



## **Good Governance Issues in Agro and Allied Industries and Their Impacts on Food Security in Nigeria**

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### *Abstract*

The paper evaluated the extent to which government agricultural policies has improved agriculture and agro-allied industrial sector thereby containing the menace of food insecurity, allowing development and advancing food production through good governance. However, the study identified factors that impedes modernization of the agro-industry and their relative challenges to food security. The study objectives include, ascertaining the achievements made through Good Governance for increased food production, food security, considering the impediments currently hampering the attempts toward addressing food security and affordability in Nigeria. The study applied descriptive research design; in addition, goal theory was adopted. Further, secondary data from journals and internet sources were used. The findings show that food production is decreasing due to rise in insecurity and corruption which has threatened the sustainability of food security in the country. Based on the affirmative findings, the study does recommend that government should beef up the security apparatus of the country by initiating community farmer's vigilantes that are well equipped, and should provide more funds to farmers and set up nonpartisan committee as to ensure increase in food production. The study thus concludes that more agro based industries should be sited in rural communities.

*Key words: Good Governance, Agricultural Policies, Food Security, Insecurity, Food Production*

### **1.0 Introduction**

In developing countries, Good governance is highly expected from the political class, while food security has been identified to be an alarming issue that should be given adequate attention to its achievement through Good governance in agriculture and agro-allied industries. The elected political elites in offices should have the resolve to develop the agro industry through effective implementation of promulgated agricultural policies, with the drive for massive food production, affordability and accessibility. The essence of food security is to eliminate hunger and malnutrition that has ravaged the society (Davies, 2009). Both the rural and urban society demands increase in food capacity production and the sustainability of food production. The inefficiency in food production to match the ever rising population in Nigeria has led to malnutrition of some people. And this has erupted hunger in almost all circle of human enclave in developing countries, especially in Nigeria. To achieve the goal of food security, efforts are required from those in government and other stakeholders in society. It therefore connotes that good governance through implementable agricultural policies or strategies are consequential to the realization of increase in food production in rural communities and the availability of food in cities. The fact is access to food improves healthy living among people (World Bank, 1986).

Good governance is capable of eliminating the plummeting trend of food insecurity challenging the majority of the population in Nigeria. It however uses agricultural enhancing policies devoid of corruption, gender inequality and ethnicity to achieve wider progress in food security. Previous regimes of government and non-governmental organizations in the country had developed strategies to tackle the issues of food insecurity with little or no results. In every country, the attainment of high food security level via good governance is usually a sign that can explore the availability and

accessibility of food, which prevents hunger and malnutrition (Davies, 2009). Hence, good governance in developing countries implore the applicability of policies and result oriented strategies toward achieving greater level of food production, during implementation, for sufficient quality and quantity of food for the people at any given time (Idachaba, 2004).

## **2.0 Statement of the Problem**

Over the years, Nigeria has taken several steps to ameliorate the negative trends of food shortages by relying on food imports, such as rice and other commodities. But excluding the reliance on foreign food, attempts were made through developing programmes aimed at increasing food production via agricultural policies that have the capacity to solve the problem and issues relating to food shortages and hunger. The successive policies of the past include, 'operation feed the nation', 'the River Basin Development Authority' poised with the task of exploring the water bodies for irrigation activities, fishery services and controlling of flooding, erosion and water pollution. Others are Agricultural Development Project with the aim of improving the technical and economic efficiency of small-scale farmers, The Green Revolution was poised at enhancing achievement of the larger agricultural sub-sector aims.

Accordingly, the National Special Food Security Programme was with the mandate of piloting; and expanding innovative low cost methods for both technical and institutional purposes to addressing the productivity and sustainability of agricultural approaches. Inclusively, the National Fadama Development Project or (Fadama I, II, and III) as another government programme was aimed at providing solution to the factors militating against the total benefits of agricultural production endeavors. The Fadama approaches were with the purpose of increasing the income of farmers under Fadama Project directly or indirectly via Fadama resources in communities that were empowered (Blench and Ingawa, 2003).

Despite making these efforts to boost food production, food availability and food accessibility via potential strategies and programmes, food insecurity still persists and hunger is wide spread in rural and urban descents. However, in some instance, it may appear that little gain were made toward food sufficiency and food security due to effective implementation of policies or programmes in some quarters of agricultural activities in Nigeria (Orefi, 2012). But the situation of food insecurity is yet to be abated in Nigeria holding to the fact that several challenges are pressing harder to consume agricultural programmes and successes heralded by innovations in the farming sector of the economy of the country championed by the present Federal government initiatives to self-reliant on food produce. The successive efforts of Government in the past, toward improving food production for the teeming population in the country did not produce successive results, it only aided to alienate peasant farmers who are the main food producers in rural enclaves (Otaha, 2013). However, this paper is driven with the aim of unravelling the roadblocks to food security, and the pathway to increase of agro industries in Nigeria.

### **2.1 The objectives of this paper are to:**

1. Ascertain the achievements made through Good Governance for increase in food production as well as food security in Nigeria
2. Identify the impediments currently hampering the attempts toward food security in Nigeria.

### **2.2 The study questions include the following:**

1. Has Good Governance in agricultural sector increased food production and food security in Nigeria?
2. What are the impediments currently hampering the attempts toward food security in Nigeria?

### 3.0 Concept of Good Governance

The concepts governance nor good governance are muchly used interchangeably. Governance is the processes of decision making, implementation and non-implementation. There are concepts of governance, such as national governance, international governance, local or indigenous governance and corporate governance. It focuses on formal structure and informal structure of key players involved in making appropriate decision and implementation of made decisions through formal and informal settings that are put in place to come up at a decision and to implement it. Furthermore, the structure in governance comprise Government, influential land owners, association of peasant or local farmers, consolidated cooperatives, NGOs, finance institutions, research bodies, political parties, and law enforcement agencies. However, all other actors are grouped as civil society (UNESCAP, 2009).

Good governance involves the process of initiating, making and implementing strategic decisions through all agencies of government and partners for the welfare of society. There are eight major characteristic or features involving good governance, these include: transparency, participation, consensus, accountability, responsiveness, effectivity and efficiency, inclusiveness equitability and rule of law. Good governance gives assurance of minimization of corruption, minorities views are considered, and the voices of vulnerable are heard in every decision formation and implementation processes. It is adequately responsive to present or future needs required in society (UNESCAP, 2009).

On the purview of participation, citizens stand as important actors in good governance. On this instance, participation could be made internally or externally via legitimate institutions and, or representatives. However, participation here connotes liberty of expression and liberty of association on one angle and organized civil society on the other side. Regarding rule of law, Good governance needs fairness in legal framework that is enforced. In addition, it involves complete protection of human rights, mainly those of minority groups and incorruptible police enforcement of law and an independent judiciary. Transparency in governance explains that decisions agreed and their execution are done according to rules of action and regulations by policy. This means that data is obviously and readily available and accessible to persons who will effect such agreements and their firm enforcement. It also requires that adequate information is accessible and understandable irrespective of the media. Good governance implores procedures and institutions that are organized to serve every stakeholder within enough timeframe. Furthermore, Good governance require the harmonization of variety interests common in society as to arrive at a wider consensus to the best concern of all in society. This enables it to have a perspective for sustainable and reliable human and industrial development. Every member of society requires fair treatment and equality under good governance. Therefore, to meet needs of society, Good governance must be sustainable in using environmental resources and protecting or preserving the environment for present generation and future generations. Lastly, in Good governance, governmental institutions, private sector groups, and civil society groups must remain accountable to public and major stakeholders. Accountability can only be enforced through transparency and rule of law in any society (UNESCAP, 2009).

Good governance for food production through agricultural projects can support in eradicating food insecurity and malnutrition in any society. It combats with problems related with the production of adequate food and its availability in all parts of human descent. The role of Good governance in tackling food insecurity and malnutrition is supported by World Food Summit Plan Action of 1996 and, which also recognizes the Right to Food Guidelines (FAO, 2011a p. 11). Good governance ensures immediate and direct strategies against hunger and malnutrition through investment, and agricultural programmes addressing issues of food insecurity and enhancing rapid accessibility to food by the hungry and poor people in society. Furthermore, it provides opportunities for the poor folks

and hungry folks in society as to improve their livelihood to some extent by promoting agricultural, economic and rural development through investment and policy reforms (FAO, 2011 p.17).

Good governance is defined in agricultural perspective as the formal as well as informal rules and processes through which interests are articulated, and decisions relevant to food security in a country are made, implemented and enforced for the good of members of a society by elected political office holders and technocrats (FAO, 2011a p.17). However, four levels of Good governance exist. These levels are fundamental in actualizing food security and availability in a country. The first level is policy and a legal framework: this aspect of Good governance cut across the government agricultural vision, investment goals, and intervening priorities, wider strategies, laws and successive programmes, activities for realization of objectives of how to achieve desirable purposes, and when to expect anticipated yields from efforts made, as well as what is been expected and to what magnitude. The second level concerns the interactivity of policies, multiple actors and intra and inter agencies handling and coordinating the activities encouraging food production.

It is believed that there should be coherence and synergy among key players of good governance to enable them achieve better results respectively. The third level touching on good governance involves the implementation processes where roles, responsibilities, institutional capacity, service delivery, accountability and recourse mechanisms are all upheld in firmness. The last level of good governance is concerned with the task of gathering information, closely monitoring of all activities adequate food production and evaluating every output. The assessment and management of data is important to all agricultural activities. More so, identifying progress or success in the activities engaged on, and to ascertain verifiable achievements and impacts on the society through independent bodies remains outstanding in Good governance (FAO, 2011a p. 21-22).

### **3.1 Impacts of Good Governance in Agriculture Production**

Between January-May 2021, the agriculture sector contributed to 22-35% of Nigeria total Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Over 70% people engage in agriculture or farming sector majorly in subsistence level. Regardless of the minor changes it adds to the present economy, Nigeria agriculture sector faces roadblocks which impedes on its productivity. These problems have contributed to stifled agriculture productivity, thereby affecting the sectors expected improvement to the country's GDP, increase in food inputs due to population growth, hence diminishing levels to efforts on food sufficiency.

However, between 2016-2019, the government did implement deferring initiatives, strategies and programmes to mitigate the condition adding to agriculture promotion policy (APP), Nigeria –Africa Trade and Investment Promotion programme. Presidential Economic Diversification Initiative, Economic and Export Promotion Incentives, and the Zero Reject Initiative. Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD), Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Project (NEWMAP), Action Against Desertification (AAD) programme'.

All these trends aim at increasing agricultural productivity as to provide adequate or sufficient amount of food toward regularly meeting domestic needs and making available abundance of commodity crops for internal and export purposes in both local and international market. Moreover, the purpose is to minimize forest loss and degradation, while promoting sustainability in management of endowed natural resources. Rehabilitation of various degraded lands, lowering degree of erosion devastation and climate or global warming vulnerability. Nigeria possesses 70.8 million hectares of fertile

agriculture landmass, providing 'maize, cassava, guinea corn, yam, beans, millet and rice' constituting vital farm crops. Nigeria's rice production increased from 3.7 million metric tons (mt) around 2017 to 4.0 million mt. in 2018. Apart from this, only 57% of 6.7 million mt. of rice consumed by Nigerians yearly is produced locally, thereby leading to a deficit reaching 3 million mt. which comprise those imported or that is smuggled into Nigeria illegally. To stimulate increase in local production, all partners of government and the government itself should ban importation of foreign rice in 2019 (FAO, 2021).

On cassava production, Nigeria did produce 59 million tons as at 2017, thereby making it world largest producer, approximate 20% of global cassava production. Livestock reared by local and commercial farmers in Nigeria remain a small ruminant like goats (76 million), species of sheep (43.4 million) and cattle pastorals (18.4 million). More so, Nigeria is seen as largest fish consumers in Africa and are among the largest fish consumers in the world with about 3.2 million mt. of fish are consumed yearly. Its fishery farms and aquaculture environment are rated the fastest growing agro sub-sector in the country. Total fish farm production in a year is around 1 million mt. (313,231 mt. is aquaculture produced, while 759,828 mt. from fishery farms). In addition, Nigeria's ecosystems are challenged by constant population increase and economic development activities with yearly deforestation level ranging around 0.72% and 2.38% as given by (FAO, 2021).

#### 4.0 Food Security

Adequate food production, its affordability and availability remain essential parts of agricultural industries and economic activities in society. Therefore, the availability and accessibility of nutritional food in a country means that there is food security. A nation is said to attain food security when every household is out of hunger, poverty and fear of starvation (FAO, 2001). However, food security however, is clearly defined by World Bank as the access to food by all persons at every time to have enough food that promotes active nutritious and healthy life (World Bank Policy Study, 2006). Food security occurs when every person at any time, have physical, economic, social access to adequate, and safe food to satisfy dietary needs (Idachaba, 2006). It is the production, readiness and availability of adequate, safe food and to have capacity to acquire nutritious foods in fair and socially approved ways devoid of purported shortages of food warranting any kind of emergency food supply, stealing, scavenging, or any other cropping strategies (USDA, 2008). Furthermore, food security connotes also when all people access food through domestic, peasant or home kind of food production. A country can have sustainable food security if the production level and supply chain of food is on the increase toward meeting the teeming population and urbanization. The agricultural activities in a nation must address the population growth to achieve or attain food security (FAO, 2010).

Food security has evolved since after the World Food Conference that was held around 1974. There are some dimensions relaying food security, as was identified by (World Food Security, 2009), they are: (i) availability, (ii) access, (iii) utilization, and (iv) stability. According to (FAO, 2008 p.1) physical availability and accessibility of nutritious food connotes the supply area of food security which is determined through the local effort toward food production, stocking level and potential trade. Physical and economic access and attainment to food at either local or international does not assure household the extent in food security. Food utilization opines the food consumed and how the body uses the various nutrient in the food for the good care of the individual. On stability of food, constant and adequate food production assures of food stability and sustainability. This explains that there is

necessity for political stability and good weather conditions that will permit agricultural activities to keep thriving in the country. However, accessible food supplies do not ensure that individuals utilize all to the maximum to sustain a healthy, energetic and active life. The issues of sanitation, feeding

practices and drinking water are necessary components for people in society to make proper utilization of available and accessed food. The purchasing power, income and wealth inequalities of a nation's citizenry are important factors of access to regular food in any country.

#### **4.1 Impediments to Food Security**

Food insecurity connotes the condition of people that are unable to have physical availability and access fairly to nutritious food due to social, environmental, political and economic challenges affecting the agriculture systems. As regarding food insecurity, many people suffer malnutrition, hunger, unbalanced diet, nutrients deficiency, poor health conditions and energy loss. According to postulation by (FAO, 2010) food insecurity means the factual consequences of lack of consumable nutrient based food to people in a society that enable them defeat hunger. Food insecurity can be termed as being chronic as when there is famine and hunger prevalent in most developing countries, particularly in Nigeria.

Attaining to food security target in Nigeria is bedeviled with several chronic problems and food crisis that has lasted for decades. This has given rise to clear inability to produce adequate food, make food available to people at affordable cost, access farm lands, hinder access to food, slow economic growth, create problems in agricultural systems and results to overwhelming poverty. Furthermore, food insecurity hinges on various factors, like natural causes and manmade causes. The elements of natural factors consider the erratic dependence on seasonal rainfall, reliance on rain-fed agricultural system, floods, droughts, and other natural disasters that directly or indirectly affects the process in food production like climate conditions. Further, the manmade causes include ethnic, tribal and religious conflicts, farm land ownership disputes, political and social unrest, displacement of people due to insecurity faced in all regions. However, economic and financial crisis leading to recession and depression in a nation is considered also as a cause of food insecurity in a country (FAO, 2019). Combating and alleviating food insecurity and some underlying structural problems associated to the phenomenon, requires some policy response that will ensure sustainable and stable economic growth.

Overtime, Nigerians have shown apathy to locally made food due to their preference to imported or foreign food seen as being of high grade or quality than food locally produced. The total reliance on oil sector and the robust revenue it accrues has diverted past government and people's attention toward investing massively in agricultural sector. This shift has impoverished majority of people that have small or no access to the oil income. By extension, the impediments of food insecurity in Nigeria can be discussed further under the following reasons:

#### **4.2 Corruption and Policy Instability**

Most government policies on agriculture do have setbacks due to corrupt practices of government officials who neglect its full implementation for their self-interest. The fund that are usually assigned to agricultural project do not get to the appropriate hands or farmers, but are embezzled by some government agencies and those in top political placement. Agriculture policies are not continued whenever there is change of government. The incoming government abandons the programmes initiated by past administration to start afresh with a new route of policies without considering the extent the past government has succeeded. This changes provide opportunity for graft or corruption, and it interrupts stability in food production through the existing agricultural systems (Otaha, 2013).

#### **4.3 Insecurity and Food Crises**

Overtimes, or in recent times, several conflicts have rendered acute effects on food production at the regions prone to incessant conflicts. The conflicts comprise religious, ethnic, farm land ownership, kidnapping of farmers, killing of farmers, banditry, and communal clashes. These conflicts devastate

economic activities and disarticulates the society. Farmers have abandoned their farms for fear of Boko Haram in the entire northern region of Nigeria, while the activities of cultist and herdsmen have scared farmers in southern Nigeria, and herdsmen with their cows have damaged the crops of farmers in western and other regions of Nigeria. However, herders are on rampage with their cows all over Nigeria destroying cultivated farm lands and even killing their victims unabated. The open grazing on farms also contribute to food decline or insecurity in Nigeria. Not until of recent that southern and western governors of Nigeria unanimously agreed to ban open grazing in other to protect farms and farmers in the southern and western regions. The western region adopted a kind of community security outfit called 'Amotekun' to give protection to lives of farmers against the heinous activities of herders, while in the eastern region, it is known as Ebubeagu.

#### **4.4 Natural Conditions**

Natural disasters like climate changes leading to drought in northern region of the country and excessive rainfall, flood and land erosion in southern, eastern and middle belt regions of Nigeria have grossly contributed to lower agricultural activities output inside the country. These conditions are impediment to massive food production for people and cannot guarantee food security for Nigerians.

#### **4.5 Inadequate Utilization of Technology**

Agricultural technology in Nigeria is low and underutilized. This accounts to how equipment meant to promote agricultural activities for the country are being neglected and abandoned to rot away in various Federal or State institutions, farm reserve location and agencies despite the huge fund assigned for their purchase. However, modern agricultural farming tools and equipment are available to provide the need of food distribution and security in Nigeria when they are purchased and adequately used. However, there is the need for more advanced mechanized agricultural equipment and tools for commercial or larger production.

#### **4.6 Agro Industry Inadequacies**

Food production activities in Nigeria is greatly impaired by the inadequacies of agro-industries within the country. The absence of agro-industries in rural communities involved in peasant farming is a neglect to the boosting of agricultural processes and performance. Establishment of agro processing industries will enable and fast tract farmers to timely produce food in high capacity as to deplete food insecurity. Meanwhile, the insufficiency of energy generation is a prime challenge to agro food industry. This may be due to weak policy implementation and financial limitation.

#### **5.0 Theoretical Framework**

The study relied on goal theory propounded by Latham and Locke (1979). The belief of this theory is that goal gives direction for good performance, mobilize government energy, persistently increase energy and induce higher efforts. Goal can enhance peoples' motivation and performance (Newstrom, 2011). Goal allows individuals to be committed to their objective until there may be a good outcome. In this vein, the political will to obtain food security through good governance by proper implementation of well-articulated policies and programmes of government on agriculture systems is tantamount to fulfillment of assurances regarding food security or food availability within society.

#### **6.0 Methodology**

To elucidate further, the study adopted the descriptive research approach on which secondary data were used extensively from journals, books, magazines and internet resources. These enabled the obtainment of relevant information appropriate for this study on the measure of answering the research questions highlighted in this work.

## Result and Discussion

**Table 1: Food stuffs prices in Nigeria**

Commodities	Quantity	Price
Rice	Per bag of 50kg	N23,000
Beans	Per bag of 50kg	N30,000
Tomato	Per 1kg	N500
Sweet Potato	Per 1kg	N500
Onion	Per 1kg	N500
Yam	Per 1 tuba	N1,000
Garri	Per 50kg	N7,500
Melon seed	Per cup	N250
Ogbono seed	Per cup	N300
Ôkro	Per measure	N1000
Palm oil	Per 5 litres	N2,200
Vegetable oil	Per 5 litres	N2,500
Canned fish	Per tin	N400

(source: Lewis Ray Law, 2021)

Table 1 shows prices of commodities in Nigeria by their various quantities as at 2021. Food stuffs prices has severely gone higher in this era due to declining economic conditions, insecurity and other existing factors affecting the country.

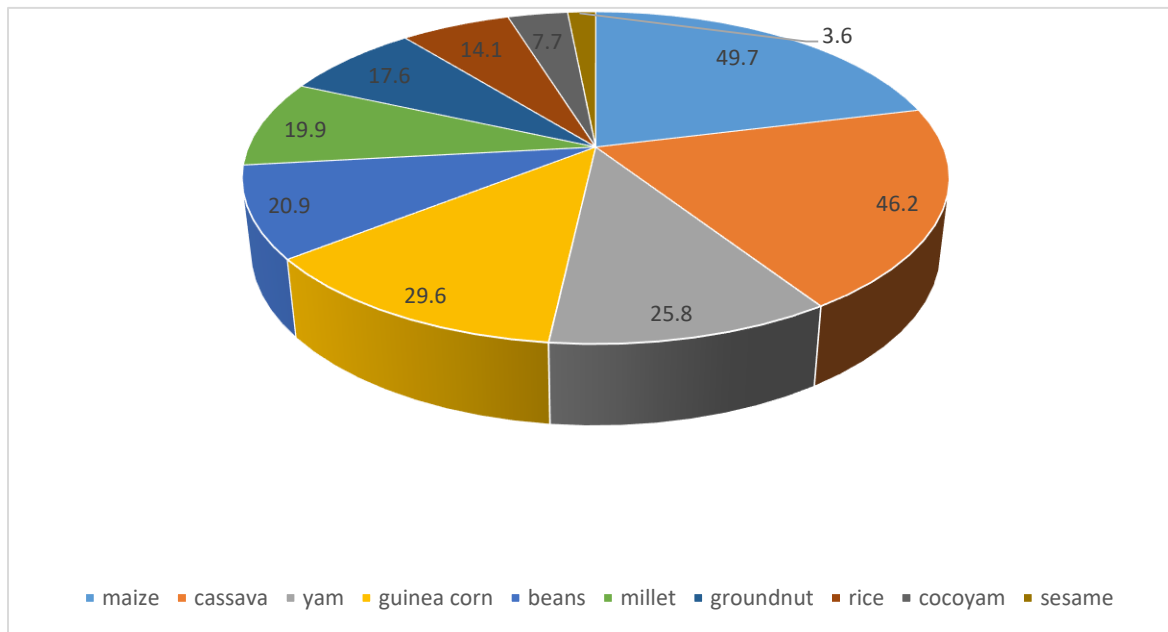
**Table 2: Major Crops within Households inside Nigeria as of 2019**

Crops	Percentage of Households
Maize	49.7
Cassava	46.2
Yam	25.8
Guinea corn	29.6
Beans	20.9
Millet	19.9
Groundnut	17.6
Rice	14.1
Cocoyam	7.7
Sesame seed	3.6

(Source: Statista, 2021)

Table 2 describes the percentage of households involved in major crops farming in Nigeria. A sum of 49.7% households are into maize farming, 46.2% farms cassava, 25.8% are into yam farming, 29.6% on guinea corn, 20.9% households' farms beans and 19.9% are into millet farming. While 17.6% households' farms groundnut, 14.1% involves in farming rice. But cocoyam and sesame seed has 7.7% and 3.6% households respectively.





**Figure 2: Major Crops among Households within Nigeria as of 2019**  
(Source: Statista, 2021)

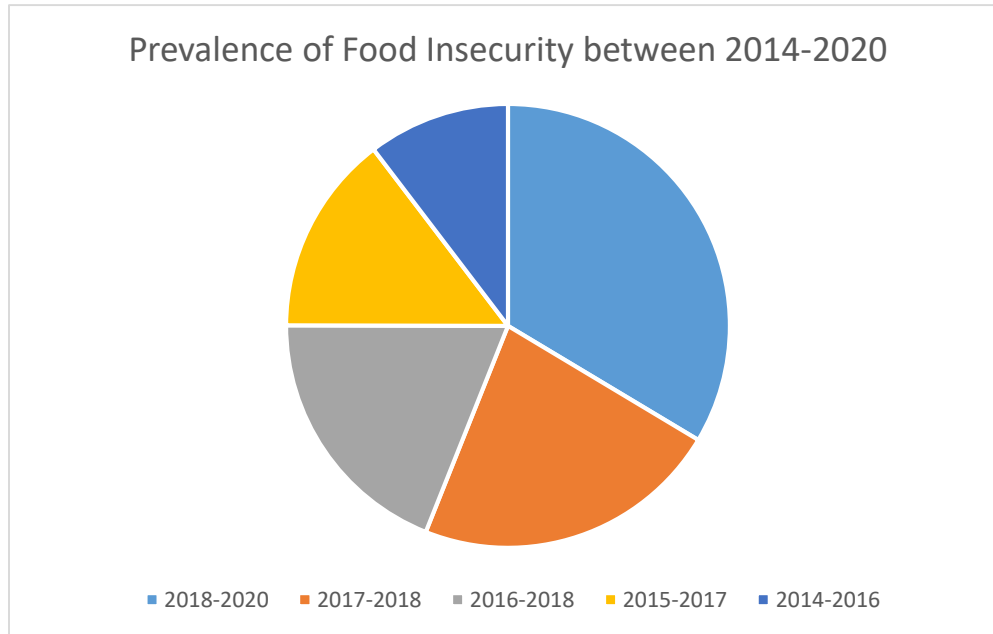
From figure 2 above, we can see the percentages of households that engage in major crops farming.

**Table 3: Prevalence of Food Insecurity in Nigeria 2014-2020**

Period	Share of Population
2018-2020	21.4%
2017-2019	14.3%
2016-2018	12.1%
2015-2017	9.3%
2014-2016	6.6%

(Source: Statista, 2021)

Table 3 revealed the periods of severe food insecurity in Nigeria and the share of the country’s population that suffered the menace. However, a mean of 21.4% experienced hunger between 2018 to 2020. Food insecurity as described in Nigeria is on the increase due to the fast rising population and the lack of finance or any other resources. Above all, several challenges have contributed to food insecurity. They consist, poor land use or tenure system, minimum level of irrigation kind of farming, climate change or and land degradation, insufficient technology, high cost of production and inadequate distribution inputs, poor financing, massive post-harvest loss and barriers to accessing markets.



**Figure 1. Prevalence of food insecurity in Nigeria**  
(Source: Statista, 2021)

As could be seen above, figure 1 displays the yearly ranges of periods Nigeria experienced food insecurity as an outcome of prevailing challenges militating against food security within and around the country.

The findings of this work shows that insecurity, herdsmen invasion of farms in different region of the country involved in open grazing of cows on crops in farms has immensely negatively affected the efforts to reach the aim of food sufficiency and security in the country. The Federal government did embark on several agricultural programmes to attain food sufficiency and encourage farmers with funds or loans to promote food production.

However, these efforts have suffered setbacks holding to the fact that herders and farmers clash persists, and farmers have become afraid of accessing their farms. Furthermore, the study has shown that there are few agro industries available in the country with regard and the expectation of attaining food security.

## 7.0 Conclusion

Food insecurity is a challenge to developing countries. In Nigeria, the intended trajectory on food production on the account of agricultural policies of the present government is farfetched. Farming activities are dwindling, and this has encouraged shortage to food and even high cost of farm produce. Tackling existing impediments affecting agricultural policies and farming activities within the country is essential as to get rid of food insecurity. More so, all government apparatus should be recalibrated to promote food security in the society. The fact remains that food is a necessary part of livelihood of individuals in any given society, and it's the responsibility of government at all levels to imbibe the political will to promote agricultural activities through credible strategies, channels or agencies.

## 8.0 Recommendations

The following recommendations are provided:

1. Government should beef up the security apparatus of the country by initiating community farmers' vigilantes that are well equipped to mitigate farmers and herders' crisis.

Government should provide more accessible funds to farmers and set up nonpartisan supervisory agriculture-based committee to ensure increase in food production.

2. Agro-industries should be sited in rural communities that have non in existence and relevant modern mechanized agricultural equipment should be procured for farmers through direct government and non-governmental organizations funding.

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