HUMANUS DISCOURSE Vol. 4. NO 1. 2024
ISSN 2787-0308 (ONLINE)

Food Security and its implications for National Security and Development in Northwest of Nigeria, 2015-2023

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Abstract

The United Nations Organisation over the years has laid emphasized on the critical significance of food security in achieving global security. It is on this premise that, it put established the Food Agricultural Organisation as an agency, to encourage the production of food through best practices. Northwest Nigeria is one of the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria with high potentials for food security, unfortunately, the activities of criminal bandits has crippled food production in the region. The paper seeks to establish the implications of food security for national security and development in Northwest. It is also argues that the problem of food security in the area is a major driver for insecurity and the problem of development in the area. The paper adopts the qualitative method of research, which relies on the use of primary and secondary data. The primary data will be obtained from key stakeholders that are relevant to the subject matter and this will be through oral interviews and administration of structured questions. While the secondary data will include; books, journals, newspapers and magazines. Findings from the research reveal that the inability of farmers in the area to access their farmlands threatens food security which invariably serves as a driver for insecurity and it threatens development in the area. The paper concludes that solving the problem of food security in the region will impact on national security and development

Keywords: bandits, food security, insecurity, national security, and development.

Introduction

Nigeria is facing an acute food crisis. This has threatened national security and development in the country. The food crisis in Nigeria, is not an isolated case. From a wider perspective, it obvious that, there is a global food crisis affecting the world. This explains the increasing food prices that is being experienced in different part of the world. Venezuela, in 2016 faced an acute food shortage crisis that threatened the existence of the country. Number of families were unable to meet both their food and essential non-food needs.[1] This was as a result of natural disaster such as flood, drought, and landslides. The coronavirus pandemic worsened the food crisis in the country. Citizens, had to troop to neighboring countries of Brazil, Columbia, Peru, and Trinidad and

[1]Vivian Oriah, Venezuelans struggling to afford food – even if they have access to dollars www.reuters.com Accessed 03 November, 2023.

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Tobago in search of food.[2] Many African countries also faced food crisis challenge, especially countries that, had challenges with, natural disaster such as flood, drought, famine, poor crop yield. Insecurity, also contributes significantly to the food crisis challenge in the continent. Conflicts, are frequent occurrences on the continent which impact negatively on food production. According to Red Cross, communities across Africa including in Kenya, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Somalia are facing the worst crisis seen in 40 years. This precarious situation can also be explained in the context of the ongoing climate change in Africa, and the escalating conflict in Ukraine.[3]

Food security is a critical aspect of national security and development, particularly in regions like Northwest Nigeria, where agricultural activities are of utmost importance. The availability, accessibility, and affordability of food have direct implications for the well-being of the population, social stability, and economic growth. As one of the most densely populated regions in the country, the Northwest faces numerous challenges in ensuring that its population has access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food. One of the challenges facing the Northwest region, is the problem of rural banditry which has devastated the region. Many farmers and their families have been displaced from their homes and farmlands.[4] This has impacted negatively, on the amount of food produced in the area. The area is endowed with fertile land and water supply which support the gain production. Unfortunately, the insecurity in the area impedes farmers from accessing their farmlands even in cases where the access their farmlands they were meant to pay heavy levies to bandits to enable them access their farms.[5] The situation does not only affect the region, but the entire country as it has become obvious in the skyrocketing food prices in different part of the country. Although, there are other factors that contribute to high prices in food. The study is novel as it tries to examine the linkage between food security, national security and development.

Conceptual Clarification

Food Security: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines "*food security*" as access at all times by all people within a household to enough food for an active, healthy life. "Food insecurity," on the other hand, occurs when a household's consistent access to adequate food is limited by a lack of money and other resources at times during the year.[6] According to the World Bank there are four main dimensions of food security. For food security objectives to

[2]Ville Ariette et al. "Food insecurity in Venezuelan migrants in Trinidad and Tobago using the food insecurity experience scale" *Frontiers in Public Health* Vol. 10, 2022.
[3]Red Cross, "Africa food crisis: more than 160 million people are going hungry," redcross.org.uk, 2023.
[4]Rufai M.A. 'Vigilante Groups and Rural Banditry in Zamfara State: Excesses and Contradictions', I*nternational Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention (IJHSSI)ISSN (Online): 2319 – 7722, ISSN (Print): 2319 – 7714,* 2018, 12.
[5]"Bandits impose 10 million naira levy on farmers in Kaduna State" *Daily Post* Accessed 4 November 2023.
[6]Elyse Miller, Food security Definition & Meaning - Merriam-Webster Accessed 02November, 2023.

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be realized, all four dimensions must be fulfilled simultaneously. The dimensions include the following:

- Physical *availability* of food: Food availability addresses the "supply side" of food security and is determined by the level of food production, stock levels and net trade.

- Economic and physical *access* to food: An adequate supply of food at the national or international level does not in itself guarantee household level food security. Concerns about insufficient food access have resulted in a greater policy focus on incomes, expenditure, markets and prices in achieving food security objectives.

- Food *utilization*: Utilization is commonly understood as the way the body makes the most of various nutrients in the food. Sufficient energy and nutrient intake by individuals are the result of good care and feeding practices, food preparation, diversity of the diet and intra-household distribution of food. Combined with good biological utilization of food consumed, this determines the nutritional status of individuals.

- *Stability* of the other three dimensions over time: Even if your food intake is adequate today, you are still considered to be food insecure if you have inadequate access to food on a periodic basis, risking a deterioration of your nutritional status. Adverse weather conditions, political instability, or economic factors (unemployment, rising food prices) may have an impact on your food security status.[7]

National Development: The concept of development has received the attention of many scholars because of its relevance to humanity. Rodney in his epic book *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa* defines development as "increased skill and capacity. Greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline, responsibility, and material well-being".[8] He rejects the bourgeois perspective that understands development as purely economic affair and explains that once two societies with different come into contact, it is no longer possible to examine their respective development independently. Ogbobo succinctly captures the definition of development as A process of institutional change and structural transformation which enables resources of a given society to fully and efficiently utilized in raising the standard of living of the population of the area. It involves improvement in the skills of labour force operating in the economy. It is from this that society will develop capacity for self-sustaining growth and continuous improvement in living standards. As a process it could either be retarded, aborted or carried through success.[9]

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[7]Food and Agriculture Organization FAO "The state of food insecurity in the world"http: www.fao.org/docrep/005/y4671e06.ht(Accessed on March 25, 2017).
[8]Walter Rodney,*How Europe Underdeveloped Africa,* London: Bogle-L'Ouverture Publications, 1973.
[9]Christopher B.N. Ogbogbo, "Development and Sustainability of African Economies: The Security Challenge," in Adam O. Ahmed et al *Warfare, Command and Capacity Building in*

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He further argued that a good number of societies in Africa and elsewhere have experienced development at different times. Unfortunately, at some point in the history of Africa this development became retarded and ultimately aborted in contemporary times.[10] This explains the overdependence of African states on external forces for development.

National security: is the ability of a country's government to protect its citizens, economy, and other institutions. Beyond the obvious protection against military attacks, national security in the 21st century includes several non-military missions. For most of the 20th century, national security was strictly a matter of military power and readiness, but with the dawn of the nuclear age and the threats of the Cold War, it became clear that defining national security in a context of conventional military warfare had become a thing of the past. Today, U.S. government policymakers struggle to balance the demands of several "national securities". Among these are economic security, political security, energy security, homeland security, cybersecurity, human security, and environmental security.[11]

In a political context, this proliferation of "national security" definitions poses difficult challenges. In some cases, for example, they are simply a repurposing of domestic policy programs, such as infrastructure improvement, intended to shift funds and resources away from the military. In other cases, they are needed to respond to the complexities of a rapidly changing international environment.

The modern world is characterized by perilous state-to-state relationships as well as conflicts within states caused by ethnic, religious, and nationalistic differences. International and domestic terrorism, political extremism, drug cartels, and threats created by information-age technology add to the turmoil. The sense of optimism for lasting peace after the end of the Vietnam War was shattered on September 11, 2001, by the terrorist attacks on the United States, the "Bush Doctrine," and the seemingly perpetual war against international terrorism. The United States' war against terrorism and constantly evolving concepts of warfare are politically intermixed with globalization, economic expansion, homeland security, and demands to extend American values through diplomacy.[12]

During the response to the September 11 attacks, disputes within the national security establishment, Congress, and the public were temporarily muted. More recently, however, the U.S. involvement in Iraq and the continuing concerns about Iran and North Korea have magnified the challenges to U.S. national security policy and have caused a great degree of turmoil in the U.S. political system and foreign policy. In this environment, U.S. national security policy and

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Nigeria Festschrift in Honour of Major General Ibrahim Manu Yusuf, (Kaduna: Nigerian Defence Academy Press) 646.

[10]Christopher B.N. Ogbogbo, "Development and Sustainability, 647

[11]Robert Longley, National Security Definition and Examples (thoughtco.com) Accessed 03November, 2023

[12]Kim R. Holmes What is National Security? | The Heritage Foundation Accessed 02 November, 2023.

priorities have become complicated not due to the threat of major conventional war but because of the unpredictable characteristics of the international arena.[13]Today's national security environment is complicated by a proliferation of a diverse range of violent non-state actors. Often by committing heinous acts of violence against innocent civilians, these groups utilize subversive means to exploit and disrupt the international system. Suicide bombers are inspired and trained by al Qaeda and its offshoots in Afghanistan, Iraq, Algeria, and Yemen. Somali pirates disrupt shipping, kidnapping civilians, and extorting governments.

Conventional national security strategy is ill-equipped to deal with violent non-state actors. According to global security analysts, flexible arrangements in dealing with non-state armed actors will always be necessary. In general, three so-called "spoiler management" strategies have been suggested: positive propositions or inducements to counter demands made by non-state armed actors; socialization in order to change their behavior; and arbitrary measures to weaken armed actors or force them to accept certain terms.[14]Beyond spoiler management strategies, international peace-building and state-building efforts challenge the position of most of these non-state armed actors by attempting to strengthen or rebuild state structures and institutions. While peace building works towards the establishment of sustainable peace in general, state-building focuses specifically on the construction of a functional state capable of maintaining that peace. Accordingly, peace-building is often followed by state-building efforts in a process of intervention by external actors.

Food Security and Food Production in Northwest Nigeria

Nigeria has an arable land area of 34 million hectares: 6.5 million hectares for permanent crops, and 28.6 million hectares on meadows and pastures. Agriculture accounts for about 23 percent of Nigeria's GDP.[15] The country is a leader in various types of agricultural production, such as palm oil, cocoa beans, pineapple, and sorghum. It is the largest producer of sorghum in the world just after the United States, and ranks fifth in the production of palm oil and cocoa beans. Nigeria is also a large global exporter in this sector. Oil, fruits, nuts, seeds are among the ten best performing export categories**.** Among households, the most common crops in Nigeria are maize and cassava, which are grown by almost 50 percent of households. In addition, other widespread crops are Guinea corn, yam, beans, and millets. In quite a few plot-growing maize crops, households used to apply herbicides, while about half use inorganic fertilizers. Among all major crops grown by Nigerian households, herbicides, inorganic fertilizers, animal tractions, and organic fertilizers are the most common farming inputs. Apart from household farming activities, Nigeria is a global

[13]Robert Longley, National Security Definition and Examples (thoughtco.com) Accessed 03November, 2023
[14]Kim R. Holmes What is National Security? | The Heritage Foundation Accessed 02 November, 2023.
[15]National Living Standard Survey (NLSS), *"Nigerian Gross Domestic Product Report Q2"*http://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng/pages/download/312 Accessed on November 2, 2023.

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ISSN 2787-0308 (ONLINE)

leader in agricultural production, as mentioned before. In large production, palm oil crops experienced a significant increase in the past two decades, reaching 1.4 million metric tons in the last two years.[16] Similarly, milled rice and soybean production has been growing as well. On the other hand, some of Nigeria's largest agricultural productions dropped, such as millet crops.

The population of Nigeria is growing at very high rates and the food demand is rising accordingly. Indeed, the Nigerian population is forecast to reach over 370 million people by 2050. Estimations published in 2019 show that by 2050 the consumption of livestock products is going to increase significantly. For instance, the consumption of milk might grow by over 260 percent, for eggs by 250 percent. Likewise, meat demand will reach high levels too. This scenario could have negative consequences on the food supply in the country. Over the last years, the average share of the Nigerian population suffering from severe food insecurity has been rising. Between 2018 and 2022, nearly 20 percent of people experienced hunger.[17] People in severe food insecurity would go for entire days without food, due to lack of money or other resources. In fact, the food CPI is increasing month by month in Nigeria.

The Northwest region of Nigeria, comprising seven states including Kano, Kaduna, and Sokoto, holds immense potential for food production. With its fertile soil, favorable climate, and abundant water resources, the region has the capability to play a significant role in meeting the food demands of both the local population and the nation as a whole. The region possesses immense agricultural potential due to its vast land resources. This region is known for its production of staple crops such as maize, sorghum, rice, millet, and groundnuts. Livestock rearing, particularly cattle, also plays a significant role in the region's economy. The farmers in the region take to agriculture as a full time business. They practice all year round farming both in the dry and wet season. What they produce is not only for local consumption but for sale in different parts of the country. Food production in the area especially in terms of grains has played an important role in sustaining country. Every year tones of grains leave the Northwest region to other parts of Nigeria, especially the southern part of Nigeria. Most of the produce are taken to the south and western part of Nigeria because the areas do not support large scale production of grains. This explains the difference in the price of commodities in the different regions of Nigeria.

Farmers in the region concentrate more cash crops that are capable of yielding more profit than food crops. Cash crops like, soya beans, cassava, sesame, ginger, wheat, ginger and cashew are among others are highly preferred to food crops. The low prices in food crops used to be major turn off for famers. This is because they usually do not get return on investment. This is capable of having a negative impact on the country food crops production resulting in scarcity in

[16]National Living Standard Survey (NLSS),*"Nigerian Gross Domestic Product Report Q2"* http://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng/pages/download/312Accessed on November 2, 2023.
[17]National Living Standard Survey (NLSS),*"Nigerian Gross Domestic Product Report Q2"* http://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng/pages/download/312Accessed on November 2, 2023.

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food crops and higher food prices.[18]Large scale production is one of the major feature of farming in the Northwest region, farmers farm large hectares of land in both dry and wet seasons. This has helped to create job opportunities for the teaming youths of the region. The food produced in this region also find their way not just to other parts of Nigeria but other parts of West African countries that depend on Nigeria for their agricultural produce. However, despite its enormous potentials, food production in Northwest Nigeria faces numerous challenges. One major obstacle is the issue of climate change, which has led to erratic rainfall patterns, increased temperatures, and desertification. These factors have adversely affected crop yields and livestock production, making it difficult for farmers to sustain their livelihoods.

Another challenge is the lack of modern farming techniques and inadequate access to agricultural inputs such as improved seeds, fertilizers, and irrigation facilities. Smallholder farmers, who constitute the majority in the region, often lack the necessary resources to adopt modern farming practices. This hinders their ability to increase productivity and adapt to changing environmental conditions. This is testament to the capacity of the farmers. Majority of the farmers lack the financial capacity to purchase modern farm implements, this invariably diminishes their effectiveness and the quantity of products they turn out from their farms. This explains why, Nigeria finds it difficult to attain food sufficiency.

The Northwest region also suffers from inadequate infrastructure, including poor road networks, limited storage facilities, and unreliable power supply. These issues make it challenging to transport agricultural produce to markets and store them properly, resulting in post-harvest losses. Additionally, the lack of access to electricity limits the use of modern technologies in food processing and preservation. This problem very critical to food security in the region. The inability of farmers to access infrastructure has resulted in increase in food prices. The road networks are nothing to write home about. This poor road network increases the cost of transportation as not too many drivers were willing to ply the terrible roads.[19] The problem of storage facilities cannot be overlooked being that annually, farm produce are laid to waste because of inadequate or non-existent of modern storage system. This is a big blow to food security in the region. To add to the challenge is the problem of power supply. Most of the rural areas do not have access to power supply which impinge on their ability to store their produce especially the perishable ones.

Furthermore, security concerns pose a significant threat to food production in Northwest Nigeria. The region has experienced recurring conflicts and attacks by bandits and insurgents, leading to the displacement of farmers and destruction of farmlands. The fear of violence has discouraged many farmers

[18]National Food Crisis Response Programme (NFCRP) 2013, "The World Bank Response to Food Crises" http://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2013/04/11/national-food-crisis-responseprogram-results-profile Accessed on November 6, 2023.

[19]National Bureau of Statistics "Food Security Profile for Nigeria". NBS Office, Abuja, http://www.nigerianstat.gov.ngAccessed on November 6, 2023.

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from cultivating their lands, exacerbating food insecurity in the region. This is the most disturbing problem for farmers. The activities of bandits have discouraged farmers from going to farms. This is so because, farmers are prevented to go farm and the fear of being abducted is a major setback for them. In most cases, bandits impose unbelievable amount of tax on farmlands. Most of the farmers do not have the capacity to meet the demands imposed on them by bandits therefore they abandoned their farmlands.

Despite the challenges, there are several prospects for improving food production in Northwest Nigeria. One potential solution lies in promoting sustainable farming practices and diversification of crops. By adopting climate-smart agricultural techniques such as conservation farming and agroforestry, farmers can mitigate the effects of climate change and enhance soil fertility. Diversifying crop production can also reduce the region's dependence on a few staple crops and enhance resilience.Investing in agricultural research and extension services is another crucial aspect of improving food production. Research institutions and extension workers can provide farmers with the necessary knowledge and skills to adopt modern farming practices. This includes training on improved seed varieties, efficient irrigation methods, and integrated pest management techniques.

The region's vast arable land offers opportunities for large-scale commercial farming, attracting private investments and creating employment opportunities. The government's focus on agricultural transformation and the provision of incentives to smallholder farmers also presents a positive outlook for the sector. Also, the region's livestock resources can be better harnessed through improved breeding techniques, veterinary services, and access to markets. The demand for meat, milk, and other livestock products within Nigeria and neighboring countries provides a significant market opportunity that can be tapped into for economic growth.

To unlock the full potential of food production in Northwest Nigeria, a multi-faceted approach is required. Firstly, there is a need for increased investment in modern farming techniques, including mechanization, irrigation systems, and improved seeds.[20] This will enhance productivity, reduce post-harvest losses, and ensure sustainable agricultural practices. Investment in critical infrastructure, such as road networks, storage facilities, and market linkages, is also crucial. Improved transportation facilities will enable farmers to access markets more efficiently and reduce wastage. Additionally, the establishment of agro-processing industries within the region will add value to agricultural produce, create employment, and boost the overall economy. Furthermore, capacity building and knowledge transfer initiatives should be prioritized. Providing farmers with training on modern farming techniques, crop diversification, and market-oriented practices will empower them to increase their productivity and income. Collaboration with research institutions and agricultural extension services will also contribute to the dissemination of best

[20]Food and Agriculture Organization FAO "State of Food Insecurity in the World http://www.fao.org/publications/sofi/en/2015 Accessed on November 4, 2023.

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practices and innovation in the sector.[21] The extension farmers should be able to traverse the different rural areas in the Northwest, taking the knowledge of best practices to farmers. Monitoring and supervision is also needed to ensuring that what has been taught by the extension farmers has been imbibed by the farmers.

Implications of Food Security on National Security and Development

Food security is a critical issue that affects not only the well-being of individuals but also the overall development of a nation. In the context of Northwest Nigeria, food security has significant implications for the region's socio-economic progress. Food security is closely linked to national security and development, and its absence can have severe consequences.

Implications for National Security

The implication of food security on national security is multi-faceted one of the implication of food security on national security is social unrest and instability. It is obvious that, insufficient access to food can lead to social unrest and instability, as people become desperate to meet their basic needs. This can result in civil unrest, protests, and even conflict between different groups within society. Additionally, food scarcity exacerbates existing socio-economic inequalities and can deepen divisions among different ethnic and religious groups.[22]One of the basic needs of man is food. The absence of food is a harbinger for crime and instability in the region. People can go to any length to quench their hunger. This explains the rise in crime rate in the region. In search for food, youths have joined criminal gang groups. Also, they have become easy prey in the hands of bandits who recruit them to perpetrate crimes.

Another challenge is the issue of migration and displacement. In search of better food security and livelihood opportunities, people may be forced to migrate from rural to urban areas or even across borders. This can lead to increased urbanization, overcrowding, and strain on already limited resources in cities. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees may also face food insecurity in camps or host communities, further straining the resources and stability of those areas. This evident in the growth of urban centers. As farmers are not able to access their farmland due to insecurity necessitating scarcity in food. There is an influx of migrant from the rural areas in search of means of livelihood. This invariably puts pressure on the scarce resources in the urban areas. Available information from the field points to the fact that, there is intense movement of youths to the city as a result insecurity in the rural areas

[21]Millennium Development Goals (MDG) "UN Initiative: Millennium Development Goals" http://www.en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millennium_Development_Goals. Accessed on November 5, 2023.

[22]National Food Crisis Response Programme (NFCRP), "The World Bank Response to Food Crises" http://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2013/04/11/national-food-crisis-responseprogram-results-profile Accessed on November 6, 2023.

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in the Northwest of Nigeria. In the city, they take to all kinds of menial jobs as a means of livelihood.[23]

Furthermore, the problem of food security contributes to economic decline. Agriculture is a significant contributor to the economy of Northwest Nigeria. Insufficient food production and insecurity in the region can lead to reduced agricultural output, loss of income for farmers, and increased food prices. This, in turn, can impact the overall wellbeing of the citizens of the region thereby fueling the problem of insecurity in the region. As we have noted earlier, the economy of the Northwest region is solely dependent on agriculture. A significant portion of the population of Northwest, practice agriculture. Their inability to go to farm has depleted the fortunes of the region. This does not only impact on the region but the overall Gross Domestic Product of the country.

Implications for Development

The implications of food insecurity in Northwest Nigeria are far-reaching and affect various aspects of development. Firstly, food insecurity hampers human development by compromising the nutritional status and health of individuals, especially women and children. Malnutrition, particularly among children, leads to stunted growth, cognitive impairments, and increased susceptibility to diseases. These long-term effects hinder human capital development and limit individuals' potential to contribute to the region's socio-economic growth.

Secondly, food insecurity undermines economic development in Northwest Nigeria. The region has immense agricultural potential, which, if fully harnessed, could drive economic growth, reduce poverty, and create employment opportunities. However, the prevalence of food insecurity limits agricultural productivity, resulting in increased food imports and reduced income generation for farmers. This not only perpetuates the cycle of poverty but also hampers the region's ability to achieve sustainable economic development.[24]

Furthermore, food insecurity has social implications, including increased social tensions and conflicts. In a region where food scarcity is prevalent, competition for resources can lead to conflicts between different groups. This not only disrupts social harmony but also diverts resources away from development activities, further perpetuating the cycle of poverty and underdevelopment.

Addressing the Problem of Food Security in the Northwest of Nigeria

Addressing food security in Northwest Nigeria requires a multi-faceted approach. Firstly, there is a need to invest in climate-smart agriculture practices and technologies that can help farmers adapt to changing climatic conditions. This includes promoting sustainable farming techniques, improving water management, and providing farmers with access to credit and insurance schemes. Investment in Irrigation Infrastructure: To mitigate the effects of

[23] Usman Adamu, Aged 64 years, Farmer, Interviewed at Kawo Kaduna, 24 October, 2023.
[24]Usman Adamu, Aged 64 years, Farmer, Interviewed at Kawo Kaduna, 24 October, 2023.

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climate change and reduce reliance on rain-fed agriculture, it is crucial to invest in irrigation systems. This will allow farmers in the Northwest region to cultivate crops throughout the year, ensuring stable food production and reducing vulnerability to climate shocks.

Promotion of Climate-Smart Agriculture: Encouraging the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices, such as conservation agriculture and agroforestry, can enhance soil fertility, conserve water, and improve crop resilience to climate variability. Additionally, providing farmers with access to climate information and advisory services can help them make informed decisions regarding planting and harvesting. Improved Access to Finance and Inputs: Smallholder farmers in the Northwest region often face challenges in accessing credit and agricultural inputs. Initiatives that provide affordable credit, subsidize inputs, and promote farmer cooperatives can enhance productivity and support farmers in adopting modern farming techniques.[25] Capacity Building and Technology Transfer: Training programs that focus on modern agricultural techniques, post-harvest management, and value addition can enhance the skills and knowledge of farmers in the region. Furthermore, facilitating the transfer of appropriate technologies, such as improved seeds, efficient irrigation systems, and mechanized farming equipment, can significantly boost agricultural productivity.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Northwest Nigeria has the potential to become a powerhouse in food production, contributing to national food security and economic growth. However, to realize this potential, the region must address the problem of food security that has burdened the region for years. Part of the problems as enumerated in the paper are the issues of insecurity which is the hydra-headed monster in the region. The festering problem of insecurity has prevented farmers from accessing their farmlands thereby affecting the overall output of food production in the region. The paper showed that, the problem of food security has an overarching effect on national security and development in the region as a result of increase in crime rate and decline in the output of food products. The problem of food security can become a thing of the past in the region, if the government intensifies its fight against criminal elements in the region and also provide incentives for farmers to modernize their method of farming.

[25]Adeniyi O.G. and Adeniyi T.G. "Food Insecurity Transition among Rural Households in South-Western, Nigeria" *Global Scientific Journal* Vol. 10 no. 12, 2022, 17.

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