



## Security Challenges in Nigeria Agricultural Sector: Implication for Diversification of the Economy

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**Abstract:** Government has not demonstrated high level of seriousness towards diversifying the Nigerian economy by tackling the security challenges facing the agricultural sector that undermine mass participation resulting in low earnings and productivity. Using qualitative research approach and content analysis this study examines the implication of security challenges in the Nigeria agricultural sector for diversification of the economy. Conflict theory was used as the theoretical framework. The study discovered that the agricultural sector has significant role in the diversification of the Nigerian economy. It also revealed that the security challenges in the agricultural sector have negatively affected the diversification of Nigerian economy through agricultural production. The study concluded that problems bedeviling economic diversification through the agricultural sector are multifaceted but dominantly reside with the security challenges currently facing the sector. The study recommended urgent need to revive the agricultural sector through sufficient budgetary allocation, consistent policies and efficient utilization of allocated resources; the abolishment of open grazing due to its consequences on man and his environment; the establishment of ranches as business concern; investment in the fight against insecurity by consistently equipping the security personnel; the religious and ethnic leaders to stress on religious and ethnic tolerance as well as edifying their followers on the threats and set back communal and religious conflicts would have on the agricultural sector and the economy at large among others.

**Keywords:** Security challenges, Agriculture, Implication, Diversification, Economy

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## Introduction

The vast potential of agriculture, which was previously overlooked, has now become a viable option for diversification in Africa's most populous nation. It has the capacity to drive more sustainable economic growth through job creation, product diversification, food security, and foreign exchange gain. Experts agree that if the government implements the right policies and takes action to boost the agricultural sector, the Nigerian economy can thrive without relying solely on oil.

Nwoba, Nwonu & Agbaeze (2017) suggested that with the continued sharp fall in global oil prices, Nigerians must be aware that tough economic times lie ahead due to the country's heavy reliance on oil. It is imperative for us to acknowledge the urgency and seriousness of the situation. Indeed, all endeavors should be focused on and aimed at economic diversification, which was previously overlooked but must now become the cornerstone for reviving and revitalizing the nation's economy. Reviving and revitalizing the nation's economy necessitates a comprehensive shift of focus back to the Agricultural sector as the only viable solution to this challenge.

Since taking over power in 2015, the All Progressives Congress (APC) led government has devoted a lot of energy to deepening agriculture with initiatives such as the Anchor Borrowers Programme (ABP). The government also restricted access to foreign exchange for importers of some agricultural commodities and shut down its land borders for fifteen months to drive local production in some agro commodities and self-sufficiency (Okojie, 2021)

The sector has received increased funding from the Nigerian government, an accomplishment that experts have praised the APC administration for. In addition, bank loans to the sector have been consistently rising since the sector became a renewed focus. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), bank credit to the sector has been steadily increasing from N1.9 trillion in 2015 to N2.7 trillion in 2023.

The agricultural sector continues to face persistent challenges, as the government's allocation of resources towards driving technological advancement and innovation remains inadequate. This insufficiency has contributed to ongoing issues affecting farmers' productivity, such as the displacement of agrarian communities in the North-East due to Boko Haram and escalating insecurity in the middle belt region and other parts of Nigeria, which pose significant threats to farming activities. As a result, the growth of the agricultural sector has been erratic and has shown a consistent decline since the third quarter of 2016, primarily due to the worsening security situation (Kemi, 2016).

Second-quarter figures from the GDP report showed that growth in the sector slowed from 2.28 percent in the first quarter to 1.3 percent in the second quarter of 2021 as escalating issues of terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, and herdsmen attack continue to take a toll on farming activities. According to a Mercy Crops 2015 report, Nigeria loses about \$2.3 million (N1.3 billion) annually due to the conflict between farmers and herders and states where these conflicts take place lose an average of 47 percent of tax generated internally (Okojie, 2021).

Job creation, product diversification, food security, and foreign exchange gains cannot be achieved in the agricultural sector with the presence of insecurity. Farmers should feel safe to carry out their farming activities without fear or having to make payments to bandits for

harvesting. The insecurity situation has caused numerous farmers to abandon their farmlands, severely impacting our national output and leading to a surge in food prices. In light of these circumstances, the focus of this study is on the implications of security challenges in the agricultural sector for the diversification of Nigeria's economy.

### **1.1 Statement of the Problem**

Nigeria is technically in a state of economic depression. Every sector is troubled. The fact is, Nigeria moves one step forward and reverses by more than three steps backwards. We have had more political crises, debt servicing issues, insecurity, and corrupt cases to deal with, than the number of positive achievements to celebrate. The issues of high inflation, fluctuation in the foreign exchange market/currency devaluation, food insecurity, unemployment and fall in revenue and a lot more have been the order of the day over a decade now.

A careful observer notices that the oil boom which would have been an enduring blessing to Nigeria was regrettably necessitated great shift of attention to oil money, which resulted to a total neglect of agriculture. As a result, agriculture has suffered from long years of neglect, mismanagement, inconsistent and poorly conceived government policies, lack of government meaningful incentive to farmers, lack of basic infrastructure and a lot of bureaucratic bottlenecks in executing policies and agricultural programmes among government agencies.

With agriculture as one of the possible options for diversifying the Nigerian economy, there is a resurgent shift of focus to the agricultural sector as the only bail out for the economy. The demand for agricultural products out there is very high, if we produce the right quantity and quality. Unfortunately, the increasing security challenges in the agricultural sector have been the bane of this effort. However, government must be reminded that we are in this situation in the first place, due in part to its complacency, utter neglect and disdain for the agricultural sector. Hence, the problem of this study is to examine the implication of security challenges in the Nigeria agricultural sector for diversification of the economy.

### **1.2 Objectives of the Study**

The specific objectives are to;

1. Find out the role of the agricultural sector in the diversification of the Nigerian economy.
2. Determine how security challenges in the agricultural sector affected the diversification of Nigerian economy through agricultural production.

## **2.0 Review of Related Literature**

### **2.1 Conceptual Review**

#### **2.1.1 Security Challenges**

The concept of security challenges connotes different meanings such as: absence of safety, dangers, hazard; uncertainty; lack of protection, and lack of safety. According to Adeleke (2013), insecurity is a state of fear or anxiety due to absence or lack of protection. Ezeoha (2011) defines security challenges from two perspectives. Firstly, a security challenge is the state of being open or subject to danger or threat of danger, where danger is the condition of being susceptible to harm or injury. Secondly security challenge is the state of being exposed to risk or anxiety, where anxiety is a vague unpleasant emotion that is experienced in anticipation of some misfortunate. The security challenges definitions above emphasize the fact that those impacted by insecurity

are not only lacking certainty or awareness of potential outcomes, but also susceptible to the threats and dangers as they unfold (Krahmam, 2017).

### **2.1.2 Agriculture**

Agriculture is a way of life that involves production of animals, fishes, crops, forest resources for the consumption of man and supply of agro-allied product required by various sectors. It is seen as the inherited and dominant occupation employing about 70% of Nigerians. Though, subsistence agriculture is practiced in this part of the world, it will not be an overstatement to say that it is the life-wire of the economies of developing countries.

Components of agricultural production include Crop production: this involves the cultivation of different crops which may be food crops or cash crops, Livestock which involves rearing of domestic animals for consumption. Such animals include goat, ram sheep etc., Forestry concerns the preservation and maintenance of economic trees or plants and Fishing involves breeding and catching of fish from the river for domestic consumption and commercial purpose (Muhammad, Mairiga, Thompson & Bello (2020).

### **2.1.3 Economic Diversification**

Conventionally, economic diversification has been used as a strategy to transform the economy from using a single source to multiple sources of income spread over primary, secondary and tertiary sectors, involving large segment of the population. The objective has been to improve economic performance for achieving sustainable growth, for example, building resilience against fluctuations in extra regional economic activity, reducing vulnerability to income loss due to volatility of product price on the international market, creating job opportunities and alleviating poverty (Nourse, 2008 as cited in Idris & Hammayaji, 2023).

Economic diversification refers to the process whereby a growing range of economic outputs are produced. It can also refer to the diversification of markets for exports or of income sources. Economic diversification is part of, but distinguished from, economic development, as the latter implies not only different output, but also changes in the technical and institutional arrangements by which output is produced and distributed (Adesina, 2014).

## **2.2 Empirical Review**

Gulesh, Kwon-Ndung & Dalhatu (2023) carried a study on constraints to economic diversification and profitability of agricultural production in Nigeria. Through content analysis, the paper investigated the factors that hinder the diversification of Nigeria's economy and the increased profitability of agricultural production. The study utilized systems theory as its theoretical framework. The paper's findings suggest that the challenges facing economic diversification and the profitability of agriculture are complex, with the primary issues stemming from insecurity and Nigeria's political economy. The paper suggests the need for a new approach to address the problem of weak institutions through leadership reinforcement using the public-private partnership management system. This approach aims to benefit corporations while also empowering peasants and increasing their incomes and earnings from agricultural production.

Eneji, Babagario & Agri (2019) carried out a study on the effects of insecurity on agricultural productivity in Nigeria: the case study of Gombe State. The study adopted the Ordinary Least Squares method of multiple regression analysis of time series data using Agricultural Gross Domestic Product (AGDP) as dependent variable while poverty (POV), unemployment (UNMP)

and crime rate (CR) and federal government recurrent expenditures on internal security (FREXIS) were used as independent variables. The OLS result indicated an R<sup>2</sup> value of 0.43 implying that 43% of the proportion of variation in AGDP was explained by the independent variables. Also, the result revealed that CR and UNMP were negatively related to Agricultural productivity (AGDP) whose coefficients stood at (-0.58) and (-0.38) respectively.

A similar study was conducted by Nwozor, Olanrewaju & Ake (2019) on National Insecurity and the Challenges of Food Security in Nigeria. The main objective of the study was to assess Nigeria's efforts to attain food security in the context of national insecurity. In light of Nigeria's classification as food insecure, the study explores the link between national insecurity and food production as a precursor to achieving food security. The study uses both primary and secondary data to assess the possibility of attaining food security in the midst of ongoing insecurity throughout the country. It concludes that achieving food security will be unattainable unless the pervasive insecurity affecting farming communities is addressed.

### **2.3 Theoretical Framework**

The Conflict Theory used in this study is linked to Karl Marx and suggests that society is constantly in conflict due to competition for scarce resources. Philosophers and sociologists have historically utilized conflict theories to interpret various occurrences, such as wars, revolutions, poverty, discrimination, insecurity, and domestic violence.

The maintenance of social order, according to conflict theory, relies on domination and power rather than consensus and conformity. Conflict theory posits that individuals with wealth and power strive to maintain their position by any means necessary, primarily through the suppression of the poor and powerless. An essential premise of conflict theory is that individuals and groups in society will strive to maximize their own wealth and power. The theory aims to elucidate political and economic occurrences as an ongoing struggle over limited resources. In this struggle, Marx highlights the antagonistic relationship between social classes. Conflict theory had a significant impact on 19th and 20th-century thinking and continues to shape socio-political and economic discussions today.

In this study, Nigeria is not at war in the real sense of the word but the carnage resulting from various forms of insecurity qualifies it to be regarded as conflict-ridden and at war. Conventionally, the threshold required to classify an armed conflict as a civil war is to record 1,000 battle deaths (Dupuy & Rustad, 2018; Guseh & Oritsejafor, 2019). Nigeria has consistently recorded deaths in excess of 1,000 from various conflicts unleashed by various groups across the country for decades. Apart from the Boko Haram sect, there are other sources of violent deaths, which include intracommunity conflicts, herders-farmers' conflicts, clashes between security agencies and socio-cultural and religious groups and other criminal activities, especially ransom kidnappings.

In addition to the deadly activities of the Boko Haram sect in the northeastern geopolitical zone of the country, another major threat to agricultural sector with serious implications for the diversification of the economy is the menace of Fulani herdsmen. The Fulani herders are mainly nomadic as they traverse the entire country in search of pastures for their herds. The transhumance tradition of the Fulani herders has often pitted them against sedentary farmers as a result of the destruction of the farms of the latter. In the past, precisely before 1999, these conflicts were well managed by the herders and farmers that they never escalated to the level of

recording fatalities. However, since 1999, when Nigeria returned to democratic rule, conflicts between the Fulani herders and farmers gradually assumed a different tone, frequency, ubiquity, complexity and lethality with the traditional dispute mechanisms becoming inadequate to contain them.

These various conflicts have also created internal displacement of many farming communities, and are perhaps disruptive to the economic diversification policy of the federal government of Nigeria. Like the Conflict Theory noted, there will be no reasonable progress and success in atmosphere of rancor. The current Nigerian government is said to be diversifying her economy with a focus on agriculture but unfortunately at the time the herdsmen are invading farming communities to graze any available vegetation they come across. This has given rise to un-healthy rivalry between farmers and herdsmen, leading to violence characterized by loss of lives and properties. It is agonizing to note that same government who is diversifying her economy with a focus on agriculture is at the same time playing lip attention to herders-farmers clashes and other security challenges in the agricultural sector.

### **3.0 Research Method**

The study used a qualitative research approach. Data for the study were drawn from researchers' observation and authentic secondary sources. These documentary sources include indexed journal, textbooks, government publication, bulletins, newspapers and internet based materials. Each document was skimmed for relevance and then studied in detail after being deemed to be of potential significance. These documentary materials are complemented with the observation of security challenges in the agricultural sector in Nigeria. Hence, all works used were content analyzed with a view to determining whether they support or vary with the study's stated objectives and the degree of such support or variation.

### **4.0 Results and Discussion of Findings**

This section embodies two sub-themes based on our objectives. The emphasis of our results and discussion of findings is on the two objectives posed for the study and is based on qualitative content analysis of the documents related to the security challenges in the agricultural sector and the diversification of the Nigeria economy.

#### **4.1 The Role of the Agricultural Sector in the Diversification of the Nigerian Economy**

The undeniable importance of agriculture in the economic diversification of Third World countries, including Nigeria, has been highlighted in a study by Muhammad, Mairiga, Thompson, and Bello (2020). Nigeria, a country with a population exceeding 200 million people and a land area spanning 923,773 square kilometers, continues to derive significant benefits from agricultural production activities. Despite having approximately 82 million hectares of arable land, with only 42% currently under cultivation, agriculture (both crop and animal production) has consistently contributed between 31.2% and 39.2% of the total Gross Domestic Product from 1995 to 1999, and over 40% from 2012 to 2022, according to the World Food and Agriculture Statistical Yearbook (2022). The declining economic situation, the necessity to reduce high food import costs, and the growing requirements for food and raw materials are placing additional strain on the available arable lands.

The subject of economic diversification as a solution for establishing a sustainable economy remains a prominent subject of discussion among the public. Analysts have expressed the belief



that transitioning from reliance on oil and gas to the agricultural sector would result in significant growth for the Nigerian economy. This shift would also attract foreign direct investments, generate employment opportunities, and capitalize on the country's fertile land. It has been contended that the Nigerian government has not demonstrated sufficient dedication to developing the agricultural sector, particularly in terms of substantial investments in agricultural enterprises, creating a conducive environment, and bolstering the progress of the value chain. Additionally, it has been argued that supporting the sector necessitates substantial agricultural financing, public-private partnerships, and commitment from the financial services industry.

Agricultural sector can promote the economic development of the underdeveloped countries Like Nigeria in four distinct ways by: increasing the supply of food for domestic consumption and releasing the labour force needed for industrial employment; enlarging the size of the domestic market for the manufacturing sector; increasing the supply of domestic savings; and provides foreign exchange earnings. According to Omawale and Rogrigues (1979) as cited in Kemi (2016), agriculture has been assigned an important role in national development by most developing countries. It has been seen as a means of reducing dependence on certain importations, containing food price increases, earning foreign exchange, absorbing many new entrants to the labour market and increasing farm incomes at times of severe unemployment and rural poverty.

Nigeria has been importing huge amount of its food from the international market despite having the resources to produce its own food (Falayi, 2019). Such importation has made Nigeria economically and politically unstable as it imports inflation which has resulted to a declining standard of living for its rural and urban households that spend a better part of their earnings on food items. Transforming the agricultural sector will set the nation on the path of food sufficiency, as productivity will increase, imported inflation will be curbed, increased foreign exchange savings; hence, economic stability. Food sufficiency will lead to the establishment of agro-allied industries for value addition to the agricultural produce for exports. This will not only add value to raw materials, but will also create large scale employment and foreign exchange earnings. This will also set the pace for industrialisation. When this happens, the agricultural sector will supply the labour requirement of the industries. Moreover, as most people are found in the rural agricultural sector, a major part of the domestic consumption takes place there. With increased income, this population provides a large market for the industrial output.

At independence, agriculture dominates the economic activities of Nigeria economy contributing about 85 per cent to foreign exchange earnings, 90 per cent to employment generation and contributing about 80 per cent to the country gross domestic product (CBN, 2010). However, with the discovery of crude oil in commercial quantity, the agriculture sector was abandoned and neglected over time. Crude oil or mining sector became the principal driver of Nigeria economy; contributing over 80 per cent of Nigeria revenue, 95 percent of the country foreign exchange earnings among others exposing the economy to international oil price fluctuation and shocks making it impossible for the country not to witness economic recession whenever there is oil price glut in the international market (World Bank, 2015).

This is clear evidence that the agricultural sector has significant role in the diversification of the Nigerian economy. The demand for agricultural products out there is very high, if we produce the

right quantity and quality. Unfortunately, the increasing security challenges in the agricultural sector have been the bane of diversifying the Nigerian economy through.

#### **4.2 Security Challenges in the Agricultural Sector and the Diversification of the Nigerian Economy**

Nigeria is not at war in the real sense of the word but the carnage resulting from various forms of insecurity qualifies it to be regarded as conflict-ridden and at war. Conventionally, the threshold required to classify an armed conflict as a civil war is to record 1,000 battle deaths (Dupuy & Rustad, 2018; Guseh & Oritsejafor, 2019). Nigeria has consistently recorded deaths in excess of 1,000 from various conflicts unleashed by various groups across the country for decades. Both the Nigeria Security Tracker and the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) estimated the total number of deaths associated with the Boko Haram Terrorist group alone between June 2011 and June 2018 at 34,261 and 37,530 people (Campbell & Harwood, 2018). Apart from the Boko Haram sect, there are other sources of violent deaths, which include intracommunity conflicts, herders-farmers' conflicts, clashes between security agencies and socio-cultural and religious groups and other criminal activities, especially ransom kidnappings. In 2018 alone, there were about 10,665 fatalities from various types of violence in Nigeria with the highest source of violent deaths resulting from criminal activities, which recorded 3,425 deaths in 1,191 incidents (Ukoji, Ayodokun & Eze, 2019).

The neoclassical economic system promotes limited government involvement in the economy, emphasizing the government's role in providing security and creating a favorable environment for business growth. Regrettably, this is not reflected in Nigeria, which undermines the country's efforts to achieve sustainable growth through economic diversification.

It is unfortunate that the 2022 global safety perception index on security, ranked Nigeria 75th in the world. Meanwhile the report of the Institute for Economic and Peace (2022), ranked the country 143 in the global peace index. This is in view of the growing threat of insecurity arising from high cases of terrorism, kidnappings, communal and ethnic clashes, political violence, herdsman-farmers conflict, crimes, among others (Faminu, 2022). Insecurity in Nigeria became more alarming since the country return to democracy in 1999 with high cases of militancy in the Niger/Delta, ethno-religious and communal conflicts recorded. The Boko Haram insurgency that followed in North-East by 2009, farmers-herdsmen conflict within the North-Central which spread to other geopolitical regions culminating to banditry and kidnapping in the country, displaced a great number of the rural farming population and gravely impact government's efforts at economic diversification as further necessitated by the 2015 economic recession. Failure of government to tackle insecurity as consequence of poor economic development frustrates agricultural activities and significantly affects productivity that would have helped diversify the economy by increasing the contribution of the non-oil sector. This development negatively influenced inflow of investments to the agricultural sector and the gains farmers would have made within the period they were displaced.

The resultant increase in competition over the arable lands has often times led to serious manifestation of hostilities and social friction among the two user-groups in many parts of Nigeria. The conflicts have not only heightened the level of insecurity, but have also demonstrated



high potential to exacerbate the economic hardship in Nigeria and set back national development due to loss of farmer lives, animals, crops and valuable properties (Okoro, 2018).

Ironically, the Nigerian government is diversifying her economy with a focus on agriculture at the time the herdsmen are invading farming communities to graze any available vegetation they come across. However, Adesoye, Adelowoka, Maku & Salau (2018) noted that agriculture productivity have positive impact on economic growth and diversification in Nigeria. But emphasized that herdsmen attacks on farmers is the greatest challenge to agricultural development that government should stop paying lips action with to enhance the contribution of agricultural value chain to the diversification of the Nigerian economy.

Dimelu, Danjuma, Achonam & Igbokwe (2017) is in agreement with the result of this study by identifying the effect of herders farmers conflict on livelihood of crop farmers and agricultural development to include destruction of crops on the field, reduction of agricultural labour force, poor harvest, late planting, harvesting premature crops, abandonment of crops in the field, lack of proper care of crops in the field, displacement of farming population, insufficient food supply to the farming communities, outbreak of hunger and diseases, loss of lives and injuries sustained, and loss of income. These negative effects of the clashes constitute serious impediment to economic diversification and indeed sustainable development of the country.

It is therefore worthy to note that the Nigerian farming population is always the worst hit in the event of security crisis. Terrorists and criminal elements always take refuge in the rural areas denying farmers access to farms. Farmers and rural dwellers are most vulnerable and soft-targets of criminals. Evidence abounds on the impact of the Boko Haram insurgency on rural farmers in the North-East, bandits and herdsmen attacks in North-West, North-Central and South-East Nigeria (see Asomba & Ofodu, 2024 and Chukwuemeka, Aduma & Eneh, 2018). According to Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) (2022), insecurity in Nigeria and the Lake Chad Basin accounts for 54% food crisis in Africa. The displacement of farmers by various crises in Nigeria has short, medium and long terms effects on the agricultural sector and the country's efforts at diversification of the economy. Therefore, the security challenges in the agricultural sector have negatively affected the diversification of Nigerian economy through agricultural production.

### **5.0 Summary of Findings**

The study investigated the impact of security challenges on the agricultural sector in relation to the diversification of the Nigerian economy. It aimed to explore the contribution of agriculture to the diversification process and assess the influence of security issues on agricultural production and its effects on economic diversification in Nigeria. Some key findings emerged from the study.

1. It was discovered that the agricultural sector has significant role in the diversification of the Nigerian economy. Enhancing the agricultural sector is the most reliable and effective method for Nigeria to achieve economic diversification, growth, and sustainable development. There is a high demand for agricultural products, provided that we can meet the standards for quantity and quality.
2. The study also revealed that the security challenges in the agricultural sector have negatively affected the diversification of Nigerian economy through agricultural production. The country

is currently facing a wave of insecurity due to communal clashes, militancy, farmers-herdsmen conflict, and the rise of Boko Haram insurgency. This has significantly impacted the agricultural sector, hindering its potential for economic diversification. Many farmers have been killed, displaced, and their farm produce destroyed, leading to abandonment of farmlands in search of security. This has resulted in negative effects on agricultural productivity, impeding the growth and development of the sector and its contribution to the diversification of the Nigerian economy.

### **5.1 Conclusion**

This study examined the implication of security challenges in the agricultural sector for diversification of the Nigerian economy. The findings indicated that agriculture, which was previously neglected, has now emerged as a viable option for diversification due to its immense potential to drive sustainable economic growth in Africa's most populous nation. However, the study also reveals that the security challenges in the agricultural sector have hindered the diversification of the Nigerian economy by affecting agricultural production.

The research concludes that the obstacles to economic diversification through agriculture are complex, but the primary issue lies in the current security challenges faced by the sector. If the government implements the right policies and takes appropriate actions to enhance the agricultural sector, the Nigerian economy can thrive without relying solely on oil. In order to achieve job creation, product diversification, food security, and foreign exchange gains, it is crucial to address the insecurity prevalent in the agricultural sector. Farmers should be able to carry out their farming activities without fear and without having to pay bandits to harvest their crops.

### **5.2 Recommendations**

Based on the findings of this study, it is expedient to proffer the following recommendations

1. There is an urgent need to revive the agricultural sector through sufficient budgetary allocation, consistent policies and efficient utilization of allocated resources in order to guarantee poverty reduction, sustainable livelihood and enhanced food security which will lead to comprehensive agricultural development as well as economic diversification.
2. Government and law makers in particular should enact law to ban open grazing of livestock because it is outdated and less productive, and encourage establishment of ranches, not as public service but as business concern. Where grazing reserves or grazing land system is adopted, it should be well gazetted and adequate compensation paid to avoid the land being taken by force.
3. Nigeria government at all levels should strategically invest in the fight against insecurity by consistently equipping the security personnel with upgraded state of the art gadgets and as well ensure adequate funding towards training and re-training of security personnel in best global preventive intelligence gathering and security practices rather than the less fruitful counter-insurgency approach.
4. There is need for the religious and ethnic leaders to stress on religious and ethnic tolerance as well as edifying their followers on the threats and set back communal and religious conflicts would have on the agricultural sector and the economy at large. This will foster the

sustainability of a peaceful atmosphere in which not only agricultural but socio-economic development can thrive.

5. Finally, there is need to increase community awareness and understanding of insecurity issues and the need for their participation in the fight against insecurity. This can be accomplished through extensive community education, security campaigns and public enlightenment and effective community collaboration in the fight against insecurity.

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