
ASSESSMENT OF INSECURITY IN NIGERIA AND IT IMPLICATION ON TRANSPORTATION OF FOOD STUFF

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ABSTRACT

The main study was to assess insecurity in Nigeria and its implication on transportation of food stuff. Ex post facto survey design was adopted for the study. The study was conducted in Nigeria. The study discovered that Insecurity is a major concern for everybody in Nigeria and this has created a lot of fear and uncertainty in the society. Food production has not been growing in the past few years owing to insecurity in the country. Insecurity has been identified as one of the obstacles bedeviling human society. Since the security situation became intense a few years ago, agricultural activities have been greatly impacted as farmers in Africa's most populous country had to abandon their farmlands owing to escalating issues of kidnapping, banditry, and terrorism in major crops-producing states. The study concluded insecurity is a major concern for everybody in Nigeria and this has created a lot of fear and uncertainty in the society. Food production has not been growing in the past few years owing to insecurity in the country. Insecurity is detrimental to general wellbeing of the people with its resultant effects in the areas of illnesses. One of the recommendations made in the study was that the government agencies should address the high cost of transportation to reduce food prices.

KEYWORDS: Insecurity, Transportation, Food stuff and Nigeria

Introduction

The problem of insecurity is not new in Nigeria, and the level of insecurity in Nigeria is so multifaceted that one cannot accurately categorize the patterns of insecurity. Insecurity is a major concern for everybody in Nigeria and this has created a lot of fear and uncertainty in the society. Food production has not been growing in the past few years owing to insecurity in the country. Insecurity is detrimental to general wellbeing of the people with its resultant effects in the areas of illnesses; low life expectancy; low quality of life and even death. On the economy, insecurity has led to the destruction of businesses, properties, and equipment, as well as the relocation and closing down of businesses. Insecurity has been identified as one of the obstacles bedeviling human society (Igbuzor, 2011). Since the security situation became intense a few years ago, agricultural activities have been greatly impacted as farmers in Africa's most populous country had to abandon their farmlands owing to escalating issues of kidnapping, banditry, and terrorism in major crop-producing states. Mojeed (2021) posits that the emergence of insecurity in different forms has become a major threat to Nigeria's food security in recent months. People are a little bit scared to visit their farms; their problem has been the invasion of their farms by herdsmen.

Food inflation has been on the rise in Nigeria due to multiple factors ranging from insecurity to transport and infrastructure, however, with the rising cases of insecurity in Nigeria, especially with the deaths of farmers at the hands of armed herdsmen and other militia groups, it is no surprise that Nigeria is producing less food. Food inflation remains a hot topic of discussion among Nigerians. The World Bank in its recent report on Nigeria published this month stated that on the supply side, a combination of unfavorable weather, insecurity, and conflict, as well as pandemic-related shocks affecting food production, is pushing food prices up, clearly citing the effects of insecurity on Nigeria's farming output (Ukpe, 2021). Poor infrastructure is also an obstacle to food security in Africa. The presence of roads in rural areas reduces poverty in connected villages by integrating labor and goods markets, thereby providing new economic opportunities to the local inhabitants. For example, farmers are able to obtain higher profits as a result of cheaper agricultural inputs and higher farm-gate prices.

The level of insecurity in Nigeria is multifaceted, so one cannot accurately categorize the patterns of insecurity. Food production has not been growing in the past few years owing to insecurity in the country. The emergence of insecurity has become a major threat to Nigeria's food security in recent years. People are scared to visit their farms due to the invasion of their farms by herdsmen, which results in low production of food, thus pushing food prices up and contributing to hunger. Insecurity has also affected the transportation system. Due to the extent of insecurity in Nigeria, people are scared to transport food over long distances due to kidnapping, robbery, and attacks by gunmen. And also bad roads have contributed to the poor transportation of foodstuff.

Concept of Insecurity

Insecurity According to Ali (2013), it is "the state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection." It refers to a lack of or inadequate freedom from danger. This definition reflects physical insecurity, which is the most visible form of insecurity, and it feeds into many other forms of insecurity such as economic and social security. Insecurity connotes the absence of safety, danger, hazards, uncertainty, and lack of protection. As affirmed by Beland (2005), it is a state of fear or anxiety as a result of the absence of protection. Coupland (2007) observed that insecurity has a far reaching impact on people's lives and well-being and for this singular reason the government has to be alive to its responsibility of guaranteeing security. When people's security is guaranteed, it gives them the freedom, physically and mentally, to get on with the business of building their lives without fear of molestation or violent death. Thus, to experience a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, security is essential (Meddings, 2011); without security, there can be no stable society, but rather there will be prevalent fear and danger from violent death.

Insecurity is the anti-thesis of security. The insecurity affects all the gamut of human life and social existence. Several illegal armed groups, ethnic militia groups, and religious fundamentalists and fanatics are evidence of insecurity in Nigeria. These have given birth to a series of bombings, murders, arsons, armed robberies, corruption, and injustices that we hear every day. It is clear that these happenings are negatively affecting Nigeria politically, religiously, and culturally. Insecurity has hindered developments and constitutes a threat to the country. Many productive lives have been lost; available ones are displaced and live in constant fear and pain over the loss of loved ones. Security bleeding have scared away the investors from the country, all the institutions, agencies are equally points of target and attacks of terrorist and other hoodlums. Insecurity inhibits the health care system as such facilities are often destroyed, leaving no place for people to seek treatment. Furthermore, governments spend more money on fighting the insurgents and so allocate less money to health services, resulting in deteriorating health infrastructure (Dodge, 2009). In this situation, medical supplies and equipment become scarce, and skilled doctors and nurses flee to more stable areas, leading to the spread of communicable diseases.

Concept of Foodstuff

Food is any substance consumed to provide nutritional support for an organism. Food is usually of plant, animal, or fungal origin and contains essential nutrients such as carbohydrates, fats, proteins, vitamins, and minerals. The substance is ingested by an organism and assimilated by the organism's cells to provide energy, maintain life, or stimulate growth (SAPEA, 2020). Foodstuffs include food, ingredients, beverages, including wine, and other items primarily used for consumption that require refrigeration at specified temperatures. It means products that are intended for human consumption, either immediately or after processing. Food stuffs are physical entities that bear biological components that our body converts into energy and employs in order to repair and improve itself. A food item can do those great things since it holds the appropriate biological properties that make it suitable to be eaten and to turn it into energy. It can be raw, processed, or formulated and is consumed orally by animals for growth, health, or pleasure. Food is mainly composed of water, lipids, proteins, and carbohydrates. Minerals (e.g., salts) and organic substances (e.g., vitamins) can also be found in food (Nestle 2013).

Food plays a very vital role in maintaining proper health and also helps in the prevention and cure of diseases. Good, nutritious food makes people healthy, but at the same time, bad, unhealthy food gives rise to several diseases. Only nutritious food allows our cells, tissues, and organs to function properly. All body functions—metabolic, hormonal, mental, physical, or chemical—cannot be performed by the body without nutritive food. Food provides us with nutrition, which is important in the cure of disease. Poor nutrition is to blame for the body's weakened immune system. According to Roser (2013), many researchers believe that various diseases are caused by a lack of essential nutrients, but they also believe that these diseases can be corrected if all nutrients are supplied properly. A well-balanced, nutritive, and correct diet is thus of utmost importance for the maintenance of good health and the healing of diseases. Such a diet obviously should be made up of foods that, when combined, would supply all the essential nutrients.

Concept of Food Security

Food security is a concept that is used to think systemically about how and why malnutrition arises and what can be done to address and prevent it. Underlying it is a moral ideology that can be linked to realizing the international goal of food as a human right (United Nations, 2010). Up until the mid-1970s, discussions about food security primarily focused on the need to produce more food and distribute it better. The discussions prioritized total food calorie availability at the national and global levels as the primary means of addressing malnutrition (primarily undernutrition). According to the United Nations Committee on World Food Security, cited in the International Food Policy Research Institute (2022), "food security" means that all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life. Over time, the food security concept has been considerably broadened to encompass a wide range of factors that can have an influence on malnutrition (in all its forms), ranging across the whole food system and, in some applications, including recognition of the important social and cultural role that food plays (Ingram, 2011). Today, the concept of food security is generally understood to incorporate four main components: availability, access, utilization, and stability, although some see stability as a separate cross-cutting factor. For a state of food security to exist, all of these components must be sufficiently present (see Figure 1).

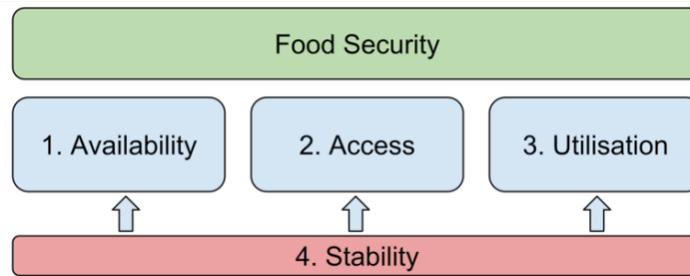


Figure 1: The four components of food security

Availability: Availability simply refers to the existence of food within a community. This is closely linked to the efficacy of food production. Availability can become an issue when there is a lack of necessary resources, such as water for irrigation, or when land being used for food production is damaged or degraded.

Access: Simply having enough food in a community means very little if there is poor access to it. True food security means that individuals have the resources they need to obtain a sufficient quality of nutritious food. Access to food is affected by a myriad of physical, social, and policy-related factors (Fahy, 2021).

Utilization: Not all food is of equal or sufficient value. To be food secure, it is crucial that the food being accessed is of good quality. It is paramount that food is nutritious and healthy enough to provide the energy people need for their daily activities. It is also crucial that individuals have the necessary knowledge and tools to properly 'utilize' the food available to them.

Stability: Good food stability means that access, availability, and utilization of food remain relatively stable over time. It is important to try to minimize any threats to this stability. Threats to food stability include natural disasters, climate change, conflict, and economic factors such as volatile price fluctuations.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food security as a situation of "limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways" (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2013). Food security is the measure of an individual's ability to access food that is nutritious and sufficient in quantity. Food security is a measure of resilience to future disruption or unavailability of critical food supply caused by a variety of risk factors such as droughts, shipping disruptions, fuel shortages, economic instability, and wars. Food insecurity is recognized as a social determinant of health, or a condition in the environment where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affects a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. The severity of food insecurity differs between populations and communities, such as minority populations and rural communities. People who experience food insecurity are usually faced with a variety of other socioeconomic and personal challenges, such as affordable housing issues, social isolation, economic and social disadvantage resulting from structural racism, chronic or acute health problems, high medical costs, and low wages, all of which compound the problem. Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (FAO). Food security for a household means all members have access at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life. Food insecurity is experienced when (1) there is uncertainty about future food availability and access, (2) there is insufficiency in the amount and kind of food required for a healthy lifestyle, or (3) there is the need to use socially unacceptable ways to acquire food. Apart from the most common constraint, a lack of economic resources, food insecurity can also be experienced when food is available and accessible

but cannot be utilized because of physical or other constraints, such as the limited physical functioning of the elderly or disabled (National Research Council 2006). The concept of food security can be broken down into four main components known as the "4 Pillars of Food Security."

Concept of Transportation

Transportation refers to the movement of goods and people from one location to another, as well as the various means by which such movement is accomplished. Modes of transport include air, land (rail and road), water, cable, pipeline, and space. The field can be divided into infrastructure, vehicles, and operations. Transport enables human trade, which is essential for the development of civilizations (Hamid 2021). Transport infrastructure consists of both fixed installations, including roads, railways, airways, waterways, canals, and pipelines, and terminals, such as airports, railway stations, bus stations, warehouses, trucking terminals, refueling depots (including fuel docks and fuel stations), and seaports. Terminals may be used both for the interchange of passengers and cargo and for maintenance. Means of transportation may include vehicles, riding animals, and pack animals. Vehicles may include wagons, automobiles, bicycles, buses, trains, trucks, helicopters, watercraft, spacecraft, and aircraft. Fuel is the crucial element that propels the transportation system. The primary fuel types are derived from human power, renewable fuels, and fossil fuels. When petroleum products are burned in vehicle engines, they release energy, but they also release greenhouse gases and other pollutants. Currently, 95% of transportation is fueled by petroleum. However, other fuels like electricity and biofuels are becoming more prevalent as we adopt new technologies.

Transportation is an essential part of human activity and, in many ways, forms the basis (starting point or foundation) of all socioeconomic developmental processes. Transportation is the backbone of a global network that trades over \$18 trillion worth of goods and moves the world's population over 81 trillion kilometers every year (StudentEnergy, 2022). The system also impacts the climate; as of 2015, transportation accounted for 23% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. Infrastructure such as roads, railways, airports, and fueling stations is essential to supporting transportation systems. There are four basic categories of transportation, which are:

Rail transport: is a means of conveyance for passengers and goods on wheeled vehicles running on rails, also known as tracks. It is also commonly referred to as "train transportation." It is one of the most important, commonly used, and cost-effective modes of commuting and goods carriage over long and short distances. In terms of safety, rail transport has emerged as one of the most dependable modes of transportation (TransportationStatistics 2017). Trains are fast and the least affected by usual weather turbulence like rain or fog, compared to other transport mechanisms.

Road Transport: Road transport is the most commonly used mode of transportation in Nigeria today. Road transport activities involve the conveyance of passengers en masse or in small numbers, the transportation of animals, farm produce, and merchandise, and the rendering of mobile services (clinics, libraries, and banks).

Water Transport: Water transport scores a distant second to road transport, with an average share of about 1.6% of the GDP of the transport sector. Water transport is slow and therefore unsuitable for passenger movement, except for holiday and tourist traffic where time is not a constraint or where other forms of transport are not available.

Air Transport: Air transportation is a system with many interrelated parts. Each airport is connected to the system through the airways and other airports with which it exchanges flights. Its share of the GDP is, however, still negligible in Nigeria. Air transport has a unique advantage over all other modes of transport if speed, time, and distance are major considerations. Air transport is valuable in relation to weight. It is also preferred where accessibility by other modes is a problem (especially in riverine or mountainous regions).

Extent of Insecurity in Nigeria

Recently, Nigeria has witnessed an unprecedented level of insecurity. This has threatened national security and prompted a huge allocation of the national budget to security (Achumba and Akpor 2013). Security challenges can be traced to the early years of military rule, when large quantities of arms were imported into the country for the use of the military during and after the Nigerian civil war, some of which got into the hands of the civilians. Soon after the civil war, these arms were used by civilians and ex-military men for mischievous purposes such as armed robbery (Olabanji and Ese 2014). Security challenges in any environment constitute a threat to lives and properties, hinder business activities, and discourage local and foreign investors, all of which stifle and retard the development of a country. The danger of insecurity cannot be overemphasized. When a nation is saddled with the problem of insecurity, every other plan is stalled.

Insecurity is a critical issue that has hampered industrialization and sustainable development in Nigeria in particular and in Africa at large. Nigeria, which is perceived as the giant of Africa, has witnessed unprecedented incidences of insecurity ranging from the activities of Fulani herdsmen, Boko Haram insurgencies, armed robber attacks, kidnapping, political and religious crises, murder, destruction of oil facilities by Niger Delta militants, child abduction and trafficking, etc. Other crimes committed by these Islamic sects include the destruction of vehicles; the burning of churches, police stations, schools, hospitals, clinics, shops, army barracks, and residential houses; and the abduction of expatriates. These challenges have made security a pivotal issue that has culminated in the allocation of the country's meager resources to the protection of lives and properties. Intercommunal, political, and sectarian violence has claimed the lives of more than 13,500 people during the past decade in Nigeria. Nigerian politicians continue to manipulate ethnic and religious tensions by sponsoring violence for personal political gain, and wide-spread poverty and poor governance have created an environment where militant groups can thrive. Violent clashes in July between government security forces and a militant Islamist group in northern Nigeria known as Boko Haram left at least 800 dead. To address the threat to national security and combat the increasing waves of crime, the federal government made a huge allocation to security in the 2013 budget, and the national assembly passed the Anti-Terrorism Act in 2011 (Ewetan, 2013). Despite these efforts, the level of insecurity in the country is still high, and a confirmation of this is the low ranking of Nigeria among other developing economies in the 2012 Global Peace Index (GPI). Despite the plethora of security measures taken to address the daunting challenges of insecurity in Nigeria, government efforts have not produced the desired positive result.

Transportation of Foodstuff in Nigeria

Food transportation means the use of any conveyance to transport food or drinks from one place to another and shall include automobiles, trucks, carts, dollies, or any other means of transporting food or drinks from one place to another. This term does not include mobile food units, such as hot dog carts, snack trucks, or other similar means of ready-to-eat food delivery vehicles. The ingredients that the food industry needs come from many different areas, and some of these are halfway around the world. That means that logistics and transportation are important in ensuring that the industry is successful. Ayatoyinbo (2009) opined that for effective distribution to take place, there must be a very good transport system. Poor transportation systems in Nigeria have contributed to a total waste of about 25% of the total agricultural foodstuff produced. Transportation therefore influences the cost of agricultural products consumed and the purchasing power of the final consumers. Road transport has been identified as the most common mode of transportation in Nigeria, that is, this means of transportation is mostly used in Nigeria for conveying agricultural products from one location to another and examples include bicycle, motor-cycle, taxi, public transport (pick-up van and buses)

and Lorries among others (Afolabi 2016). However, vehicles used to transport agricultural products are not in good shape, and some of them are rickety and unsuitable for such purposes.

The importance of roads in the transportation of fresh and processed agricultural products in Nigeria cannot be overemphasized. On the contrary, most of the rural roads are in poor condition, and this has imposed a threat to food security by reducing the quantity of food available in the market; most food crops like tomatoes, fruits, and vegetables are not in good shape at the point of sale and hence command a low price; there is an increase in vehicle operating costs as well as an increase in the travel time of agricultural products from the farm (Agunbade, 2017). Not only are most of the key players in this sector of agribusiness not educated, but also the information needed on the conditions, such as temperature, humidity, type of packaging, and others, at which both fresh and processed agricultural products should be transported is missing. Government agencies in charge of the road transportation system contribute to this negative effect by increasing the time of travel for fresh and processed food items and thereby increasing post-harvest losses. On the other hand, improved rural transportation system such as good roads; use of proper means of transportation other than road that is faster which will help in preserving fresh agricultural products in good conditions and effective policy on transportation system that will ensure good time delivery should be employed.

Effect of insecurity in Nigeria on Transportation of Foodstuff

Growing insecurity in many parts of Nigeria is causing serious economic disruptions as large amounts of food are lost because they cannot find their way to the silos or the strategic grain reserves. The insecurity challenges have become a big setback to a good transport system as many, for fear of being kidnapped, try to sell within their localities. This is contributing to hunger, just as the crisis reduces income as well as the quantity of food produced in the country. Food production has not been growing in the past few years owing to insecurity in the country. Worsening insecurity in Nigeria is causing domestic food production to decline sharply. It has also damaged vast farming areas, displaced thousands of farmers, and triggered a sharp increase in the cost of agricultural inputs. In the northern parts of Nigeria, especially in the huge food production belts, bandits have disrupted farmers' efforts to carry out irrigation and livestock vaccination (Essiet, 2022). They have also food shut supply routes, leading to increase in food prices.

Since the security situation became intense a few years ago, agricultural activities have been greatly impacted as farmers in Africa's most populous country had to abandon their farmlands owing to escalating issues of kidnapping, banditry, and terrorism in major crops-producing states, including the prevention of hitch-free transportation of food stuffs from the source to the destinations. Food security has been eroded due to the impact of banditry and the disruption of farming routes (Nwachukwu, 2021). Farmers, according to Sotonye, are cutting back on visits to farms. "We are having bandits invade our farms and deny farmers access to them." In most cases, farmers are abducted directly from their farms. Sotonye stated that farmers have become targets for armed gangs, adding that the fear and terror instilled in them have driven the rural farmers off their land. The availability of adequate infrastructure facilities, such as good roads, is an important pre-requisite for sustainable food security. Food security depends on good infrastructural facilities and is an instrument to improve the economy. The severance of road access to food supplies endangers food security through limiting people's access to food, the destruction of infrastructure for food production, and the physical destruction and plundering of crops, livestock, and food reserves.

Conclusion

The study concludes that insecurity is a major concern for everybody in Nigeria and this has created a lot of fear and uncertainty in the society. Food production has not been growing in the past few years owing to insecurity in the country. Insecurity is detrimental to general wellbeing of the people with its resultant

effects in the areas of illnesses; low life expectancy; low quality of life and even death. The emergence of insecurity in different forms has become a major threat to Nigeria's food security. In recent years, food inflation has been on the rise in Nigeria due to multiple factors ranging from insecurity to transport and bad infrastructure, i.e., bad roads.

Recommendation

1. The government agencies should address the high cost of transportation to reduce food prices.
2. The government must be proactive in dealing with security issues and threats through training and deploying advanced technology to manage security challenges.

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