

Full-Length Research Paper

Analysis of Factors Influencing Crop Farmers Participation in IFAD-CASP Program in Zamfara State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT: The study looked at the characteristics that influence crop farmer involvement in the IFAD-CASP programme in Zamfara State, Nigeria. To collect data from the 360 respondents chosen for the study, an interview schedule and focused group discussion (FGD) were used. The respondents were chosen using a multistage and simple random sampling procedure. For data analysis, descriptive statistics (mean, percentages, frequency distribution) and inferential statistics (logic regression analysis) were utilized. According to the study's findings, the majority of respondents were married, with an average household size of 8 people and a monthly income of less than N 20,000. According to the logic regression results, the coefficients for conflict (X1), insecurity (X2), fear (X3), and location (X4) were statistically significant at the 5% level of significance. Increasing these factors by 1% while maintaining the other variables constant results in a decrease in the dependent variable (participation Y) of 39.6%, 58.3%, 12.3%, and 10.4%, respectively. Regression coefficient with respect to experience in conflict (X₆) was negative but statistically significant at 10% meaning increase in the variable (X₆) by 1% will lead to decrease in the dependent variable by -86%. The hypothesis shows that, r calculated is 0.9521. This shows a strong positive association exists between the direct repercussions of rural banditry and respondents' participation in IFAD-CASP. Based on the study's findings, it is possible to conclude that rural banditry contributes to bad economic growth, increased rural poverty, low participation, and poor programme execution, as well as instilling fear and uncertainty. As a result, the study recommends that the government urgently provide adequate security personnel to man the porous borders, enrol the vulnerable in government social investment programmes, organize training/seminars for peace building purposes, and that the government register all mining sites and properly monitor their activities.

Keywords: Factors, crop farmers, IFAD-CASP Program, Zamfara State

INTRODUCTION

Rural banditry has evolved into a global societal phenomenon that is devastating a number of nations around the world. Rural banditry is frequently the result of individual centrally organized parties seeking to engage in open armed fights over power over government and territory, and such conflicts are triggered by a variety of circumstances (Castro, 2017). Among the factors are

insincerity on the part of one or both parties involved, disappointment on the part of either party involved, internal disagreement (Bloisi, 2007), inability to address the root cause of a long-standing conflict, proliferation of weapons and arms, which causes armed conflict, and ethnicity, according to Ani et al. (2015). According to Best (2005) rural banditry can only be made possible when

weapons are made available to fight, thereby inflicting injuries and sometime death of individuals. Similarly, mischievous individuals take advantage of it to cause disturbance in order to achieve their interest (Anioke, 2002).

Rural banditry, according to Chukwuemeka et al. (2012), is becoming more popular in underdeveloped countries than in industrialized ones. It is also quickly becoming a vital element of most emerging nations' operations, such as Nigeria's. Earlier researchers (Baumann et al., 2014) demonstrated that the aftermath of armed conflicts in society has consistently been negative, for example, increasing the rate of poverty, resulting in an increase in the number of internal displacement of several persons, causing outbreaks of diseases, reducing food security, and impeding economic growth.

Nigeria, like other developing countries, has undergone numerous forms of armed conflict over the last five decades, most notably following independence (1960). It has occurred in practically all of the country's six geopolitical zones. Despite the fact that the incidents do not affect every state in every geographical zone, practically every state has suffered from the detrimental results, either directly or indirectly (Bello, 2017).

Thus, the implications of rural banditry on Nigerian society are negative and limitless since, in addition to affecting nearly all of the federation's states, it also affected virtually every other area of the state where it happened. For example, in Zamfara, it has resulted in tremendous loss of life and property, as well as disease and disability. It has also resulted in a rise in the number of widows, widowers, and orphans. It has increased the prevalence of despair, trauma, mental retardation, suicide, and environmental degradation, with disastrous effects for agricultural production and food scarcity (Anka, 2017).

In certain sections of Zamfara state, the violence has resulted in a major food crisis and insecurity. Likewise, a number of agricultural lands have been damaged. Environmental changes, agricultural soil degradation, erosion of agricultural biodiversity's genetic base, water scarcity, poor governance, rising demand and shifting consumption patterns, uncontrolled deforestation, export-oriented agricultural development policies, and political dysfunctions have all been factored in (Ashe, 2019).

The state administration of Zamfara established several programmes such as amnesty to alleviate the consequences of war in the rural areas of the state. The goal of this programme is to reduce the effects of rural banditry on the inhabitants of Zamfara State. When the military force failed to dissuade militants and restore normalcy to the region (Atala and Hassan, 2012), the Federal Government of Nigeria pursued a similar method through the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta,

where people were compelled to devise coping techniques to protect their survival.

Prior to the emergence of rural banditry in Zamfara, the federal government implemented the International Fund for Agricultural Development-Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Programme in seven northern Nigerian states: Kebbi, Sokoto, Zamfara, Katsina, Jigawa, Yobe, and Borno, as a strategy to effectively combat hunger and poverty (Ashe, 2019). Women and farmers with tiny land holdings were the most vulnerable individuals in these states, suffering from hunger and poverty. Since the persistent rural banditry began in Zamfara State, the socio-economic position of these people has deteriorated dramatically, owing to a drop in participation in rural development programmes, which, in turn, puts the IFAD-CASP in jeopardy.

Statement of the research problem

Several identical issues accounted for rural banditry around the world, attributing similar causes to rural banditry in Zamfara would be inappropriate due to two factors. The first being that rural banditry in Zamfara State has taken a dynamic and multi-faceted dimension (cattle rustling, kidnaping, rape, murder, high way robbery). Secondly, political and economic issues arising from gold mining and power tussle (Berberi and Castro, 2016). Even though the conflict first began as a local dispute between herdsmen and farmers over access to land, it has however metamorphosed into an intractable crisis posing a major threat to state security (Babatunde, 2016).

The level of rural banditry (banditry) escalated between 2014 and 2019, thereby attracting much attention because it assumed increased political undertones of the 2019 Nigerian general elections. These entire criminal acts have worsened the socio-economic status of rural dwellers that were already poor, leaving them to become beggars, destitute and internally displaced. According to Anka (2015), over sixteen thousand farmers have been internally displaced in Anka LGA alone. All their investment as peasant farmers has been destroyed as a result of the conflict and has made it extremely difficult for them to survive. Some of the farmers that were participating in IFAD-CASP before the crisis whose socioeconomic status seemed to have taken a better shape had received the shock of their lives when they lost virtually all their improved agricultural practice of intensive crop and livestock production to the crises. Continued participating in the IFAD-CASP has now become increasingly difficult because some of the services were provided for free.

Some of the upgraded safe water supplies, environmental sanitation, irrigation, health and education

facilities which were invested in these rural areas by IFAD -CASP have been similarly destroyed. This has made it difficult for the supposedly empowered poor communities to manage their development and support vulnerable groups. The various strategies adopted by the government and the participants of IFAD-CASP to resolve conflicts between farmers and bandit also seem to be yielding less result as the incidences of banditry persisted in discouraging the staff who have been providing those services.

Most of the research reviewed centered on cattle rustling, farmers-herders conflicts and rural banditry and were silent on the impact of rural banditry on the agricultural programmes of IFAD-CASP in Zamfara State, Nigeria. It is on this note that the researcher observed a gap in knowledge and the vacuum needs to be filled as this would go a long way in providing literature on impact of rural banditry on participating crop producers of IFAD-CASP in Zamfara State.

Research questions

This study seeks to address the following questions:

1. What are the socio-economic characteristics of IFAD-CASP participating crop producers in the study area?
2. What are the factors influencing crop producers' participation in IFAD-CASP in Zamfara State?

Objectives of the study

The main objective of the study is to assess the impact of rural banditry on IFAD-CASP participating crop producers in Zamfara State, Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study are to:

1. describe the socio-economic characteristics of the IFAD-CASP participating crop producers in Zamfara State.
2. determine the factors influencing crop producers' participation in IFAD-CASP in Zamfara State.

METHODOLOGY

Study area

This study was conducted in Zamfara State, the capital of Zamfara State is Gusau. The state was established in 1996 by the then military administration of the Late General Sani Abacha. Zamfara State was carved out of Sokoto State. It comprises of fourteen (14) Local Government Areas, with an area landmass of 38,418 sq. km. The state stretches between Latitude 10 21' to 13 15'N and Longitude 60 20'E Fig 3.1 (Google maps,

2019). Zamfara State is bordered in the North by Niger Republic, in the South by Kaduna State, in the East by Katsina State and in the West by Sokoto, Kebbi and Niger States respectively, the state lies in the Sudan Savannah Agro Ecological Zone of Nigeria and has a population of 4,515,400 according to (NPC 2019) projection.

Statistics have shown that more than 80% of the people living in Zamfara State engage in various forms of agricultural activities ranging from crop production of millet, guinea corn, maize, rice, groundnut, cotton, tobacco and beans to livestock and fish farming. The climate exhibits a definite mark of wet and dry seasons. Tropical continental air mass predominates during the dry season while harmattan last from December to February and wet season June to mid-October. Rainfall distribution varies from 675mm to 1000mm with an average annual temperature of between 26 and 30 degrees centigrade.

Sampling techniques and sample size

The population of the study comprises of participating crop producers of IFAD-CASP in Zamfara State, North West Nigeria.

The State is divided into three agricultural zones namely: Northern Zone (Birnin Magaji, Kaura Namoda, Shinkafi and Zurmi LGAs), Central Zone (Bungudu, Gusau, Maru and Tsafe LGAs), and Western Zone (Anka, Bakura, Bukkuyum, Gumi, Maradun and Talata Mafara LGAs) (Table 1).

A comprehensive list of CDAs was obtained from IFAD-CASP office in Gusau, then the selection of sample for the study was done using multi-stage sampling technique. At the first stage, from each of the three agricultural zones, three LGAs were purposively selected to obtain a total of nine (9) LGAs.

At the second stage, twelve (12) CDAs were selected from each of the LGA selected to obtain a total of thirty-six (36) CDAs. At the third and final stage, ten (10) respondents were selected using simple random sampling from each of the selected CDA to obtain a total of three hundred and sixty (360) respondents.

Method of data collection

The researcher engaged the services of research assistants. Both the researcher and the research assistants administered the structured questionnaire directly to the respondents and immediately retrieved them upon completion. While secondary information was obtained through journal, books, magazines, internet, past thesis, Online Library, encyclopedias and research proceedings etc.

Table 1: Agricultural zones of the study area.

Zones	No of LGAs in the zones	No of LGAs selected	No of CDA Groups in the selected LGAs	No of CDA Groups selected	No of Respondent selected in each CDA	Total Sample Size
Northern Zone	4	3	29	12	10	120
Central Zone	4	3	26	12	10	120
Western Zone	6	3	42	12	10	120
Total	14	9	97	36	30	360

Source: Field Survey, 2020.

Method of data analysis

After the data collection process, the researcher reviewed, sorted and labeled the instruments before the commencement of the analysis. This was done using the variables in line with the research instruments. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics (frequencies and percentages) and inferential statistic such as Binary/logistic regression model was used to achieve objective 2.

Models specification

Logistic Regressions Model Specification

$$Y = f(x_1 x_2 x_3 - x_n) + e \quad (1)$$

Where,

Y = Dependent variable, (Binary variable)

X₁ – X₆ = independent variables

f = functional notation.

e = error term

Y = Participation (Participation =1 and No Participation = 0)

X₁ = Conflict, (Exist = 1, and Not Exist = 0)

X₂ = Insecurity, (Lost of Life = 1, and otherwise = 0)

X₃ = Fear, (Psychological distress =1, and otherwise = 0)

X₄ = Location (farm = 1, and otherwise = 0)

X₅ = Season (wet season = 1, and otherwise = 0)

X₆ = Experience in Conflict (experienced attack =1, and otherwise = 0)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 2 is an indication of Socio-economic characteristic of the ifad-casp participating crop producers. Majority 71.9% of the participating crop producers of IFAD-CASP were male due to their active involvement in outdoor activities such as farming and animal rearing. While female participates mostly in indoor farming activities such as small animal rearing, processing, threshing and packaging of farm produce this is so because Islam is the predominant religion and has put some restrictions on

women to interact freely outside the matrimonial homes and getting responses from such category is sometimes impracticable. These discrepancies are believed to have been influenced by the nature of the study theme- rural banditry which is highly practiced by the male counterparts (Baumann *et al.*, 2014). Again, some women felt this is not their area of interest because they hardly participate. Even though they are also directly affected by these harmful acts as they are mostly the victims of rape abduction and other forms of sexual abuses (Barnett and Adger, 2007).

The age of IFAD-CASP participating crop producers has effect on the level of activities. It determines the level of participation in the programme and it is an important measure of farm productivity. The age grouping can be divided into say the active group and dependent age group. Table 2 shows that about (32.5%) of the IFAD-CASP participating crop producers were between the age ranges of 28-37years which is the active age range. At this age, the respondents are expected to be virile and able to do a lot of farm work if given proper incentives. According to Mohammed, (2017) majority of the respondents were within their youthful ages of active involvement in rural occupations which are mostly farming and rearing of domestic animals and invariably became more affected by the problem of cattle rustling as they are usually the target.

This agrees with the findings of Atala and Hassan (2012) who posited that youth perform most active farm operation and majority of the youth are between the ages brackets of 18-35years. This was an expected indicator based on the fact that the youths have been highlighted as the main players in the rural banditry activities. This agrees with the findings of Bello (2017) who opined that Majority (52.2%) of the farmers were below the mean age indicating that the farmers were still in their active and productive years. Consequently, they may respond violently to conflict issues or become very aggressive to herdsmen due to youthful exuberance. Also, the results show the dominance of male in farming probably because men are more energetic and capable of involving in tedious production activities associated with farming than women. It is believed that married couples are likely to participate more in IFAD-CASP than single

Table 2: Distribution of Socio-economic characteristic of the IFAD-CASP participating crop producers in Zamfara State N 360.

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Sex		
Male	259	71.9
Female	101	28.1
Age		
18-27	56	15.5
28-37	117	32.5
38-47	79	21.9
48-57	80	22.2
58<	28	7.9
Marital Status		
Single	49	13.6
Married	280	77.8
Divorced	9	2.5
Separated	5	1.4
Widowed	17	4.7
Income/Month		
>20,000	199	55.3
20,001-50,000	132	36.7
50,001-80,000	16	4.4
80,001-110,000	10	2.8
110,001<	3	0.8
Residence		
Rural	298	82.7
Urban	62	17.3
Household Size		
0-5	122	33.8
6-10	135	37.5
11-15	70	19.4
16-20	33	9.3

Source: Field survey, 2020

parent families due to labour supply in farming activities and access to productive resources in agriculture (Anka, 2017). The research findings show that, majority of the IFAD-CASP participating crop producers are married having (77.8%), single having (13.6%), widowed (4.7%) and divorced (2.5%). This implies that most of the participating crop producers have some responsibilities; therefore, marital status is an important factor to be considered in any programme of change to be introduced to the study area since family decision will be required in any activity to be embarked upon Ashe (2019).

Zamfara State Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Programme Officer (IFADCASP), said that the Programme was aimed to providing access to improved seeds and technologies that has helped farmers increase production as well as their income. According to the State Programme Officer raising the income of farmers through the provision of improved seeds and farming practices, which the farmers adopt has recorded high yields. "The programme has helped many farmers by increasing their yields and enhancing

the farmers' income". However, this research finding was in disagreement with the above statement due to rising issue of rural banditry and rural banditry in the study area. Majority (53.3%) of the IFADCASP participating crop producers in the study area has an income of <N20,000. This implies that participating crop producers suffer more loss such as reduction in output and income from crop as a result of the destruction of crops and indiscriminate bush burning by rural bandits. The findings of Baumann *et al.*, (2014) shows that majority of the farmers suffer more losses from farmer-pastoralist conflicts, especially economic losses such as reduction in output (20.0%), loss of properties (28.3%), and scarcity of food (23.3%) were regarded as severe economic losses experienced by farmers. A larger percentage (46.7%) of the farmers indicated loss of properties as a major economic loss encountered as a result of conflict. It is necessary to establish the residence of the participating crop producers, in such a way to find out the location of the participating crop producers either urban or rural dwellers. Majority of IFAD-CASP participating crop

Table 3: Factors influencing participation in IFAD-CASP by participating crop producers.

Variables		Coefficient	Standard Error	T Value	Sig
Constant	(X ₀)	1.314	0.233	5.642***	0.000
Conflict	(X ₁)	- 0.396	0.1446	- 2.716**	0.004
Insecurity	(X ₂)	- 0.583	0.252	-2.309*	0.001
Fear	(X ₃)	- 0.123	0.055	-2.656**	0.000
Location	(X ₄)	- 0.104	0.050	-2.092**	0.075
Season	(X ₅)	- 0.047	0.051	- 0.917 ^{NS}	0.306
Experience in conflict	(X ₆)	- 0.086	0.050	-1.701*	0.060
F Value		1.851***			
R ² Value		0.028			

Source: Field survey 2020

Note*** 1%, ** 5%, * 10%

producers (83%) are rural dwellers in the study area which are more affected by the issue of rural banditry and rural banditry while (17%) are urban dwellers.

According to Ani *et al.* (2017) in his studies on Livelihood issues in herdsman-farmers' conflict among farming communities in Kogi State, find out that (22%) of the farming family lives in urban area. This could negatively affect the farmers' perception of conflict situation and subsequently their behavior and altitude to conflict. This might be one of the reasons why farmer-herders' conflict has remained unabated and a regular phenomenon in Zamfara state. This is in agreement with finding of this research which revealed 83% of IFAD-CASP participating crop producers are rural dwellers. Relatively the larger the family size of the IFAD-CASP participating crop producers may mean more people to cater for and more labour force will be available to work on the farm and help with other farming activities. The result in Table 2 shows that majority (33.8%) IFAD-CASP participating crop producers have a household size of 0-5, followed by (37.5%) of the participating crop producers have household sizes of 6-10 people. This implies that most of the IFAD-CASP participating crop producers have a larger household size which may have resulted from the need for family labour which may increase household productivity and larger household size may consequently result to more dependent family members.

Table 3 shows the logistic regression results of Factors Influencing Crop Producers Participation in IFAD-CASP. The econometric method used in establishing relationship between dependent variable (Participation in IFAD-CASP) and independent variables (Factor influencing participation in IFAD-CASP) is Logistic regression model. The logistic regression model has R² value of 0.028 implying that 28% probability change in the dependent variable (Participation in IFAD-CASP) was explained by the independents variables (X₁, X₂, X₃, X₄ and X₆) included in the model while 72% of the variation was as a

result of non-inclusion of other variables or as a result of estimation error.

F-ratio (1.851) was significant at 1% implying that the model can probability adequately establish relationship between dependent variable (Participation in IFAD-CASP) and independent variables (Conflict, Insecurity, Fear, Location, Season and Experience in conflict). Regression coefficients with respect to Conflict, Insecurity, Fear and Location were positive and statistically significant at 5% implying that increase in these variables will probably lead to decrease in the dependent Variable (Participation in IFAD-CASP) by 39.6%, 58.3%, 12.3% and 10.4% respectively. It should however be noted that season was not statistically significant. The regression coefficient of the Experience in conflict (X₆) was negative and statistically significant at 10% level of significance. This finding is in agreement with that of Abdullahi *et al.*, (2014) that conflict experience has influence on project participation. The finding shows that 4 out of 6 factors have significantly influenced crop producer's participation at 5% level of probability. It therefore concluded that the factors (conflict, insecurity, fear, location and experience in conflict) have influence on IFAD-CASP crop producer's participation in the programme.

Conclusion

This research established that majority of IFAD-CASP participating crop producers were male, married with a mean age of 33 years and an average income of less than N 20,000/ month. The factors influencing the participation of IFAD-CASP participating crop producers in the programme appears positive and statistically significant. This implies that a probability increase in the independent variables (conflict, insecurity, fear, location and experience in conflict) would led to decrease in

dependent variable (participation). Further established was widespread poverty, proliferation of small arms and weapons competition for gold mines and dispute over farm land account for causes of rural banditry in the study area, resulting to economic, social and physical decline in livelihood of the crop producers. These conflict engagements have drastically affected the activity of IFAD-CASP in carrying out its mandate to the respondents in the study area. In addition, IFAD-CASP participating crop producers were perceived to derive less benefit from the programme. The research therefore concluded that rural banditry has significantly affected IFAD-CASP participating crop producers in Zamfara State Nigeria.

Recommendations

Based on the finding of the research, the following recommendation were deemed necessary with a view to make IFAD-CASP viable instrument for the implementation of Agriculture, rural poverty and development.

1. Both primary and secondary stakeholders like the community, traditional leaders, politicians, government and NGO should focus on providing information for early warning, organize training, workshop and seminar on peace building process and reconciliations. Promises made during such gathering should be respected and redeemed.
2. The Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Investment in collaboration with States, Local Government and Non-Government agencies should enroll the vulnerable into its social support investment programmes such as N-power, Presidential youth empowerment scheme (P-YES) conditional cash grant, market money and other special intervention schemes.
3. Government should as a matter of urgency provide adequate security to Mann the porous borders of the north-western states. This can be achieved through the Nigeria immigration service and other sister security and intelligence communities.
4. Federal Government in conjunction with State and Local Government should henceforth register all mining sites and the activities of mining companies be properly monitored by the Nigeria police force, security agencies and the community.

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