

# **Insecurity, Rural Infrastructures and Decline in Food Crop Production in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria**

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## **Abstract**

*This study examined the nexus between insecurity and decline in food crop production in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria. Using a mixed-method approach, it investigated the cause and effects of insecurity on farming (especially food crop production) in the area and explored solutions to address the trend. Six objectives and six research questions guided the study. The study relied heavily on primary data generated through the use of 200 copies of questionnaire retrieved from 200 farmers in the area. The data was analyzed using descriptive statistics. The study reveals that insecurity is on the increase in the area (particularly kidnapping and the activities of herdsmen, armed robbery, and cultism); farmers in the area lack good access to agricultural support (bank facilities and incentives) and rural infrastructures. These are the major factors affecting the agricultural sector leading to a decline in food crop production in the area. This of course, has a multiplier effects on food security, malnutrition and economic losses. The study recommended for a multi-faceted approach to address these challenges, including improved security architecture, agricultural support, access to markets, and community engagement.*

**Key Words:** *insecurity, farming activities, rural infrastructure, Emohua, crop production*

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **Study Background**

The agricultural sector is considered to be one of the crucial sectors of most West African economies, providing employment opportunities to a greater part of the population, contributing to the gross domestic product (GDP), providing industrial raw materials, supporting income generations and exports earnings. Nigeria is blessed with arable soils which supports agriculture. Despite Nigeria's rich agricultural resource endowments, the agricultural sector is seen to be growing at a very slow pace. More than 50% of the country's cultivable agricultural land is under-cultivated. This suggests that there is urgent need to explore the enormous potentials inherent in the agricultural sector and use it to achieve sustainable economic growth and development of the country (Amadi, 2020).

Ukpere (2020) argued that a high proportion of those engaged in agricultural practices are rural dwellers, and that these rural dwellers make up about half of the Nigerian population yet, rural poverty is on the increase. Rural dwellers find it very difficult to access useful information that might help them in their drives towards the acquisition of necessary skills and inputs needed to boost their outputs. This abnormality can be attributed to poor level of education and exposure and the absence of basic rural infrastructures in most rural areas.

Rural infrastructures is a set of investments that include rural roads, water supply, rural housing, rural electrification, sanitation, energy or power supply, telecommunication, and agricultural incentives including storage and processing facilities. These facilities enhance the standard of living of rural farmers. The provision of rural infrastructures will enhance agricultural production in many ways as well as encourage rural transformation. However, inaccess to (or inadequate) infrastructure will inevitably have a negative impact on agricultural development (Ukpere, 2014; Akinyele, 2017).

The lack of adequate infrastructure in the rural areas limits the productivity and competitiveness of rural farmers. Ukpere (2014) argued that rural infrastructure and rural development are connected to reducing rural poverty and increasing the standard of living at the rural areas through improvement in agricultural productivity, employment generation, and non-farm employment. Hence, investing in rural infrastructure provision and adequate security can help rural communities increase their productivity, reduce poverty, and generally contribute to economic growth. More so, economic development theorists identified rural infrastructure provision as vital in agricultural production. This means that agricultural production capacity is greatly connected to adequate infrastructures.

One important approach to analyzing rural farmers' income is to examine the various sources of income. The five main sources of revenue for a typical farm household are: (i) producing for its own use (ii) crop sales (iii) livestock production (iv) off-farm income and (v) remittances from others. Also, neighborhood food network and social and political system analysis need to be added or integrated with this micro-level method (Nwajiuba, 2018). The former deals with the manufacturing, transportation, distribution, and price of food products, whereas the latter determines who has their rights to food upheld and whose opinions are heard. How secure a farmer's possession of food depends on the socio-political structure, the degree to which the war/conflict affects the community's food supply, and the household's income. In food security research, these three factors are frequently referred to as equilibrium, food accessibility, and food access.

All hands must be on-deck if the numerous agricultural potentials of the area should be harnessed for the common good of all and sundry. This will guarantee the right atmosphere for the continued sustenance of the political, economic, cultural and social prosperity of the people as well as reduce the challenges of many intergroup disputes. Unfortunately, the study area is notable for its high rate of poverty, poor governance, political upheaval, inadequate infrastructures; and most importantly, high level of illiteracy and insecurity that has bedeviled the area, with many living in fear, a lot of farmers are not able to access their farms again either for fear of being attacked or their crops stolen before harvest time.

An examination of the literatures so far reviewed, revealed that while there have been numerous researches and investigations on conflict and food security in many places, to the best of the researchers, none of such works exist on Emohua Local Government Area of River State. This is the main reason for this study.

## **Aim and Objectives**

This study investigated insecurity, rural infrastructures and decline in food crop production in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State – Nigeria; with a view to identifying solutions on how to address these challenges and promote sustainable food production and rural development in the area. Objectives of the study include to:

1. Identify the major types/forms of insecurity in the area
2. Ascertain the main reasons or causes of insecurity in the area
3. Find out the direct major impacts of insecurity on farmers and agricultural activities in the area
4. Find out the main food crops of the area
5. Identify the major constraints/challenges affecting food crop production and rural development in the area.
6. Identify possible remedies/solutions on how to address these challenges and promote sustainable food production and rural development in the area.

## **Research Questions**

1. What are the major types/forms of insecurity in the area?
2. What are the main reasons or causes of insecurity in the area?
3. Does insecurity impacts negatively on farmers and agricultural activities in the area?
4. What are the main food crops grown in the area?
5. What are the major constraints/challenges affecting food crop production and rural development in the area?
6. What are the possible remedies/solutions on how to address these challenges and promote sustainable food production and rural development in the area?

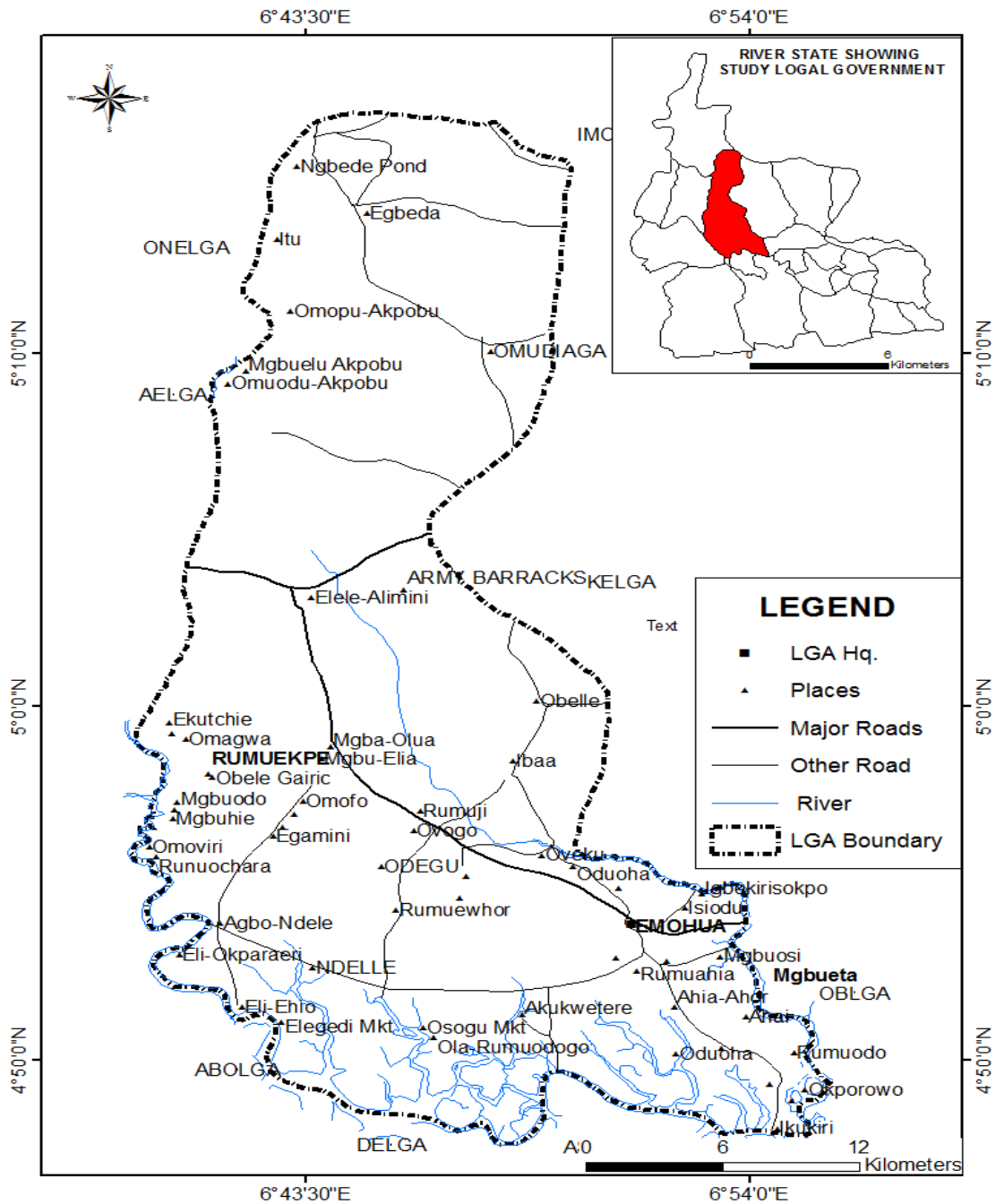
## **Scope of the Study**

This study centred on insecurity and poor access to rural infrastructure as being responsible for decline in food crop production in Emohua Local Government Area.

## **The Study Area**

### **i. Location and Extent**

Emohua Local Government Area is one of the 23 local government areas in Rivers State, Nigeria. It is situated in the northwestern part of the state, approximately 50 kilometers northwest of Port Harcourt. The study area by its geography is located between latitudes 4<sup>0</sup>50'0" and 5<sup>0</sup>13'0"N, and between longitudes 6<sup>0</sup>40'30" and 6<sup>0</sup>54'0"E. It is approximately 831km<sup>2</sup> in size and shares boundaries with, Imo state in the north-east, North-west by Onelga, East by Ikwere local government on the East, Obio/Akpor L.G.A on the south-east, Ahoada east L.G.A on the west and Abua/Odual L.G.A at the south west (see figure 1 below).



**ii. Climate and vegetation**

Climatically, Emohua is classified as tropical during most month of the year; short dry season has little effect on the overall climate. This climate is considered to be Am according to the Koppen-Geiger climate classification. The average annual temperature is 26.5<sup>0</sup>C in Emohua. The rainfall is mostly conventional and relatively high. Average mean monthly rainfall is 199.6mm and between 2000-2500mm per annum; with the wettest months being July and September. Mean annual temperature is from 23<sup>0</sup> - 32<sup>0</sup>C, with mean relative humidity of over 80% per annum. The dry season sets in from the month of November or December and ends in March or April (Ekeleme, 2019). There are two periods of yearly heavy rainfall-March and

July (when the equatorial low pressure moves northward) and September and October (when it returns southwards). At this time, the moisture winds bringing rain will blow hot air over the whole of Niger delta. These two seasons are separated by a short dry season referred to as the August break mostly around July-August. Relative humidity is lowest during January to August (about 51%) and maximum around September to December (about 91%).

Emohua possess rain forest type of vegetation which characterize the entire Rivers state. The forest belts run roughly parallel form east to west emphasizing the dependence of vegetation on climate. The high annual rainfall and humidity and long wet season (8-10 months) ensure an adequate supply of water and continuous presence of moisture in the air. This promotes tree growth. The actual vegetation however shows a varied combination of different types of plant groups. The grasses grow in open parches as secondary vegetation but the vegetation within the coastal area is mainly mangrove, while the northern portion is of thick tropical rain forest. However, the vegetation is fast disappearing due to intensive timber and fuel wood harvesting.

### **iii. Soils and Geology**

The soils are mostly sand-clayey in most part and loamy in some areas. Alluvial deposits occur only along river plains. Crops cultivated in the area include cassava, yams, maize, plantains, fruits and vegetables. Emohua is situated at the coastal plain sands of the old eastern Niger Delta. Its geology is of fluvial sediments. Emohua topography is very unique and it is located within the coastal plains which by its structure are of the sedimentary rocks of the Agbada, Akata and Benin formation of the Niger Delta. Its height falls within 10m-25m above sea level. (Oyegun 1999 in Amadi, 2020). Emohua belongs to the coastal sand ridges zone of Rivers State.

### **iv. Major Economic Activities**

The Study area has a long history of agricultural production, dating back to the pre-colonial era. The area was once a major producer of palm oil, earning it the nickname "Oil Palm Country". In the 1960s and 1970s, Emohua was a hub for rice production, with the government establishing rice mills and irrigation schemes. Today, the area is still known for its cassava, yam, and maize production, with many farmers engaging in subsistence and commercial farming.

Agriculture is the mainstay of area's economy, providing livelihoods for over 70% of the population. The area's fertile soil and favorable climate make it suitable for a variety of food and cash crops. Emohua LGA is a significant contributor to Rivers State's food security, producing a substantial portion of the state's staple crops. The area's agricultural produce also serves as a source of raw materials for processing industries in nearby cities like Port Harcourt. There are oil and gas establishments in the area especially at Rumuji (Greenville gas projects) and Shell at Rumuekpe. The people are also known for commercial activities with lots of businesses all over the place.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Conceptual Clarification**

(I) Insecurity- Insecurity refers to the state of being vulnerable to harm, danger, or threat. In the context of Emohua LGA, insecurity encompasses various forms of violence, crime, and instability that affect the safety and well-being of farmers and their crops.

(ii) Decline or Failing Crops Production- this refers to the decline in food crop production. It also refers to failure of crops to grow well, produce good yield to meet expected production levels. This can be attributed to various factors such as insecurity, crop theft, climate change, soil degradation, and inadequate support to farmers.

### Insecurity and agriculture

Oluwatayo (2019) noted that insecurity affects agricultural productivity by disrupting farming activities, reducing farmer confidence, and increasing costs. To Akinyele (2017), insecurity leads to reduced crop yields, decreased farmer productivity, and increased food insecurity. Insecurity is a major challenge facing farmers in Emohua LGA, leading to reduced crop production and food insecurity.

Poor soil quality arising from soil degradation (cause by soil erosion and continuous cultivation without application of fertilizer), insecurity including crop theft and limited access to markets and extension services are some of the major challenges facing rural agriculture in Africa and the study area is one place where these are evidently clear. Also, the impact of climate change on crop production is becoming more obvious. Climate change exacerbates insecurity and failing crops production (Nwajiuba, 2018; Amadi, 2020; Ekeleme, 2019).

### 3. METHODOLOGY

This study uses descriptive survey approach, combining both qualitative and quantitative methods involving surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions with farmers, community leaders, and security personnel. The sample size is made up of 200 randomly selected farmers in the area. Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics.

### 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 4.1 Types/Forms of Insecurity in Emohua Local Government Area

**Table 1:** Forms of Insecurity that affects farming in the Area

| S/n | Type of Insecurity         | N   | SA                | A               | D                 | SD                |
|-----|----------------------------|-----|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1.  | Kidnapping                 | 200 | 75(37.5%)         | 68(34%)         | 35(17.5%)         | 32(16%)           |
| 2.  | Armed robbery & Crop Theft | 200 | 85(42.5%)         | 78(39%)         | 24(12%)           | 13(6.5%)          |
| 3.  | Cultism                    | 200 | 76(38%)           | 79(39.5%)       | 28(14%)           | 13(8.5%)          |
| 4.  | Banditry                   | 200 | 95(47.5%)         | 77(38.5%)       | 15(7.5%)          | 13(6.5%)          |
| 5.  | Oil bunkering Activities   | 200 | 45(22.5%)         | 48(24%)         | 66(33%)           | 41(20.5%)         |
|     | <b>Total Percentage</b>    |     | <b>376(37.6%)</b> | <b>350(35%)</b> | <b>168(16.8%)</b> | <b>112(11.31)</b> |

**Source: Researchers' Fieldwork and analysis, 2024**

From the table above, a total of 37.6% of the respondents strongly agreed that kidnapping, armed robbery and crop theft, cultism, banditry and oil bunkering activities are the major forms of insecurity that affects farming activities in the area. Another 35% others also agreed; while 16.8% disagreed and 11.31% others also strongly disagreed. The study therefore concluded that itemized types of insecurity are the most prevalent in the area.

**Kidnapping:** In 2022, several cases of kidnapping have been reported in Emohua LGA, including the abduction of a traditional ruler and a politician.. In 2020, a group of kidnappers abducted a bus carrying passengers along the East-West Road in Emohua LGA. (Amadi, 2020). There are reports of farmers being kidnapped in some communities with the local vigilante helping to rescue those kidnapped.

**Armed Robbery and Crop Theft:** In 2022, armed robbers attacked a bank in Emohua Town, carting away an undisclosed amount of money. Again, in 2019, robbers attacked a convoy carrying a politician in Emohua LGA, killing two police escorts. There have been several cases of robbers braking into people's homes, catering away belongings including cash and harvested food crops. Also, crop theft is now a common issue in the area. Very often, thieves will forcefully enter into people farms harvesting crops. This is a major challenge as many farmers no longer have interest in cultivation the land for fear of their crops being harvested by thieves even before their maturity in the farm (Ekeleme, 2019).

**Cultism:** In 2020, rival cult groups clashed in Emohua Town, resulting in the death of several people. Also in 2018, a cult leader was arrested in Emohua LGA for allegedly killing a rival cult member ( The Punch Newspaper, 2018 in Amadi, 2020). Cultists often terrorize farmers in their farms, forcefully harvesting their crops.

**Banditry:** In 2022, bandits attacked a community in Emohua LGA, killing several people and burning houses. Also in 2020, bandits kidnapped a group of farmers in Emohua LGA, demanding ransom (The Nation Newspaper, 2020 in Amadi, 2020). Herdsmen have being terrorizing the area with their cows openly grazing on cassava, vegetables and maize farms. In some cases, herdsmen even attacked farmers, raping women in their farms.

**Oil Bunkering:** In 2020, security operatives arrested several oil bunkers in Emohua LGA, confiscating large quantities of stolen crude oil. Also in 2019, an oil bunker was killed during a shootout with security operatives in in the area (Daily Trust Newspaper, 2019 in Amadi, 2020).

#### **4.2 Some key reasons/causes of insecurity in Emohua Local Government Area**

- (a) **Unemployment and Poverty:** High levels of unemployment and poverty have led to frustration and desperation among youths, making them vulnerable to criminal activities.
- (b) **Political Instability:** Political rivalries and instability have contributed to insecurity in in the area, as politicians often arm and sponsor youths to perpetrate violence.
- (c) **Cultism and Gang Violence:** Cultism and gang violence are prevalent in in the area, leading to clashes and attacks on innocent people.
- (d) **Oil Bunkering and Illegal Oil Activities:** Illegal oil activities, such as artisanal referring activities, have attracted criminal elements into the area, leading to insecurity. Many youths now engage in oil related activities rather than in farming activities.
- (e) **Weak Law Enforcement:** The number of policemen and other security agencies are inadequate, there is lack of effective policing and this have emboldened criminals and contributed to insecurity.
- (f) **Community Conflicts:** Conflicts between communities over land and resources, and other issues have led to violence and insecurity.

- (g) Youth Restiveness: Youth restiveness, fueled by unemployment and frustration, has led to violent protests and attacks on infrastructures.
- (h) Inadequate Infrastructure: Bad roads, lack of electricity, high cost of accessing medical care and inadequate communication infrastructure have hampers farming activities. It has also hindered security operations and contributed to insecurity.
- (i) Corruption: Corruption among security personnel and government officials has undermined all efforts to address insecurity in the area.
- (j) Environmental Degradation: Environmental degradation caused by crude oil spills, soil erosion and logging, has led to loss of livelihoods and resentment among communities, fueling insecurity.

#### 4.3 Impacts of insecurity on farmers and agricultural activities in Emohua Local Government Area:

**Table 2: Direct impacts of insecurity on farmers in the area**

| S/N | Proposed Solution   | N   | SA            | A             | D             | SD            |
|-----|---|-----|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1.  | It leads to reduction in farming activities                                     | 200 | 79<br>(6.58%) | 64<br>(5.33%) | 30<br>(2.5%)  | 37<br>(3.08%) |
| 2.  | It breeds farm theft and loss of investments                                    | 200 | 77<br>(6.42%) | 66<br>5.5%    | 34<br>(2.83%) | 33<br>(2.75%) |
| 3.  | causes displacement of farmers and abandonment of farms as they flew for safety | 200 | 68<br>(5.67%) | 75<br>(6.25%) | 32<br>(2.67%) | 35<br>(2.92%) |
| 4.  | It leads to increase in the cost of farm operations                             | 200 | 75<br>(6.25%) | 68<br>(5.67%) | 32<br>(2.67%) | 35<br>(2.92%) |
| 5.  | Loss of income and or reduction in revenue generation efforts of farmers        | 200 | 77<br>(6.42%) | 95<br>(7.92%) | 15<br>(1.25%) | 13<br>(1.08%) |
| 6.  | Psychological trauma and emotional instability                                  | 200 | 79<br>(6.58%) | 76<br>(6.33%) | 13<br>(1.08%) | 28<br>(2.33%) |
|     | <b>Total Percentage</b>   |     | <b>37.92</b>  | <b>37</b>     | <b>13.</b>    | <b>15.08</b>  |

Source: Researchers' Fieldwork and analysis, 2024

From the above table, 37.92% of the respondents (farmers) believed that some of the direct impacts of insecurity on farmers and agricultural activities in the area are: it leads to reduction in farming activities, it breeds farm theft and loss of investments, causes displacement of farmers and abandonment of farms as they flew for safety, it leads to increase in the cost of farm operations, causes loss of income and or reduction in revenue generation efforts of farmers, and also causes psychological trauma and emotional instability. Another 37% others also agreed, while 13% disagreed and another 15.08% strongly disagreed. In conclusion, the itemized issues listed in the tables are the direct effects of insecurity on farmers in the area. These are further explained below:

- (a) Reduced Farming Activities: Fear of attacks and kidnapping has led to reduction in farming activities. Farmers are now reluctant to venture into farming.



- (b) Theft and Loss of Crops and Livestock: Insecurity has led to the destruction of crops and livestock, resulting in economic losses by farmers. Thieves now forcefully enter into farms and steal their farm produce even before the crops are mature for harvesting
- (c) Displacement of Farmers: Insecurity has forced some farmers to abandon their farms and relocate to safer areas, leading to displacement and loss of livelihoods.
- (d) Increased Cost of Production: Insecurity has led to increased costs of production, as farmers now resort to hire security personnel to protect their farms in some instances.
- (e) Reduced Access to Markets: Insecurity has made it difficult for farmers to access some roads which lead to some of the markets, leading to reduced sales and income. Also, some perishable food crops like vegetables and fruits get spoilt because of delay in accessing the markets. Sometimes, some hooligans blocked access roads to the markets.
- (f) Psychological Trauma: Insecurity has caused psychological trauma on farmers, leading to stress, anxiety, and depression.
- (g) Reduced Food Security: Insecurity has led to reduction in food security, as farmers are unable to produce and supply food to the markets.
- (h) Loss of Agricultural Investments: Insecurity has led to the loss of agricultural investments, as investors are reluctant to invest in an insecure environment.

#### 4.4 Major Food Crops Cultivated/Produced by Farmers in the Area

**Table 4: Main Crops Cultivated in the Area**

| S/n          | Food crop             | Frequency  | Percentage of Farmers |
|--------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| 1.           | Cassava               | 58         | 29                    |
| 2.           | Cocoyams              | 12         | 6                     |
| 3.           | Yams                  | 32         | 16                    |
| 4.           | Maize                 | 31         | 15.5                  |
| 5.           | Banana and Plantain   | 21         | 10.5                  |
| 6.           | Fruits and vegetables | 30         | 15.16                 |
| 7.           | Sweet potatoes        | 16         | 8                     |
| <b>Total</b> |                       | <b>200</b> | <b>100%</b>           |

**Source: Researchers' Fieldwork and analysis, 2024**

Root and tuber crops are the main food crops cultivated in the area. These include cassava (for processing of 'garri and fufu' being the main staple food eaten by the people), yams, sweet potatoes, and cocoa yam. Others include maize, bananas and plantains, fruits (like cucumbers, garden eggs, tomatoes, melon,) and vegetables (especially fruit- pumpkin, bitter leaf, water leaf, etc). Of all these crops, cassava, yams, maize and vegetables are the most predominant in the area.

#### 4.5 Major Constraints (challenges) affecting Farming Activities and Rural Development in the area

Some of the reasons for decline in food crop production and which also affect rural development in Emohua Local Government Area are:

**Security Concerns:** Insecurity and violence in the area have discouraged farmers from investing in agriculture, leading to decline in food crop production.

**Lack of Support Services:** Inadequate extension services, credit facilities, and marketing support have hindered farmers' ability to produce more and sell their crops.

**Infrastructure Deficits:** Poor road networks, lack of storage facilities, and inadequate irrigation systems have made it difficult for farmers to produce and transport their crops.

**Soil Degradation and Soil Pollution:** Soil erosion, nutrient depletion, and salinization have reduced soil fertility, making it difficult for crops to grow. Contamination of soil by oil spills, industrial waste, and other pollutants affects crop growth and yield.

**Climate Change:** Irregularities in rainfall patterns and drought have negatively impacted crop growth. Rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, and increased frequency of extreme weather events have negatively impacted crop production. In other words, climate change has been identified as a major contributor to declining crop yields in Rivers State, Nigeria. Rising temperatures, reduced rainfall, and increased rainfall variability have negatively impacted on crop production, leading to reduced yields and crop failures.

**Pests and Diseases:** Farms in the area are prone to infestations by pests like locusts, grasshoppers, and diseases like cassava mosaic virus which damage crops.

**Lack of Access to Quality Seeds:** Farmers' inability to access high-quality yielding seeds has resulted in poor outputs.

**Inappropriate Farming Techniques and use of Crude Implements:** The continuous use of crude implements such as the hoe, machet, axe, spade, etc., does not encourage large scale farming. Also, poor farming techniques, such as lack of irrigation, fertilizer application, have contributed to failing crop yield and food production.

#### 4.6 Possible Solutions to be adopted in order to promote sustainable food production in the area

**Table 6: Solutions to the identified Constraints**

| S/N | Proposed Solution  | N   | SA            | A             | D            | SD            |
|-----|--|-----|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1.  | Improved security architecture through the use of Local vigilantes | 200 | 79<br>(39.5%) | 76<br>(38%)   | 13 (8.5%)    | 28<br>(14%)   |
| 2.  | Agricultural Support to farmers                                    | 200 | 77<br>(38.5%) | 95<br>(47.5%) | 15<br>(7.5%) | 13<br>(6.5%)  |
| 3.  | Infrastructure Provision   | 200 | 68<br>(34%)   | 75<br>(37.5%) | 32 (16%)     | 35<br>(17.5%) |
| 4.  | Engaging with Community Leaders                                    | 200 | 75<br>(37.5%) | 68<br>(34%)   | 32<br>(16%)  | 35<br>(17.5%) |
|     | <b>Total Percentage</b>  |     | <b>37.38</b>  | <b>39.25</b>  | <b>11.5</b>  | <b>13.88</b>  |

**Source: Researchers' Fieldwork and analysis, 2024**

It is pertinent to state here that in more practical terms, to address the challenges of insecurity and failing crops production in Emohua Local Government Area, we propose a multi-faceted approach, including:

**Improved Security:** There should be increase security presence in the area to protect farmers and their crops. Local vigilantes should be used for adequate policing by ensuring regular and frequent patrols of farmlands in the area. This will help to reduce the activities of herdsmen and farm thieves.

**Agricultural Support:** Government and philanthropists should help to provide agricultural support to farmers such as good seedlings, fertilizers, equipment and other incentives including extension services.

**Access to Markets:** Government should help to constructs good roads in the area so as to ensure smooth access to markets by farmers and others in order to boost trade in agricultural products.

**Community Engagement:** The local government authorities should engage community leaders in a transparent manner in order to address the root causes of insecurity in the area.

From the above table, 37.38% of the respondents (farmers) believed that the adoption of improved security architecture through the use of local vigilantes, provision of agricultural support/incentives to farmers, provision of basic infrastructures in the area (such as good roads, health centers, electricity, good water, etc.), and engaging with community leaders and opinion leaders will help to mitigate against the seeming problems affecting food crop production in the area. 39.25% others also agreed; whilst 11.5% of the respondents disagreed and another 13.88% strongly disagreed. In conclusion, the adoption of the listed measures will help to eradicate or ameliorate the current challenges faced by farmers in the area.

## Conclusion

Insecurity and failing crops production are major challenges in Emohua Local Government Area. Addressing these challenges requires a multi-faceted approach that should include improved security architecture with involvement of the local vigilante who knows much about the terrain of the area; provision of agricultural support, increase farmers' access to financial markets, and community engagement. Implementing these solutions will help to ensure food security, reduce malnutrition, and promote rural development in the area.

## Recommendations

The study therefore recommends thus:

1. Community-based security initiatives should be established to patrol and protect farmers. Again, there should be collaboration between local government, security agencies including local vigilantes and farmers to ensure prompt response to security threats. Conflicts resolution mechanisms should be established to address communal disputes and land related conflicts. Economic empowerment programs should be implemented to reduce poverty and unemployment which trigger insecurity.
2. Agricultural extension services and farmer training programs should be organized regularly. Strengthen agricultural extension services to provide farmers with modern farming techniques and inputs. Implement farmer training programs to enhance their capacity to adapt to changing climate conditions. Also, the farmers should be thought on how to promote soil conservation practices to reduce soil erosion and degradation;

and on how to develop irrigation infrastructure to mitigate the impact of climate change on crop production by promoting climate-smart agriculture practices to enhance crop resilience to climate change.

3. Agricultural insurance schemes should be established to protect farmers against crop failures and losses. Also, stakeholder engagement to include farmers, local government authority, and security agencies, in the development and implementation of solutions. Establish a data collection and analysis system to monitor crop production and insecurity trends.

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