



## Effect of Insecurity on Agricultural Production in Ose Local Government Area of Ondo State, Nigeria

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### ABSTRACT

The study investigated effect of insecurity on agricultural production in Ose Local Government Area of Ondo State, Nigeria. Four farming communities (40.0%) out of the total ten major farming communities were randomly selected from the local government area. Interview schedules were used to obtain information on socio-economic characteristics of the farmers, effects of insecurity, and the causes of insecurity on agricultural production from 120 farmers in the entire selected farming communities. The result shows that 96.7% of the respondents had various forms of formal education. All the identified perceived causes of insecurity on agricultural production using Likert scale were significant (Mean score  $\bar{X} > 3$ ) in the study area, which include: herdsmen attack ( $\bar{X} = 4.73$ ), armed robbery ( $\bar{X} = 4.60$ ), and kidnapping ( $\bar{X} = 4.48$ ). The effects include: loss of profit, abandoned farmland, food shortage and loss of lives. It is therefore recommended that government security policies such as community policing, boarder security, anti-grazing laws; training, and regular retraining of security personnel on information and weapon handling are made and strictly implemented. Others include provision of employment by concerned authorities to reduce people engaging in kidnapping, armed robbery, and other unlawful activities, plus compulsory involvement of everybody in security business.

**Keywords:** Farming, Insecurity, Agricultural Production.

### INTRODUCTION

Insecurity, in a general term, refers to a state of being subjected to fear, threat, danger, molestation, intimidation and harassment of individual, groups or nation in all aspects (Beland, 2005, Saliu *et al.*, 2007 and Adebisi, *et al.*, 2017). Achumba *et al.*, (2013) also defined insecurity from two perspectives. Firstly, insecurity is the state of being opened or subjected to danger or threat of danger, where danger is the condition of being susceptible to harm or injury. Secondly, insecurity is the state of being exposed to risk or anxiety, where anxiety is a vague unpleasant emotion that is experienced in anticipation of some misfortune. According to

Abdullahi (2019), crime against persons, including murder, rape, abduction, cultism, theft, car snatching, robbery of farms, homes and offices, waylaying of travelers (highway robbery) have become the forms of insecurity threatening the fabric of our society, causing a breakdown of the social order. Unemployment has a severe negative implications on security and national development in Nigeria as most of its productive force is unemployed. For this reason, youths are adversely attracted to violent crime (Oduechie *et al.*, 2023). The prevalence of insecurity has not only distressed the communities. Chiemelie (2021) lamented that even attacks on police and other

security agencies have continued unabated in the South-Eastern part of the country.

The development of agricultural sector is Nigeria's surest and most efficient means of achieving growth and sustainable development (Eneji *et al.*, 2019). Agriculture contributes immensely to the growth and development of Sub-Saharan economies as it provides food and raw materials to the non-agricultural sectors of the economy (Olukunle, 2013). It can work in harmony with other sectors to produce faster growth, reduce poverty, and sustain livelihoods through its contribution to development as an economic activity, and a provider of environmental services, making the sector a unique instrument for development (Ogen, 2007). Thus, the importance of agriculture to the development and growth of any economy cannot be overemphasized, which is why many nations place great importance on its development and enhancement (Olajide *et al.*, 2021).

Nevertheless, agriculture all over Nigeria is facing insecurity challenges. The activities of banditry, for instance, has highly affected food security in the country. The menace posed by Boko Haram insurgency in the North, farmers/herdsmen clashes, communal conflicts and other religious crises which have engulfed Nigeria, have led people flee from one settlement area to another for safety. In this study, causes and effects of insecurity on Agricultural production in Ose Local Government Area were investigated. Recommendations on how to ensure adequate security of life and prosperity in the farming communities were also provided.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### The Study Area

The study was carried out in Ose Local Government Area of Ondo State, Nigeria. Ose

(a name derived from one of the popular rivers in the area) is a local government area in Ondo State with its local Government headquarters in Ifon. Other towns in the Local Government Area include: Afo, Idoani, Idogun, Ikaro, Arimogija, Okeluse, Ijagba, Imoru, Ute and Imeri. While some of the villages and farm settlements in Ose Local Government are Elegbeka, Ogberuwen, Omi-alafa, Ugbonla, Melege, Ago-iwoye, Ago-Egbira, Olufa, Igboke and Otenoseale. It has an area of 1,465 km<sup>2</sup>; Latitude 6.5547N and Longitude 5.4625E and has an average temperature of 28 degrees celsius. The population was 144,901 at the 2006 census. The tropical climate of the local government is broadly of two seasons. Rainy season (April – October) and dry season (November – March) (finelib.com 2019). Ose Local Government is an agrarian area with rich agricultural potentials, hence it is a home to mix of cultures and people who are predominantly farmers and traders but largely populated by Yoruba people due to its location and history.

### Method of Data Collection and Data Analysis

Probability sampling techniques were used for the study. Four farming communities (40.0%) out of the total ten major farming communities were randomly selected from the local government area. They are: Elegbeka, Arimogija, Melege and Igboke. Interview schedules were used to obtain information on socio-economic characteristics of the farmers, effects of insecurity and causes of insecurity on agricultural production from 30 farmers each in all the selected four farming communities, making a total of 120 farmers. Descriptive analysis systems were used to analyze data obtained for this study. This is in the form of frequency and percentage distribution tables, and Likert scale.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results in Table 1 established that more than half of the respondents (65.7%) were male, while the remaining (34.3%) respondents in the study were female. This means that men are involved agricultural activities more than their female counterpart in the study area. The result shows that the

largest percentage (37.6%) of the respondents were between 41 – 50years old. This implies that the majority of the respondents in the study area are still vibrant, relatively young, and still within the active age. A greater proportion (96.7%) of the respondents had formal education. It means that there is an expectation of information-seeking behaviour on agricultural activities Falade, 2021.

**Table 1:** Socio - Economic Characteristics of Respondents in the Study Area

Characteristics		%		%		%		%		%	
<b>Gender</b>	Male	65.7	Female	34.3							
<b>Age Distribution</b>	<30yrs	11.1	31-40yrs	20.3	41-50yrs	37.6	51-60yrs	18.4	>60yrs	12.6	
	<b>Marital Status</b>	Single	11.0	Married	80.0	Divorced	2.5	Widow	4.5	Widower	2.0
<b>Educational Attainment</b>	No formal Education	3.3	Pry. Sch.	20.0	Sec. Sch.	48.4	Tertiary	28.3			

**Source:** Field Survey, 2023.

The result in Table 2 indicates that all the perceived causes of insecurity identified by the respondents were significant in the study area, as all statements having mean values greater than 3 with the grand mean score of 4.06\*. However, Herdsmen attacks were the top-ranked cause of insecurity with a mean score ( $\bar{X}$ ) of 4.73 and 78.3% of the respondents strongly agreed with the statement. This was followed by Porous borders ( $\bar{X}$  = 4.64) which was ranked second; Unemployment ( $\bar{X}$  = 4.62), ranked third; Armed robbery ( $\bar{X}$  = 4.60), was ranked fourth and Poverty ( $\bar{X}$  = 4.59), ranked fifth. Cultism, rape and banditry were the least (13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>) three ranked causes of insecurity in the study area with mean score ( $\bar{X}$ ) of 3.11, 3.18 and 3.22 respectively as indicated in Table 2.

The results corroborate findings from previous studies by Saliu *et al.*, (2007),

Achumba *et al.*, (2013), Adebisi *et al.*, (2017), Eneji *et al.*, (2019) and Zubairu (2020), who identified factors responsible for insecurity in Nigeria as farmers-herdsmen clashes, porous borders, poverty/unemployment, weak judicial systems, youth unrest, banditry, religion and political crisis. It also aligns with the observation of Oriazowanlan and Erah (2019) and Oduechie *et al.*, (2023), who described insecurity as a state of being susceptible to imminent danger affecting individual interest and societal core values, such as lack of peace, safety and protection, as well as exposure to danger in an environment or society due to economic, political, socio-cultural, ethno-religious conflicts, inequitable distribution of natural resources, poverty and unemployment, porous borders and weak security system among others.

**Table 2:** Perceived Causes of Insecurity on Agricultural Production in the Study Area

Perceived Causes	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Mean	Rank
	%	%	%	%	%		
<b>Herdsmen attack</b>	78.4	15.8	5.8	0.0	0.0	4.73*	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>Banditry</b>	30.8	48.4	15.8	4.0	1.0	3.11*	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Ritual killing</b>	53.3	32.5	12.5	1.7	0.0	4.38*	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Religion crises</b>	34.2	30.8	32.5	0.8	1.7	3.95*	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Porous borders</b>	70.8	23.4	5.0	0.8	0.0	4.64*	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>
<b>Corruption</b>	37.4	43.4	17.5	1.7	0.0	3.42*	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Unemployment</b>	68.4	25.8	5.0	0.8	0.0	4.62*	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>
<b>Kidnapping</b>	60.0	30.0	8.4	0.8	0.8	4.48*	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Weak judicial system</b>	23.4	30.8	32.5	12.5	0.8	3.38*	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Poverty</b>	67.4	15.9	7.5	7.5	1.7	4.59*	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Communal clash</b>	66.8	29.2	4.0	0.0	0.0	4.46*	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Rape</b>	45.3	30.1	17.0	7.6	0.0	3.18*	<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Cultism</b>	48.2	26.7	15.0	10.1	0.0	3.22*	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Armed robbery</b>	68.3	22.5	7.7	1.5	0.0	4.60*	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Boundary dispute</b>	50.0	24.8	13.0	11.2	1.0	4.20*	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Grand mean score</b>						<b>4.06*</b>	

Source: Field Survey, 2023.

Key: \*Mean value greater than 3 indicates agree, while mean value less than 3 indicates disagree.

Table 3 shows the various perceptions by respondents in the study area on the effects of insecurity on agricultural production. According to the findings, all the perceived effects of insecurity identified by the respondents were significant in the study area, as all statements had mean values greater than 3 with a grand mean score of 4.34\*. The perceived effects of insecurity on agricultural production in the study area include: reduced yield in agricultural production ( $\bar{X} = 4.76$ ); food shortage ( $\bar{X} = 4.60$ ), reduced of profit by the farmers on agricultural production ( $\bar{X} = 4.57$ ); reduced of income ( $\bar{X} = 4.54$ ) and abandonment of farm land ( $\bar{X} = 4.51$ ). Others

include disturbance of farming activities ( $\bar{X} = 4.82$ ), loss of land ( $\bar{X} = 4.82$ ), displacement of households ( $\bar{X} = 4.20$ ), reduction in agribusiness ( $\bar{X} = 4.48$ ) and loss of lives ( $\bar{X} = 4.18$ ). These perceived effects of insecurity in the study area had mean ratings above the benchmark mean score of 3.0. The result is in accordance with the assertions of Saliu *et al.*, (2007), Achumba *et al.*, (2013), Adebisi *et al.*, (2017), Eneji *et al.*, (2019) and Zubairu (2020) who opined that food shortages, abandoned farmland, profit loss, reduced yield, hunger, and death are the adverse effects of insecurity of live and property on the agricultural sector.

**Table 3:** Perceived Effect of Insecurity on Agricultural Production in the Study Area

Perceived Effect	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Mean
	%	%	%	%	%	
<b>Reduction of farm yield</b>	80.0	16.7	2.5	0.8	0.0	<b>4.76*</b>
<b>Reduced/Loss of profit</b>	53.4	42.5	3.3	0.8	0.0	<b>4.57*</b>
<b>Abandon farmland</b>	67.5	27.5	2.5	2.5	0.0	<b>4.51*</b>
<b>Food shortage</b>	62.5	32.5	4.2	0.8	0.0	<b>4.60*</b>
<b>Reduction in Agro-business</b>	45.8	37.5	14.2	2.5	0.0	<b>4.48*</b>
<b>Reduced Extension Services</b>	56.7	38.3	4.2	0.8	0.0	<b>3.27*</b>



<b>Destruction of farm produce</b>	72.0	26.8	1.2	0.0	0.0	<b>4.61*</b>
<b>Sickness</b>	46.5	35.5	14.8	3.2	0.0	<b>3.65*</b>
<b>Loss of lives</b>	50.0	42.7	6.3	1.0	0.0	<b>4.18*</b>
<b>Loss of land</b>	63.7	28.0	7.4	0.9	0.0	<b>4.22*</b>
<b>Reduced/Loss of income</b>	68.5	30.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	<b>4.54*</b>
<b>Displacement of households</b>	60.6	27.1	8.0	4.3	0.0	<b>4.20*</b>
<b>Disturbance of farming activities</b>	86.4	12	1.6	0.0	0.0	<b>4.82*</b>
<b>Grand Mean Score</b>						<b>4.34*</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2023.

Key: \*Mean value greater than 3 indicates agree, while mean value less than 3 indicates disagree.

### CONCLUSION

The menace of insecurity experienced by the respondents in the study area is enormous. From the result of the study, it was discovered that insecurity has to a large extent affected agricultural productivity in Ose Local Government of Ondo State, Nigeria. The wave of insecurity rocking the study area in the form of farmers-herdsmen clashes, kidnapping, and armed robbery is threatening the development of the agricultural sector in the study area as some crop farms and farm produce have been destroyed, farmers households have been displaced, and some farmers have been killed, forced to abandon their farmlands in search of security and safety. These have been posing negative effects on agricultural productivity and hence, impedes the growth and development of the sector and its contribution to Nigeria's gross domestic products. In view of the result of this study, the following recommendations are made: government security policies such as community policing, border security to guide against the inflow of miscreants, anti-grazing law; and training and regular retraining of security personnel on information and weapon handling. Others include provision of employment by concerned authorities to reduce people engaging in kidnapping, armed robbery, banditry and other unlawful activities as well as the compulsory involvement of everybody in security business.

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