

Investigating Contributions of the Radio in Addressing Attacks on Farmers for Sustainable Food Security in Northern Nigeria

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Abstract: This study was carried out to investigate contributions of the radio in addressing attacks on farmers in Northern Nigeria. The study adopted a quantitative research method through which a survey was conducted on the respondents who were farmers and radio listeners in Northern States of Nigeria, using the questionnaire as the research instrument for data collection. Respondents were sampled proportionate to the population size of each state which was purposively selected and the data were analyzed through descriptive statistics. Findings revealed killer herdsmen as the major source of farmers' attacks followed by kidnappers, banditry and Boko Haram which the radio focuses attention in providing information that is useful in addressing the attacks for sustainable food security in the area. However, the radio, as found in the study, was not proactive enough in the prevention of farmers' attacks as it (radio) mostly disseminates information meant to address those attacks through straight news format without further investigation for more intensive information that could effectively help more in the prevention of such attacks. This, as another finding revealed, has to a great extent, made radio messages of attacks on farmers contributing more in raising fear and panicking among listeners; encouraging blame games; and more of propaganda rather than public enlightenment and education among the listeners. Furthermore, inadequate radio sensitization programmes on farmers' security is the major challenge hindering the public from getting adequate and reliable information capable of preventing attacks on farmers for sustainable food security in Northern Nigeria followed by poor radio signals; inappropriate language of broadcast for programmes; and limited time for programmes on farmers' security. In conclusion, the radio is not proactive, deliberate and committed enough in its contributions to addressing the attacks on farmers which is detrimental to the efforts at enhancing food security which has now become a major global phenomenon.

Keywords: Appraisal, Radio Surveillance, Farmers' Attacks, Sustainable Food Security

Introduction

Food security is one of the issues that attract global interest due to its relevance in human existence and development. The recent increase of global interest in sustainable agriculture and food security is due to the intervening variables threatening the sustainability of food security one of which is incessant farmers' attacks. In Nigeria, there are incremental cases of attacks on farmers, particularly in Northern States by different groups which threaten the sustainability and stability of food production and security in the areas. According to a study by Ladan & Matawalli (2020), banditry has brought negative impacts on food security in Katsina state due to killings of farmers; kidnapping of farmers; cattle theft/rustling; chasing of farmers out of their farms; burning and raiding of grains silos; seizure of farmlands; blocking of local trade routes, among others. Amnesty International (2018) has earlier documented 312 incidents of attacks on farmers in 22 states and Abuja between January 2016 and October 2018 and estimated that as a result of these attacks at least 3,641 people may have been killed, 406 injured, 5,000 houses burnt down and 182,530 people displaced. As a result, FAO (2021) was bothered in its report that:

At no other point in history has agriculture been faced with such an array of familiar and unfamiliar risks, interacting in a hyper connected world and a precipitously changing landscape. The growing frequency and intensity of disasters, along with the systemic nature of risk, are jeopardizing our entire food system (n. p).

It is estimated that between 720 and 811 million people in the world will face hunger in 2020. Around 660 million people may still face hunger in 2030, in part due to insecurity and lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on global food security. Of the total number of undernourished people in 2020 (768 million): 282 million live in Africa, 418 million live in Asia, and 60 million live in Latin America and the Caribbean; about 19.4 million people will face food insecurity across Nigeria between June and August 2022 with about 14.4 million people including 385,000 IDPs in 21 States and FCT already in the food crisis (FAO, 2022; UN, 2022).

It is established that food is at the core of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the UN's development agenda for the 21st century. The second of the UN's 17 SDGs is to "End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture." Achieving this goal by the target date of 2030 will require a profound change of the global food and agriculture system (UN, 2022) and efforts in addressing any development challenge in the society such as this also recognize the use of media as tool in achieving the desired objective and the radio in particular has been adjudged as effective in reaching the grassroots, particularly in the developing nations of the world. In other ways, the media in both developed and developing nations of the world have enormous responsibilities to perform for the public in order to keep the society together. It is noticeable that the traditional role of the media to facilitate the exchange of information, education and enlightenment of the citizens has long been identified as very crucial. The media also function to keep the citizens abreast of developments, expose them to new ideas, and serve

as a veritable platform for them to contribute to the quality of government's policy, and to the good governance of the nation (Ogundele, 2018 in Suleiman, 2018).

Mass media have through the functions of information, education, surveillance, agenda setting and other functions asserted itself as a powerful means of entrenching peace and mitigating conflicts. In performing the surveillance function in relation to the prevention of conflicts:

... Mass media assists in watching over society. In times of conflict such as the one being discussed, the issue of gathering intelligence about gunmen and their operations must not be left to the security agents alone. The media must ensure that they play their surveillance functions well with a view to complementing the efforts of security agents. The media can send undercover investigative reporters to get information on the activities of those perpetrating violence. By doing so, the media will be able to position themselves and inform the public before violence breaks out (Babale & Nasidi, 2018, p. 19).

To Kawl and Gamble (1999) in Fajemisin (2018), the media perform five functions in the society which include: serving as source of information and surveillance; agenda setting, structuring and interpreting our lives; connecting us with diverse groups in the society; acting as agents of socialization, and serving as means of entertainment. It is also evident that, beyond the traditional functions of the media to inform, educate and entertain the public, the mass media serve as watchdogs of the society, agenda setters and force multipliers. Through these functions, the mass media sensitize, enlighten and persuade members of the public to participate actively in developmental activities (Auwal, 2015). "They (mass media) watch over, guard and alert society of impending problems and often proffer the way forward" (Lasswell, 1984 in Odigbo, 2003, p. 178). To that effect:

... Mass media are the eyes and ears of the public. The media provide information and alert their heterogeneous audiences of the changes that take place around them. The media consistently survey the environment and convey salient issues or mediated messages to the audience in order to reduce uncertainties and consequently react to the conflict or change in a rational way. The media..., usually scout round the environment and bring news of social, economic and political developments, dangers that are threats to national stability, threats to public welfare, environmental pollution and degradation as well as scandals of varying dimensions to the people (Josephat, 2008, p. 25).

In relation to the above, insecurity is one of the major issues that the world has been battling with for decades and the mass media are in the forefront of the fight by shaping public opinion on issues that contribute to insecurity like farmers' attacks by different groups. Lansner (2006) in Dare, Bamidele & Oluwasanmi (2020) agrees that the media can be crucial in shaping public opinion about conflict as even in the most established democracies, independent media demonstrate chauvinistic and jingoistic tendencies in

wartime and during internal strife, the media can serve to dampen or fan incendiary situation. Pulitzer, cited in Nwabueze & Ebeze (2013) once wrote when emphasizing the power of the mass media in addressing insecurity that:

... There is not a crime, there is not a dodge, there is not a trick, there is not a swindle, there is not a vice which does not live by secrecy. Get all these things out in the open, describe them, ridicule them in the press and sooner or later, public opinion will sweep them away (p. 862).

This, according to Nwabueze & Ebeze (2013), is done through interpretation and explanation of the implications of happenings on the life and environment of the masses, including implications of acts that breed insecurity on the society such as Armed robbery; Kidnapping and Ritual killings; High profile murder and political assassinations; Herdsmen disturbances and clashes with farmers; Violent agitations for resource control especially; Non-violent agitations for self-determination; Terrorist attacks; Ethnic and Religious tensions; Communal and land disputes; and Political/post-election violence, among others (cited in Onime (2018) which are or can be sources of attacks on farmers. It is expected that through effective information, the society would gradually turn against such acts (Nwabueze & Ebeze, 2013). On the contrary, there are indications that if wrongly used, the mass media (the radio inclusive) can pose a serious threat to national security (Dare, Bamidele & Oluwasanmi, 2020; Ali, 2013; Bello & Oyedele, 2012; Karlson, 2000; Ndubuisi-Okolo & Anigbuogu, 2019; Udoudo & Asak, 2008).

While the role of the media in general and radio in particular in achieving the desired success in other areas has already been acknowledged by experts, the incremental incidences of attacks on farmers, particularly in Northern Nigeria has raised a serious concern on the way the radio is contributing in addressing the menace, hence, this study becomes imperative in bridging that knowledge gap.

Objectives of the Study

The overall objective of this study is to examine the specific contributions of the radio in addressing attacks on farmers for sustainable food security in Northern Nigeria. The specific objectives, therefore, include:

- i. To find out the extent to which listeners access radio messages which aimed at addressing attacks on farmers for sustainable food security in Northern Nigeria.
- ii. To identify the major group that is involved in carrying out attacks on farmers which radio monitors to address for sustainable food security in Northern Nigeria.
- iii. To examine the extent to which radio is proactive in preventing attacks on farmers for sustainable food security in Northern Nigeria.
- iv. To determine the major way through which radio contributes to ending attacks on farmers for sustainable food security in Nigeria.
- v. To ascertain the kind of influence that the radio messages provide for listeners more in the prevention of attacks on farmers for sustainable food security in Nigeria.

- vi. To determine the major challenge (if any) that listeners face in the use of radio for information on the security of farmers for sustainable food security in Northern Nigeria.

Research Questions

- i. To what extent do listeners access radio messages which aimed at addressing attacks on farmers for sustainable food security in Northern Nigeria?
- ii. What major group is involved in the attacks on farmers that radio monitors to prevent sustainable food security in Northern Nigeria?
- iii. To what extent does the radio is proactive in preventing attacks on farmers for sustainable food security in Northern Nigeria?
- iv. What major way does the radio contribute to ending attacks on farmers for sustainable food security in Nigeria?
- v. What kind of influence do the radio messages provide more in the prevention of attacks on farmers for sustainable food security in Nigeria?
- vi. What major challenge (if any) do listeners face in the use of radio for information on the security of farmers for sustainable food security in Northern Nigeria?

Literature Review

Insecurity is one of the major issues bedeviling Nigeria in recent times with devastating impact on the economic activities and livelihood of the citizens (Dare, Bamidele & Oluwasanmi, 2020; Ewetan & Urhie, 2014; Hadi & Alhassan, 2020). Admittedly, the level of insecurity in Nigeria has, since the return to democratic government in May, 1999, increased woefully. This is induced by recurrent communal clashes, ethnic/tribal conflicts, religious riots/conflicts, militancy and ritual killings, cultism and ethnic militia attacks and the farmers-herdsmen conflicts that are not followed by the full application of law on the culprits (Akinola, 2016; Hadi & Alhassan, 2020). The situation of insecurity has also witnessed the birth of the Boko haram insurgency in the North-eastern Nigeria in 2009 and subsequent transformation of farmers-herders clashes into banditry and cattle rustling from 2010 till present (Ladan, 2019). Most importantly, in some states of the north, the farmers-herders form of insecurity has further transformed not only to banditry and cattle rustling but also to kidnapping of people for ransom. As cited in Onime (2018), Nigeria is by the incident of governance problems presently bedeviled by a plethora of civil unrests and insecurity including but not limited to the following: Armed robbery; Kidnapping and Ritual killings; High profile murder and political assassinations; Herdsmen disturbances and clashes with farmers; Violent agitations for resource control especially, in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria; Non-violent agitations for self-determination as observed in the South-east Nigeria; Terrorist attacks epitomized by Boko Haram in the North-east Nigeria; Ethnic and Religious tensions; Communal and land disputes typified by Aguleri-Umuleri crises in Anambra State; and Political/post-election violence, among others.

Ani (2014) has identified the dimensions of human insecurity in Nigeria to include but not limited to assassination-based human insecurity, robbery/kidnapping related human insecurity, political-related human insecurity, ethnic-based human insecurity, inter-communal conflict-related human insecurity, religious-motivated human insecurity and

multi-dimensional conflict related human insecurity. While Agri & Agri (2020); Gabriel (2017) and Hadi & Alhassan (2020) pointed out reasons for different forms of insecurity in Nigeria to include: over reliance on oil, over dependence on public job by citizens, export of primary commodities, social inequality, state failure, human right violations, resource predation, corruption, feeling of marginalization and alienation, lack of specialized skills/sources of livelihood and unresolved agitations owing to inefficient system of governance.

Consequently, farmers are victims of different forms of insecurity in Nigeria, the result of which is that food sustainability and security is threatened. The FAO (2020), in its report has revealed that:

As the COVID-19 pandemic and insecurity strained food supply chains around the world, a sound evidence base on disaster impacts on agriculture and food security will be key to implementing tailored and effective resilience policies, tracking progress toward global goals, and targeting investment to reinforce agriculture's crucial role in achieving the future we want (n. p).

To address the security challenge, the need for citizens to organize themselves at various levels and platforms to educate, expose and speak out against insecurity has since been advocated. This is because security is everybody's business and insecurity affects all of us (Agri & Agri, 2020). The involvement of certain agencies of government like the police, the army, state security services (SSS) in handling security issues is noticeable (Dare, Bamidele & Oluwasanmi, 2020). Besides, the mass media is an important institution that is imperative in the moves to reposition the nation's security system and restoration of peace at all levels (Chimezie, 2010; Dare, Bamidele & Oluwasanmi, 2020; Jones, 2011; Kehinde, Yinusa, Addullateef & Abdul-Rasheed, 2015; Meyor, 2009; Tahir, 2009; Udeze & Chukwuma, 2013). According to Tahir (2009), it is important for the media to understand what conscious and unconscious role they play in their routine work of reducing or at times aggravating conflicts. Tahir (2009) identifies the role of the mass media in the process which include: Bridging communication gap; Educating the audience; Confidence building; Correcting misrepresentations; Identifying interests; Emotional outlet; Face-saving and consensus building; Solution building; and encouraging a balance of power.

Although, it is evident that the mass media are major stakeholders in addressing insecurity, there are different perspectives on the way they (mass media) are handling security issues in Nigeria. Dunlami & Busayo (2013) in Orlu-Orlu (2017) corroborated this that in Nigeria, perspectives on media's role and treatment of the security issue varies along the various ethical divides-teleological, deontological, absolutist or relativist alike. The mass media are often implicated in the allegation of fueling crime wave through glamourising or failing to step beyond objective/neutral narrative of the notional 5Ws and H of crime reports (Dunlami & Busayo, 2013 in Orlu-Orlu, 2017). The media, according to Adisa & Abdulhareem (2012), often resort to the following un-ideal ways in reporting conflicts:

- i. Media mostly just follows events. They don't explain what led to those events.
- ii. They concentrate on bad news of conflict and are silent on the peace process.

- iii. They are often sensational and emotional in tone.
- iv. Who are the newsmakers? They tend to focus on powerful people, political leaders, the rich and the famous who live in towns and cities.
- v. They often reinforce stereotypes.
- vi. When telling every story, they not only choose who and what to include inside the frame, but who and what to leave out.

Similarly, after an analysis of media coverage of insecurity by various scholars, Pate (2011) in Orlu-Orlu (2017), listed out some common practices adopted by the media which tend to contribute negatively to insecurity as follows: selective reporting of prejudicial stereotypes about groups and individuals, reporting inter group conflicts out of their fundamental sociological, economic, political and other contexts, shallow and episodic coverage, total blackout on some groups, individuals or community, use of inflammatory, misleading and sensational headlines to attract sales, publishing inflammatory statements against some people or groups as letters to the editor, attributing statements by individuals to groups making generalized statements not supported with facts etc.

On the contrary, Abari & Kenekukwu (2021) found in their study that TVC *Journalists' Hangout* programme enlightens the Nigerian populace excellently. They mentioned insecurity and terrorism as being among the topmost areas of focus in the programme. Itabiyi, Kayode-Adededeji, Omole & Ekanem (2016) have concluded in their study that the media have shown professionalism in the reportage of religious crises and these reports have promoted unity and security. In the study by Udeze & Chukwuma (2013), it was revealed that the surveillance function of the media can contribute to a large extent in engendering national security, however, the broadcast media are yet to effectively play the surveillance function of the mass media in their quest to engender national security and governments (Federal, States and LGAs) are yet to effectively collaborate with the broadcast media to achieve national security in Nigeria. Orlu-Orlu's (2017) study faulted the credibility of the broadcast media in addressing insecurity challenges when he found that NTA's reports on the abduction of the Chibok school girls are often in favour of the government while Channels Television's reports on the abduction are often balanced. According to a study by Orlu-Orlu (2017), the credibility level of NTA's reports on the abduction of the Chibok school girls was rated low while that of Channels Television was highly rated. Nwankpa & Onyekosor (2015) revealed in their study that Nigerian Newspapers covered militancy in the Niger Delta in a fair, balanced and responsible manner, even though there were a few instances when confrontational languages slipped into reports.

The conclusion in a study by Ngige, Badekale & HammanJoda (2016) was that media should deliberately work to improve upon its performance criteria so by restoring confidence reposed on it by the generality of media users and the media should adopt a more positive approach to newsgathering and reporting. It continues that, Boko Haram and other terrorist groups will always continue to be as long as the government and media fail to mitigate terrorists' exploitation of the news cycle.

Similarly, Ogbodo (2018) found in his study that political, religious and 'ethnic' frames were dominantly used in the coverage of the insurgency. According to the study, the frames

indicate a lack of nuance or texture in the coverage with various critical aspects of the insurgency ignored. Beyond the predetermined frames as evident in the study, ten new sub-thematic (inductive) frames also emerged from the analysis. By knitting the multi-layered arguments in the coverage of the insurgency, this study finds evidence of the Government's hegemonic narratives and strategic influence in the coverage of the insurgency. The study also noted that institutional weaknesses within news organisations and a hostile legislative environment forced journalists to source stories from the foreign media. Most of these stories are often decontextualized and therefore, only give a partial view of a situation and particularly conflict situations in Africa. As a consequence, the domestic media adopted the language of 'international terrorism' and now institutionalized the 'war against terror' narrative. This 'homogenous' or 'universal' 'war against terror' implies that the media covered the Boko Haram insurgency from the same perspective that terrorist groups in the Middle East and other parts of the world are covered without necessarily recognising the different dynamics that led to their emergence. It concluded that, overtly or covertly, external forces influenced the direction of the coverage thereby eroding the domestic media's editorial independence (Ogbodo, 2018). For Okey-Ogueji (2016), the Nigerian media are yet to wholly employ peace journalism ethics in reporting the Boko Haram insurgency as they muddle up both peace and conflict frames, though more conflict frames in the reports.

Similarly, Ikenna (2011), Maxwell (2010), Nwafor (2011), Okoro & Okechukwu (2012), Seimo (2010) and Ugwu (2010), in their separate studies have found that the mass media in Nigeria including the broadcast media did not adequately and effectively perform their surveillance responsibility in addressing insecurity in the country despite their overwhelming potentials to do so. Adeyemi (2011) opted in his study that instead of just waiting to report these attacks, the media should thrive to secure national security by adopting the investigative approach to uncover and thwart their plans and where it is extremely difficult to abort the plans proper alternative measures could be put in place to minimize the effect on the people and the nation.

But elsewhere, a study conducted by Binga (2011) revealed that the mass media have helped to avert many crises that would have occurred in Cameroon. Binga further observes that the discharge of such a sensitive role by the media has helped to strengthen the security of Cameroon. Yambe (2010) equally remarks in his study that the surveillance role of the media has contributed to national security in Ghana. He affirms that the media have given overwhelming support to the Ghanaian security agents, which have helped to maintain peace in the country. In Ethiopia, a study by Kem (2010) revealed that the media have continued to play the surveillance function which has led to the uncovering and abortion of mayhem in Ethiopia. In the Benin Republic, Ziya (2011) found that through the media's responsibility in handling insecurity, the country has been living in peace. In another study, Goje (2010) argues that the surveillance responsibility of the media has seriously contributed to the security of lives and property in South Africa. She states that in South Africa, the media are always at alert in informing the people of dangers to ensure safety measures are put in place. Elina (2010) also agrees with the above conclusions when he states that the mass media have contributed to the security of France. He asserts that the security agencies often collaborate with the media to ensure national security.

Most of the scholars are of the opinion that to ensure national security, a healthy partnership must exist between the media and the government. The duo must unite to thwart insecurity situations and help the nation attain a satisfactory level of national security. However, studies have revealed that the governments of Nigeria find it difficult to collaborate with the media to achieve any sane national objective because of the mutual suspicion between the two (Maxwell, 2010; Ugwu, 2010). Ridwan, Suleiman & Fatonji (2014), in their study revealed that the ongoing food crisis in Nigeria may continue, until there is a synergy of major stakeholders, including the media institution, to address the problem.

Some previous studies indicated that certain factors are responsible for the mass media's inability to measure up to desired expectation in addressing security issues in Nigeria. For instance, Auwal (2015) found that factors such as ownership control, commercialisation, ethnicity, religion, legal constraints, lack of press freedom, politicization and monetization of the activities of the media, among others, impede the Nigerian media's expected role in national security. Ikechi-Ekpendu (2016) proposes that the media, if granted their right to freedom of expression, will do even better. Auwal (2015) concurs that for the media to contribute meaningfully to national security there is the need for strict adherence to professional ethics of journalism profession; and as Olayiwola (2013) in Auwal (2015) recommended:

the media should take cognizance of the fact that security is not just about the Army, the Navy, the Air force, the Police, the Customs, the Immigration, and so on, but also take into account the whole country's socio-political and economic systems, researches and all activities that go into normal civilian life. The mass media should also cover the totality of the security sector and security community, non-statutory security institutions and civil societies, as well as the internal and international processes that are germane to security and insecurity issues including the major aspects of regionalization and globalization of insecurity (p. 152).

In their study, Bashir, Ndaghu, Faruk, Abubakar, Kyaru & Peter (2021) found that rural farmers are personally, infrastructural, resourcefully, mentally and managerially ready to access agricultural information ..., but lack the systems to take full advantage of information sources required in their working life. According to them, the timely available current and appropriate information helped farmers gain more knowledge to make decisions at specific times and locations. The scholars (Bashir, Ndaghu, Faruk, Abubakar, Kyaru & Peter, 2021) emphasized that information and knowledge are very vital in agricultural development of any community and where they are poorly disseminated as a result of certain constraints, the community's agricultural development becomes highly impeded.

Similarly, Haruna, Obaroh, Yahaya & Muhd (2015) acknowledged in their study that availability of the information which is however, not readily accessible because of impeding variables among which are; insufficient agricultural extension officers, lack of use of media, language barrier and the unreliable nature of electricity in Nigeria, was impeding the effective agricultural production in Nigeria. Yusuf, Adio, Zwalmam & Suberu (2021) found in their study that information needs of farmers among others included application of improve

techniques, irrigation management, seeds prices, farm wildfire management and prevention, purchase and use of fertilizer, government blueprint on agriculture, and meteorology information need of farmers in Edu Local Government. But they further revealed that poor communication system, absence of library and information centre, absence of extension agents, insufficient knowledge on marketing of farm produce, insufficient credit facilities, insufficient information on government policies, insufficient funds were the challenges faced by farmers in accessing the agricultural information sources and services. Iman (2020) reveals in a study that accessibility of radio and television sets, language, number of agricultural programmes broadcast and awareness of the broadcasting time of agricultural programmes were among the factors influencing their usage as sources of agricultural knowledge. While Adeyeye, Amodu, Odiboh, Oyesomi, Adesina & Yartey (2021) have, through their study, concluded that farmers' knowledge, acceptance and behavioural change towards agricultural radio programmes in indigenous languages significantly influence farmers' productivity in agriculture.

Therefore, from the above literature reviewed, there is a gap on studies focusing particularly on an "Investigation of Contributions of the Radio in addressing attacks on Farmers for Sustainable food Security in Nigeria", hence, the imperativeness of this study to bridge that gap in literature.

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on the Social Responsibility Media Theory and is supported by the Agenda Setting, Agenda Building and Structural Functionalism Theories respectively. As relates to the responsibility of the media in securing the society, **Social Responsibility Media Theory** demands that:

- i. The media should accept and fulfill certain obligations (including that of security of lives and property) to society.
- ii. Through professional standards of informativeness, truth, accuracy, objectivity and balance, these obligations can be met.
- iii. The media should regulate itself within the framework of law and established institutions to be able to carry out its responsibilities.
- iv. Whatever might lead to crime, violence, civil disorder or offense to minority groups, should be avoided by the media.
- v. The media should reflect its society's plurality, giving access to various points of views and granting all rights to reply.
- vi. Based on the principle (i), the society has the right to expect high standards of performance from the media. Intervention can only be justified to secure public good.
- vii. Accountability of media professionals should be to the society, employers and the market (McQuail, 1987 in Anaeto, Onabajo & Osifeso, 2008).

With the above stated demands, the mass media are to: (a) Serve the political system by making information, discussion and consideration of public affairs generally accessible; (b) Inform the public to enable it take self-determined action; (c) Protect the rights of the

individuals by acting as watchdog over the government; (d) Serve the economic system, for instance, by bringing together buyers and sellers through the medium of advertising; and (e) Preserve financial autonomy in order not to become dependent on special interests and influences (Anaeto, Onabajo & Osifeso, 2008).

In **Agenda Setting Theory**, the media are expected to set an agenda for public discussion. They may not always determine what we think, but what we think about. Also, the significance which they ascribe to the same issues tend to be proportional to the amount of attention given to the same issues in the media (Anaeto, Onabajo & Osifeso, 2008). Similarly, since the initial Chapel Hill Study of 1968, which was first published in 1972 in *Public Opinion Quarterly*, research in agenda-setting has shown that the media can set the agenda for public attention on key public issues by influencing what people think about (Dearing & Rogers, 1996; Fajemisin, 2018; McCombs & Shaw, 1972; Peter, 2003) and by shaping the extent to which the public consider these issues important (McCombs, 2004). Similarly, over the years, Political Scientists and Sociologists have developed interest 'in how the public influences the policy agenda' (Tan & Weaver, 2007, p.729) while other studies have explained the importance of agenda-setting in educating citizens, advocating political participation and raising their level of awareness of issues associated with political and national development (Fajemisin, 2018; Norris, 2009). These studies admit the role of the mass media in setting agenda on issues of general public concern such as security, politics, policy formulation and implementation, health and environmental concerns, developmental issues and other related areas of concern (Fajemisin, 2018).

Known to be an extension of the Agenda Setting Theory, **agenda building** refers to the process in which salience of an issue is formed in the news media agenda through reciprocal interactions between actors including the news media, the public, and political figures (Hong, 2021). Gladys Engel Lang and Kurt Lang (1981, 1991), as cited in Hong (2021) proposed the concept in an attempt to identify the conceptual and methodological loopholes that were not accounted for in previous scholarship on agenda setting. Lang and Lang posited that the news media agenda is not set, but is built, and that agenda-setting research did not provide an adequate answer to the question of what gives rise to a political issue, thus claiming "both too much and too little for the media of mass communication" (Lang & Lang, 1991 in Hong, 2021, p. 1).

To bridge the gaps in agenda-setting, Lang and Lang proposed a four-step model of agenda building, which involves several feedback loops, to make an event or object rise to the status of an "issue." In the first step, the news media focus attention on events, personalities, activities, or groups. In the second step, the media frame the object of attention by emphasizing or deemphasizing some of its aspects, turning it into a "problem" or "concern." Next, the object needs to be linked to "secondary symbols, so that it becomes a part of the recognized political landscape" (Lang & Lang, 1991 in Hong, 2021). The last step involves the appearance of political figures that have the ability to command media attention in order to keep the issue prominent in the news (Hong, 2021). Lang and Lang's agenda-building concept provides a holistic picture of how an issue enters the public domain and becomes salient in media, public, and policy discussions. Two key points should be noted here: First, the media agenda is not set, but is built. This acknowledges the

continuity of the process in which an object develops to become an issue in the public domain. Second, political figures, which had been largely ignored in agenda-setting scholarship, play an important role in the buildup of an issue in the news media agenda (Hong, 2021).

Furthermore, Structural **Functionalism Theory** is a sociological theory advanced by Auguste Comte (1798-1857) which viewed society as an entity that relies on different structures or units, each of which performs a designated function to keep and maintain the entire system. These interdependent structures or units are regarded as social institutions (of the state) that work to ensure the survival of the society (Merton, 1938 in Hadi & Alhassan, 2020). In this vein, the mass media can be viewed as a sub-unit that functions to ensure that the system has not fallen apart by insecurity (Hadi & Alhassan, 2020).

Research Methodology

This study adopted quantitative research design to investigate the extent to which radio surveillance on security has assisted in addressing attacks on farmers which was so prominent in the Northern States of Nigeria for a sustained food security. Subsequently, a survey was carried out on the radio listeners in the States of Katsina (North West); Borno (North East); and Benue (North Central) to elicit their inputs on the issue investigated, using the instrument of the questionnaire. The population of the study was 19, 433, 317 with the following breakdown:

Katsina: 7, 831, 319

Borno: 5, 860, 183

Benue: 5, 741, 815 (population.gov.ng, 2022).

These states were selected on the basis of incessant attacks on farmers experienced in their respective geopolitical zones.

The sample size of the study was 849 which was determined using online sample size calculator, the calculator.net under the confidence level of 98%, margin errors of 4%, population proportion of 50%, and population size of 19,433,317 (<https://www.calculator.net/sample-size-calculator.html?>). Respondents were sampled proportionate to the population size of each of the areas selected, using the statistical formula thus:

$$\frac{S \times n}{N}$$

Where;

S = Size of State

n = Sample Size

N = Total Population

The proportionate sampling was done using the above formula thus:

$$\text{Benue: } \frac{5741815}{19433317} \times \frac{849}{1} = 251$$

$$\text{Borno: } \frac{5860183}{19433317} \times \frac{849}{1} = 256$$

$$\text{Katsina: } \frac{7831319}{19433317} \times \frac{849}{1} = 342$$

Therefore, 251 respondents were sampled in Benue, 251 respondents in Borno and 342 respondents in Katsina respectively, making up 849 respondents which were sampled in the study. The data collected was analysed through the use of descriptive statistics such as multivariate frequency distribution tables, percentages and SPSS.

Data Presentation

The data analysis in this study is based on the 834 representing 98% of the questionnaire out of the 849 which was returned and found usable because it was corrected completed while 15 representing 2% out of the questionnaire administered was discarded because of multiple cancelation and duplication of responses. The breakdown indicated that in Benue, 247 (98.41%) questionnaire was returned and found usable for analysis while 4 (1.59%) was discarded; in Borno, 251 (98.05) questionnaire was returned and found usable for analysis while 5 (1.95%) was discarded; and in Katsina, 336 (98.25%) questionnaire was returned and found usable for analysis while only 6 (1.75%) was discarded.

Table 1: Extent of Listeners' Access to Radio Messages on Security of Farmers in Northern Nigeria

Response	No. of Respondents							
	Benu e	%	Borno	%	Katsin a	%	Cumulative Total	
To a great extent	45	18.22	57	22.71	61	18.15	163	19.54
To a little extent	99	40.08	98	39.04	117	34.82	314	37.65
To a very minimal extent	94	38.06	89	35.46	149	44.35	332	39.81
Difficult to say	9	7.00	7	2.79	9	2.68	25	3.00
							83	
Total	247	100	251	100	336	100	4	100

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

Table 1 revealed that a minority (19.54%) proportion out of the respondents have access to such messages to a great extent compared to the majority who have access to a very minimal extent (39.81%) and to a little extent (37.65%) respectively. This implies that a minority of the listeners of radio in Northern Nigeria have access to radio messages which aimed at addressing attacks on farmers for sustainable food security to a very minimal and little extent.

Table 2: Major Group that is involved in the Attacks on Farmers the Radio Monitors to Prevent in Northern Nigeria

Response	No. of Respondents						Cumulative Total	
	Benue	%	Borno	%	Katsina	%		
Boko Haram	2	0.81	107	42.63	21	6.25	130	15.59
Bandits	9	3.64	41	16.33	95	28.27	145	17.39
Kidnappers	11	4.45	31	12.35	136	40.48	178	21.34
Killer Herdsmen	204	82.59	47	18.73	63	18.75	314	37.65
Unknown								
Gunmen	1	0.40	5	1.99	7	2.08	13	1.56
Fellow farmers	9	3.64	7	2.79	5	1.49	21	2.52
Others	11	4.45	13	5.18	9	2.68	33	3.96
Total	247	100	251	100	336	100	834	100

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

Table 2 revealed that killer herdsmen (37.65%) was the major source of farmers' attacks followed by kidnapping (21.34%), banditry (17.34%) and Boko Haram (15.59%) compared to unknown gunmen (1.56%) and fellow farmers (2.52%). According to the data, killer herdsmen were the major source of farmers' attacks in Benue (82.59%), Borno was Boko Haram (42.63%), while Katsina State was Kidnappers (40.48%) respectively. It implies therefore, that killer herdsmen are the major source of farmers' attacks followed by kidnappers, bandits and Boko Haram which the radio is to address for sustainable food security in Northern Nigeria.

Table 3: Extent Radio is Proactive in the Prevention of Attacks on Farmers in Northern Nigeria

Response	No. of Respondents						Cumulative Total	
	Benue	%	Borno	%	Katsina	%		
To a great extent	31	12.55	32	12.75	56	16.67	119	14.27
To a little extent	118	47.77	121	48.21	139	41.37	378	45.32
To a very minimal extent	91	36.84	93	37.05	130	38.69	314	37.65
Difficult to say	7	7.00	5	1.99	11	3.27	23	2.76
Total	247	100	251	100	336	100	834	100

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

Table 3 revealed that the radio was proactive in the prevention of attacks on farmers to a little extent (45.32%) and to a very minimal extent (37.65%) and not to a great extent (14.27%). It implies therefore, that the radio is not proactive enough in the prevention of farmers' attacks for sustainable food security in Northern Nigeria.

Table 4: Major way the Radio Contribute in the Prevention of Attacks on farmers for Sustainable Food security in Northern Nigeria

Response	No. of Respondents						Cumulative Total	
	Benu e	%	Born o	%	Katsin a	%		
Provision of information through straight News	91	36.84	96	38.25	141	41.96	328	39.33
Provision of information through panel Discussions	17	6.88	19	7.57	29	8.63	65	7.79
Provision of information through jingles	34	13.77	35	13.94	41	12.20	110	13.19
Documentaries	9	7.00	7	2.79	9	2.68	25	3.00
Provision of information through interview with experts	19	7.69	15	5.98	23	6.85	57	6.83
Provision of information through phone-in-Programmes	13	5.26	15	5.98	22	6.55	50	6.00
Provision of information through drama	9	3.64	11	4.38	19	5.65	39	4.68
Combination of different programmes (magazine)	21	8.50	19	7.57	21	6.25	61	7.31
Provision of information through PSA	23	9.31	21	8.37	16	4.76	60	7.19
Not sure	11	4.45	13	5.18	15	4.46	39	4.68
Total	247	100	251	100	336	100	834	100

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

Table 4 revealed that provision of information through Straight News (39.33%) was the major way that radio contributed to prevent attacks on farmers as compared to panel discussions (7.79%), interview with experts (6.83%), phone-in-Programmes (6.00%), magazine (7.31%), drama (4.68%), and documentaries (3.00), among others. This implies that provision of information on the security of farmers through straight news is the major way the radio is involved in contributing to address the attacks on farmers for sustainable food security as compared to other ways of doing so.

Table 5: Major Influence of the Radio on Listeners in the Prevention of Attacks on Farmers for Sustainable Food Security in Nigeria

Response	No. of Respondents						Cumulative Total	
	Benue	%	Borno	%	Katsina	%		
Information	47	19.03	51	20.3	65	19.3	163	19.54
Fear and panicking	65	26.32	65	25.9	95	28.2	225	26.98
Public enlightenment and education	15	6.07	17	6.77	29	8.63	61	7.31
Blaming and accusations	61	24.70	61	24.3	81	24.1	203	24.34
Propaganda	59	23.89	57	22.7	66	19.6	182	21.82
Total	247	100	251	100	336	100	834	100

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

Table 5 revealed that fear and panicking (26.98%) was the major influence of radio messages on listeners followed by blaming and accusations (24.34%), propaganda (21.82%), information (19.54%) compared to public enlightenment and education (7.31%) in the prevention of messages which aimed at the prevention of farmers' attacks in Northern Nigeria. This implies that public enlightenment and education receive very little attention in radio messages on prevention of attacks on farmers as such messages mostly bring fear and panicking to listeners; make listeners to blame and accuse one another; mere propaganda and merely inform listeners rather than proper public enlightenment and education that can effectively address the problem.

Table 6: Major Challenge in the use of Radio for Information on the Security of Farmers for Sustainable Food Security in Northern Nigeria

Response	No. of Respondents						Cumulative Total	
	Benu e	%	Born o	%	Katsina	%		
Inadequate radio sensitization programmes on farmers' security	65	26.3	61	24.30	81	24.1	207	24.82
Limited time for programmes on farmers' security	41	16.6	45	17.93	53	15.7	139	16.67
Poor radio signals for programmes on farmers' security	57	23.0	56	22.31	73	21.7	186	22.30

Poor presentation of programmes on farmers' security	16	6.48	21	8.37	25	7.44	62	7.43
Inappropriate time schedule for programmes on farmers' security	21	8.50	27	10.76	31	9.23	79	9.47
Inappropriate language of broadcast for programmes on farmers' security	47	19.0	41	16.33	73	21.7	161	19.30
Total	247	100	251	100	336	100	834	100

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

Table 6 revealed that inadequate radio sensitization programmes on farmers' security (24.82%) was the major challenge listeners faced followed by poor radio signals for programmes on farmers' security (22.30%); inappropriate language of broadcast for programmes on farmers' security (19.30%); and limited time for programmes on farmers' security (16.67%) compared to inappropriate time schedule for programmes on farmers' security (9.47%); and poor presentation of programmes on farmers' security (7.43%). This implies that inadequate radio sensitization programmes on farmers' security is the major challenge hindering the public from getting adequate and reliable information which aimed at addressing the issue of attacks on farmers for sustained food security in Northern Nigeria. Other challenges related to that also include: poor radio signals; inappropriate language of broadcast for programmes; and limited time for programmes on farmers' security.

Discussion

Majority of the radio listeners in Northern Nigeria have access to radio messages which aimed at addressing attacks on farmers for sustainable food security to a very minimal and little extent. This implies that the radio either gives little attention to security issues affecting farmers or listeners themselves are less interested in messages concerning the security of farmers in the area. This finding align with findings from the study conducted by Bashir, Ndaghu, Faruk, Abubakar, Kyaru & Peter (2021) which revealed that rural farmers are personally, infrastructural, resourcefully, mentally and managerially ready to access agricultural information ..., but they lack the systems to take full advantage of information sources required in their working life. According to Bashir, Ndaghu, Faruk, Abubakar, Kyaru & Peter (2021), information and knowledge are very vital in agricultural development of any community and where they are poorly disseminated as a result of certain constraints, the community's agricultural development becomes highly impeded. Haruna, Obaroh, Yahaya & Muhd (2015); Iman (2020); Yusuf, Adio, Zwalmam & Suberu (2021) all mentioned lack of access to radio information and other factors as impeding the effective agricultural production among farmers in Nigeria.

Another finding is that killer herdsmen are the major source of farmers' attacks followed by kidnappers, bandits and Boko Haram which the radio focuses on preventing for sustainable food security in Northern Nigeria. This implies that the radio will contribute by exposing those groups that attack farmers for authorities to prevent them from attacking farmers in the area. This finding agrees with previous scholars that there are different groups that are sources of attacks on farmers in Nigeria (Agri & Agri, 2020); Ani, 2014; Gabriel, 2017; Hadi & Alhassan, 2020; Ladan & Matawalli, 2020). According to a study by Ladan & Matawalli (2020), banditry has brought negative impacts on food security in Katsina state due to killings of farmers; kidnapping of farmers; cattle theft/rustling; chasing of farmers out of their farms; burning and raiding of grains silos; seizure of farmlands; blocking of local trade routes, among others.

Findings also revealed that radio is not proactive enough in the prevention of farmers' attacks for sustainable food security in Northern Nigeria. This implies that radio does not perform up to a desired expectation in contributing to the prevention of the attacks on farmers in the region. This finding aligns with the findings of previous scholars like Ikenna (2011), Maxwell (2010), Nwafor (2011), Okoro & Okechukwu (2012), Seimo (2010) and Ugwu (2010), that the mass media in Nigeria including the broadcast media did not adequately and effectively perform their surveillance responsibility in addressing insecurity in the country despite their overwhelming potentials to do so. Adeyemi (2011) opted in his study that instead of just waiting to report the attacks, the media should thrive to secure national security by adopting the investigative approach to uncover and thwart their plans and where it is extremely difficult to abort the plans proper alternative measures could be put in place to minimize the effect on the people and the nation.

Findings revealed that radio messages aimed at the prevention of farmers' attacks were mostly broadcast to listeners in the straight news form which lack depth compared to discussion and interview with experts. This implies that radio mostly disseminates information meant to address attacks on farmers through straight news format without further investigating such attacks for more intensive information that could effectively help in the prevention of such attacks. That is why Adeyemi (2011) opted in his study that ... the media should thrive to secure national security by adopting the investigative approach to uncover and thwart their plans and where it is extremely difficult to abort the plans proper alternative measures could be put in place to minimize the effect on the people and the nation.

Another finding is that public enlightenment and education receive very little attention in radio messages on prevention of attacks on farmers as messages that mostly raise fear and panic among listeners; make listeners to blame and accuse one another; mere propaganda were dominant compared to public enlightenment and education oriented messages. This means that radio messages on attacks on farmers contribute more in raising fear and panicking among listeners; encouraging blame games among listeners; more of propaganda rather than serving as public enlightenment and education among listeners. This finding agrees with Adisa & Abdulhareem (2012) that the media often resort to the following un-ideal ways in reporting conflicts:

- i. Media mostly just follows events. They don't explain what led to those events.

- ii. They concentrate on bad news of conflict and are silent on the peace process.
- iii. They are often sensational and emotional in tone.
- iv. Who are the newsmakers? They tend to focus on powerful people, political leaders, the rich and the famous that live in towns and cities.
- v. They often reinforce stereotypes.
- vi. When telling every story, they not only choose who and what to include inside the frame, but who and what to leave out.

Furthermore, findings revealed that inadequate radio sensitization programmes on farmers' security is the major challenge hindering the public from getting adequate and reliable information which aimed at addressing the issue of attacks on farmers for sustainable food security in Northern Nigeria. Other challenges related to that also include: poor radio signals; inappropriate language of broadcast for programmes; and limited time for programmes on farmers' security. This aligns with the previous findings from separate scholars which indicated that the Nigerian mass media face a number of challenges that impede their expected role in national security (Auwal, 2015; Ikechi-Ekpendu, 2016). Haruna, Obaroh, Yahaya & Muhd (2015) acknowledged in their study that availability of the information which is however, not readily accessible because of impeding variables among which are; insufficient agricultural extension officers, lack of use of media, language barrier and the unreliable nature of electricity in Nigeria, was impeding the effective agricultural production in Nigeria. Yusuf, Adio, Zwalmam & Suberu (2021) found in their study that poor communication system, absence of library and information centre, absence of extension agents, insufficient knowledge on marketing of farm produce, insufficient credit facilities, insufficient information on government policies, insufficient fund were the challenges faced by farmers in accessing the agricultural information sources and services. Iman (2020) reveals in a study that accessibility of radio and television sets, language, number of agricultural programmes broadcast and awareness of the broadcasting time of agricultural programmes were among the factors influencing their usage as sources of agricultural knowledge.

Conclusion

There is inadequate access to radio messages aimed at the prevention of attacks on farmers among listeners in Northern Nigeria which is detrimental to efforts at ensuring food security which is already threatened due to insecurity and other factors. Sources of farmers' attacks are well known as killer herdsmen constitute a major source of farmers' attacks followed by kidnappers, banditry and Boko Haram which the radio will contribute by exposing these groups that attack farmers for authorities to prevent them from carrying out such attacks.

Regrettably, the radio is not proactive enough in the prevention of farmers' attacks as it (radio) mostly disseminates information meant to address attacks on farmers through straight news format without further investigation for more intensive information that could effectively help in the prevention of such attacks.

Similarly, radio messages of attacks on farmers contribute more in raising fear and panic among listeners; encouraging blame games; and more of propaganda rather than public enlightenment and education among listeners.

Inadequate radio sensitization programmes on farmers' security is the major challenge hindering the public from getting adequate and reliable information which aimed at addressing the issue of attacks on farmers for sustained food security in Northern Nigeria, followed by poor radio signals; inappropriate language of broadcast for programmes; and limited time for programmes on farmers' security.

Finally, radio is not proactive, deliberate and committed enough in its contributions in addressing the issue of attacks on farmers which is detrimental to the efforts at the sustainability of food security which is now a very big global challenge.

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