

## Understanding Food Security and the Failure of Agricultural Infrastructure in Nigeria: A Case of the Management of Herdsmen and Farmers

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### **Abstract**

*The dearth of agricultural infrastructure, coupled with serial killings spearheaded mostly by Fulani herdsmen, Boko Haram, etc, with attendant of food insecurity has been a major source of concern for the good people of Nigeria. It is against this backdrop, this study was carried out to understanding food security and the failure of agricultural infrastructure in Nigeria vis-a-vis the management of herdsmen and farmers. We adopted the historical design in analyzing the various concepts, drawing from the wealth of scholars who have made meaningful contributions to the subject matter. The Failed State theory, which is premised on 1. ability for the government to protect the lives and property of its citizens, 2. Defend its territorial integrity, 3. Provide public goods and services, etcetera was adopted as our ideological framework. Our data source includes, journals, publications, seminar papers, term papers, and the internet. Our findings include the following: that there is a dearth in agricultural infrastructure in Nigeria; that the discovery of oil which was supposed to bring about even development on all sectors, has put the country's economy on a monopolist lane, whilst other sectors especially agriculture has drastically reduce; that the Nigerian government has failed in many regards, thereby putting a question mark on its sovereign status; that failure to clearly state the rules of engagement on grazing is part of the reason for the Fulani herdsmen clashing*

*with farmers; and government failure in providing infrastructures for farmers especially in the rural areas is a major reason for food insecurity. In conclusion, we recommended the following; government's deliberate effort by partnering with relevant security agencies and government (both internationally and local) in addressing the security issues; provisions of infrastructures and incentives to farmers to help subsidized their cost; setting up a peace keeping committee of experts, and wealthy men to ensure that the goal of the intervention reaches the interiors, promulgation of open grazing laws and ensuring that state governments allocated specific areas to nomads, after getting their bio-data for security considerations.*

**Keywords:** *Food Security, agricultural infrastructure, herdsmen, farmers, management, failed state.*

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## **1.0 Introduction**

After oil was found in 1956 in Oloibiri, with attendant focus on it for the country's survival, food production rapidly decreased owing to neglect of the farming. Government became disinterested in agriculture, owing to the large amount of money coming from petroleum. Rather than producing food we started importation (Matemilola & Elegbede, 2017). This development brought about the polarization of the country viz high and low earners.

Regrettably, the proportion of income spread across the country from sales of petroleum was far less compared to the hardship that accompanied scarcity of food. Prices of food increased beyond measures.

The crux for renaissance of agriculture in Nigeria is enable the country have multiple streams of income by entrenching agriculture, making it centrepiece for growth in the economy even as we ensure there is food in the country. The issue of food security is now a top preference for the country owing to the fact that over 198.1 million of her population are unsecured in terms of food (FMARD, 2016). Insecurity in food and nutrition is rampant regardless of a friendly agricultural ecology and natural resources. With a landmass totalling 92.4 million hectares, with barely 32 million hectares amounting to 34.63 percent in used for agricultural activities. The country, in this regard, is incapacitated to providing food and nutrients for here population. By so doing, insecurity in food as well as the alarming nature of low nutritional value in the country ranks top vis-a-vis worst nations of food security (Fadare et al, 2019).

This trajectory, keep getting worse on a dialy basis. FAO et al (2019) revealed that, from 2004 to 2006, about 9.1 million Nigerians are undernourished. Between 2016 and 2018, there was an increment in the figures to 25.6 million people recording 281.32 percent. As our population keeps rising on a scale of 3.1 percent, the demand cum requirements for food and nutrition in Nigeria would rise with a possibility of food and nutrition insecurity becoming more worrisome.

Nigeria can not verge for 10 percent of her yearly budget to focus on agriculture, with attendant 6 percent productivity growth as captured by the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP) as well as the ECOWAS Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP) documents, although some major agricultural policies has been initiated and been on course, since 2010 (FMARD, 2016). The country has recorded some moderate growth in certain agriculture produce like cassava and rice, the gaps between domestic production and demand

for a lot of crops that are staple is very high. The amount the country spends on importation of food is alarming. As at 2015, the country's monthly bill on importation stood at US\$665.4 million (Popoola, 2018 citing the Central Bank of Nigeria). There has been a fall in this figure to US\$160.4 million on a monthly basis by October 2018, according to same source (Popoola, 2018). Despite these relative breakthroughs, there is still the issue of food and nutrition insecurity, and the fear that things may get worst without signs as a result of agricultural output erosion by insecurity at national level.

Save to say, Nigeria's agricultural aspect is filled with a lot of opportunities, that if the right policy action is taken would bring about economic growth, empowerment and development (FMARD, 2011). Regardless of these Downie (2017), highlighted the following factors fighting against the growth of agribusiness; an environment void of competition for agro-allied business, low investment, corruption, little or no access to credits and qualitative agricultural inputs, policies implementation are weak, poor access to market, and insecurity on a national level. Insecurity as a result of Boko Haram and Fulani herdsmen are the major enemies to the sector. The incessant attacks on communities by Fulani herdsmen, leading to fatalities, is now a national problem.

It is against this backdrop that this study is carried out, to understand food security and the failure of agricultural infrastructure in Nigeria vis-a-vis the management of herdsmen and farmers.

### **1.1 Objectives of the study**

The following are the objectives for carrying out this research:

1. To understand the concept of Food security and the dearth of agricultural infrastructure in Nigeria.
2. To understand the nature of activities between the Fulani herdsmen and farmers in Nigeria.
3. To assess government's efforts in managing the conflict between the Fulani herdsmen and farmers.
4. To evaluate the Nigeria government- whether it is a sovereign or failed state.
5. To suggest policy recommendations to the government to addressing the failure agricultural infrastructure and food security vis-a-vis herdsmen and farmers management.

### **1.2 Research Questions**

The following research questions are attended to in the review of related literature:

1. What is the concept and determinants of Food security?
2. Are there adequate agricultural infrastructure in Nigeria?
3. Is there a nexus between the dearth of agricultural infrastructure and food security in Nigeria?
4. Has the Nigerian state failed in providing the basics of live viz security, food, infrastructure, etc for its citizens?

5. What is the nature of relationship between Fulani herdsmen and farmers; and what are the measures put in place by the Nigerian government?

### 1.3 Methods

This study adopted the historical design which falls under secondary source of data collection. It is a qualitative research that seeks to underscore the interconnectedness of food security and the dearth of agricultural infrastructure in relation to Fulani herdsmen and farmers management. We made use of literatuures, books, journals, publications, articles (published and unpublished), seminar papers and of course, the internet was resourceful.

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## 2.0 Review of Related Literature/Theoretical Framework

### 2.1 Food Security

In sub-Saharan Africa, over 250 million persons, put differently one of four persons are underfed and malnourished. The incessant increase on food stuffs coupled with drought, have given rise to hunger cum starvation in the land. World population index has hit over 7 billion, and this is a matter of concern as vis-a-vis food security (Matemilola, et al, 2017). The first evidence of food security was at a conference for World Food in 1974. At this conference, definition for food security was given based on food supply. i.e making sure basic foodstuffs are available and the price is relatively consistent, both internationally and nationally. As the world evolves, food security has been given a universal meaning, as adopted at a summit by the World Food Conference (1996). At this summit, food security is said to be evident, " when all persons, always, are not denied access (physical as well as economic) to enough, secured and good food (having the right nutrients), that is good for their health and strength (Matemilola, et al, 2017)".

Four components can be deduced for food security from the above, which are:

- **Availability:** If we are talking about food security, it must be readily available, physically, socially and economically to all and sundry, at every given point in time. It must meet people's needs diet wise and preference. The quantity of physical food readily available in a locality cum region. However, a major determinant of availability of food is amount of production in an area, its imports, level of stocks, as well as, net trade value in food.
- **Accessible:** The people living in an area must be able to access food without bias, both socially, economically and physically. It is very possible that food may be available regionally, nationally or internationally, without it reaching the home front. These food items must reach the interiors and able to afford.
- **Utilization:** The way and manner our body system reacts and adapts to the various classes of food is referred to as utilization. This is premised on the quality of food, nutrient values, method of preparation, feeding as well as storage.
- **Stability of food security:** Stability speaks to consistency in terms of how available, accessible and utilization of food over the years. For us to say food security is stable the three other elements must be visible at any given point in time. Come to think of it,

if one can only verge for secured food today, cannot be said to enjoy food stability, because tomorrow may come with a new problem and all that. If he can not access good food, it will affect his living condition, with attendant deterioration in health. Other factors that may amper on food security status include, climate change, sociopolitical cum economic instability, unstable price, etc.

According to Matemilola, et al (2017), food security is a topmost priority of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Food security sits on the top of the list of targets of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Regardless of the breakthroughs recorded in some countries over food insecurity, poverty, etc, many nations are still suffering from hunger, sub-Saharan Africa is chief amongst them.

### **2.1.1 Determinants of Food Security**

Food security, refers to the state of having available cum stable access to a enough amount of food that can be afforded and nutritious, is determined by plethora of factors:

1. **Economic Stability:** Levels of income, opportunities available for the unemployed, as well as food commodities prices inform the choices made by people vis-a-vis food stuff.
2. **Agricultural Productivity:** Factors like climate change, soil formation, water accessibility, as well as technological innovations have a bearing on food production quantity and quality.
3. **Infrastructure:** The transportation networks, means of transportation, facilities for storing food, as well as access to the market, are crucial during food distribution.
4. **Government Policies:** Agricultural policies, trade laws, subsidies options, as well as social safety nets has a high influence on whether food will be available and accessible.
5. **Social Factors:** The quality of education, gender inclusion as well as the culture at play, are crucial in determining food security, utilization as well as allocation across homes.
6. **Environmental Sustainability:** When natural resources are conserved well, and agricultural practices are sustained, it has a positive influence on food security.
7. **Conflict and Stability:** When the political systems are unstable, characterized by conflict, food production displacement, it affects distribution as well as access, with attendant insecurity in food supply.
8. **Healthcare and Sanitation:** Good healthcare and sanitation facilities, with accessibility, influences food nutrients level as well as, reduce the risk of contaminated food, which can lead to illnesses.

## 2.2 Agricultural infrastructure in Nigeria

Agriculture has been the major source of revenue in Nigeria, until it was denigrated to the background, following the discovery of crude oil in a place called Oloibiri, present day Niger Delta region in the year 1956. The four regions then viz North, West, East and Midwest, enjoyed a very healthy competition, each region focused on a particular cash crop for cultivation cum production. Whilst the North was known for kolanut and groundnut, the west produced cocoa, with the East and Midwest focusing on palm products. As at this period, the food security of the country was stable, at the regional and international level, we are earned an honourable place as major exporter of cocoa, groundnut, palm oil, rubber, etc (Smith, 2018; Okotie, 2018).

The relevant place agriculture occupied in Nigeria was very well felt in the various roles it played in national development. According to Paul (2015), agriculture was the major source of food for over 95 percent of Nigerians, responsible 64.1 percent of her Gross Domestic Product (GDP), as well as responsible for about 70 percent of the country's working population.

Okojie (2018), adds that, agriculture accounted for about 80 percent of Nigeria's foreign exchange earnings and 50 percent of revenue accruing to the government. The narrative was altered following the oil boom in the 70s, as Nigeria became over reliant on the huge gains that came from oil. Till date oil remains our major source income, with about 95 percent of the country's earnings from abroad (Ikpeze, et al, 2004; Okotie, 2018).

The huge gains that came along with the oil boom, was overwhelming, even Yakubu Gowon (then Head of State) boastfully asserted that, the problem of Nigeria is far from money but what to do with it (Ikpeze, et al, 2004, in Nwozor, et al, 2019).

Statistics showed that our earnings from 1973 and 1981 was above N60 billion (measuring \$90 billion) as gain from oil and the leaders started squandering it (Ikpeze, et al, 2004, in Nwozor, et al, 2019).

Agriculture was greatly affected by this development. Following the deliberate abandoning of of agriculture by the government, a lot of farmers left farming to scramble for the remnants that came out of oil during the boom period. During this period, agriculture was greatly abandoned, alot of rural urban migration took place. Those who involuntarily remained in the sector, became extremely poor, and output was far below average.

Moreso, the lethargic disposition of government towards the agricultural sector, led to the weak intervention program introduced by the government, this left the farmers with no other option but to survive at the mercies of crops that are obsolete as well as ancient trees. This means that, the country was stagnant on best practices of agriculture known to the world. Nigeria exports profile according to Okotie (2018) has declined to a disappointing 2 percent, as well as loosing her place as exporter of cocoa, groundnut, kolanut, rubber, and palm oil (Okotie, 2018). A very good reason for this was, the decline in the production of these commodities.

Nwozor, et al (2019, citing Pinto, 1987), shows the statistics of decline in the annual production of these cash crops; cocoa (43%), rubber (29%) cotton (65%) and groundnut (64%) between 1970 and 1982.

Popoola (2018), reveals that one other reason for abandoning large scale agriculture was the expansion of agriculture import shares in the country's imports from 3 percent to 7 percent between 1960s and early 1980s. Following this development, the country joined the league of food importers as a net importer. By 2015, the country's import bill on food on a monthly basis has amounted to US\$665.4 million.

Regardless of the various intervention policies put forward by the Nigerian government to help revamp the agricultural sector, the sector is yet to recover from the setbacks brought by the oil boom, as well as take back its place in the scheme of things. As at now, subsistence farming is still the order of the day. It is manifest that, regardless of the various policies to restructure the sector for good, it is a lip service.

The call for a diversified economy by focusing on agriculture, being the major driver started as far back as the 1970s, with different administration taking the lead. In spite of it, no significant progress has been recorded, we seem to be progressing backwards amidst our enormous resources. Despite programs geared towards agriculture such as "Operation Feed the Nation" initiated by Olusegun Obasanjo's military regime in 1976, the "Green Revolution" floated Shehu Shagari's administration in 1982, the "National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy" (NEEDS) again by Olusegun Obasanjo's civilian administration in 2004, the "Agricultural Transformation Agenda" rolled out by Goodluck Jonathan administration in 2011, as well as the "Agriculture Promotion Policy" (APP) put forward by the past administration of Muhammadu Buhari in 2016, no major breakthrough has been recorded. The dominant place of oil in the country's economy as major source of foreign earnings, is still present.

The important role of agriculture in the globe cannot be overemphasized, as world powers have been passing the message to every nation to leverage on agriculture if the SDGs 1 and 2 would be a reality.

The New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) has also been strong in its call for the revamping cum focusing on agriculture, as it is the centerpiece for Africa's economic growth. In this regard, different African leaders under the umbrella of the African Union (AU) and NEPAD established a road map for the continent in 2003 at Maputo, which they titled, Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP), to revamp and explore on the agriculture for economic empowerment across the continent ( Nwozor, et al, 2019).

Therefore, the CAADP is a strategy designed for the continent to partner amongst themselves in order to promote modern as well as lasting agricultural policies geared towards a productivity cum competitiveness, with attendant stability in the security of food, as well as increased farmers income and other workers within the sector. The focal point of the CAADP is on recording 6 percent growth in output, anticipating that member countries would commit 10 percent minimum of their national budgets on agriculture, annually.

According to NEPAD (2003), there are five mutually strategic points that hold the CAADP, in salvaging cum realigning agriculture in the continent.

These focal points are highlighted below:

- i) expanding the area within sustainable land management cum water control reliability systems;
- ii) improving the infrastructure level in the villages as well as improved access to the market through trade-focused capacities;
- iii) increase in the availability food, with attendant reduction of hunger;
- iv) investment in research with focus on agriculture, including promotion and advancing of technology; and
- v) promotion of development that are sustainable for livestock, fisheries and forestry resources (NEPAD, 2003; Kolavalli, et al, 2010).

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), subscribing to the tenets of CAADP, established ECOWAP in 2005, as its agricultural economic program. Therefore, the ECOWAS Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP) centers on the advancement of mechanized and lasting agriculture as a way of meeting the need of its population vis-a-vis food items, contribute to socio-economic development, poverty reduction in amongst west african states and tackle disparities among member states.

Nigeria has structured her policies in line ECOWAP/CAADP plan, by channeling its efforts towards agriculture in view of the need to diversify its monotonous economy, with attendant availability of food security.

The two most recent policy actions in the country are the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA), launched in the year 2011 as well as the Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP) known also as the Green Alternative. The latter was launched in 2016.

FMARD (2016), revealed that, the age long abandoning of the agricultural sector by governments, has exacerbated the problems to complexities. The most of these problems are production shortage in terms of food with attendant inadequacies in domestic food security, as well as low quality level of crops due to ignorance of modern agronomy activities.

The ATA and APP, being the very recent policies on agriculture in Nigeria, understand the peculiarities facing the country, as well as the pivotal role that agriculture plays in economic empowerment, growth and development, enabling food availability, etc and thus is strategic in revamping the sector. The structure and operation of ATA is different from the status quo vis-a-vis intervention policies on agriculture. restructure (FMARD, 2011). The major variation is the ideation of agriculture as business, not a development program for government to throw in huge resources void of key performance indicators (KPI). Therefore ATA's framework, is such that the private sector are allowed to operate alongside the government (FMARD, 2011).

Moreso, the APP, aside building on ATA's successes, is committed to building an economy specialized on agribusiness, primarily to ensure that on a domestic level, everyone has food to eat and to spread the wealth amongst workers and investors in the sector (FMARD, 2016). In this regard, APP policy thrusts is focused on for major areas; food security, substitution of import, employment, and diversification of the economy.



The major objective of Nigeria's intervention program vis-a-vis agriculture is to improve production level of agriculture in a way that everyone would have food to eat in the country, and to reduce to the barest minimum importation rate of food, by ensuring that food are available and stable. Therefore, government's efforts is more on annexing cum exploring the natural resources and environment of the country to improve the production of food as well agribusiness (Nwozor, 2019).

### **2.2.1 The Failure of Agricultural Infrastructure in Nigeria:**

Nigeria is blessed with enormous resources viz its land is fertile, with a climate that is favourable, coupled with a manifold crop types possessing what it takes to for an enabling cum successful agricultural activities. Despite all these, Africa's most populous nation has suffered myriad of pitfalls vis-a-vis its agricultural infrastructure, with attendant impediment on production and efficiency.

Some of the key issues identified in this study are:

- 1. Poor transportation networks:** The government has failed in building and constructing road that would last long. The networks of roads are inadequate and the system of transportation is a big challenge for farmers to move their goods to the markets, with attendant losses after harvest as well as profit reduction.
- 2. Limited access to water resources:** The irrigation system is very bad, especially in the rural areas where agriculture is mostly practiced. In most part of the country, irrigation facilities are not available, making these farmers to rely on rainfall for crop growths, and at risk of droughts as well as other climatic issues.
- 3. Insufficient storage and processing facilities:** There is lack of good storage as well as processing facilities, leading to significant losses of goods (mostly perishable), with attendant scarcity in food supply in the market.
- 4. Inadequate research and extension services:** Also, the kind of researches carried out are very poor and inadequate. This affects farmers' access to contemporary agricultural practices, technologies, as well as needed formation to boost production level.

### **2.3 Herdsmen and Farmers Management**

The Fulani people are known also as Peul or Fulbe. Although their origin is not clear but they migrated from Futa Toro, around Senegal about the 14th century (Idowu, 2017). They fall under the Atlantic group of the Niger-Congo family language, as they speak Fula. Amongst the various ethnic groups in Nigeria, Fula is the fourth most spoken, with about seven million people (Burton, 2016). According to BBC (2016), The largest nomads are the Fulanis, and they are located around the West Central area of Africa. They are found in the following African states, Mali, Sudan, Gambia, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau, Burkina Faso, Co'te d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Senegal Togo, Central African Republic, Niger, Ghana, Sudan, Cameroon and Ghana (Okoro, 2018). The Fulani people are predominantly in Nigeria, and they the one's that produce hides, milk and meat in the country. The Fulanis are predominantly in Nigeria and they are responsible for the provision of hides, meat and milk. Their input on the country's dairy as well as meat industry, is overwhelming, with about 90 percent cattles within the

country owned by the Fulanis, and a significant input of 3.2 percent on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), of the country (Abass, 2012). The herdsmen are the sect within the Fulani that own and keep livestock e.g. cattle for business. They take these herds from one location to another, searching for greener pastures. They usually move their herds from one place to another in search of pasture and fresh water. As they go about, they usually carry weapons like machetes, daggers, arrows, etc., as protective against attacks. In recent publication, the herdsmen were rated fourth most deadliest militant group in the world, owing to their very aggressive lifestyle (GTI, 2015; Mikailu, 2016; Okoro, 2018).

The conflicts between herdsmen and farmers are often between peasant cum subsistence farmers versus nomadic cum transhumant cattle keepers. Okoro (2018, citing Hussein, Sumberg, & Seddon, 1999), views this kind of conflict as multidimensional viz interest, ethnic, resource disputes, eviction, political implications, raiding and rustling of cattle, killings, etc. According to Hagmann (2003), there exist differences between 'herder-herder' conflicts and 'farmer-herder' conflicts. Herder-herder conflicts are usually conflicts between nomadic or transhumant livestock keepers that arise between receiving groups over their territory's resources and incoming groups searching for water and pastures, and cattle raiding. The herder-herder conflict in East Africa pastoralists, is always violent. Moreso, the conflicts amongst herdsmen happens due to rustling of cattle as well as battle over the limited environment for pastoralists - a case of theft, killing and all kinds of evil amongst herdsmen.

### **2.3.1 Incidences of Herdsmen-Farmers Clash cum Government Efforts**

Nextier (2024), revealed that between 2017 and 2020, suspected herdsmen reportedly killed 2539 Nigerians, whilst 654 were brutally attacked (Vanguard, 2024). The North-central states is the most affected region of the serial killings carried out by these herdsmen. Benue and Plateau states happens to be most attacked. Between 2021 and 2022, there was an attack in Bassa LGA that claimed the life of 17 persons, even in Puka and Dinter LGAs 7 persons died.

Despite the convincing and elaborate promises made by former president Buhari in 2015, on terrorism and insurgency, security challenges that has bedeviled the country, especially Northeastern region, the issue remain pervasive. Infact, for the eight years he spent in office, over 12 trillion Naira was spent on security. Instead for the country to be recording successes and calmness, things are getting worse, by and by. The clashes between herdsmen and farmers has claimed over 60,000 lives.

In April 2016, there was an attack in Uzo Uwani LGA of Enugu state that claimed the lives of 20 persons. Also in January 2018, 88 persons lost their lives in Guma Logo LGA of Benue state, owing to herdsmen invasion.

On the eve of Christmas 2023, 50 villages in Bokkos, Mangu and Barkin Ladi LGA of Plateau state witnessed massive bloodbath still as a result of herdsmen attack. This attack spanned for three days and 200 persons lost their lives, whilst 221 houses, farmlands, as well as vehicles were burnt down.

During the campaign of incumbent President Bola Tinubu, national security was top-notch, however we are yet to see the manifestations.

Even though there has been some minor breakthroughs here and there, a lot of things need to be done if the country would be able to regain its place, as a foremost exporter of cash crops in the common wealth of nations.

## 2.4 Theoretical Framework

The theory of a failed state is very relevant to understanding food security and the failure of agricultural infrastructure in Nigeria vis-a-vis the management of herdsmen and farmers. It helps to give a perspective in the regard that it highlights extent to which the government have been incapacitated as well as the longevity of the challenge. Max Weber sees the state in terms of sustaining monopoly and legalizing the control of power within a given territory (Okoro, 2018). A critical look at this meaning (like the domination of war kingpins, paramilitary bodies, syndicate bands, or criminality in many regards) the state seems to be a sham, deceptive and a failure in many regards. To Weber, it is the state alone that has the monopoly of violence. If this is true, when the state fails to fully or control some very important features on which it was formed, we can say it has failed. By Failed state, we are saying that the state has become incapacitated, ineffective, and have lost the will to maintain the rule of law or even make available for its citizens the fundamental needs for survival (security, rule of law, food, good health care, infrastructure, etc), as a result of terrorism, hyper crime rate, unstable political system, insurgency, hyper corruption, judicial ineptitude, military rascality cum interference, high level nepotism, etc.

Scholars are at polar ends as to what constitutes or an ideal definition of a failed state. This has given rise to ambiguities as to the parameters to look out for in defining a failed state (Olivier, 2013). Whilst some pay more attention to government's ability, capacity and effectiveness as major indicators of failed state or not, other parameters viz Peace Fund's fragility, system of governance (democratic or autocratic) are considered in determining a failed state (Okoro, 2018 citing Patrick, 2007).

Moreso, some scholars view it from the point of how legitimate the state is (Kaplan, 2008) structure of the state (Gros, 1996) or on crime rate in the state (Rotberg, 2004) on the extractive nature of economic institutions, or the capacity of the state to defend its territorial integrity. Robert (2008) views a failed state as state implosion, where the state metamorphose "into an instrument of predation" with attendant loss of the capacity to control its territorial integrity. Charles (2010), conceptualized "state failure" from three areas of incapacitation which are, 1. capacity, inability of state's institutions to deliver maximally on public goods and services; 2. security, state failure in securing life's and properties of its citizens due to threat from terrorist groups; and 3. legitimacy, a situation when the rule of law is not followed and obeyed both by the ruling class and the citizens of the state, with attendant of power abuse and illegal accumulation of wealth.

Abdulrazaq (2015) wrote a book titled "The Truth About Nigeria", with the highlight "Government simply doesn't exist in Nigeria". He stressed the fact that, despite Nigeria's sovereign status, it looks as though its territory has been lost, as people now have freedom of entry cum exit, without facing any penalty nor answering security questions. Reports abound as the porousness of her borders, still nothing whatsoever has been done about it.

Moreso, the government of Nigeria has failed countless of times in safeguarding the lives and properties of its citizens. (Okoro, 2018).

Flipping through national dailies is always devastating, what you will read is how citizens are being killed daily by some unknown armed men, which we discovered to either be Boko Haram, Fulani herdsmen, militants, kidnappers, etc. Nigeria now seems like a home for all manner of crime and corrupt practices, misappropriation and embezzlement of public funds with audacity, as there is no rule of law. What you find in the country especially amongst the political class is absolute loyalty to the one who steers the affairs of the government.

Nwabueze (2018), in "Why "NIGERIA" is now qualified as a failed state" asserts that, the constitution of the country, as encapsulated in section 14(2) (b) of 1999, is in tandem with the trajectory of a failed state having the characteristics of failure to maintain peace, welfare and safety of life and properties, for citizens as its determinants. It reads: "the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government." "Security" as used here is holistic, cutting across safeguarding of life and properties, to ensuring a state of peace. For us to say there is security, there must be peace. Against such, there is no security. Security also involves food security- people should have access to food to avoid hunger and starvation. It also involves job security. It is the duty of the state to ensure that working population are employed. "Welfare", refers to a state that is centred on the wellbeing of its citizens, ensuring a wealth is spread across, advancement in many regards, etc. We can therefore submit that, any state that falls short of the above definition as provided by the extant law of the land is a failed state. Nigeria falls far below the standard of a state that is sovereign, infact we now number 15 in the world failed states (Nwabueze, 2018).

Drawing from former president of Nigeria, Buhari's speech on the April 11th, 2018, in a function in London with the Canterbury Archbishop, His Grace - Justin Welby, he admitted that the insecurity challenge bedeviling the country is age long. However, it is getting complex as migrants from Sudan, Niger, etc penetrated West African states. He said that, the terrorists where proteges of former Libyan president, Muammar Gadaffi. After the latter's death they flew to other neighboring states.

The above statement by Buhari, further validates the country's failed status, and as such these herdsmen have been killing confidently. Prof. Wole Soyinka has said that, the emergence of the the killer herdsmen, coupled with wanton cum serial killings, is likened to a state of emergency in Nigeria.

## **2.5 Conflict Strategies for Managing Conflict in the Past**

There have been majors for managing conflict in the past. These methods are still being used till date. They are;

**1. Legal Options:** Legal options has to do with adjudication and arbitration.

- **Adjudication:** This has to do with courts and procedures of litigation.
- **Arbitration:** Arbi is a way of resolving conflict through facilitators of peace processes, which is referred to as arbiter(umpire), they handle various cases involving parties to a conflict, gives verdict (judgement), and it must be binding on the key players.

**2. The traditional/community based methods:** This method is similar to the legal options, however in this case, the mediator is both adjudicating as well as arbitrating.

### **Conclusion**

In understanding food security and failure of agricultural infrastructure in Nigeria, with special focus on herdsmen and farmers management, we looked at the concepts of food security, identifying its determinants like availability, stability, access, etc. The discovery of oil in Nigeria rather than being a source of economic growth cum development, has brought about a monopolist economy. Government has neglected agriculture for long, with attendant decline in standard of living of its citizens. The government of Nigeria has failed in providing the basics of life. Moreso, to further validates its failed status, it has not been able to come up with any solution cum remedy to tackle the issues of herdsmen farmers conflict and other security issues facing the country.

The people of Nigeria have now gotten used to the killings and conflicts that happens every now and then between herdsmen and farmers.

The socio-economic implications of the conflicts between herdsmen-farmer are enormous, as they range from loss of lives, homelessness as a result of destruction, displacements of people, crops and farms destruction, as well as lack of trust between the herdsmen and the farmers. Moreso, agriculture that is gradually taking its place in the nation's economy, is now threatened due to the clash between herdsmen and farmers. To make matters worse, is the nonchalant cum ineptitude of the government, not ready to take drastic measures in ensure that normalcy returns.

By and large, for the agricultural sector to witness transformation, the government must be deliberate in their intervention policies, by ensuring that infrastructures are available, security issues are attended to, and the law of the land on grazing must be obeyed.

### **Recommendation(s)**

The following are suggested recommendations:

The first responsibility of government is to secure lives and properties. Hence, the government must form partnership with relevant agencies cum bodies both internationally, regionally and locally, in ensuring that the issue of insecurity is reduced. The Nigerian government must defend its sovereign status, by engaging all state and non state actors on the issue of security. Security at the local level should be encouraged.

Also, government must ensure that infrastructures like good road networks, bridges, water supply, electricity, etc are provided to enhance agriculture. Without agriculture mankind is dead. And a state that has the capacity to feed its people, is a successful one.

On budget, the government of the federation alongside states should increase the percentage of budget allocated to this sector, even by 50 percent. A committee of experts, wealthy and value driven individuals should be set. This committee should ensure that whatever incentives, by way of manure, education, training, etc that the government is providing reaches all and sundry, especially those in rural areas.

Also, government -federal, state, local, should promulgate laws outlawing grazing openly, and herdsmen should be advised on building ranches.

Again, some areas should be allocated to the nomads by government at state levels, however they will be made to pay tax. Moreso, they would have to sign an agreement on certain penalties should they be found committing crime.

Lastly, the bio-data of all the herdsmen must be captured at the local council, for the purpose of monitoring.

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