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The Relativity of Insurgency to the Achievement of Food Security in Nigeria

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Abstract

The insurgency has remained an issue of concern to the achievement of food security in Nigeria. This paper focuses on the problem of food security arising from the occurrence of the various insurgencies; previous studies have expressed concerns about the level of insecurity in Nigeria, little attention has been paid to the effects of these activities as it affects sustainable food production and exacerbates food security. This paper argues that the level of insurgencies serves as a major factor impeding the achievement of food security in Nigeria. The paper examines the activities of Boko Haram, the Niger Delta crisis, and the attacks of the Hausa-Fulani Herdsmen, on food security across the state. The paper examines the policies of government on agriculture between 2015 and 2016, adopts the Frustration-aggression theory as a theoretical framework. Findings reveal that insurgency affects all forms of livelihood activities including agricultural food production. Tackling the menace requires some deliberate policy changes on the side of government. Using secondary sources of data, the paper looks at the relative impact of insurgency on achieving food security in Nigeria. It draws its implications for the rest of Nigeria and concludes by recommending measures to achieve food security, halt the worsened level of insurgency and resuscitate the agricultural potentials of our nation.

Keywords: Food Security, Insurgencies, Agriculture, Policies, Nigeria.

Introduction

The effects of the recent insurgencies in Nigeria have remained an issue of concern for individuals, groups, and government. The insurgences ranged from the activities of Boko Haram in the North-Eastern part of Nigeria, the Niger Delta crisis and the attacks of the Fulani Herdsmen leading to non-cultivation of land as well as loss of human and natural resources. According to Joint Humanitarian Action Plan (JHAO, 2015). So many have been rendered homeless and poorer, while many have lost their lives and properties as a result of one form of attack or the other. Although there have been concerns about the level of insecurity in Nigeria, little attention has been paid to the effects of these activities as they affect food security. Also, while the challenges of food security are not peculiar to Nigeria alone, its level in Nigeria and the entire sub-Saharan Africa is alarming. For example, reports by the Food and Agricultural Organization, FAO, indicates that the food security situation worsened in parts of sub-Saharan Africa, most notably in situations of conflict, particularly where they are compounded by ineffective Government policies on agriculture and food production (FAO, 2013 and 2017).

Until the occurrence of the various insurgencies, Nigeria has been described as the fastest growing economy in Africa and a country with strong growth potential in agricultural produce (Idachaba 2009; Eme *et al*, 2014). The sector has been transformed by commercial activities from small to medium and large-scale enterprise. However, with the emerging problem of the various insurgent activities, there is massive destruction of human and natural resources that would have contributed to the sustainable growth and development of the nation (Osagie, 2013) including constituting a potent threat to the nation's food security.

Nigeria is facing huge food security challenges both in terms of food availability, access, utilization, and sustainability owing to pervasive insurgent activities in different parts of the country. For example, in parts of the North, the *Boko Haram* insurgency has forced some of the crop farmers and pastoralists to abandon their lands and relocate to the neighboring countries of Niger, Chad and Cameroun, while those left behind could no longer go to the farm for fear of attacks (Walker 2013; World Bank, 2012). In addition, in 2015, Nigeria recorded 14 attacks that led to the death of over 400 people with other countless losses in Benue, Nassarawa, Taraba, Plateau, Kogi and Kaduna States with a likelihood of extending to other parts of Southern Nigeria (Sahara Reporters, 2015).

Similarly, in the Niger Delta region, a World Bank report captured in the Niger-Delta Development Commission (NDDC, 2008) asserted that an insurgence of violence and oil-related crime have not only undermined the national security but also the region's food production level in addition to cutting the oil output by more than 50%. The report also noted that in Benue state, specifically in the Buruku and neighboring of Gboko local government areas, the various attacks on people and their farmlands had forced many to flee their homes for fear of being killed, while more than 200 people were said to have been killed in Sardauna Local Government Area of Taraba State (Walker 2013). The consequences of these to the communities concerned is low agricultural production, low income, and increased inflation such as high prices of food and farm products leading to food insecurity and widespread famine (FAO, 2008). This is more so given the interconnectedness between economic and political forces. In other words, political actions produce economic outbursts and vice versa. A worrisome dimension is the fact that efforts by the Nigerian state to end the occurrences have not really solved the problem.

Insurgencies have been associated with food insecurity in Nigeria. FAO (2002), for example, insurgency, and poor agricultural policies were the major causes of exceptional food insecurity in 2015 and early 2016. The *Boko Haram* attacks affect food security due to its detrimental effects on the agricultural sector and on the economy as a whole. (Ogochukwu, 2013). Several studies have been conducted to determine factors affecting food security in Nigeria. (Mustapha, 2015) Also, in the North Eastern zone, the insurgency has led to the declaration of a state of emergency in three states namely; Yobe, Adamawa and Bornu states. Such incessant killings often hinder the day to day activities of local farmers in carrying out agricultural activities. Many farmers have become targets with a number of them were killed while some are abducted. (Davies, 2009). These various insurgencies have increased

national tension and conflicts at all levels, and highly endemic in some parts of the country particularly in the Northern and southern regions.

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) revealed that about 65 percent of farmers in these areas had migrated to the South because of the insecurity they faced. These effects of insurgency have affected sustainable food production and consequently raised prices of foods such as pepper, tomatoes, onions, cowpea, millet etc. that are majorly cultivated in these regions.

Literature Review

Insurgency

It is important to contextualize the three basic concepts that are central to the title of this paper. These are Insurgency, Food security, and Agricultural productivity. Insurgencies are organized group aimed at the overthrow or destruction of a constituted government through the use of subversion, surveillance, terrorism and armed conflict. It is imperative to highlight that Boko Haram is not the only insurgent group in the country that inflict terror and death on the people. According to the Joint Humanitarian Action Plan (JHAO, 2015). We have other sets or groups in Nigeria, e.g. the Oodua People's Congress (OPC), Bakassi Boys and Movement for Actualization of Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), the Niger-Delta Militant group, and the Fulani herdsmen, however, it must be noted that the operations and strategies employed by each of this group differ. (Saliu, Luqman and Abdullahi 2007). Insurgency blowup when an aggrieved set of people plan to change the stand of government with the intention to enforce their principles or ideology that is contrary to the will of government and the people, using high capacity ammunitions to lunch attacks and defend themselves mostly using the irregular warfare approach of hiding and seek (attack and withdraw).It takes time to understand this person, to know what their motives are and what they actually want to achieve by causing public disorder.

Insecurity and insurgency is a state of being subject to danger or threat. The insurgency was conceived as threats to the individual and the need to defend one from such threats accounted for the struggle to possess arms and import ammunition. The levels of insurgency and insecurity in Nigeria is born out of the persistent crisis in the extreme northeast, particularly in Borno, Adamawa and Kano states, causing population displacement and limiting crop production below average, a major challenge. This protracted violence in the aforementioned zone has forced large-scale farmers to abandon their farmland to run for their safety, resulting to a poor harvest in Northern Nigeria, mainly Adamawa, Mubi, Maiha, Hong and Gombi Local government areas. Benue, Taraba and Nasarawa states have been the focal point of the Fulani herdsmen/farmers crisis where farmlands have been converted to cattle ranging field.

Insurgency is associated with protracted violence, they sometimes operate in jungles, mountains, and urban areas, using weapons, warfare and political mobilization—all intended to protect the insurgents and revise governmental power or decisions in their favor, sometimes replace or remove existing governmental

structure or result to other measures e.g. separation, autonomy, or alteration of a particular policy. One major objective of the insurgency is to intimidate, frustrate and raise the feeling of uncertainty, imminent danger and the loss of hope, so as to cripple or limit all aspects of human activity and normal livelihoods. Al Qaeda, Boko Haram, MEND and, lately, Jama'atu Ahlissunnah Lidda'anati Wal Jihad, are examples of insurgency groups mostly international.

Food security/ insecurity

Lack of food security is food insecurity, while food insecurity means lack of, not having enough food. (Richard, 2002). This could be used vice versa. Food insecurity has persisted in Nigeria as a result of a confluence of factors, ranging from inefficient policies of the government with respect to agriculture i.e. failure to properly administer policies and initiatives which has a connection to food. Frequent policy changes and poor performance of Nigerian Agricultural monitoring and implementation agencies also has its toll on the food crisis

Insecurity of food occurs when people, have no access to means of sustenance, i.e. Safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. It is a situation where food is not available to an individual; it could affect the behavior of such individual, and output towards national development. (World Food Summit, 2003). Food insecurity may include hungry or malnourished people, underweight children and people suffering from malnutrition or micronutrient deficiency. The importance of food to individuals and households is very essential. Nations are said to be partly protected when food is available to its growing population especially when issues of social security are being discussed. But the lives of people come under threat when the privilege to have food is absent. (Reutlinger, 1985; Idachaba, 2004).

There are four sides to food security: Availability of food, Accessibility to food, Utilization of food, and Stability of food supplies at all times. Availability or abundance of food makes a nation partly secured; most especially when issues of social security are being discussed. However, the lives and livelihoods of people come under threat when this privilege is absent or not within one's reach.

In this study, food security is best understood in terms of agricultural production, because agriculture maintains an intricate dominance in the region's economy. (Wolfe and Frongillo, 2001). Local food production and animal husbandry account for much of the daily food and nutritional needs of Nigerians; this also is a major employment and income generating activity for both the urban and rural dwellers FAO, et al. (2013). This happens to be the main objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), to reduce poverty, insecurity and increase food production and sustainability by the year 2020.

Another major activity affecting food security in recent times is cattle rustling (This is the act of stealing and catering away herds of cattle ranging from 50 to 200, 300). The challenge of cattle rustling came to the fur between 2008 to 2009. Of all 17 local governments in Plateau State, only three could not record or have access to the case of rustling. The crime goes with huge economic losses and hikes in the price of

meat considering that most cattle headsmen lose huge sums to these coordinated attacks so they in-turn hike the price of the commodity.

Agricultural productivity

Agriculture has always been the mainstay of the Nigerian economy, over the years about 80% (percent) of the population engaged in agriculture. However, with the detection of crude oil in Nigeria, agriculture was gradually being neglected and relegated to the background (Dabugat, 2013).

Agricultural productivity can be said to be a measurement of the quantity of agricultural output produced for a given quantity of input or a set of inputs. There are different ways of defining and measuring productivity, the amount of output per unit of input (such as tons of wheat per acre of land), or an index of numerous outputs divided by an index of numerous inputs (Amaza, and Olayemi, 2002). The quantities of output relative to the number of inputs are the conventional measures of Productivity. If output increases at the same rate as inputs, then productivity is unchanged. On the other hand, if the output growth rate exceeds the growth rate in the use of inputs, then productivity is positive.

Land productivity is usually used to evaluate the success of the new technology. It determines what amount of land is required to meet the future demands of food. Labor productivity, on the other hand, is used for comparing productivity among sectors within or across economies (Block, 1994). It facilitates the incomes and well-being of people engaged in agriculture. The growth of the yield of major food grains in Nigeria increased from an average of about 3 percent in the 1990s to about 7 percent in mid-2000, while the food security/sufficiency status of Nigerians continued to decline. (Adeoti 2002)

Research reveals that the only solution to food security may be to increase agricultural productivity to meet the future demand for food for our growing Population. Assess to fertile land, related inputs, and new approach to increase future productivity growth in agriculture. According to FAO experts, in the developing world, about 80% increase in food production will need to come from an increase in yields as well as cropping intensity and only 20% will be obtained from the extension of arable land (FAO, 2008)

Insurgency on food security.

Insurgency remains an alarming problem in Nigeria. The elimination of which is a key concern of all those interested in the development of the country ranging from policymakers, scholars, state and non-state actors, social groups and the poor themselves. The survival of all individuals within any state was usually the right of the state, however, in Nigeria, the security scenery has changed and the period between 2015 and 2016 now place emphasis on each individual to run a rat race of safety. The insurgency method of prosecuting their objective has posed a serious danger to Nigerians and foreigners. People are afraid of movement; due to fear of attacks, government revenue from the affected region has reduced drastically due to restiveness in those places. There are a low investment and slow growth of business

in some of the crisis zones. (Aro, Olaide Ismail, 2011) Government performances in these areas have also been affected. Nigeria economy between the periods under study is drastically hit by the wave of insurgency. Unemployment and Poverty are at an alarming rate, corruption exists in every sector; while development is a thing of the past. Accountability and transparency are lacking in our system of governance. Frustrations, Economic empowerment, and employment generation are at zero level and this invariably, prime to social injustice, marginalization, and injustice.

Insurgency retards human development and breeds poverty, which in turn leads to low levels of food production. The social upheavals in the form of insurgency in the country are the unfortunate consequences of the high rate of insecurity. A recent report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) equally identified insurgency as the root causes of the growing rate of anti-social activities by youths. Inability to find work by young people usually creates a sense of vulnerability, uselessness, and idleness which in turn heightens the attraction to illegal activities. The rural farmers have been displaced and set off balance, while others are restricted from going to their farms because of checks and the militaristic counterterrorism approach of the government.

Insurgency, has a negative impact on the well-being of the people, be it political, socio-economic and security. While security impact is multidimensional, most literature seems to focus solely on physical security, that is, the security of life and property, little attention is paid to the implication of the insurgency on food security. (Oluwatayo, 2009). It is necessary to focus attention on this dimension because food insecurity does not only constitute a conflict in itself, it has a tendency to exacerbate other conflicts and compound poverty. The Boko Haram insurgency in Northeastern Nigeria, has undermined food security and this has greatly affected different households, the people have experienced an acute shortage of food and high rate of malnutrition in Borno and Yobe states. (Ogochukwu, 2013). Between 2015 and 2016 specifically in January at Baga, a fishing settlement in Borno state, about 2,000 people was killed while the military base of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) was sacked (IRIN 2012).

More than 9,500 persons have died as a result of insurgencies, while the internally displaced people have increased from just over 1 million at the end of 2014 to almost 2 million in 2015. Farmers in these parts of the country, particularly Adamawa, Yobe and Borno states are no longer able to farm for security reasons especially for fear of attacks by the dreaded Boko Haram sect, who continued to unleash untold havoc in this part of the country, with their resilience severely weakened, they are resorting to a typical cop. (Bizwatch Nigeria 2013).

The report shows that in April 2015 alone, Boko Haram had taken almost 2,000 girls and young women, mostly unmarried. More children were used as suicide bombers. On July 2, 2016, a 10-year-old girl blew herself up in a busy market in Damaturu, Yobe state, killing at least 15 and injuring 46. Government forces managed to rescue over 1,300 hostages, while only a few of the 219 missing schoolgirls abducted by the insurgents in April 2014 were recovered. (Adibe 2011).

The Middle-Belt regions witness several years of economic, political, ethnic and religious tension. This violence is as a result of competition for power and access to land between nomadic and farming communities. Many have been killed based on ethnic or religious identity. Hundreds of women were abducted. These cases of insurgency have harmfully affected farming activities and other related businesses and this has resulted in a drastic reduction in farm outputs. Less number of trucks conveys food to the South these days, because of the insurgency and this is having its effects on prices of food. The effects of the insurgency in the North are being felt, not only by the consumers, the traders down south who depend on supply from the north are also feeling the effect.

The challenges affecting food security in Nigeria are too numerous, the increasing and changing demand for food, with a rapidly growing population, is one major threat; The insurgents, on the other hand, have targeted the agriculture sector because of the need for cash and food. Insurgent activity has greatly undermined food production level and this has consequently raised prices of foods that are majorly cultivated in the affected areas, this, in turn, has a drastic effect on the production of food generally (Davies, 2009). Scholars are divided on the relationship between the insurgency and food security. While a group believes that insurgencies have a negative effect on food security, the second group sees government policies as being ineffective and having a negative effect on the level of food production. Abudullahi, (2002, cited in Dauda, 2004).

It is made bold to say that Insurgency activities have relatively affected the accessibility, availability, utilization, and stabilization of food in Nigeria, and some segments of the crop, livestock and agricultural services. The insurgency has greatly reduced human mobility, People across all the affected states feared movement outside protected areas because of attacks by insurgents. Farmworkers and herders feared attacks when in the field or grazing animals. (Abu, 2012, cited in, FAO, 2012). It must be noted that Insurgency and food insecurity are closely related. For example, Insurgency attacks have led to the death of many people, displacement, and destruction of property which leads to low level of food production, destruction of years of development efforts and food insecurity. (Richard, 2002). The reduction in the mobility and the decrease in supply have subsequently increased the prices of transportation and farm inputs, and in turn on agricultural products.

Government Policies on Agriculture in Nigeria between 2015 and 2016

Government policies, on the other hand, is another challenge increasingly threatening food production, issues of Flood, drought, desertification are not attended to promptly (Feinstein International Center.2010). Some millions of farmlands are washed away by the flood; government policies on reforestation programmes have largely failed. In the absence of sustained public awareness campaigns, the majority of the saplings die or are cut down, the farming systems practice in Nigeria, is the subsistent farming type that does not encourage competitions. Corruption in Nigeria has been on the increase leading to money budgeted for agricultural tools being

siphoned for private use, for instance; we have seen situations where money meant for the importation of fertilizers are siphoned.

Prior to 1960s, the dominant role of agriculture in Nigeria's economy was taken for granted. Signs of problems in agriculture started to beam his ugly head between the first eras of the country's independence, 1960 – 69. 1970 –79 witnessed a decline in the agricultural sector. To wrestle this challenge, three successive development plans were introduced from 1970 to 1974, from 1975 to 1980 and 1981 to 1985 respectively expected to remain binding for fifteen years i.e. 2000. However, in the year 2001, a new policy document was launched. The new policy document bears most of the features of the old one, but with more focused direction and better articulation. It must be noted though that a consistency in policy over the last few years has considerably improved the food security situation and prospect. The series of presidential initiatives such as in rice production, cassava, cocoa, oil palm has ensured that less foreign exchange is being deployed to food importation. Nevertheless, when compared to other regions of the world like Europe, America, and Asia, Nigerians still spends disproportionately high percentage of their incomes on food purchase. (Bello, 2004),

A new policy was again introduced, called Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA). The aims and objectives of this program are to “restart the clock” and reintroduce a better agricultural system using different strategies. The strategy was to be from 2011 –2015, with the intention to make Nigeria's agriculture more productive, efficient and effective. A goal of creating 3.5 million jobs by 2015 was set, in other to reduce spending on food importation, thereby generating foreign policies through agriculture and restructuring fertilizer procurement system.

ATA was able to record considerate achievement especially within the period under study (2015 -2016). In the area of Financing, it

- Engaged with commercial banks to finance Growth Enhancement Scheme (GES) and boost lending to agriculture from ~1% to 6% of all formal credit by 2015
- Creation of special funds to support farmers e.g. N10B Cassava Fund and FAFIN Facility of \$35M. IFPRI, (2008).

However, the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) has its challenges as it could not deliver on its entire target. There were no accesses to improve or variety seeds, while accessibility to credit facility for small farmers remains weak. Nigeria still imports billions worth of food annually, e. g. wheat, rice, fish and fresh fruits, Nigeria is not food secure. Wastage levels remain high in production areas. The nutritional outcome all over the country was not the same. Adamawa state has a food poverty rate of 74.2 and 55.4 respectively, while Anambra state has 56.8 and 34.2 respectively (NBS, 2010). Ethnic disturbances in some parts of the country have contributed to the low level of food production and supply in the country.

The failure of food supply to match up with food demand is attributed to low productivity in food supply leading to a reduction in domestically produced food in

Nigeria. To compliment this reduction in domestic food production, Nigeria relies so much on food importation. It was observed by Anyanwu (1997) that government policies on agriculture have failed, provision of adequate agricultural facilities to farmers, access to agricultural micro-credits, access to markets for the sale of agricultural products, provision of agricultural education to rural farmers on mechanized farming, among others have been inefficient. Eze et al (2010) affirmed that access to credit is a problem for all farmers and in particular acute for a poor farmer because some of these farmers have no assets for collateral as in other countries". The Report of the Nigerian Poverty Assessment 2007 affirmed this:

The next policy after ATA was the Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP), a new agribusiness of the Buhari administration for agriculture in 2016. This was to focus on closing the Demands - Supply gap between crops and Livestock production, meeting domestic food security goals, generating exports, and supporting sustainable income and job growth. Despite this strategy, however, food production in 2015/2016 in Nigeria was far below the population requirement. These had made, food distribution a problem in solving food insecurity. Nigeria just like most sub-Saharan African countries is experiencing food insecurity. It was observed that food production falls below the demand for food.

Another major fact is that there is a wide difference between the level of food production and Government policy on agriculture. For the current policy to be achievable (2016 –2020) a number of strategies had to be put in place and foremost among this is solving the problem of insurgency. Several agricultural policies have been formulated to curtail food challenges by the government; unfortunately, these policies have not yielded the desired results in increasing food production. (Iwuchukwu and Igbokwe 2012).

Theoretical Orientation

Frustration-aggression theory, commonly known as the frustration-aggression hypothesis, was proposed by psychologists Dollard, Doob, Miller, Mower, and Sears in their 1939 book. *Frustration and Aggression*. This theory is adopted in this study to explain the behavior of human Frustration, it stated that 'the occurrence of aggressive behavior always presupposes the existence of frustration and contrariwise. That the existence of frustration is always leading to some form of aggression

According to the statement by Miller et al, (1914) Aggression is one of several possible consequences of frustration. Frustration is a feeling of tension that occurs when our efforts to reach some goal are blocked. When this occurs, it can produce feelings of anger, which in turn can generate feelings of aggression and aggressive behavior.

The hypothesis explains why people scapegoat. It gives an explanation of the cause of violence. According to Dollard and colleagues, frustration is the "condition which exists when a goal-response suffers interference," while aggression is "an act whose goal-response is an injury to an organism (or an organism surrogate)." This theory states that frustration causes aggression, but when the source of the frustration cannot be challenged, the aggression gets displaced onto an innocent target (Deutsch,

1949, 1993) For example the present instability of the Nigeria polity, corruption, and mass unemployment may result in frustration for the youth and inflicted anger on life and properties as with the insurgency. This theory is used to explain riots and revolutions, which are believed to be caused by poorer and more deprived sections of society who may express their bottled up frustration and anger through violence, which is the focus of this study.

Empirical Review of the Theory

From our discussion of the insurgency, it is obvious that the theory of Frustration – Aggression hypothesis, (Berkowitz, 1978) is largely correct. The hypothesis correlates with happenings in present-day Nigeria. Objectives of the insurgency are to intimidate, frustrate and raise the feeling of uncertainty, imminent danger and the loss of hope, so as to cripple or limit all aspects of human activity and normal livelihoods. Insurgency aimed at the overthrow or destruction of a constituted government through the use of subversion, surveillance, terrorism and armed conflict. Associated with protracted violence, and threat, wanting to revise governmental power or decisions in their favor, sometimes replace or remove existing governmental structure or result to other measures e.g. separation, autonomy, or alteration of a particular policy.

For the Insurgencies in Nigeria, the courses of frustrations are extremely diverse; frustration can be as a result of thwarting of basic psychological needs satisfaction, autonomy or as in the case of self-efficacy and effectance competence. (Ryan & Deci, 2000a, 2000). “Competitive encounters are frustrating as the contestant block each other’s attempt to reach the disputed goals and threaten each other with a total loss”. This detrimental behavior orchestrated by insurgency group may prevent individual, organizations, and government from attaining personal, developmental goals and most importantly from achieving food security in the country, which is the focus of our study. The insurgencies violent attack (attitude) in a different part of Nigeria is an example of frustration turned into aggression, and aggression, a malicious behavior or attitude triggered by frustration.

Conclusion and Recommendations

From the preceding analysis, it is obvious that insurgency affects food security significantly. Policies were put in place with the intention to, increased incomes and reduced malnutrition. Also to restored dignity and hope for tens of thousands of indigenous farmers,” however this paper found out that amidst these policies, the insurgency is a problem of food security, thereby having a negative effect on food production.

The wide gap between intents and actual practices has always been the bane of Nigeria’s agricultural policies. It is revealed that several Foods for Progress policies were put in place by the government, thereby given indigenous, rural farmers a voice in their future and an opportunity to be solution creators in their own communities, however, this policy were put in place with the intent to improved agricultural practices. The implementation of this policy could not be achieved.

Findings reveal that policies of the government with regard to agricultural food production were swift, but the plans hastily put together and there is no participation from those who are engaged in agricultural productivity. It is indeed a paradox that despite the fact that the Nigerian economy is growing, though at an arithmetical progression, the proportion of Nigerians living in Perpetual fear is increasing by the day, as a result of series of attack on lives and property.

Farmers do not settle down to work on the farm, the fears of the unknown have consciously or unconsciously affected their actions and values. The insurgencies have weakened trading networks, pushing into poverty thousands of farmers whose livelihoods depend on farming. This deepening effect of food insecurity orchestrated by insurgencies could be drastic; it could topple the government, ignite riots around the country, and plunged millions of people into deeper poverty. Recommendations put forward by the government to resuscitate the agricultural potentials of Nigeria amidst insurgency are;

- Government needs to strengthen security arrangements for farming communities in tightening the security of affected areas as brought about by insurgencies.
- Establish conflict mediation, resolution, reconciliation and peacekeeping mechanisms: at state and local government levels, and within rural communities particularly in areas that have been most affected by insurgency.
- Establish grazing reserves in consenting states and improve livestock production and management in order to minimize friction between herders and farmers:

It is further suggested that government could address environmental factors that are driving herders' migration to the south: Coordinate with neighbors to stem the cross-border movement of non-Nigerian armed herders: especially of cattle rustlers and armed herders Government at all levels, federal, state, and other relevant actors, need to take remedial actions with a greater sense of urgency and finally connect its resources properly; maintain consistency in its policies in other to increase sustainable food production and food security

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