

FOOD INSECURITY IN NIGERIA: AN ENQUIRY INTO THE ACTIVITIES OF BANDITS AND HERDSMEN ON FARMLANDS

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Abstract

The study unveiled the fact that the activities of bandits and Fulani Herdsmen on farmlands have correlation with food insecurity in Nigeria as these herdsmen who forcefully convert farm lands to grazing fields for their animals, kill farmers and so cause them to abandon their farms. Some farmers have then taken abode in IDPs camps or relocated to urban areas. These have translated to low agricultural product production. The historical descriptive approach was adopted and the data deployed in the study was obtained from the secondary sources. The structural conflict and the systems theories were used as the framework of the study. While the former guides the understanding of the cause of the conflict that is generating banditry and herdsmen attack - Scarce resources, the latter guides the understanding of the effect - Food insecurity. The study proposed decentralization of the security system by creating State Police and intelligence; overhaul of the security architecture to ensure capacity to counter terrorism and provision of high yielding agricultural seedlings to farmers while herders are constrained to have ranches as a panacea.

Keywords: Food insecurity, Bandits, Herdsmen, Farmlands, Internally Displaced Persons.

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Introduction

Nigeria is blessed with vast area of land that is utilized for agricultural purposes. Before oil gained ascendancy, agriculture was the mainstay of the country's economy. Thus, the farmers produced cash and food crops in commercial quantities which impacted positively on the GDP and provided income and employment for a large proportion of the population. Egobueze, Ajunwa and Ogele (2022) wrote that "the agrarian economy is the second major source of Nigeria's earning and employs about 70% of Nigerians" Ewing-Chow (2022) also asserts that "Nigeria also known as the giant of Africa because of its large population and economy has traditionally had a thriving farming sector. Agriculture the life-blood of the Nigerian economy, contributes to a third of the country's GDP with more than 80% of Nigerians identifying as smallholder farmers, who produce over 90% of the country's domestic output on 33% of its land".

The substance of these statistics is that Nigeria is a country where anything that impinges on the agricultural sector will have a catastrophic socio-economic effect as it will culminate in several problems which include creating food scarcity/insecurity, unemployment and poverty as well as retarding the GDP.

The activities of criminal elements such as the bandits and the Fulani herdsmen have become the greatest challenges to agricultural production thereby having the tendency to create food insecurity in a country that was hitherto known for producing enough for its domestic consumption and export. In this study, it is expedient to refer to herdsmen as Fulani herdsmen because of the predominance of Fulanis in the livestock enterprise in Nigeria. Alao, Shaibume, Ogunwemimo, Alao and Ogunwemimo (2019) explain that "the Fulani controls about 90 percent of the livestock population in Nigeria as this constitutes relatively one third of agricultural GDP and 2.52 percent of the nation's GDP as at the third quarter of 2017". The activities of the bandits and Fulani herdsmen have found expression in killing of many farmers, burning down their farms and kidnapping of some for ransom. Beetseh, Abubakar and Nongo (2022) state that "Herdsmen, banditry and kidnapping have become a major household name in Nigeria ...The herdsmen invade farm land belonging to farmers thereby creating scarcity of land for the cultivation of food crops which in turn threaten food security of the country. The constant crisis had threatened the security of the State, reduced its economic productivity and deepened food crisis in Nigeria. While there have been several crisis between the Fulani herdsmen and the farmers for more than

two decades, the escalation reached another level in 2014 with the Fulani herdsmen killing 1,229 people in comparison with 63 deaths in 2013.

The activities of the bandits and Fulani herdsmen which threatens food security in Nigeria has been related to competition for resources – land. While the farmers need the farmlands for crop planting, the herdsmen who have been challenged by desertification and the intensity of insurgency which repels them from taking their herds to some areas in the North have had to force it on the farmers to use their farmlands as source of grazing for their animals. This competition over land resources therefore engenders conflicts upon which the herdsmen have built a criminal enterprise that crystallizes in banditry and the nefarious activities of herdsmen across the country. Banditry which took off from its epicenter – Zamfara State, has spread to all the States in the North. Hence Benue, Taraba, Nassarawa, Plateaus, Kaduna, Kastina etc. have all been hit badly by the activities of these criminal groups. A report entitled “Violence in Nigeria’s North West: Rolling Back the Mayhem” indicates that more recently, starting in 2011 and accelerating since 2014, the North-West has also suffered a surge of violence between pastoralists and allied armed groups, frequently called bandits on one hand and farmers supported by community and State vigilantes on the other”. The Nigerian State is therefore facing a security crises on multiple dimensions. There are seven elements of human security which include: Economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, Personal security, community security and political security. The foregoing shows that as it relates the element or category of human security being studied - Food security. Nigeria faces threat as much as it faces various other elements. The point to draw from this is that Nigeria is facing multiple security challenges which has the tendency to swallow up the country if urgent steps are not taken to redress the problem Alao et al (2019) wrote that “ Food security constitutes one of the seven elements of human security (UNDP 1994).

By implication, human security cannot be effectively achieved if food security constitute a threat. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO 2003) observes that food security exists when all people at all times, have physical social and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and for preferences for a healthy life”. The dislocations that have been caused by the activities of the bandits and Fulani herdsmen have had effects that could affect food security in Nigeria Jega (2007) states

that “Nigeria’s security objectives can be itemized as consisting of the following concerns: peace and stability, ethno-religious/communal harmony; peace co-existence food security, sustainable socio-economic development; and democratic development” (p.194). To what extent this security objective has been met is begging for answer as evidences abound that insecurity has permeated the Nigerian society having ripple effects that traumatize the majority of the citizens.

Statement of the Problem

The Nigerian State has an economy where agricultural activities and food production are the pivots and the agrarian economy significantly provides employment for the teeming population who produce agricultural products both for sustenance and for commercial purposes. Thus, the agrarian economy has played a major role in being both an employer of labour and ensuring food sufficiency and security in Nigeria.

However, the equilibrium has been disturbed consequent upon the activities of bandits and herdsmen who are predominately of Fulani origin. The activities of these groups which has given rise to killing of farmers, burning down their farms, constraining farmers to take a new abode in urban areas or Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camps have had the adverse effect of reducing agricultural production thereby having a much reduced proportion of these food products per person in the consuming population. The foregoing has made it imperative for people to resort to importation to meet up with the food need. However, in view of the economic quagmire the Nigerian State has found itself which crystalizes in high debt burden, poor exchange rate of the Naira to US Dollar and other major currencies as well as the social problems of unemployment; many Nigerians now find it very difficult to meet up with the bills for their family food need, hence, hunger and starvation have become the order of the day.

The socio-economic problem created by the activities of these group continue to deepen as these group continue to spread to various parts of the country unleashing terror and creating fears that dissuade farmers from embarking on their agricultural cultivation. If the activities of these groups are not checked,

food insecurity in Nigeria will heighten which will pose greater danger to the country. In view of the foregoing, the following questions are asked:

- a. Why have the activities of the bandits and herdsmen become so prevalent and intense in Nigeria?
- b. Why have the farmers been the target of attack by the bandits and herdsmen?
- c. Why has the Fulani herdsmen been making a south ward movement and not concentrating on their grazing areas ab initio?
- d. Why has the government been unable to stem the tide of banditry and the activities of the Fulani herdsmen in Nigeria?

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to find out the relationship between the activities of the bandits and herdsmen to food insecurity in Nigeria. The specific objectives however include:

- a. To unveil the impact and consequences of the activities of bandits and herdsmen on Nigerian food security.
- b. To adduce reasons for the upsurge of the activities of the bandits and herdsmen in Nigeria.
- c. To explain the reasons why the groups target farmers in their nefarious activities.
- d. To proffer solutions and make useful recommendation that could end the activities of the criminal groups and assure food security for Nigeria.

Methodology

The study made use of secondary data and adopted the historical descriptive approach. It anchored its analysis on structural conflict theory as influenced by the liberals and the systems theoretical framework. The data deployed in the study were cross matched for the purpose of reliability and validity.

Theoretical Framework

The study is guided by the structural conflict theory as influenced by the liberals represented by the perspectives of Ross Scarborough and Garltung. This perspective locates the cause of conflict on competition for scarce resources. An internet source entitled “types of conflicts theory” while writing on structural conflict theory cites Collier 2002 as stating that” this theory has two main sub-orientation, the first is the radical structural theory represented by the Marxist dialectical school with exponents like Marx and Engels V.I. Lenin etc. The second is the liberal structuralism represented by Ross (1993) Scarborough (1998) and the famous John Garltung (1990) on structural violence. Structuralism thus, sees incompatible interests based on competition for resources which in most cases are assumed to be scarce as being responsible for social conflicts ... Liberal structuralism calls for the elimination of structural defects with policy reforms”.

While the foregoing framework directs our understanding of the cause of the conflict, the system theory also aids the analysis and understanding of the effect of the activities of the bandits and Fulani herdsmen on other sub-systems such as security with particular interest on food security which is one of the seven elements of security. The structural functionalists perceive the society as coherent, bounded and fundamentally relational construct which functions like an organism with parts working together for a common purpose. Thus, this framework would help us to understand the causal relationship between the activities of the bandits and food insecurity in Nigeria. Since the systems theory sees a social system as being akin to an organism consisting of many parts which work together to achieve a common purpose, it means that the actions of any given sub systems would have implications or causal effect on other sub-systems. Thus, the activities of the bandits and herdsmen which have adversely affected the agrarian economy has the tendency to result in food insecurity which constitutes a problem to the whole system which in this case is the Nigerian State.

Results:

Activities of Bandits and Fulani Herdsmen and the Imperative of Food Sufficiency and Security in Nigeria

Food is of such and enormous importance to the existence of every human society that every other thing translates to nothing in its absence since the inevitable consequences is hunger and finally death. Food is therefore one of the physiological needs of man and ranks first amongst every need. The Nigeria State was known for high agricultural produce which once constituted the major source of foreign earning and GDP before oil took over as the major foreign exchange earning following the discovery of oil in commercial quantity in 1956. An internet source entitled “Implication of Herdsmen Banditry Activities on Food Scarcity in Nigeria” writes that “Food Scarcity/insecurity as measured in the United States refers to the social and economic problem of lack of food due to resources circumstances or other constraints.

Wolfe Frongillo and Valois (2003) added that food scarcity/insecurity is experienced when there is (1) uncertainty about future food availability and access (2) insufficiency in the amount and kind of food required for a healthy lifestyle or (3) the need to use socially unacceptable ways to acquire food and concurrence of crisis which would not allow availability of food production” Alao et al (2019) write that “The need to overcome the challenges associated with insufficiency of food production and consumption in Nigeria has been a recurring issue manifesting since independence in 1960 and agricultural sector was contributing 61.2 percent to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (First National Development Plan, 1962-68) and a major foreign exchange earner but was subsequently neglected when emphasis were shifted to crude oil.

Despite the shift, the agricultural economy of Nigeria remained a veritable component of the economy employing many people and ranking second as a source of foreign exchange earner. However, the upsurge of the activities of bandits and herdsmen have turned the hands of the clock such that food insufficiency, poverty and unemployment are challenges facing an average Nigerian today. Shanka (2022) writes that “the most challenging issue in Nigeria today is howto provide sufficient food to over two hundred million citizens in Nigeria. In support of this World Data Lab (2020), revealed that Nigeria has an estimated population of 205,323,520 people and has 102,407,327 people living below poverty line (50% of the total population). By implication, about 50% cannot feed adequately due to economic standpoint of the nation whereby food items are being stricken with upper inflation. Food scarcity in Nigeria is currently at an alarming rate demanding for urgent and immediate intervention of the relevant

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stakeholders. In fact, the reports of Global Food Security Index (GFSI) had continued to rank and score Nigeria low since 2012 till date” (p.166).

The Table below shows the GFSI ranking since 2012.

Table 1: GFSI Ranking 2012 -2019

Year	Ranks	Scores %
2012	80	34.8
2013	86	33
2014	87	36.5
2015	91	37.1
2016	90	39.4
2017	92	38.4
2018	96	38.
2019	94	48.4

Source: Shanka B.O. International Journal of Law, Politics & Humanities Research published by Cambridge Research and Publication¹¹ vol 24 No.4 March, 2022.

Besides in the 2022 Global Hunger index, Nigeria ranks 103rd out of the 121 countries with sufficient data to calculate 2022 GHI scores. With a score of 27.3, Nigeria has a level of hunger that is serious (Global Hunger Index, retrieved from <https://www.globalhungerindex.org/Nigeria.html>).

The foregoing concretizes the fact that in actuality the Nigerian State has been bedeviled with a serious food security threat. The danger of this threat is not only that the citizens are confronted with starvation but that it is a situation that has adverse international security consequences. Hence, food security is not

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only targeted at internal security but also at strategic level. Perkins Radelet, Snodgrass, Gillis & Roemer (2001) state that “Food sufficiency can take on several different meaning. At one extreme is the view that any dependence on foreign trade is dangerous to a country’s economic health and dependence on food imports simply is one part of the broader danger. More common is the view that food is a basic or strategic good, not unlike military weapons. If a country is dependent on others for food and hence for its very survival, the supplier of that food will be in a position to bring the dependent country to its knees whenever it suits the supplier countries purposes” (pp.580-581). Ballam and Veseth (2005) corroborated the foregoing when they averred that “Mercantilist and realists consider food to be one of the most important ingredients of power. Those States that are relatively food self-sufficient or that have the capacity to feed their population are less likely to be dependent on other States for food. Thus, they are less vulnerable to those that during the time of crisis or war would be likely to cut off their food supply. Many nations will go out of their way to enhance their food security (p.437).

The implication of the foregoing is that food is of strategic importance hence any nation that is dependent on other nations for supply of their food need invariably endangers its strategic power as food cut can be used as an instrument of warfare. There are several variables that can lead to a situation of food insufficiency and insecurity in a country. These variables could be one or a combination of variables and for any country to address its own food insufficiency palaver, the country first need to understand the causal variable and device policies that will tackle it. Report of the South Commission (1993) writes that “chronic lack of economic capacity to grow or buy the minimum essential amount of food. The causes are many, varying from country to country and from region to region. Among these are inequalities in land ownership and distribution, particularly in some Latin American and Asian countries, resulting in landlessness or a lack of sufficient land of reasonable quality for smallholder farmers; limited employment and income opportunities for both the rural and the urban poor; underinvestment in basic rural infrastructure; lack of capital and credit for smallholders; government policies that tend to discriminate against the agricultural sector, particularly, food production; inadequacy of basic social and extension services in rural areas, including poor dissemination of technical knowledge and deficient system for food distribution and marketing. In many countries, these conditions are perpetuated as the

rural poor have little weight in political structures and therefore limited influence on national policies” (p.84).

Despite the array of reasons adduced for which a country may experience food insecurity, it is crystal clear that there are other variables that may predispose countries to food insecurity such as natural disasters and conflicts. In the Nigerian case however, though desertification and drought have affected some States in the North and could have some consequences on food production, the greatest challenges that has engendered food insecurity in Nigeria is the activities of some criminal groups such as the herdsmen and bandits. These groups have unleashed mayhem on the farmers and have caused untold hardship which has affected food production adversely. Akinfenwa notes that “compared to other lingering challenges confronting the agricultural sector armed banditry, farmers/herders clashes and other forms of onslaught on farmers have become a serious threat to Nigeria’s food security dream. Over the years, countless number of farmers in the agrarian communities were killed and maimed, just as others were kidnapped. While farm settlements have been ravaged, those who survived the attacks abandoned their farm lands and currently taking solace at different Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps across the country. Indeed, this has impacted on food production as a good number of the States known for massive production of crops are recording low harvest”.

The spate of attack on farmers has had the tendency of causing urban migration and importation of food items and where importation is discouraged, smuggling of such food items becomes an alternative with its attendant high costs. Ewing-Chow while commenting on the contribution of the agricultural sector to the economic stability and employment generation noted that “despite the sector’s significant contribution to economic stability and employment, the insurgency of armed banditry, terrorism, militancy and kidnapping have led to hikes on food prices and an increased reliance on imports ... As a result many farmers have abandoned their farmland, fled their communities and relocated to urban area or taken shelter in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps. Many have become employed and can no longer care for their families and on some cases they have resorted to criminality, leading to a vicious cycle of poverty and insecurity. These disruptions have hurt agricultural supply and have led to inflated

prices of agricultural produce. At a national level, since July 2020, staples such as beans and tomatoes have seen a 253% and 123% surges in prices”.

Evidently, the activities of the bandits and herdsmen has had the tendency of creating complex socio-economic problem for the Nigerian State, which requires painstaking measures to address it.

Incidences of Herdsmen and Bandits attacks in Nigeria and Implication on Farmers and Food Security

There has been and an alarming incidence of the herdsmen and bandits attack on farmers arising from the movement of the Fulani herdsmen, of their grazing areas ab initio. There has been a trend where the herdsmen have continued to make a southward movement which has been attributed to several variables. Alao et al write that “many factors are responsible of the recent southward migration of the herdsmen and violence particularly to Nigeria. Climate change, human activities on account of population growth and increase in farming activities are factors to consider as noted by Blench (2010), Economic Commission (2008:1-4) and WBGU (2017:1) Other scholars blame the migration and violence on the decline of internal discipline and social cohesion and poor governance.

The study however, argues that the tension and violence in upper volta region, the drying up of Lake Chad, Boko Haram criminality in the North East and the Federal Government failure in its primary responsibility to guarantee security of lives and protection of property as provided under section 14 (2) B of the 1999 Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria are the major challenges”.

As the herdsmen migrate with their livestock, they obviously destroy farms and owing to the violent nature of the herdsmen, they easily unleash terror in the farming community destroying their farms and killing many. Egobueze, Ajunwa and Ogele state that the conflict between the Fulani herdsmen and farmers usually arise when the Herdsmen overrun community farmlands with their cattle and let them graze unrestricted in cultivated and uncultivated land thereby destroying valuable food and cash crops without recourse to its implication on the farmer. Farming communities have been made to forego their

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farmlands, abandon the agricultural products of the farms which are the mainstay of the host communities for the safety of their lives, whenever the marauders strike. This is because when the communities try to resist them and request their exit the Fulani herdsmen will become violent and attack the community sometimes with the aid of some alleged mercenaries from the neighboring countries like Chad, Niger, Mali and Cameroon. The most unfortunate aspect of the entire saga is the alleged complicity of the security agencies in Nigeria in protecting the killer herdsmen against the defenseless communities who have been attacked”.

The suspicion of complicity in the activities of the Fulani herdsmen has been advanced on the hypothesis that the Fulani herdsmen were being used as an instrument of penetration for Islamization of the entire country. Hence, it is alleged that they are being used to create fear which ultimately make the communities succumb to the planned Jihad. It is expedient to point out that bandits and herdsmen activities are simply intertwined and seemingly inseparable as they constitute two sides of the coin. Although, other criminal groups may have taken to banditry, the herdsmen are undeniably also the same people that perpetrate acts of banditry in Nigeria. The incidences of bandit attacks in Nigeria are shown hereunder:

Table 2: Incidences of Bandits Attacks in Nigeria

S/N	NEWSPAPER	REPORTER(S)	DATE OF PUBLICATION	NATURE AND PLACE OF ATTACK
1.	The Punch	Gbenro Ade Oye	March 31, 2018	Bandits attacked Bawan Daji Village of Anka L.G.A. Over 30 killed
2.	The Nation	The Nation	March 1, 2019	21 people were killed in Kawaye
3.	The Punch	The Punch	June 9, 2019	25 killed in Klahu, Isage and Gerri Village in Rabah L.G.A of Sokoto State
4.	The Punch	Olaide Oyelode	July 4 2019	11 killed in Konkora and Danmusa LGAs of Katsina State
5.	The Nation	The Nation	August 19, 2019	4 killed in Tsayu Village of Jibiya L.G.A of Katsina State

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6.	The Punch	Macharaji Altine	January 17, 2020	31 killed at Babban Rafi Village in Gummi LGA Makosa Village in Zurmi LGA of Zamfara State
7.	Nigeria Tribune	Muhammed Sabiu	March 21, 2020	50 killed in villages in Igabi and Giwa L.G.As of Kanuna State
8.	The Punch	Olaide Oyelude	April 20, 2020	47 killed in Kurechin Village Kastina State
9.	The Nation	Abdul Gafer Alabelewa	April 24, 2020	7 killed and 2 killed Chikun
10.	Nigerian Tribune	Muhammed Sabiu	May 6, 2020	5 killed including DPO
11.	The Punch	Maiharaji Altine	May 20, 2020	12 killed in Tsafe L.G.A. of Zamfara State
12.	The Punch	Maiharaji Altine	June 5, 2020	21 killed in Maru & Talata-Mafara
13.	The Nation	Justina Asishana	June 25, 2020	4 killed in Shiroro L.G.A of Niger State
14.	The Nation	Justina Asishana	July 21, 2021	16 Kidnapped in Rafi L.G.A. of Niger State
15.	The Nation	Abdul Gafar Alabelewa	July 26, 2020	10 killed in Kaura L.G.A. of Kaduna State
16.	The Punch	Olaide Oyelade	August 9, 2020	8 killed in Batsari L.G.A. of Katsina State
17.	Vanguard	Vanguard	September 4,	22 killed including 19 vigilantes in Dukki and Kagara town Niger State
18.	Vanguard	Ibrahim Hassan	September 13, 2020	16 family members abducted at Udawa
19.	Vanguard	Ibrahim Hassan	September 18, 2020	DPO and 1 inspector killed while 2 women abducted in Tangaza L.G.A. of Sokoto
20.	Vanguard	Wole Mosadomi & Shehu Danjuma	October 12, 2020	14 killed including community Head and his son in Southern Kaduna District, Kaduna State & 2 killed and 3 abducted in Rafi L.G.A. Niger State

Source: Shanka B.O. International Journal of Law, Politics & Humanities Research published by Cambridge Research and Publication vol 24 No.4 March, 2022.

An internet source entitled “More than 2,600 civilians killed by armed Bandits in 2021” writes that “According to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project, armed bandits groups killed more than 2,600 civilians in 2021 at least 360 people were killed by bandits in Kaduna State alone while on 10 April, more than 100 people were killed in attacks in several communities in the Kanam Local Government Area of Plateau State”. The killings by Fulani herdsmen in numerous farmer –herder conflicts in Nigeria is worrisome. There has been killings in various States such as Benue, Kaduna and Plateau etc. which has affected farming activities. An internet source entitled “2022 Plateau State massacres” states that “on 10 April 2022, a gang of bandits killed more than 150 people in a series of attacks in Plateau State, Nigeria. The attacks are linked to the ongoing Nigerian bandit conflict. About 70 people were also kidnapped in the attacks”.

It is therefore glaring that with this spate of attacks and killing targeted on the farmers, agricultural production is bound to drop which would definitely have consequences on food security in Nigeria.

Discussion of Results:

That bandits and herdsmen activities in Nigeria have become a menace posing a serious threat to Nigerian food security is conspicuous and a truism. The attacks have been so intense that many have been killed by the rampaging killer herdsmen and bandits. This act of violence has eventually spread across Nigeria affecting communities known for agricultural production thereby leading to some farmers taking abode in internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps or relocating to urban areas. The succeeding effects of such has been unemployment and poverty on the farmers and a decline in GDP and food insecurity on the part of the Nigerian State.

The statistics presented in the study which indicate Nigeria’s ranking in Global Food Security Index (GFSI) and Global Hunger Index (GHI) are pointers to the fact that Nigeria is confronted with a devastating challenge of food security which has a causal relationship with the activities of the herdsmen and bandits which has caused dislocations in agricultural production.

The data in the study is indeed amazing and convincing, that the high incidence of herdsmen and bandits activities have had the implication of causing food insufficiency and insecurity hence the Nigeria food

insecurity problem does not relate to a range of causes earlier adduced as being responsible for food insecurity. Such as the one put forward by the Report of the South Commission (1993:84).

It is evident that provision of capital and credit to farmers and other policy frameworks that tilt to agriculture may not reverse the countries food crisis without the country making spirited efforts to end the farmer-herders crisis and banditry and looking inwards to end all forms of insecurity emanating from various sources, such as the Boko Haram and its splinter group – Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) insurgency, bandit kidnapping and every form of criminality that tenses up the political system and create fear in the minds of people.

Besides, the evident inflation which was reported to have affected some food items at the range of 253% and 123% are indicative of the fact that food items are going beyond the reach of an ordinary citizen and portends a grievous danger to the Nigerian State.

Conclusion

The activities of bandits and Fulani herdsmen in Nigeria have been devastating and have had the obvious consequence of creating socio-economic dislocations, poverty, unemployment and above all food insecurity. The intensity of the activities of those groups has had a negative multiplier effect on agricultural production as some people have been constrained to quit farming and relocated to urban areas and IDPs. Fear of the possibility of attack by these killer groups that take delight in turning farms to feeding fields for their livestock has been a discouragement to farming thereby affecting the volume of agricultural production and intensifying food insecurity in Nigeria.

Recommendations

In the light of the findings and the conclusion herein the following recommendations are therefore made:

- i. That the Federal Government as a matter of urgency should ban open grazing and mandate all livestock farmers to have ranches for their livestock.
- ii. That security should be decentralized thereby allowing the existence of State Police and State intelligence as well as other State Security apparatuses that would guarantee communal security.

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- iii. As an extension of (ii) above, State Governors should be made the Chief Security Officers of their States in actuality.
- iv. Owing to the rate of dislocations already caused by the activities of these groups, credits and high yielding seedlings should be made available to farmers.
- v. That the Nigeria State should make efforts to review and or overhaul the entire security architecture with the intent to create capacity to counter terrorism, banditry and all forms of criminality that impact on the security of the country.

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