



Re-thinking Rural Land Conflict and the Narrative of Food Security in the Development of South East, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study examined the effects of rural land conflict on teaching and learning of new narrative for food security and development in Southeast of Nigeria. The study evaluated the challenges posed by customary system, population growth, political interference, climate change in relation to food security of rural land conflict. The study employed mixed approaches of qualitative and quantitative to collect data. Primary sources such as questionnaire and observation as well as secondary source; interview, key informants, published materials, documentaries, textbooks, library, journals and internet materials well also employed. The Relative Deprivation Theory was used. The longitudinal design was also adopted for the study. The analyses of data collected from instrument of questionnaire were done through the use of descriptive statistics such as, simple percentages, and contingency tables. The study discovered that there is strong nexus between rural land conflict and food security. Rural land conflict remains pervasive and a threat not only to food security but to regional development of South East of Nigeria. The study recommended a new narrative policy option of teaching and learning from primary to tertiary institutions such as farm bagging and introduction of digitalized solar irrigation on tuber crops, vegetables, fruits etc. as well as animal husbandry to reduce struggle for shrinking space of rural land on agricultural activities to avert incompatibilities and high resurgences that are unhealthy to industrialization in the region.

Keywords: Rural Community, Land Conflict, Food Security, Development, Nigeria.

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Introduction

Rural land conflict is a global phenomenon. It dates back from pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial era with constant changing modalities depending on the environment. It is a concept surrounded with claims of ownership of natural and material resources though with inherent dynamics, complexities, multi-facets in nature with various relationships of individuals and group interests. In many countries of the world, land which is a fixed immovable property constitutes between 50 to 70 % of the nation's wealth. It is by nature static, fixed socio-economic wealth and asset to the owner (Abegunde, 2011). Land to a large extent aids fundamental agricultural production and reproduction of various kinds of goods and services to humanity which vigorously linked to food security. Food security is the accessibility of all people at all times to the food they need for an active and healthy life. (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2006).

Nigeria is the most populous African country. It covers a total area of 923,768 sq. km and shares boundaries with Cameroon in the East, the Republic of Niger in the North, Chad in the north-east, and Benin in the west. In the south, Nigeria makes contact with the Atlantic Ocean through its 853 km-long coastline (UNEP 2011: 20). Water covers 13,000 sq. km of the country. Current environmental issues include loss of arable land, soil degradation, rapid urbanization, deforestation, desertification, and, in Nigeria's Niger Delta, oil pollution of water, air, and soil. Nigeria is among the countries its nation wealth on land is above 70% and significantly, Nigeria is a home of 70% of the peoples population are living in the rural area, thus, higher intensity of rural land conflict in the area. Co-existence or co-habitation of individuals or groups gives birth to both Rural and Urban Conflict in the society.

South East of Nigeria is a one of the six geo-political zones in Nigeria. Nigeria Watch Database unveils that counting from the population of 16,395,555 according to 2006 census of South East States (Abia, Anambra, Enugu, Ebonyi, and Imo) numerous lives were lost of 274 between 2006-2016 as a result of fatalities related to land conflicts, and other causes of violence related to crime in the region. Though, other reputable scholars made significant efforts on land administration policies and programs to avert these challenges but to no avail as increase in the



demand of land continued unabated and opens a wider window for food insecurity and rural land conflict in the South East as evidenced by the statistical records of death as well as fatalities by Nigeria Watch database 2006-2016. For instance, Anambra state, recorded 44 deaths in total number of fatalities of 4,993 of 5.49% of 4,177,828, Enugu, 36 death of 740 fatalities of 4.8% with total population of 3,267,837, Ebonyi 145, death of 499 fatalities of 29.06% with total population of 2,176,947. Imo, 42 death of 886 fatalities of 4.74% with total population of 3,927,563 and. Abia, 7 death of 643 fatalities of 1.09% with total population of 2,845,380 (Nigeria Watch Database, 2017).

From 2017-2023 the following lives were lost in the country. Ethno-communal violence in 2022, about 415 lives across 26 states, against 794 in 2021 on land disputes, indigenes and settlers, security operatives, boundary disputes chieftaincy matters etc. for example, Ngbo and Ezza communities in Ohaukwu LGA, Ebonyi State. While people were killed and properties destroyed, many residents were displaced and forced to take refuge in neighboring communities, in 2019, 1,012 fatalities, In Ebonyi, the clashes were driven by claims over land in border areas. Notable among the perennial intra-state communal clashes in 2019 were the land disputes between Obubra/Abanwan communities in Cross River State and Izzi/Ikwo communities in Ebonyi State Agila in Benue State and Ngwo in Ebonyi State and so on.

This study is divided into six namely; introduction, conceptual clarifications, theoretical framework, methodology, findings/ discussion of findings and recommendations.

The study raises the following question to address the lacuna;

1. How do the causes of rural land conflict constitute a threat to food security in the development of South East of Nigeria?

The relevant of land to society are very enormous which triggers national development and the narratives cannot be overemphasized as such needed various methods to impact ideas and facts to the future generation to sustain and secure food devoid of conflictual/incompatibility among various interest groups. Obiakor, (2010) agreed that land is a great symbol of wealth and boosts social standing among the members of the community. Put differently, the root struggle for scarce resources on land are the enormous benefits derive on it such as sustenance of livelihoods, collateral for obtaining credit, foundation for economic development, fees and taxes on land



government revenue, claims of inheritance, ownership, others are agriculture, pasture, forestry, industry, infrastructure activities as well as urbanization etc. Rural land conflict is unavoidable for people in other to pursuit their interests on things of limited values, resources and societal or national development power dynamics becomes a major instrument to make or mar the rural interest on the land issues (Lockwood, 1966). Unarguably population growth, power dynamics, climate change, political interference, corruption etc. are challenges unendingly confronting management of corporate existence and collaboration in the agro-based administration of rural land system in the rural areas. The cankerworm jeopardizes food security adversely as well as cripples development thus; the needs for scholarly attention for a new narrative policy option to restore food availability, peace and security in the area. The cardinal objective of the study is to ex-ray the challenges posed by causes of rural land conflict that constitute a threat to food security in the development of South East of Nigeria.

Conceptual clarifications

Rural Land Conflict

Land is economic asset and a source of livelihoods. According to Abegunde, land which is a fixed immoveable property constitutes between 50 to 70 % of the nation's wealth. It is by nature static, fixed socio-economic wealth and asset to the owner. Land is immoveable assert and property which houses natural and mineral resources that sustains livelihood through food availability, affordability, accessibility and sustainability. It is highly linked to culture, tradition, custom, history, and identity of the people. This special quality of land accounts for it being central object of mobilisation on land-related issues. Other indicators such as political exclusion, social discrimination, economic marginalization linked with land ignites rural land conflict and loss of lives and property. Scholars such as Urmilla Bob (2010) observed that land conflicts, for instance, commonly become violent when linked to wider processes of political exclusion, social discrimination, economic marginalization, and a perception that peaceful action is no longer a viable strategy for change.



Food Security

Food security means food availability, affordability, accessibility and sustainability at a given period of time. It is when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life (World Food Summit of 1996). It shows that physical and economic access to food that meets people's dietary needs as well as their food preferences are suitably maintained. The United States Development Agency opined that “food security for a household means access by all members at all times to enough food for active, healthy life. Food security includes at a minimum” The ready availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods an assured ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways (i.e. without resorting to emergency food supplies, scavenging, stealing, or coping strategies)”.

Food security is built on four pillars:

1. Food availability: sufficient quantities of food available on a consistent basis.
2. Food accessibility: having sufficient resources to obtain appropriate foods for a nutritious diet.
3. Food affordability: affordable to be used, based on knowledge of basic nutrition and care, as well as adequate water and sanitation in an area at a given time.
4. Food sustainability. Food sustainability is a complex sustainable development issue, linked to health through malnutrition which leads to the persistence of food insecurity and poverty in rural communities, if not met.

Climate Change

Nigeria is ranked 160 out of 181 countries, indicating its vulnerability to climate change impacts. In this index, lower scores signify higher vulnerability, while higher scores indicate greater readiness. Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, (2007) in its Synthesis Report. Of the Fourth Assessment Report: Climate Change 2007 noted that “Warming of the climate system is unequivocal as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice and rising average sea level.” Again, The United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change, (UNFCCC, 2005) define climate change as ‘A change of climate, which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity, that



alters the composition of the global atmosphere, and in addition to natural climate variability, observed over comparable period of time.’ While the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, (IPCC, 2007) defined it as ‘any change in climate over time whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity.

Theoretical Framework

The study was anchored on the Relative Deprivation Theory. The proponent of the Relative Deprivation Theory is Karl Max. The central theme of the theory is that as the society or any organization functions, conflict is inevitable among individuals and groups. The people tries in every means to struggle to maximize the available benefits in society, hence, conflict (Yakkaldevi, 2014). Karl Marx believes that the society is stratified and is made up of two major classes; the ruling and the ruled class. Karl Max maintained that the ruling class draws its political power from control of available resources. The ruling class uses the process of exploiting and oppressing the ruled class to maintain their status quo. (Yakkaldevi, 2014; Folarin, 2013).

The ‘have’ and ‘have not’ exists in society. The ‘have’ in one hand is judged to be at a better position economically or otherwise to ‘have not’ who are subjected to oppression and humiliation which create room for disparity among the people as well as igniting inevitable conflict between individuals or groups in society. Smith and Pettigrew (2015) concur to the exploitation tendency of the ruling class which degenerates to conflict or incompatibility above all violent confrontations. “They define Relative Deprivation as a judgment that one or one’s group is disadvantaged compared to another, and such judgments often invokes feelings of anger, resentment and entitlement”.

In this scenario, rural land conflict erupt or blown up when individuals or groups feel the sentiment of deprivation or being alienated in the rights to access the land they claim to belong to them . Land is wealth, land resources not only sustains livelihoods but is an identity to the owners. The value of land in national development is lost when conflict erupts and food security is porous in unsecured environment as crime, loss of lives and property, poverty becomes



eminent. Therefore, deprivation ensue angers, and encourages divided society with incomparability.

Methodology

The qualitative and quantitative mixed approaches were adopted in carrying out this investigation. The research design adopted for study is cross-sectional design. The survey was carried out across the states and social groups in south East States of Nigeria. In quantitative approach, primary sources of data such as questionnaire instrument and observation were used. While in qualitative approach, data were gathered from secondary sources such as public and private libraries, internet materials, and notably relevant articles were carefully gathered and used for the study.

In the method of analysis, descriptive analytical statistical tool was used such as contingency tables, simple percentages and graphs as well as charts were also used to analysis the result of the outcomes through data deduction. On the qualitative analysis, steps of content analysis were followed and narrative analytical techniques involving data reduction were utilized. The information or data sequence employed for the analysis of data were also extracted carefully from numerous logical chains. The evidences are draw from available periodic papers such as magazines, journal papers, conference papers, documentary materials as well as various peace committee and panel reports, security agencies reports, committee meetings, edited books etc. Population of the study, the total population of South East is 16,395,555 of Abia, Anambra, Enugu, Ebonyi, and Imo (2006 census). The estimate of 2.8% of 1991, population census was used to determine the current population of the area under study as shown below: The sample frame or population is based on the global acceptable formula. The international empirical formula for the projected population is as stated thus:

$$P^n = P^0 (1+r)^n \dots\dots\dots \text{(Equation 1)}$$

Where:

P^n = population projection for nth number year .

P^0 = population data from the base year.

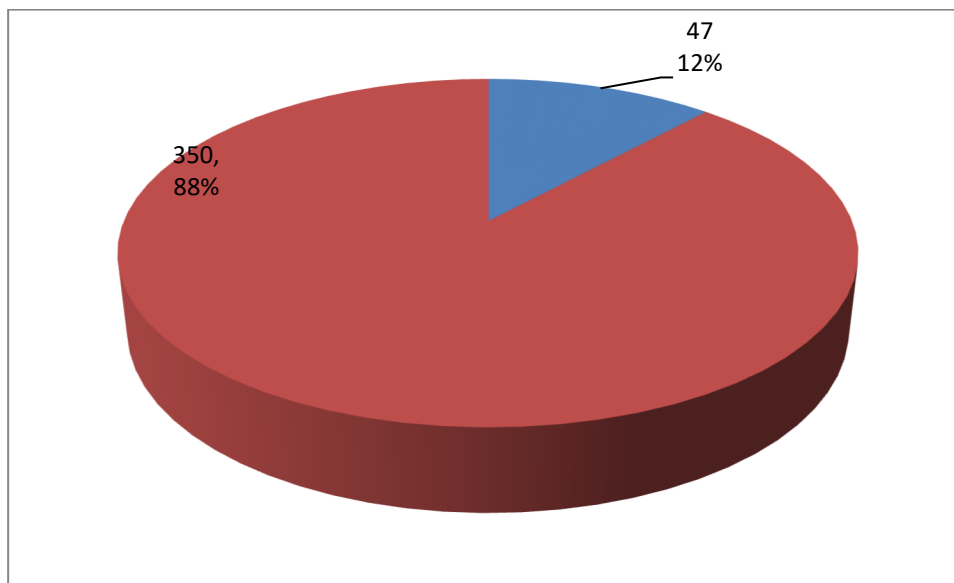
r = Rate of population growth is 2.8% for South East of Nigeria (NPC, 1991).



Population of 16,395,555 in 2006, from 2007 to 2023 = 65, 5258486 using 2.8% of the population of 2006. On the determination of simple size, the researcher was aware that the formula for sample size determination requires the adequate knowledge of the variance of the population, the maximum desirable error margin, including acceptable type 1 error risk such as the confidence level (Researcher Advisory, 2006). Israel (1992), presented table for the selection of sample size which provide the sample size for a given set of criteria. Sample Size for $\pm 5\%$ and $\pm 10\%$ Precision Levels where Confidence Level is 95% and $P=0.5$. less than 100,000 is 400. Then, in line with table specification, then, 400 was used as sample size for the study.

Data Presentation and Analysis

Figure 1: Pie Chart on the Collection of Distributed Questionnaire



Source: Nwoba and Oboke's Field Survey, 2024

The data in figure 1 shows that out of a total of three hundred and forty seven (347) questionnaire that were distributed to the sampled respondents, only three hundred and fifty (350) representing 88.0% of the sampled respondents correctly and validly completed and returned their questionnaire, while fifty (47) representing 12.0% of the surveyed respondents failed to return their questionnaire. Consequently, the researcher adopted the number of the validly completed and returned questionnaire (350) as the number of sample size used in the analysis of questionnaire of the field survey as against the initial sample size of three hundred



and forty seven (347) questionnaire earlier stated. The South East of Nigeria Demographic Characteristics. This includes the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents such as sex, age, marital status, occupations as well as educational qualification used to analyse the study.

Table 1. Demographic Characteristics of Respondents of South East Region of Nigeria

Items	Total	Frequency		Percentage	
		(F)	(%)	(F)	(%)
				Male	Female
				Male	Female
Sex	350	120	230	34.28	65.72
Marital Status	350				
			105	30	
			90	25.7	
			155	44.3	
Occupation	350				
			55	15.7	
				27.1	
			95		
			150	42.8	
Education	350				
		No Formal Education	120	34.3	
		FSLC	160	45.7	
		WASCE/NECO	50	14.3	
		ND,OND,HND/B	20	5.7	
		SC, MSC, PhD			
Age					
		0-30	40	11.4	
		31-40	50	14.3	
		41-50	100	28.6	



51-60	102	29.0
61-Above	58	16.7

Source: Nwoba and Oboke's Field Survey, (2024).

In Table 1, the representation of the sex distribution of the respondents indicates that 120 of 34.72% respondents were males while 230 of 65.72% sample respondents were females. The result shows that there are relatively more female than males in the area of study. On marital status, the result indicates that 105 of 30% respondents of the sampled population were single. 90 of 25.7% of the respondents were married and 155 of 44.3% of the respondents were widowed.

The occupational distribution shows that 55 accounting for 15.7% of the sampled population were engaged in the farmer activities in the area. The respondents numbering 150 representing 42.8% were trader in the area. The sample population for civil servant was 95 representing 27.1%. The majority of the sample population engages in farming activities, followed by traders and civil servants. . Educationally, the respondents numbering 120 representing 34.3% have no formal education. The respondents that acquired first school leaving certificates (FSLC) were 160 accounting for 45.7%. The 500 representing 14.3% and 20 accounting for 5.7% have WASCE/NECO and ND, OND, HND/Bsc, Msc, PhD respectively.

On the age range, the distribution is thus; between 0-30 of 40 representing 11.4%, 31-40 of 50 of 14.3%, 41-50 of 100 accounting for 28.6%, 51-60 of 102 also representing 29.0% and above 60 representing 58 accounts for 16.7%.

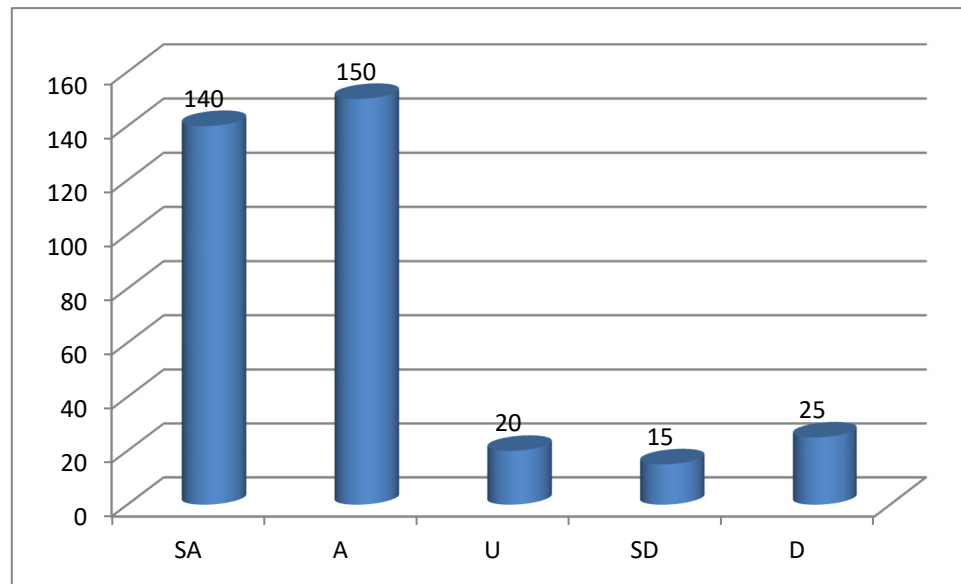
Presentation of Data on the causes of rural land conflict that affect food security:

Sub-unit question 1

Customary system of land tenure is responsible for the increase in rural land conflict in the development of South East of Nigeria.



Figure 2: Line chart on impact of customary system of land tenure on rural land conflict that affects food security in South East region of Nigeria



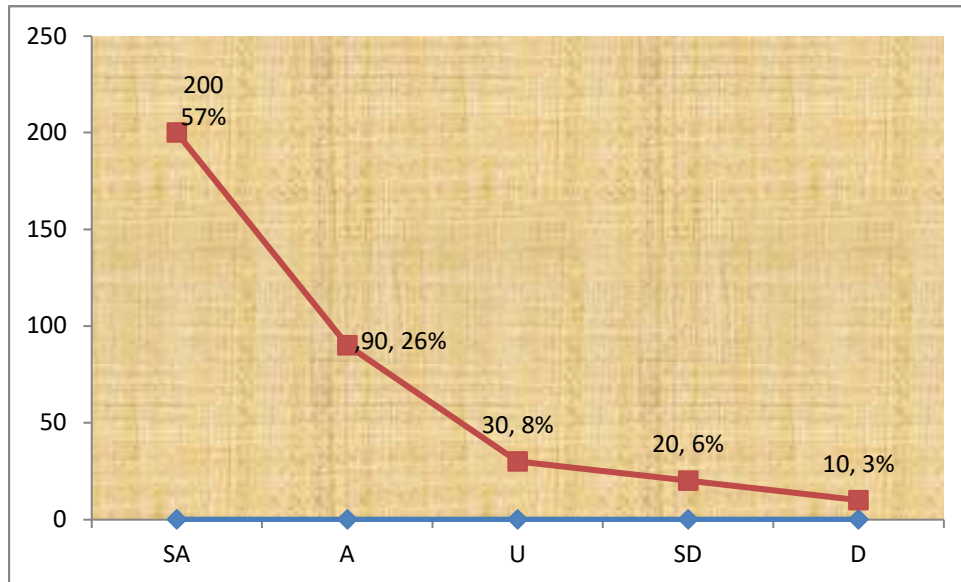
Source: Nwoba and Oboke's Field Survey, (2024).

In figure 2, the response of the respondents, the number of respondents strongly agreed, 140 and 150 agreed. While 20 respondents undecided, 15 respondents strongly disagree and 25 respondents disagreed. The total number of respondents that agreed 290 and 40 disagreed. This indicates that the study indicted customary system of land tenure of rural land conflict as one of the factors that constitute a threat to food security in the development of South East Region of Nigeria.

Sub-Unit Question 2: Population accounts for the increase in rural land conflict that affects food security in the development of South East region of Nigeria.



Figure 3: Line chart on impact of population on rural land conflict that affects food security in South East region of Nigeria.



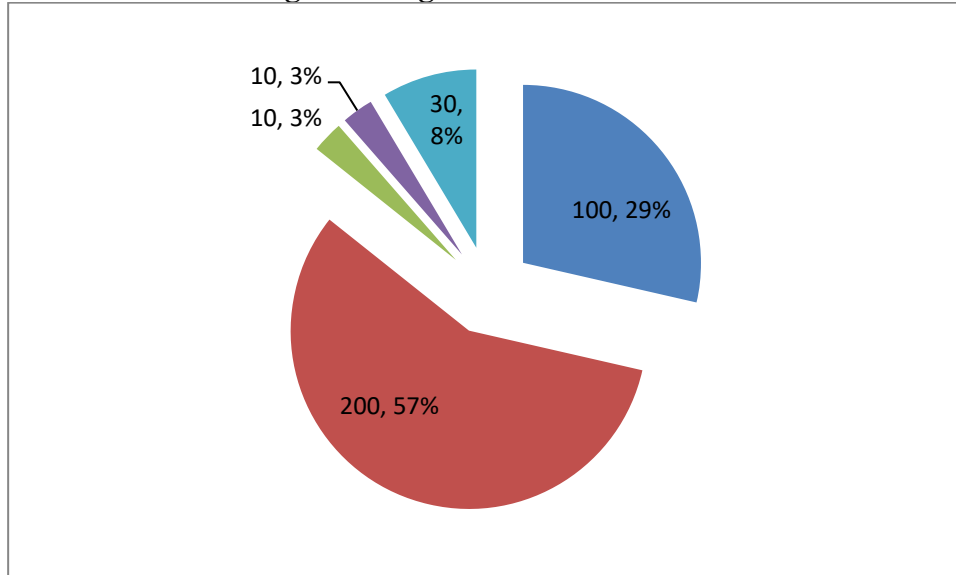
Source: Nwoba and Oboke’s Field Survey, (2024).

Figure 3 above shows the following result, strongly agree on population, 200 respondents of 57%, 90 of 26% respondents agree, undecided 30 of 8% respondents, strongly disagree 20 of 6% respondents and 10 of 3% respondents disagree. This indicates that 290 respondents agreed, and 30 respondents disagreed while 30 undecided. This indicates that the study also indicted population as one of the factors that result to rural land conflict and constitute a threat to food security in the development of South East Region of Nigeria.

Sub-unit question 3 : Climate change relates to the increase in rural land conflict that affects food security in South East region of Nigeria.



Figure 4: Pie chart on Climate change and rural land conflict that affects food security in South East region of Nigeria.



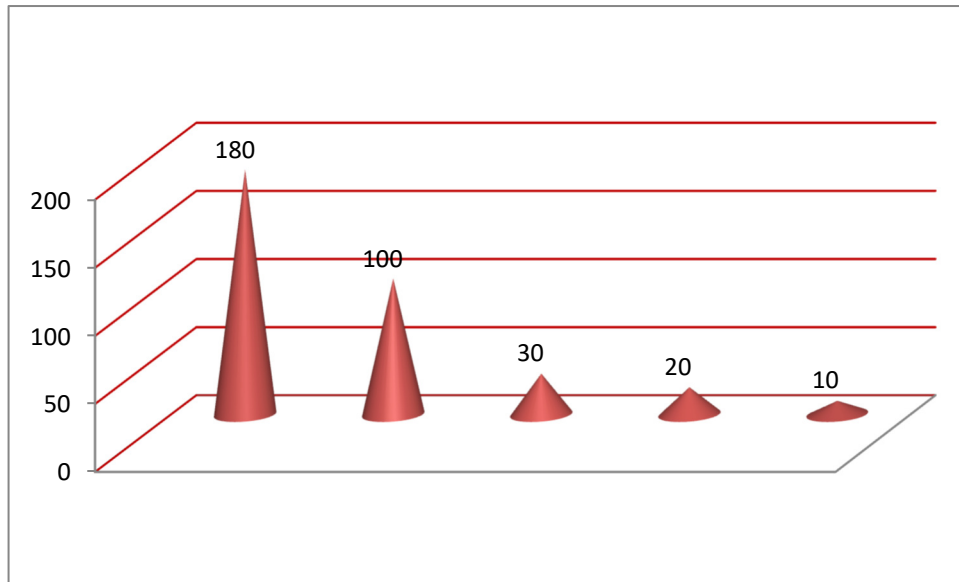
Source: Nwoba and Oboke’s Field Survey, (2024).

In figure 4, strongly agree 200 respondents of 57%, Agree, 100 respondents of 29%, Undecided 30 respondents of 8%, strongly disagree 10 respondents of 3% and disagree of 10 respondents of 3%. Therefore, 300 respondents agreed and 20 respondents disagree and 30 respondents undecided the result indicates that 86% concurred to the fact that climate change is one of the factors that affect food security in the south East of Nigeria which turns to source of rural land conflict in the area.

Sub-unit question 4: Political Interference relates to increase in rural land conflict that affects food security in the development of South East region of Nigeria.



Figure 5: Political Interferences relate to the increase in rural land conflict that affects food security in South East region of Nigeria



Source: Nwoba and Oboke's Field Survey, (2024).

In figure 5, the response of the respondents, the number of respondents strongly agreed, 180 and 100 agreed. While 30 respondents undecided, 20 respondents strongly disagree and 10 respondents disagreed. The total number of respondents that agreed 280 and 30 disagreed. This indicates that political interference is as one of the factors that cause rural land conflict which constitute a threat to food security in the development of South East Region of Nigeria.

Findings

After the analysis the study discovered the following;

1. Customary system of land tenure is one of the factors that is responsible for the increase in rural land conflict which affects immensely food availability, affordability, accessibility and sustainability and derail development in South East of Nigeria.
2. Population accounts for the increase in rural land conflict that affects food security of its availability, affordability, accessibility and sustainability in South East region of Nigeria.
3. The emergence of climate change relates to the increase in rural land conflict that affects food security in South East region of Nigeria.



4. Political Interferences by government and stakeholders relate to the increase in rural land conflict that affects food security in South East region of Nigeria.

Discussion of Findings

1. Customary system of land tenure is one of the factors that is responsible for the increase in rural land conflict which affects food security derails national development.

1. The result of the study indicts customary system as one of the factors affecting food security in the South East Region of Nigeria which contributes to rural land conflict in the area. The people of South East mostly see land with the lens of inherited ancestral home that must be customarily revered at all cost. Land Use Act of 1978, which empowered the Federal Government in relation to ownership of land and mineral resources, put insult to injury. to unify and simplify land tenure. But some controversies over its interpretation continue among writers and judges as Section 1 of the Act vests the control and management of all lands to the governors of each state of the Nigerian Federation According to Nassè (2019) maintains that conflict arise as a result of misbehaviour between individuals and groups of people in a community to preserve their rights. The indigene of the eastern region of Nigeria struggle for land is highly anchored on the attempt to secure and preserve their cultural identity and to reap the benefits inherent in it.

Wahremann (2008) concurs to the assertion that between individuals and groups engage in conflicts over property right to land usage, management, generation of income, receipt of compensation and the right to transfer it. Rahim (2010) and Awedoba (2009) believe that conflict is of the relationship of differences or disagreements and incompatibilities. In the South East of Nigeria the rural land relationship is antagonistic in nature mostly on boundary adjustment which its effect on food security is alarming as the value of land in national development is lost when conflict erupts and food security is porous in unsecured environment as crime, loss of lives and property, poverty becomes eminent. As a result food availability, affordability, accessibility and sustainability become very difficult to achieve South East of Nigeria. The deprivation of rural land is marched with extreme resistance by the people. This is in line with the theory that anchors this study that when people feel deprived or alienated, they resist such attempt because land is wealth and land resources not only sustains livelihoods but is an identity to the owners.



2. Population accounts for the increase in rural land conflict that affects food security

The result indicts population explosion as one of the factors affecting food security in the South East Region of Nigeria and contributes to rural land conflict in the area. The majority of the respondents agreed that population accounts for rural land conflict in the south East Region. Scholars such as Imobighe (1998), Udeh (2008) share the same view with the result of this study that population contributes to the inevitable rural land conflict which affects food security in south East Region of Nigeria. The Nigeria population in 2006 stands at 140,431,790 and in 2023 estimated at 226.2 million (Statistia, 2023). According to (UNEP 2011, P. 20);

Nigeria is the most populous African country. It covers a total area of 923,768 sq. km and shares boundaries with Cameroon in the east, the Republic of Niger in the north, Chad in the north-east, and Benin in the west. In the south, Nigeria makes contact with the Atlantic Ocean through its 853 km-long coastline). Water covers 13,000 sq. km of the country. Current environmental issues include loss of arable land, soil degradation, rapid urbanization, deforestation, desertification, and, in Nigeria's Niger Delta, oil pollution of water, air, and soil.

Therefore, the population density, size as well growth constant changes contributes to add pressure to physical and human conditions such as economic, social, cultural, and political situation which is deteriorating day by day in the distribution of a given human population in a given area. Put differently, the population pressure of more people result to displacement and struggle for space and other natural resources inherent in land by the , family, clan, village, and community. The factors such as destruction of resources, displacement, destruction of agricultural resources by outside actors. The dispossessing and enchantment of land conflict for development is also resisted by the people to protect their natural gift from creature.

3. Climate change relates to the increase in rural land conflict that affects food security in South East region of Nigeria.

The result indicates that 86% concurred to the fact that climate change is one of the factors that affects food security in the South East of Nigeria which turns to source of rural land conflict in the area. The result of the study is in line with the reality of Nigeria, with a vast land space of 923,768 sq km, spanning across different climatic regions the country. This exposed the country to a myriad of environmental problems which threatens its environmental viability and food



security and national development. According to FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO (2017, 2018, 2019), the three factors responsible for food crisis include crisis (internal or external), national economy, and climate. The challenges among other things include; Alteration of Planting and Harvesting Season, Decrease in Crop Yield, increased Pest, Influence on Livestock: Influence on Livestock: High demands for Irrigation. Therefore, the country is highly vulnerable to climate change. Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, (2007) in its Synthesis Report. Of the Fourth Assessment Report of Climate Change 2007 noted that “Warming of the climate system is unequivocal as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice and rising average sea level.” Again, The United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change, (UNFCCC, 2005) attribute change of climate to directly or indirectly human activity, that alters the composition of the global atmosphere. In south East of Nigeria, Fadama Projects, Agricultural Development Projects, River Basin Development Authorities, Livestock Development Project, Aquaculture Development Project in addition to technical and resource support of UN agencies. For subsistent farmers, who constitute more than 75% of the farming population and who find adjustments to climate change as a costly option due to the required investments, they resort to disposing or mortgaging their assets and eventually emigrating. High intense rainfall as forecasted in the southern part of the country has resulted in increased flooding and sedimentation of floodplains, making them less

4. Political Interferences by government and stakeholders relate to the increase in rural land conflict that affects food security in South East region of Nigeria.

Land and power struggle

The result concurred to the fact that climate change is one of the factors that affects food security in the South East of Nigeria.

Land is not only crucial for rural livelihoods but highly connected with the issue of power and cultural identity. The struggle for land is motivated as a result of scarcity and forceful alienation of peoples customary native land. The unforeseen hardship and decisions taken have led to land conflicts and high tension at mirco-level. The intra- local conflicts, ethnic Citizens and their Elders, or Chiefs who took decisions on communal land conflicts have metamorphous to inter-



community conflicts Huggins (2010) notes that Indigenous and immigrant groups as a result of uncertainty context for right of citizenship. This dynamics has led to widespread violence and the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs), this scenario adds insult to injury.

Conclusion

Nigeria is made up of 250 ethno-linguistic groups. South East of Nigeria is one of the three major ethnic groups in the country. Rural land conflict is basically on boundary adjustment and property inheritance in South East of Nigeria. After the investigation with mixed methodological approaches, the study discovered that the challenges posed by customary system, population growth, political interference, climate change in relation to food security of rural land conflict in South East of Nigeria ignite further insecurity in the region as testified by the respondents and scholars contributions on the on-going debates on increase of rural land conflict as s threat to food security.

The impacts of rural land conflict manifest heavily as crack relationships, unhealthy rivalry, high tension, inequalities, and unending competition in rural areas in South East of Nigeria. Researches result on rural land conflict show that citizens' right of societal identity, source of income, peoples' culture and sustenance of livelihoods etc. are seriously indicted for the conflict and food insecurity. Therefore, the struggle for land accessibility and ownership not only deprive many their shelters, essential resources and comfort of livelihoods but continue to change the narrative to worst and threaten cultural identity in various villages and communities in the area understudy. Nwoba, Elom, Obeni, Nwabuko, Omeh and Nwokposi, (2023), "note that looking at the security situation in Nigeria, one is pushed to the extreme to say that the emerging security challenges which is on daily basis showing red alert and also increasing astronomically will ignites further violence which signified more violence or danger in the Nigerian polity"

Recommendations

1. The introduction of new narrative of economic policy option of food sustainability curriculum in teaching and learning in primary schools to tertiary institutions.
2. The introduction of compulsory farm bagging of agricultural system with digitalized solar irrigation on tuber crops, vegetables, fruits etc. as well as animal husbandry to



reduce struggle for shrinking space of rural land on agricultural activities to avert incompatibilities and high resurgences that are unhealthy to induratalisation in the South East Region becomes imperative

3. The government and stakeholders' neutrality, transparency and fundamental efforts to reduce high dependency ratio and make u-turn in igniting further rural land conflict is necessary to encourage food availability, affordability, accessibility and sustainability in the area.

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