being carried out under an insecure environment, domestic Agricultural production is stifled, farming communities are displaced and access to regional market blocked (Egege & cooke, 2016). In addition to the Bokoharam group, the Fulani herdsmen have become a major threat to farming communities due to incessant attacks on these communities with attendant fatalities.

Food Security

Food security is a basic human need and fighting hunger is one of the greatest challenges of this century (Ojo and Adebayo, 2012). Although the number of people living in hunger has declined for many years, in 2015, it has started to increase again (FAO, 2019). Today, two billion people are still living in moderate or severe food insecurity, because they do not have regular access to food, not a necessary variety of nutritional value, or there is not enough food for the whole population available. 820 million of these two billion food insecurity are living in hunger (FAO, 2019), particularly in developing countries.

Jigawa State located in the northwest region of Nigeria is one of the most food insecure State and highly affected by climate change, economic development, and conflict that affect food security negatively. For example, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development, United Nations Children Fund, World Food Programme, and the World Health Organization have for the last three years published a report "The state of Food Security and Nutrition in the World" that focused on conflict (FAO, 2017), climate change (FAO, 2018) and the economy as a driver of food insecurity (FAO, 2019). This shows that these factors are a global concern in today's world. Literature shows that conflict often occurs in rural areas that have a lot of Agricultural potentialities (FAO, 2017).

The deadly crisis between herdsmen and crop farmers have become one of the major insecurity problems in Nigeria. It was stressed that it is second to Boko Haram imperil (Okoro, 2018). The bloody attacks and counter attacks have created social and relational implications and economic adverse effects. According to Olakiitan (2016), Dauda (2019) stressed that the gains in the agricultural sector of the economy, especially in the area of food production, may suffer a serious setback as a result of the negative effect of the activities on farmers in area where Fulani herdsmen crises is pervasive.

Consequently, violent conflict can especially impact Agricultural production and causes a decrease in food production. Cultivation is interrupted, where people depend on Agriculture. Often fields are ruined by bombs, or it was simply unsafe to work on them. Other times, farmers abandoned their lands because they are being killed, they were forced to leave, fled voluntarily, or were involved in the fighting. This can lead to a labor shortage and therefore fewer

people harvesting, which can lead to crop yield loss and food insecurity (Adelaja *et al*, 2019).

Relation between Food Security and National Security

National security is intrinsically linked to human security. Indeed human security is at the epicenter of national security. Human security prioritizes the security of the individual over that of the state since there can be no state without citizens. Louw and Lubbe (2017) have noted that human security "primarily focus on protecting the integral worth of people against insecurities," by dealing with the "circumstances that threaten the well-being and survival of the people". Thus, human security emphasizes the 'establishment of food and water security, economic and political security for the general population as a critical mechanisms to achieve a more stable level of state security (Lanicci *et al*, 2017).

One of the major pedestals upon which human security stands is the guarantee that everyone will have access to the necessities of life, of which food is an integral component. Thus, when there is no food or food shortage in a polity, it could lead to all sorts of insecurity (Notaras, 2011; Berazneva & Lee, 2013). The centrality of food in the framework of development underscores the global quest to ensure its availability. The achievement of food security has, therefore, become the major goals of not just nation-states but also the global community. Issues relating to food security initially only focused on food supply problems with particular reference to the availability of adequate supplies of basic foodstuffs as well as price stability at the national and international levels with considerations also given to adequate nutrition and well-being (FAO, 2003). Since 1974, the concept of food security has undergone series of refinement starting from when it was simply conceptualized in terms of availability and adequacy of food supplies to sustain a steady expansion of consumption to when issues of securing access by vulnerable people and having enough food to lead an active, healthy life became its emphasis. Now, the issue of

nutrition has been incorporated as an integral component of food security and it is referred to as food and nutrition security. Thus, food and nutrition security is presumed to exist "when all people at all times have physical, social and economic access to food, which is safe and consumed in sufficient quantity and quality to meet their dietary needs and food preferences, and is supported by an environment of adequate sanitation, health services and care, allowing for a healthy and active life" (FAO, 2012, p. 8).

National Insecurity as a Challenge to Food Security

Nigeria is the most populous country in black Africa. Its population has always been on the increase since it achieved statehood. Prior to 2013, the country's population growth rate was 2.8 percent but since then, the growth rate has been 3.1 percent (CBN, 2018). The implication is that the country's population as at 2018 was 198.1 million with projections for persistent growth due to high fertility rate and improved child and maternal mortality (NBS, 2018; CBN, 2018). What this means is that Nigeria has an ever-expanding need for food in order to meet the food and nutrition needs of its population and achieve food security. The current situation is that Nigeria lacks both the capacity and capability to produce enough food to feed its population despite its favourable agro-ecological conditions. In other words, Nigeria is

food insecure. According to FMARD (2016, p. 8), “Nigeria still imports about [US] \$3 to \$5 billion worth of food annually, especially wheat, rice, fish and sundry items, including fresh fruits”. The burgeoning population means that more and more resources would be devoted to food importation in order to meet the basic food needs of the country. Therefore, Nigeria’s quest to rediscover and reposition ECOWAP/CAADP agenda is two-pronged, namely, to modernize agriculture for enhanced productivity as well as competitiveness, and to develop strategic agricultural value chain approach for crops, livestock (including poultry) and fisheries. Both of these preoccupations are essentially aimed at addressing the food insecurity faced by the country. Nigeria has mobilized enormous investments in the agricultural sector in order to beef up food production and thus bridge demand supply gaps in various staple foods. These investments have tended to focus on addressing the productivity challenge and the attendant hiatus between domestic production and demand. The productivity challenge is a product of inefficiency arising from continued application of outdated input system and farming models. While making efforts to modernize the agricultural sector, emphasis has also been placed on developing quality crops by revolutionizing seed varieties, fertilizer distribution system, irrigation system and general agronomy practices.

Conclusion

The study show that majority of the respondents in the study area were food insecure, a part from their socio-economic conditions, Banditry, Farmer’s herders conflicts are major responsible for their food security situations. It can further be concluded that farmers in the study area adapt certain strategies to address their food insecurity situations. These include skipping meals, sales of assets, and reduction in quality and quantity of food consumed. Others were consumption of less prepared food, using money meant for other purpose to buy food. Based on the findings of the study the following recommendation were made. Government should employ all necessary measures to curtail the occurrence of banditry, and farmer’s herders conflicts. Provision of rural infrastructural development. Provision of subsidies Agricultural inputs, National food policy which will provide supply of food to rural areas adequately with affordable price.

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