

Agricultural Development Programmes in Nigeria's Fourth Republic: Changing the Narrative of Food Insecurity in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Hunger and poverty are two parallel evils that pervade the Nigerian landscape. Agricultural development is considered a pertinent tool that can be used to erode this menace. This study examined the agricultural development programmes in Nigeria's Fourth Republic with a view to changing the narrative of food insecurity in Nigeria. The methodology adopted for the studies is entirely theoretical; hence there was no indication of quantitative analysis or data. The study found that Nigeria as a country has become a victim of what is called the "Malthusian Crisis" in Development Studies, where food production falls below national average as population growth appears not to keep pace with agricultural production. Because of this, hunger and poverty persist unabatedly. The study recommends among other things that a "Big-Push" in the form of huge financial investment in agriculture is required.

Keywords: *Agricultural Development Programmes, Food Insecurity, Poverty, Food Production*

DOI [URL:https://doi.org/10.36758/jggsda/v6n3.2021/7](https://doi.org/10.36758/jggsda/v6n3.2021/7)

1. INTRODUCTION

As early as the 1970s and 1980s, a number of efforts were launched to challenge the dominant narrow approach to security. They gained traction after the end of the Cold War. Several high-profile international organizations, commissions, NGOs, and academic institutions/bodies developed a range of innovative concepts defining and redefining security by including social, economic, and environmental dimensions. These became known under several headings such as common security, comprehensive security, and environmental security. Human security, the most encompassing of these concepts, was first spelt out in detail in the 1994 edition of the *Human Development Report*. The gathering discourse raised a number of critical questions:

- What is the object of security?
- Who is to be protected?
- What are the threats?
- Who is to provide food security?
- And by what means possible?

The unfolding discourse challenged orthodox assumptions about national security, deepening it upwards (from national to global security) and downwards (from territorial security focused on states and governments to people security- individual and communities), and widening it by arguing that non-military dimensions, such as social wellbeing and environmental integrity are important prerequisites for ensuring security. In the framework of a broader conception of security, a range of factors, dynamics, and interactions are of concern. They include: unemployment,

environmental decline, natural disasters, infectious diseases, water scarcity, struggle over oil and other resources, and food security.

It is important to note that a reliable supply of food is one of the most basic determinants of how secure or insecure people are. Food security is at the intersection of poverty, water availability, land distribution, and environmental degradation, although war and social disruptions also play an important role in some cases. Worldwide, nearly 2 billion people suffer from hunger and chronic nutrition deficiencies. About 1.4 billion people, almost all of them in developing countries, confront environmental fragility (Heinrich Boll Foundation, 2016). Food security is a basic human need and fighting hunger is one of the greatest challenges of this century (Ojo & Adebayo, 2012). 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 facing food insecurity are living in hunger (FAO, 2019). In developing countries such as Nigeria, many people cannot meet their food/nutritional needs. The situation is worse in rural areas (Abang, 2015).

Food (in) security is an immensely discussed issue in the Nigerian society and many scholars (Berhanu, 2019; Martin-Shields & Stojetz, 2019; Musemwa, Muchenje, Mushunje, Aghdasi & Zhou, 2015; Ayamba, 2019) have studied the factors leading to food security. This paper, thus, examines the role of agricultural development programmes of Nigeria's fourth republic have played in addressing the nagging problem of food insecurity.

2. PROGNOSIS FOR ACTION

Despite the discovery of oil, agriculture remains the base of the Nigerian economy, providing the main source of livelihood for most Nigerians. Nigeria is blessed with huge physical, human and natural resource endowments, yet majority of its population live below both the absolute and relative poverty lines. The national survey conducted between 2003 and 2004 shows that slightly above half of the population (51.6 percent) live below US\$1 dollar per day and the relative national poverty incidence was found to be 54.4 percent (National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), 2016). However, the most current Human Development Report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2018) shows that about 64.4 and 83.7 percent of the population live below \$1.25 and \$2 a day, respectively. This poverty situation is worse in the rural areas where over 70 percent of the people reside and earn their living through agriculture than in the urban areas. More than 85 percent of the rural population is engaged in agriculture (NBS, 2016). This invariably leaves agriculture as a key sector capable of affecting majority of Nigerians in diverse ways. Therefore, the persistence of hunger and poverty in Nigeria is, to a large extent, the failure of the agricultural sector to fully impact positively on the people.

To illustrate, Nigeria is the continent's leading consumer of **rice**, one of the largest producers of rice in Africa and simultaneously one of the largest rice importers in the world. As well as an important food security crop, it is an essential cash crop for it is mainly small-scale producers who commonly sell 80 per cent of total production and consume only 20 per cent. Rice generates more income for Nigerian farmers than any other cash crop in the country. In 2008, Nigeria produced approximately 2 million MT of milled rice and imported roughly 3 million metric tons, including the estimated 800,000 metric tons that is suspected to enter the country illegally on an annual basis (FAO, 2019).

Moreover, the country is the largest producer of **cassava** in the world, with about 50 million metric tons annually from a cultivated area of about 3.7 million hectares (ha). Nigeria accounts for cassava production of up to 20 per cent of the world, about 34 per cent of Africa's and about 46 per cent of West Africa's. The national average yield of cassava is estimated at about 13.63 MT per ha, as against potential yield of up to 40 metric tons per ha. Close to two-thirds (66 per cent) of total

production is in the southern part of the country, while about 30 per cent is in the north-central, and 4 per cent in other parts of the north. The crop is predominantly grown by smallholders on small plots for family consumption and local sale. Large scale commercial plantations are rare (FAO, 2019).

The Nigeria **fisheries sub sector** contributes about 3-4 percent to the country's annual GDP and is an important contributor to the population's nutritional requirements, constituting about 50 percent of animal protein intake. In addition, the sub-sector generates employment and income for a significant number of artisanal fishermen and small traders. Although capture fisheries has now been declining, Nigeria has a big potential in both marine and fresh water fisheries including aquaculture. In spite of this high potential, domestic fish production still falls far below the total demand, which was estimated at 2.2 million metric tons per year in 2008. As a result, the country imports about 60 percent of the fish consumed (FAO, 2019).

Livestock development is an important component of Nigeria agriculture with abundant social and economic potentials. About 60 percent of the ruminant livestock population is found in the country's semi-arid zone and mostly managed by pastoralists. Domestic production of livestock products is far below the national demand, resulting in large imports of livestock and livestock products. Except for eggs, the domestic production of animal products is less than half the demand for beef mutton and goat meat, while for milk and pork products it is less than quarter the demand (Nigeria Vision 20:2020, 2016). About 30 percent of live animals slaughtered in Nigeria are imported from neighbouring countries. Like other subsectors, livestock industry development is constrained by low productive breeds, inadequate access to feeds and grazing lands, frequent farmer – pastoralist conflicts, lack of processing facilities and low value addition and low technical inputs in the management of the animals, including diseases (FAO, 2019).

Nigeria is reported to have water resources in excess of 20 million hectares of water bodies: lakes (677,000ha); rivers (10,812,000 ha), flood plains (515,000ha), ponds (7,764.5 ha), miscellaneous stagnant pools of seasonal rivers (200,000 ha) and miscellaneous reservoirs (275,534 ha). Notwithstanding these water resources, the country faces serious water shortages for domestic and agricultural purposes, mainly because of the following factors:

- (i) Inadequate and very poor water redistribution infrastructure, which limits water supplies for various purposes, particularly irrigation;
- (ii) Pollution of fresh water supplies by industrial and domestic wastes and oil spillages;
- (iii) Climate variability and change, increasing temperatures resulting in water loss from high evaporation and lengthy dry seasons diminishing water in-flow into dams;
- (iv) Growing concern on aquatic weeds that are gradually inhibiting capture fisheries and water transportation;
- (v) Inadequate capacity in the management of water resources, especially large water bodies and irrigation technology.

The agricultural sector in Nigeria faces many challenges, notably an outdated land tenure system that constrains access to land (1.8 ha/farming household), a very low level of irrigation development (less than 1 percent of cropped land under irrigation), limited adoption of research findings and technologies, high cost of farm inputs, poor access to credit, inefficient fertilizer procurement and distribution, inadequate storage facilities and poor access to markets which have all combined to keep agricultural productivity low (average of 1.2 metric tons of cereals/ha) with high postharvest losses and waste.

Policy somersaults are common in the Nigerian agricultural sector and as such there have been incessant agricultural programme changes. Furthermore, the ever growing population, the increasing demand for food, aging small-hold farmers with crude farm implements, and lack of improved mechanized and chemical agricultural revolution have contributed to food insecurity. This

is well captured by World Bank (2016) when the body said: “A nation whose food production level is unable to satisfy food availability, accessibility and utilization is said to be food insecure for its citizens.” It becomes necessary to examine these problems and close the identified gaps. Although several studies have established the role agriculture plays in economic development by arguing that agricultural development can in turn bring about economic development (Popoola, 2018; Smith, 2018; Abang, 2015), none, however, has critically examined agricultural development programmes and food security in Nigeria’s fourth republic. This justifies the current study.

The main objective of this study, therefore, is to examine the following research question: *To what extent has the agricultural development programmes of Nigeria’s fourth republic enhanced food security in the country?* The study employs the qualitative research method. It relies on secondary sources of data from books, magazines, government publications, dissertations, internet resources, newspapers and journals. Data analysis is done using descriptive method and content analysis.

3. REVIEW OF EMPIRICAL STUDIES

Iwuchukwu and Igbokwe (2012) carried out a study titled “Review of Agricultural Programmes and Policies in Nigeria” where they analyzed the effects of government agricultural reforms on Nigeria’s Agricultural Development with the objective of assessing agricultural programmes and policies in Nigeria, identifying the challenges impeding the implementation of these programmes, determining the contribution of agriculture to the economy over the last three decades (1980-2018), examining the trend in agriculture budgetary allocation over the last three decades (1980-2012) and proffer possible solutions. The study finding revealed that the growth in the agricultural sector in Nigeria has not been significantly constant and sustainable over the years covered by the study. The study recommended that there should be policy consistency in order to ensure continuity while programmes and policies should be effectively monitored, reviewed and modified according to circumstances.

Amaechi (2018) in a study titled “Food Security and Sustainable Agricultural Development in Nigeria” where he discussed the concepts of food security and various policies and strategies to be embarked upon by the government for sustainable agricultural development in order to ensure adequate food security. The need for agricultural sustainability was looked at by the study. The study concluded by recommending an improved policy execution, monitoring/evaluation and support to agriculture by the federal government as the measures for a sustainable agricultural development in Nigeria.

Another conducted by Ibok, Bassey, Ataire and Obot (2014) titled “Food Security Determinants among Urban Food Crop Farming Households in Cross River State, Nigeria,” a two-stage sampling technique was utilized to obtain a sample size of 217 urban food crop farming households in Calabar, Ikom and Ugep which serve as urban areas in Cross River State. Well-structured questionnaires and oral interviews were used to collect cross sectional data. Headcount index; food insecurity gap index, food surplus gap index as well as logistic regression were deployed for data analysis. The result showed that only 52.5% of urban food crop farming households were food secure while 47.5% were food insecure. The study recommended that government should encourage the use of improved planting materials, adoption of improved land management techniques and that fertilizers should be made affordable and available to farmers so as to enhance the output of food crops produced by urban farming households.

Ani, Maxwell and Ecoma (2017) conducted a study on “Rice Production and Food Security in Nigeria” where they specifically focused on the Ikwo brand of rice. Ikwo is a LGA in Ebonyi State. The study examined the challenges confronting rice production in Ikwo, the evolution of rice de-stoning, bagging of rice and change from production of short species of rice to long species. The

study finding revealed that poverty and lack of technical know-how were some of the factors militating against the rise of a robust farming culture.

In his study titled, “Food Security in Nigeria”, Alori (2016) reviewed previous Agricultural Development Projects (ADPs), Green Revolution, River Basin Development Authorities (RBDA), FADAMA and the National Special Programme on Food Security (NSPFS). The study identified the problems of food security in Nigeria to include inadequate supply of farm inputs, inadequate extension services, inadequate social infrastructure, low level of education, poor governance, inconsistent policies, civil and religious crises, economic deregulation, insecure land deregulation, labour scarcity, stagnant technology, poor farm organization, inability of traditional farming to provide adequate incentives, climate change, population dynamics, and ownership of productive assets and resources which are biased against agricultural producers. The study findings reveal that some agricultural programmes put forward by the government to combat food security have no doubt increased food supplies but food accessibility and utilization are yet to improve due largely to poor post-harvest handling during storage.

Okoruwa, Ojo, Akintola, Ologhobo and Ewete (2017) aver in their study titled “Post-Harvest Grain Management Storage Techniques and Pesticides Use by Farmers in Nigeria” that post-harvest facilities or appropriate storage technology has been the major problem of Nigerian agriculture for a long time, and has resulted in considerable waste of agricultural output and hence considerable loss to the economy. The study adopted the multi-stage sampling technique to draw a sample of 192 farmers from whom necessary information were elicited, while the multi-nomial logit model was used in analyzing the data. The study findings revealed that the quality of grained stored, education level of the farmer, gender of the farmer, level of capital and price of grains are factors that affect farmers’ choice of storage techniques. Also, choice of pesticide used by farmers was influenced by quantity of grains harvested, cost of pesticide and cost of investment. The study recommends the need to educate farmers on pesticides in order to avoid problems of grain contamination.

On his own part, Alonge (2016) in his study titled, “Food Processing, Preservation and Storage for Economic Development in Nigeria” states that after crop has been harvested, the next thing to do is to process the agricultural produce to the end product for consumption or storage. This study aimed to examine the unit operations in food processing, processing machines and equipment used, processing of common Nigerian crops and how processing, preservation and storage can enhance economic development. The study relied mainly on secondary sources of data, while content analysis method was used for data analysis. The study recommended among others that there should be: ban on importation of some crops like rice by the government and with a commensurate effort to encourage local production, processing and marketing of such crops.

4. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The optimum requirements for any theoretical framework on food insecurity is that, it must take into account most, if not all, of the defining attributes and elements of the subject matter as conceptualized and suggested for operationalization earlier. That is, such framework must be able to account for the ubiquitous incidence of the phenomenon in the country; its patterns and extent, victims and costs; the form and the degree of substantive effectiveness of the controls to which it is subjected; and its apparent insusceptibility to any effective control in our society and others similarly organized.

Food insecurity is a nagging problem. The question is: why did it take a strong hold in Nigeria? It is the position of this research that Robert Dahl and Charles Lindbloom’s Incremental Model of Public Policy and Giovanni Botero’s Food Availability Decline Theory can account for the riddle.

i. THE INCREMENTAL MODEL

This decision making model was propounded by Robert Dahl and Charles Lindbloom (1959) who are among the ardent critics of the rational-comprehensive model. The model recommends an “incremental approach” that considers limited values, limited goals, limited alternatives and only realistic solutions to the desired goals (Ikelegbe, 2005: 40).

The incremental Model of Public Policy is often used in studies based on the historical-institutionalist approach such as the present study of agricultural development programmes and food security in Nigeria. It has become a key concept in explanations of why institutions in political life do not change as much as might be expected. The Incremental Model tends to suggest that policy makers work within a series of limited assumptions about their world, that they sometimes learn from past experience, and that they emphasize caution in their decision-making processes. A system (e.g., an institution or a technology) can be shown to ‘incremental’ by identifying three essential elements. First, it must be demonstrated that, at the creation of the institution or technology under study, a contingency or series of contingencies occurred that led to the selection of one outcome over another, which, given another set of initial conditions, might have led to another outcome having been selected instead. In other words, there must be a strong element of contingency in the model; chance can end up as a deciding factor. Second, it must be demonstrated how a new technology or organizational form becomes insulated to some extent from change. The factors involved in that insulation, or feedback mechanisms, may be positive (supporting advocates of incrementalism or technology) or negative (interfering with attempts at change from advocates of alternative institutions or technologies).

From the foregoing, Incrementalism can be used to explain agricultural development programmes in Nigeria. This is because Incrementalism has so many justifications with the subject matter in the sense that Nigeria agricultural programmes have undergone changes especially in the fourth republic. These changes have been a mere reflection of changes in government or administration. This is because these programmes vary only in nomenclature and organizational network; and this has great consequences for food security drive in the country.

ii. FOOD AVAILABILITY DECLINE (FAD) THEORY

This theory, though old, is still important and influential. The core ideas of this approach could be traced back to the Venetian thinker Giovanni Botero (1588), it was Thomas Malthus (1789) that popularized it. Hence, it is also known as the Malthusian Approach. The theory is focused on the (dis)equilibrium between population and food. In order to maintain equilibrium, the rate of growth of food availability should not be lower than the rate of growth of population. Thomas Malthus (1766 -1834) was a Political Economist and Enlightenment thinker who observed the growing population with increasing concern. To explain poverty, food insecurity and famine he wrote a famous essay at the end of the 18th century entitled “An Essay on the Principle of Population”.

According to Malthus, population increases faster than the supply of food available for its needs. Whenever a relative gain occurs in food production over population growth, a higher rate of population increase is stimulated. Over time population growth will exceed the growth in agricultural production and will crash due to food shortages. The mathematical basis of this idea is the principle that the population is growing in a geometrical rate: 2, 4, 8, 16, 32 etc. The food supply on the other hand increased only in an arithmetical rate: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 8, 10 etc. Malthus concluded that “... the power of population is indefinitely greater than the power in the earth to produce subsistence for man”.

In summary, Food Availability Decline (FAD) theory states that people are food insecure because of insufficient food supply. Food Availability Decline theory predicts that if population grows much faster than food production, the growth is checked in the end by famine, disease, and

war, a process that is called the Malthusian Crisis. Consequently, in this view, food security is merely a matter of aggregate (per capita) food availability. Food availability is determined by food production and agricultural development. Food Availability Decline (FAD) theory is based on the premise that adequate food production and effective agricultural development programmes are necessary to ensure food availability. In simple terms, FAD argues that anything that disrupts food production can cause starvation since it might cause a food supply decline below the subsistence needs of the population of a region.

However, as pointed by Devereux (2012), this approach has several limitations. Two of the most important are that it is neither sufficient nor necessary for a famine to occur. It is not sufficient since food production is not the only source of food. In order for a regional decline of food to become a famine, trade and aid transfers must fail. It is not necessary since as pointed out by Sen (1980), a famine can occur without a decline in the supply. Another fault of FAD is that it does not center its attention on who suffers during a famine. Hence, for the critics of Food Availability Decline Theory, food production is not the problem. Most critics of the theory argue that there is enough food to feed all humans. Secondly, an adequate supply of food at the global or national level does not guarantee food security at the personal level (FAO, 2019). Food security is, therefore, a problem of distribution.

This relevance of Food Availability Decline theory to this study is that Nigeria with its high and ever-increasing population, is food insecure. In Nigerian today, current production of food is far below the population largely due to outdated land tenure system that constrains access to land for food production, low level of irrigation development, limited adoption of research findings and technologies, high cost of farm inputs, poor access to credit, inefficient fertilizer procurement and distribution, inadequate storage facilities which often lead to postharvest losses and waste. Thus, Nigeria is facing food insecurity because the agricultural system, agricultural programmes and agricultural production have not kept pace with population growth. Today, Nigeria is more of a consumer nation than a producer nation, and this immensely aggravates food insecurity and poverty in the country resulting in undernourishment, malnutrition, starvation, hunger, and ill-health.

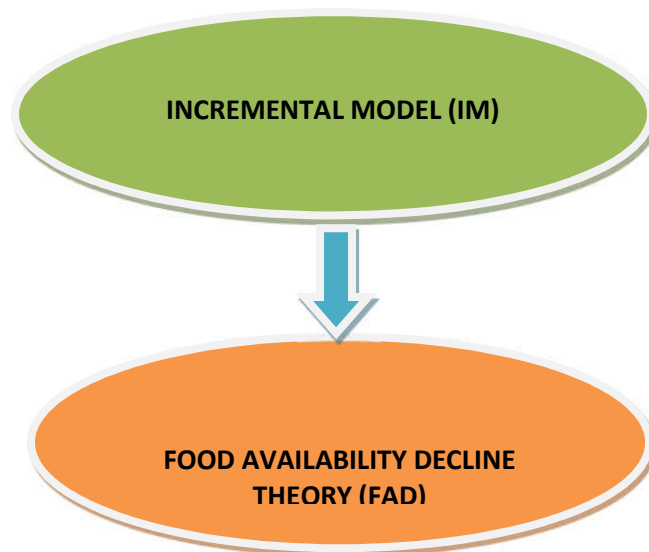


Figure 1- Framework of analysis for Agricultural Programmes and Food Security
Source: Authors' configuration

The justification for the use of eclectic approach in the theoretical framework for this study is that Incrementalism only attempts to rationalize the (frequent) changes in agricultural development programmes meant to ensure food security; whereas the Food Availability Decline Theory is relevant because it considers the role factors such as population, production, storage facilities, land tenure system, financing, technology, etc. play in food security issues. Within this context, it also explains the fact that where institutions responsible for agricultural programmes implementation fail to perform their functions, food insecurity can be aggravated. Hence, the incremental model can be criticized on the ground that it only explains part of the riddle which is agricultural development programmes, and does not adequately explain the other factors that aggravate food insecurity which the Food Availability Decline Theory covers. For that particular gap, this study can be properly situated within the philosophy of the two theories.

5. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

a) Overcoming Malthusian Crisis in Nigeria

A disequilibrium exists between Nigeria's population and food supply hence the growth of food production is inadvertently lower than the rate of food production. This alteration can be resolved by government using Keynesianism. Keynesianism explains the necessity behind government intervention in a period of recession like the circumstances of the Great Depression (also known as Global Recession) of the 1930. The Nigerian government should invest using the "Big-Push Approach". That minimum momentum is required to push the agricultural sector to a tolerable standard that will enhance sufficiency in food production for the increasing population.

b) Government Policy Summersault

It is trite to say that Nigeria conceives the best development policies any development country can think of. Be it Better Life for Rural women Programme (BLP), Family Support Programme (FSP), Directorate for Foods, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), etc. all these programmes as a matter of policy were designed to charge the fortune of rural dwellers around and to stop hunger. Unfortunately, these programmes did not see the light of day when it came to implementation. Better Life for Rural Women, for instance, was highjacked by urban women; wives of governors and local government chairmen abused the objectives of the programme immediately it was launched. The best government could have done in the circumstances was to do a feasibility study of the targeted beneficiaries before releasing funds for the programme. From one development programme to another without good appraisal or evaluation done has made the situation of agriculture to remain unchanged.

c) Persistent Hunger and Poverty

The Most critical manifestation of poverty, they say, is hunger. Hunger and poverty move on parallel lines. Poverty begets hunger. Action Against Hunger (2013) put it that one in three children in low-income and middle-income countries suffer from hunger and chronic undernutrition. A lot of Nigerian parents live on very low income as a result of lack of sustainable source of income. Children and their parents do not have access to decent food, water or health care. Poverty persists like a norm and its victims are the low-income earners or no-income at all. The struggle against hunger urgently demands effective investment and generous financing of agriculture, the abolition of trade barriers and above all, greater resilience in the face of climate change, economic crisis and warfare.

d) Lack of large scale production of cassava

Cassava is traditionally grown by small-holder farmers, each cultivating about 0-2-4ha. The crop is produced both for home consumption and for sale, either to middlemen or directly to local markets or to processing plants that produce dry chips, starch, animal feeds and ethanol both for domestic use and for export. Howeler, et al 2018 highlighted the challenges of producing cassava in a large commercial scale as follows:

- Lack of infrastructure
- Lack of people and the required facilities
- Poor soil or climate conditions
- Lack of planting materials
- Lack of personnel with experience in cassava and in management of large plantations.

Some of these challenges are surmountable through government involvement. Once again, the political will of government is required to provide the enabling environment to grow cassava in an effort to stamp out poverty and hunger.

e) Inadequate and poor water (re)distribution

Nigeria's agriculture largely depends on rainfall, and so far there is some deficiency in rainfall due largely to climate change and global warming. Rainfall is "eratic" and even when overall rains are "normal", distribution of rainfall might be "abnormal" in timing, geographic reach and quantum distribution. Such natural inconsistencies affect agriculture production, and thus impacts the GDP and rate of inflation which ultimately leads to hunger. Business World (2020) came up with these strategies to overcome water scarcity:

- Efficient water management
- Weather forecast system
- Climate resilient variables
- Farming by business

f) Low management of livestock

Abang (2011) gave an account of revising Nigeria's agricultural policy and programmes in favour of livestock farming to reduce rural poverty and hunger through creating grazing fields for livestock. He further added that livestock farming constitute about 45 percent of rural output in the rural economy and the movement of cattle from place to place exposes them to danger and possible extinction. The alternative, therefore, is for government to make a policy towards cattle ranching to avoid huge loss of revenue by wandering nomads. Cow dungs that are littered along the road can better be collected in good quantity from the ranch and used as manure for planting of crops. This can help indirectly to reduce food insecurity.

6. CONCLUSION

Food security amounts to the protection of human capacity in pursuit of national development. The implication, therefore, is that the supply of food in the body polity of a nation should be a priority in the arena of governance. Government should as a matter of necessity prioritize food supply above anything else to create a happy population. Food security goes beyond rhetoric. It involves political will. In the discussion of findings, we showed that in all the challenges on the path of achieving reasonable agricultural development is the lack of political will on the part of government.

The supply of food requires significant finances and this must come from government. Resilience to climate as a way out of adverse weather conditions that is inimical to agricultural production is also a function of government. It can be recalled that during the world economic

recession of the 1930s, government was called upon to respond through Keynesianism and it was a huge success. Why then can our government not save a dying population from hunger and poverty?

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. The body language of government must begin to demonstrate sufficient attention to food production. A big push is required in agriculture to overhaul the staggering nature of our agricultural sector.
- ii. Improved seedlings for our staple crops such as cassava, yam, rice, beans should be imported and distributed to our farmers to improve their yields. Large scale commercial production of our staple crops should be encouraged so that as we can stamp out hunger and food insecurity. A hungry man, they say is an angry man. **EndSARS** was a wake-up call. A stitch in time, saves nine.

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