

The Impact of Banditry on Agricultural Development in Katsina-Ala Local Government Area.

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Abstract

This study aims to examine the impact of banditry on agricultural development in Katsina-Ala. Local government area, Benue state, Nigeria. The study employs a qualitative research method, the study population covered indigenous farmers household given at 30,892, the target population covers only ten (10) Districts out of the twelve (12) wards are considered under the influence of bandit's activities in the study. A systematic sampling of method was adopted with sampled size of 217. Primary data was be used for this study. Primary data was be used for this study. Through Structured multi-choice questionnaires (SMQ) and Key Informant Interview (KII). Data were collected on the socio-economic characteristics of the farmers, examine nature of banditry activities in the study area, assess the perceived effects of banditry on agricultural activities and examined the impact of banditry on agricultural development using descriptive statistics such as frequency distribution, percentage mean and multiple regression model on the perceived effect of banditry in the study area. Regression analysis revealed that farm land lost (0.3001), animals lost (-0.2447), assets lost (-0.5605), relocation (-0.1449), frequency of attack (-0.7582), people displace (-0.1661) and Exposure to bomb (-0.2548) were found to be negative and statistically significant. It was recommended; government should collaborate with village heads for provision of security for farmer

Key words: *Impact of Banditry activities, Agricultural Development and Katsina-Ala L.G.A*

1. Background to the study

Agricultural development refers to enhancing the quality of life in rural communities, ensuring food security for both current and future generations, and providing adequate income for farmers. Promoting sustainable agricultural development also entails preserving and maintaining productive capacity for the future while boosting overall productivity (European Commission, 2018) Agricultural development is a crucial component of rural development, as rural areas cannot develop without the advancement of agriculture, as approximately 90% of rural residents are involved in this sector.

In Nigeria, agriculture Development is a crucial aspect of rural progress, as rural regions cannot advance without the development of agriculture, which employs approximately 90% of the rural population as their primary source of income. In Nigeria, agriculture is the key economic sector, especially concerning rural employment, food self-sufficiency, fiber production, and export earnings, even before the discovery of oil (Ilesanmi & Odefadehan, 2022). has historically been the most significant sector of the economy, particularly in terms of

rural employment, food self-sufficiency, fiber production, and export earnings, especially before the discovery of oil (Ilesanmi & Odefadehan, 2022). Agriculture production has become one of the most political and social pre-conditions for efficient mobilization of production resources and accelerated rural development process (Odunsi-Oyewole, 2022). Agriculture is the practice of adapting and altering the environment to cultivate crops, raise livestock, and manage natural resources to satisfy human needs. This process encompasses a range of activities, including land preparation, planting, irrigation, fertilization, pest management, harvesting, and post-harvest processing. Agriculture involves the cultivation of plants, the raising of animals, and the production of food, fiber, and various other products for human consumption. Farmers, defined as individuals who grow crops and rear animals for food or raw materials (Adebayo, 2017), are essential to this process. Agricultural practices are a vital source of livelihood and well-being for numerous communities. Agricultural activities serve as the primary source of livelihood and well-being for many communities. A significant portion of these farmers are classified as small-scale farmers due to the limited size of their land holdings. Agricultural activities are the main source of livelihood and well-being of the people, majority of the farmers were classified as small-scale farmers because of the small size of their holdings (Bashir, & Mustapha, 2022).

However, the sector faces a myriad of challenges, chief among them being armed banditry. The sector is confronted with numerous challenges, with armed banditry being a primary concern. In the last ten years, Nigeria has struggled with multiple security issues, such as insurgency, banditry, conflicts between farmers and herders, and communal violence. These issues have significantly impacted agricultural practices throughout the nation. Consequently, this paper, the incidence of banditry has destabilized agricultural development and socio-economic activities of the state (Adebayo, 2017). The instability generated by the bandits activities has caused an exact and substantial decrease in agricultural production (Ojo et al., 2018). According to Ahmad, B.S. (2020), armed banditry is defined as the occurrence or prevalence of armed robbery or violent crime. It involves the use of force or the threat of force to intimidate individuals with the intent to rob, assault, or kill. Banditry is fundamentally a crime against individuals.

In a broader context that highlights the unique motives and characteristics of banditry in Nigeria, Dami (2021) suggests that banditry refers to armed violence primarily driven by a criminal intent to steal and plunder. This form of violence is often motivated by the pursuit of economic gain. It Motivated by the pursuit of economic gain, banditry targets individuals and communities possessing material wealth. According to Ladan and Matawalli (2020), this form of crime is characterized by robbery and violence, particularly in regions where the rule of law has deteriorated. Banditry is a major security challenge on farmers, ravaging agricultural practices in Nigeria. The prevalence and severity of banditry in Nigeria have intensified regional insecurity, posing a potential threat to the integration of various regions within the country (Aisha, 2020). In Benue State, particularly in Zone A (Sankara axis) and the Katsina-Ala Local Government Area, armed violence has surged since 1999 (Mbumega, 2019). This wave of banditry, which includes armed robbery, kidnapping for ransom, and a range of violent crimes, has had a profound impact on the peace, security, and economic stability of rural farming communities. The primary victims are the small-scale and subsistence farmers, who form the backbone of the agricultural development in these regions, find themselves at the epicentre of this crisis. farmers, who primarily focus on agricultural production, processing, marketing, and various aspects of food production, processing, and marketing activities are all adversely impacted in regions affected by banditry.

The bandits activities had significantly affected the agricultural development and welfare of the people around the area mostly affected (Aisha, 2020). The activities of the bandits have seriously affected various fields of human endeavours that could be categorized into physical, social and economic factors (Babagana et al., 2018).

Physically, the bandits assaults on market places, attacks on farmers in their fields, disruptions along transportation routes, and the targeting of communities have led to the destruction of public infrastructure, including government offices. These actions have effectively stalled developmental initiatives that could have otherwise improved the quality of life for the entire community (Godwin, 2020). Farmers could not easily move around to carry out their farming activities as well as marketing of agricultural produce for the fear of unknown.

Socially, the bandit's crisis have resulted to increase in crime rate, reduction in the standard of living and increased number of refugee influxes, as well as setback in the in agricultural development. These have resulted in an increase in food prices threatening on food security and drop in the formal and informal sector of the economy compared to what was obtainable some years back. Economically, the crisis has affected market linkages between towns and cities and many businesses have closedown thereby crippling the income generating potentials of the regions. The most disturbing trends here is the fact that in spite of the various governments and the community strategies, measures and intervention to curb this menace of insecurity on the economic prospects in K/Ala which include forming community vigilante groups to provide local security, adopting collective farming practices to reduce individual risk, and engaging in cooperative enterprises to bolster economic resilience, the horror seems ceaseless. Attempt at mitigating the problem became more cumbersome for the state and the communities affected Godwin, (2020).

Regrettable in Benue State Nigeria and precisely in Katsina-Ala LGA, these rural areas that are vital to the socio-economic development of the LGA are faced with the problem of retard crop production. Benue State, the Sankara axis comprising of Katsina-Ala, Logo and Ukum Local Government Area of Benue State. Bandit's activities are on the rise, kidnapping, armed robbery and killing almost on a weekly basis. (Lubem and Gbaeren.,2022). It was reported that On the 6th July, 2020, the community in Benue State, Katsina-Ala LGA, Mbatyula / Mberev council ward was completely ravaged by the bandit's activities who besieged Mberev part of the village council ward. Over 150 people were killed while many houses burnt. The bandits moved from one place to place to another, attacked and killed anybody they came across, in such a coordinated way that, everybody was on the run. Punch Newspapers, (2021) gathered from that, bandit's gangs had evaded and sacked several communities in Yoyoo, Utange, and Mbatura/Mberev Council wards in Katsina –Ala LGA. Suffice to say that the Katsina-Ala LGA in Benue State Nigeria has twelve district wards namely Mbayongo, Yooyo, Mbatyula/Mberev, Mbacher, Michihe, Mbajir,Ikurav I Ikurav II, Tiir, Iwar, Utange, and the Township have been mostly affected by the scourge of banditry. Of these twelve (12) councils wards, only two are not affected but ten of the twelve are critical hot spots. It is however, pertinent to note that the incidences of banditry which has the region into under development especially in the rural areas (Okoli and Ogayi, 2018).

The most disturbing trends here are that in spite of the various government strategies, measures and intervention to curb this menace, the horror seems ceaseless and of course the problem became more cumbersome for the state and the communities affected. The issue of decreasing crop productivity in Benue is exacerbated by banditry in the Katsina-Ala and Ukum Local Government Areas. The effects of these criminal activities on food crop production are

severe, leading to significantly reduced crop yields in the impacted regions. Adebisi et al. (2017) highlight that the decline in agricultural output due to banditry attacks on farmers has resulted in a diminished food supply for the growing population. As armed conflicts continue, the challenges for local farmers intensify. The rise in banditry attacks on farmers has led to a decline in crop production, resulting in reduced food availability for the growing population. This issue has intensified since the escalation of armed violence in 1999 (Mbumega, 2019).

Statement of the Problem

The current banditry activities in the Katsina-Ala local Government Area of Benue State have escalated and poses a significant threat to agricultural development, deeply affecting the sustainability and productivity of farming practices. Banditry disrupts not only the economy but also the social fabric of communities reliant on agriculture. This phenomenon has far-reaching implications, touching on the lives of farmers, the availability of food, and ultimately the stability of entire State. Banditry significantly hampers agricultural productivity by instilling fear among farmers and disrupting farming activities. As farmers face intimidation or violent attacks, armed robbery, kidnapping for ransom they are often compelled to abandon their fields, leading to substantial reductions in crop yields. Moreover, the constant threat of banditry discourages investment in agricultural inputs, such as seeds and fertilizer, further exacerbating productivity issues. As a result, many rural households experience increased poverty levels, making it difficult to invest in future crops or even basic necessities. Without a stable income, farmers face significant psychological and social stress, impacting community cohesion and resilience. The ramifications of banditry extend far beyond individual farmers, posing serious threats to food security and nutritional standards. As agricultural outputs decline, communities face increased malnutrition and hunger, particularly among vulnerable populations such as children and the elderly in the study area.

A review of the potential effects of insecurity — especially armed banditry and farmers on agriculture productivity demonstrates clear negative results (Uduji et al., 2024) The connection between agricultural productivity and banditry activities represents a significant research gap that warrants in-depth exploration. While it is widely recognized that insecurity negatively impacts economic growth, there is a lack of comprehensive studies that explicitly demonstrate the direct relationship between insecurity and agricultural productivity, especially in terms of sustainability. By carefully studying the effects of insecurity that determine agricultural output and its effects, this study seeks to fill this gap. Based on this context, this paper seeks to address the following questions; What are the socio-economic characteristics of farmers in the study area, what are the nature of banditry activities in the study area, what are the perceived effects of banditry activities in the study area, what are the effects of banditry on agricultural development.

2. Literature Review

Conceptual Literature

Concepts of Banditry

In Nigeria, Banditry has been explicitly described as a kind of terrorism. According to Ochojila (2022), the activities any illegal armed group causing mishaps in Nigeria are declared to be terrorism in Nigeria, according to the Nigerian government. a result, and property of Nigerians is considered banditry by law. Terrorism, according to (Amadi-Robert & Thankgod (2023) is defined as actions aimed at harming innocent individuals to creating panic in the communities destabilizing social order and violation of human rights. Terrorism can be defined

as violence group of people who target others to subdue civilians for financial gain, power control and political advantage in a given geographical area. According to Amadi-Robert and Thankgod (2023), terrorism is characterized as activities intended to inflict harm on specific individuals in order to create fear among the broader population by targeting civilians, essential infrastructure, or systems that support civilian life. Terrorism is defined as a violent act aimed at specific individuals or groups, intended to weaken an adversary by creating fear, fostering discouragement, and heightening political unrest among the targeted population (Yusuf, Akpansung, & Baranzi, 2018).

Theoretical framework

This research work adopted Queer Ladder Theory (QLT). The concept of QLT was introduced by American sociologist Daniel Bell (1919-2011), who used the term "queer ladder" to illustrate how organized crime can serve as a desperate yet strategic avenue for socio-economic advancement and social mobility. This theoretical viewpoint has evolved into a widely embraced framework in modern crime research. The core tenets of QLT assert that organized crime functions as a strategic behavior, serving as a means to achieve specific goals. The basic assumptions of QLT are; organised crime is an instrumental behaviour, it is a means to an end; it is an instrument of social climbing and/or socioeconomic advancement; It acts as a vehicle for social mobility and socioeconomic progress, as well as a method for amassing wealth and consolidating power (Ojo, Usman, Mohammed, Ojo, & Oseghale, 2018). Often ascribed to Queer Ladder Theory is the notion that organised crime thrives in contexts where the governments capacity to dictate, sanction and deter crime is poor; where public corruption is endemic; and where prospects for legitimate livelihood opportunities are slim (Farouq U., Chukwu, (2020). In such settings, the motivation to engage in criminal activities is significantly heightened, while the mechanisms to deter such behavior are notably ineffective. This creates pretext for criminal impunity and franchise (Adewusi, & Jibril, 2022). Applied to the context of this research, QLT enables one to come to terms with the prevalence of organised crime in Benue State region.

In this regard, it is observed that the phenomenon of banditry in Benue State in has been driven by criminal quest for economic accumulation and appropriation of surplus value in an environment. The situation has been exacerbated by widespread socio-economic dissatisfaction and a corresponding crisis in livelihoods within the state, compounded by the apparent apathy of government agencies in addressing these pressing issues. In the context of QLT, the term "Ladder" represents a troubling trend in social mobility. Hence, those who take to organised crime, such banditry, do so as a desperate means of economic accumulation and socio-economic empowerment (Mustapha, 2019). Therefore, a necessary consequence of this trend is prevalence in crime rate and a state of insecurity, Adewusi, & Jibril, (2022).

Thus, the increasing attacks of bandits Benue State region is largely driven by desperate means of socio-economic empowerment and social climbing. The alarming acts of banditry such as kidnapping, physical attacks and encroachments on farms are bred by criminally desperation for economic wealth, (Tsavhembra & Gbaeren (2021) Banditry in Katsina-Ala is the product of desperate behaviour which results from issues such as poverty and unemployment, among others (Maureen & Blessing, 2018; Adegoke, 2019). Applying this to the research help to explain banditry in Benue State which comes as the result of desperate struggle to get out of poverty and climb up the ladder in socio-economic considerations. However, where the ransom is not forthcoming, bandits became more tensed and angrier and resort to killing their victims. This is

why the theory become important reinforcing and complementary in explaining the crisis at hand.

Empirical Review

The effects of Banditry on agricultural productivity have been studied theoretically and empirically. An example is the study conducted by Okafor, Okonkwo, and Chinenye (2023), which focused on how insecurity influences household consumption patterns. Their findings revealed that insecurity significantly disrupted the dietary habits of respondents. Due to rising prices, individuals are struggling to maintain a balanced diet and are finding it difficult to explore alternative dietary options. In a related study, Amana, Aigbedion, and Zubair (2020) investigated the effects of government spending on security on Nigeria's economic growth, utilizing the classical econometric model (OLS). Their research revealed that government expenditure on security plays a crucial role in influencing economic growth in Nigeria.

In a bid to address the security issues plaguing Nigeria, Yusuf and Mohd (2023) conducted a study examining the effects of insecurity on the nation's economy from 1980 to 2019, employing an Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) approach for their analysis. Their empirical results revealed that escalating insecurity has adversely impacted key economic indicators, including the unemployment rate, domestic capital formation, foreign direct investment, and Government expenditures on education and security have been adversely impacted by the escalating levels of insecurity, which in turn hinder both short-term and long-term growth. In this context, Okoro (2018) and Muhammed et al. (2023) explored the implications of the herdsmen-farmers conflict on socio-economic development in Nigeria

The findings indicate that conflicts have led to fatalities, displacement of individuals, erosion of trust, and damage to property, among other consequences. The research concluded that the clashes between herdsmen and farmers have contributed to food insecurity, a breakdown of trust, and rising unemployment. Additionally, Mathias (2021) explored the impact of this crisis on food production in Nigeria. The results imply that fostering an environment conducive to food security, peace, and sustainable development is essential for the nation. The findings indicate that to foster an environment conducive to food security, peace, and sustainable development, the Nigerian government must implement a comprehensive orientation program aimed at promoting positive social interactions across diverse religious and ethnic groups. In a similar vein, Ikezie and Ezeah (2017) along with Ekanem (2022) investigated the ongoing conflicts between migrant Fulani herdsmen and local communities in Southern Nigeria.

Richards (2018) argues that the most apparent and urgent danger associated with civil war—of which terrorism can be considered a part—is the devastation of physical capital. This includes the damage to public infrastructure and the depletion of human capital. The absence of security exacerbates this destruction, leading to higher transaction costs, while simultaneously jeopardizing the effectiveness of governmental institutions. In their 2019 research, Chuku, Dominic, and Ima-Abasi utilized the Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) model alongside the Structural Vector Autoregressive (SVAR) methodology to explore how terrorism affects economic growth and fiscal conditions in Nigeria. Their analysis, which examined multiple indicators of terrorist activity, government expenditure, and economic performance, concluded that terrorism leads to a reallocation of economic resources, redirecting funds away from private investment. Empirical findings suggest that terrorism prompts a shift in economic activity from private investment to government expenditures on counter-terrorism, which adversely affects growth. The research utilized nominal GDP figures to measure growth and did not consider the

revenue aspects of fiscal policy. While the studies reviewed encompass a wide range of materials, they also exhibit some gap.

Gaps in Literature and Value Addition

This research paper conducted a comprehensive evaluation of various previous studies concerning the impact of banditry on agricultural development. Nevertheless, the research conducted by Okafor, Okonkwo, and Chinenye (2023); Amana, Aigbedion, and Zubair (2020); Ikezue and Ezeah (2017); Ekanem (2022); Chuku, Dominic, and Ima-Abasi (2019); and Richards (2018) presents a range of inconsistent and conflicting results. These studies utilize the classical econometric model (OLS) to analyze the effects of government security expenditure on Nigeria's economic growth.

Their research indicates that government spending on security plays a crucial role in influencing economic growth in Nigeria. In a similar vein, Okoro (2018) and Muhammed et al. (2023) investigated the ongoing conflicts between migrant Fulani herdsmen and local communities. This study aims to address the gaps identified by analyzing the consequences of these conflicts, including loss of life, displacement, erosion of trust, and property destruction.

This research aims to address the existing gaps by analyzing the consequences of banditry, including loss of life, displacement, erosion of trust, and property destruction. The findings indicate that banditry has significantly contributed to food insecurity and rising unemployment rates. Furthermore, the literature has largely overlooked the potential impact of resource dependency and its broader implications for agricultural development in Nigeria.

There is a notable deficiency in the comprehension of whether agricultural production remains sustainable given the unique challenges faced across various regions of the country. This is especially true when considering the inadequate institutional frameworks and security measures that fail to safeguard citizens and their resources from acts of banditry, which can significantly hinder agricultural progress. This indicates a gap in existing research. Consequently, this paper aims to explore the impact of these factors on agricultural development.

3. Research Methodology

Description of the study area

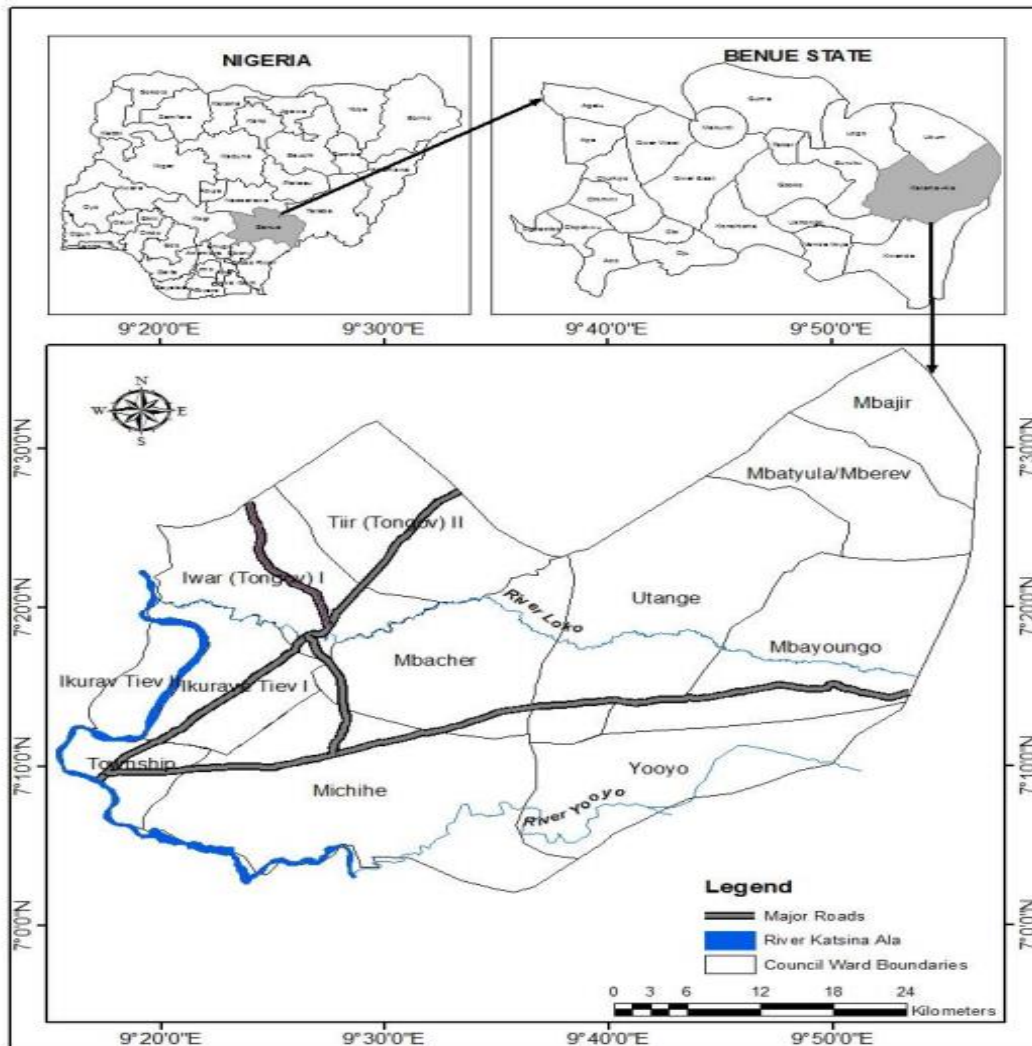
Katsina-Ala Local Government is one of the 23 Local Government Councils in Benue State, covering an area of approximately 2,613 square kilometers. Geographically, it is situated between latitudes 7°5'0"N and 7°30'0"N of the equator, and longitudes 9°15'0"E and 9°55'0"E of the Greenwich Meridian. The projected population for the Local Government is estimated to reach 330,115 by the year 2024, based on data from the National Population Commission (NPC) in 2006. The population density is notably higher in the southern region compared to the northern part. Politically, the local government is divided into twelve (12) districts, Mbayongo, Yooyo, Mbatyula/Mberek, Mbacher, Michihe, Mbajir, Ikurav I, Ikurav II, Tiir, Iwar, Utange, and the Township

located in the middle belt / north central and shares boundaries with Taraba State in the North-East, (Figures 1).

The study area has a climatic characteristic of wet and dry season. climatic like in most part of Nigeria, the area is biseasonal – the wet season begins in April and in October while dry season begins in December to March. Temperatures are mostly high throughout the year with average range between 23oC – 28oC and can reached upto 38oC. The mean annual rainfall is about (900-1000) mm. The vegetational zone falls in the Savanna region (Mohammed, et al.,

2021). The inhabitants of the Local Government are predominantly the Tiv people who speak Tiv language, few Hausa and Etulo settlements in the local government area of Katsina-Ala.

Figure 1.1: Location of the study area



Source: Modified from the Administrative Map of Katsina-Ala showing Ward Districts, GIS Laboratory Work, (Hundu, e.tal. 2020)

Research Design

This study adopted is survey method research design. This is because the study is quantitative in nature. This is to have in-depth understanding in assessing of the impact of bandits on agricultural development in the study area.

Study population and sample size of respondents

The population of the study covered the indigenous farmers household who have lived and carried out farming business in the twelve district wards of Katsina-Ala L.G.A. with the actual household population of 33,006 extract from Nigeria-North-central and North-west Zones of words assessed 9 (N-NNZ-9)(2022). The target population covers only ten (10) Districts out

of the twelve (12) wards are considered because only areas under the influence of bandit's activities are considered in the study. The population of the study in the ten district wards is given at **30,892**. For the purpose of this study, attention was focused on farmer's famers household. This is due to the ease of determining the influence of banditry activities on farm process such as, time of clearance, planting, cultivation and storage of farmer's household in the study area. A household consists of a person or group of persons living together usually under the same roof or in the same building of compound, who share the same source of food and recognised themselves as a social unit with a head of the household. They may or may not be related by blood. Population and Housing Census Field manual, (2023).

Systematic sampling of households was conducted at regular intervals from the sampling frame. Every 50th household was selected, resulting in a sample size of 100/50 for farmers across each of the ten wards, as shown in Table 1. This approach is based on the assumption that the farmers reside in the same community and engage in similar agricultural practices, making them susceptible to the same impacts of banditry activities. Thus, a systematic sampling method was employed.

Table 1: Total Population of District and Sampled sizes in the study area.

S/No	Districts (DW) Wards	Target Household (TH)	Sampled population (SP)
1.	Mbayongo	958	19
2.	Yooyo	1606	32
3.	Mbatyula/Mberek	622	12
4.	Mbacher	864	17
5.	Michihi	1051	21
6.	Mbajir	749	15
7.	Tiir	977	20
8.	Iwar	806	10
9.	Utange	1253	25
10.	Township	2328	46
Total		30,892	217

Source: Field work 2024

The population of the study comprised all rural dwellers in all the Local Government Areas of Katsina-Ala L.G.A, Benue state. This also includes all the farmers who are involved in agricultural and non-agricultural activities in rural areas

Data Collection

Primary data was be used for this study. Through Structured multi-choice questionnaires (SMQ) and Key Informant Interview (KII). Resident extension agents in each village were trained as enumerators by the researcher to assist in data collection in each the Ten Target districts wards in the study area. Data were collected on the socio-economic characteristics of the farmers, examine nature of banditry activities in the study area, assess the perceived effects of banditry on agricultural activities and examined the impact of banditry on agricultural development.

Method of Data Analysis

Primary data was utilized for the study, collected by researchers and trained enumerators through a structured questionnaire, supplemented with an interview schedule. The data obtained from Objective I to III will be achieved using descriptive statistics such as (frequency distribution, percentage mean). Objective (IV) Multiple regression model was used to determine the impact of banditry on agricultural development. The model in its implicit form is specified as:

Multiple regression model

$$Y = f(X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9, X_{10}, X_{11}, \dots, X_{16}) \text{ ----- (3.4)}$$

The explicit functional forms of the multiple regression model were expressed as:

Linear:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \beta_5 X_5 + \dots + \beta_{16} X_{16} + U_i \text{ ----- (3.5)}$$

Cobb-Douglas:

$$\ln Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \ln X_1 + \beta_2 \ln X_2 + \beta_3 \ln X_3 + \beta_4 \ln X_4 + \beta_5 \ln X_5 + \dots + \beta_{14} \ln X_{14} + U_i \text{ ----- (3.6)}$$

Semi-log:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \ln X_1 + \beta_2 \ln X_2 + \beta_3 \ln X_3 + \beta_4 \ln X_4 + \beta_5 \ln X_5 + \dots + \beta_{14} \ln X_{14} + U_i \text{ ----- (3.7)}$$

Exponential:

$$\ln Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \beta_5 X_5 + \dots + \beta_{14} X_{14} + U_i \text{ ----- (3.9)}$$

Where;

Y = Output of the rural women from crop production measured in kilogram using grain weight equivalent.

X1 = loss of farm land (hectares)

X2= loss of crops (qty)

X3= loss of animals (N)

X4 = lost of asset (N)

X5= loss of lives (Number)

X6= relocation (Km)

X7= frequency of attack (Number)

X8= people displaced (Number)

X9= Farming experience (years)

X10 = death of several farmers (Number)

X11 = exposure to bombs (yes 1, no 0)

X12 = fear of being killed (yes 1, no 0)

X13 = fear of abduction (yes 1, no 0)

X14 = fear of attack (yes 1, no 0)

β_0 = constant

$\beta_1 \dots \beta_{14}$ = coefficients of the independent variables

X1...X14 = independent variables

U_i = Error term

ln = Natural log

3 Results and Discussion

Socio-Economics characteristics of respondents

The result Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Respondents in the ten district wards on the gender of farmers household revealed that, 120(55.3%) were males while 99 (45.6%,) were female. According to the age category, revealed that majority (79.2%) of the respondents were between the age ranges of 10 – 50 years with mean age of 30 years. This is an indication that

majority of the farmers were in their active and productive stage. This implies availability of able-bodied labour force by farmers for primary production that could cushion the impact of banditry in the study area. The result agrees with Meer, et al. (2022) who reported that majority of the respondents were in their active and productive age (below 40 years). Mohammed, et al (2021) posited that age determines the degree and quality of labour supply in a given production.

Marital status of the respondents the result showed that majority (70.5%) of respondents were married, while 13.4% were single. The married women are responsible for pro-creation of next generation, thus expected to have access, control and ownership of agricultural productive resources including family labour for farming operations which can go a long way in increasing agricultural production and improving the livelihoods in the study area. This finding also agrees with Mohammed, et al (2021) who reported that majority of his respondents were married and more involved in agricultural businesses for income generating activities than those that were single.

Household size of the respondent's results indicated that more than half (86.6%) of the respondents had household size between 6 – 10 and 15 above persons with a mean household size of 10 persons. This suggests that majority of respondents had relatively large household size. Household size signifies the number of people eating from the same pot. In every subsistence farming system, the numbers of children are very important as it determines labour availability. However, due to bandits activities in the study area, most families especially women and children deserted their homes for fear of been killed or attacked.

This has resulted in decrease in agricultural activities of the farmers that could have significant impact on agricultural development. This result tallies with that of Gloria, (2021) who reported that as the household size decreases, the likelihood of expanding farm size and by implication utilizing more inputs is expected to be low.

The results on educational status of the respondents revealed that 25.8% of the respondents acquired primary school education, while 35.0% acquired secondary education and 6.9% acquired tertiary education. This implies that the educational status of the farmers is low with most attending primary and secondary schools and the majority non formal education. Low educational status could be attributed to the negative impact of bandits on farmers' potentials to pursue and enhance their educational level resulting in poor decision making and sustenance of improved agricultural practices. Education is believed to increase farmers' ability to obtain and analyze information that helps them to make appropriate decision. This is in line with the finding of Otuis et al. (2023) who posited that education of farmers positively influences the farmers' likelihood of adopting a new technology or practice as farmers with higher education have more exposure to new ideas and information.

The result on Farming experience of the respondents indicated that some (71.4%) of the respondents had farming experience of between 11 - >15 years with a mean farming experience of 13 years. This implies that the farmers had wealth of experiences over time to adjust with the accompanying changes and challenges that come as a result of the insecurity as experienced in study area. In a similar study, Umar et al. (2019) reported that farmers in conflict states of Benue and Nasarawa, Nigeria had long farming experiences. The result on Farming status of the respondents showed that majority (687%) of respondents was full-time farmers while 31.3% were part-time farmers. This suggests that despite the negative impact of banditry activities in the study area, most farmers endured resiliently against banditry attacks to engage in farming for self-sufficiency in food crops production in order to combat hunger and starvation. Farming status as used here indicates whether farmers were full time farmer or part time farmers.

The result on Farmland acquisition by the respondents showed that majority (56.7%) of the respondents acquired their farmland through inheritance. This was followed by 24.0% of the respondents who acquired their farmland through rent/lease, while 14.7% was through purchase and 4.6% of the respondents acquired their farmland through gift. This is an indication that the farmers acquired their farmlands through different means with majority acquiring their farmland through inheritance. Land related variables influence farmers' adoption behaviour, as land holding is an important unit where farming activities take place. Land tenure system plays a critical role in influencing farmers' willingness to invest in crop production. Solomon, et al. (2019) reported that land ownership or farm size contributes positively in farmers' efficient utilization of improved production resources.

Table 2: Socio-Economics characteristics of respondents

Variables	Respondents	Percentages	Total
Gender			
Male	120	55.3	217
Female	99	45.6	
Age			
10-30	102	47.0	217
31-50	70	32.7	
51 above	45	20.7	
Marital status			
Married	153	70.5	217
Single	29	13.4	
Divorced	9	4.1	
Widowed	18	8.3	
Separated	8	3.7	
Household size (No)			
<6	13	6.0	217
6-10	120	55.3	
11-15	16	7.4	
>15	68	13.3	
Education			
Primary	56	25.8	217
Secondary	76	35.0	
Tertiary	15	6.9	
Non-formal education	70	32.3	
Farming experience (yrs)			
<6	15	6.9	217
6-10	49	22.6	
11-15	66	30.4	
>15	89	40.0	
Farming status			
Full time	149	68.7	217
Part time	68	31.3	
Farmland acquisition			
Inheritance	123	56.7	217
Purchase	32	14.7	
Rent/lease	52	24.0	
Gift	10	4.6	

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The Nature of Banditry activities in the study area.

Table 3 indicates that, majority (96.3%) of the response simply that most of the bandits who attack farmers communities were young men who usually operate in gangs(groups)of 6 or more and use sophisticated weapons such as“AK47”rifle to cause harm, suffering, and injuries to the poor farmers communities. This finding is in line with that of (Madubuegwu, et al, 2021), who Reported that, bandits who attack the community in Kaduna State and opened fire on innocent people. Majority of the response (91%) attested that these bandits are purely males numbering from 6 -10 and above.

Majority of farmers (85.3%) responded that bandits do not only attack farmers but also kidnap farmers on their farms and some are killed in the process. This finding is in line with that of (Rufai, 2021; Bello and Ibrahim, 2021).) Reports on Rural Banditry in Zamfara State that, men and women are kidnapped at gunpoint from their farms, and homes and many farmlands across ten District in Katsina- Ala local government areas remained uncultivated, as intimidated farmers stayed away. This implies that, Kidnapping and abduction for ransom was adopted as a new strategy in getting money from their victim’s failure may lead to killing of the victims while female farmers are abducted for sex. The table also reviewed that, chasing of farmers from their farms with the intension of adduction create fear to farmers running for their lives. The result from the respondents shows (85.3%) account for this incidence in the study area.

Majority of farmers ((82.9) responded that, armed bandits do enter in their houses to extort money and collect farm produces on a monthly basis while (17.1) responded reported that, the extortion is on weekly basis. This finding corresponds to that of Mbumega, (2019) reports on armed-violence and criminality in Benue that, armed gangs might enter innocent people's offices and houses and demand that they settle the lads.' Anyone who refused to hand over enormous quantities of money was beaten to a pulp or wounded, if not killed.

Majority (96.8%) of the respondents in the study area reported that, most bandits usually operate on motor cycles, automobiles were the best form of transportation for bandits. This agrees with Mudashir et al. (2021), who Observed that bandits from Kuyambana forest in Kaduna and Kebbi states move to neighbouring villages on motor cycles with guns unchallenged. This finding contradicts Dami (2022), whose assertion showed that bandits usually escape on foots into the forests, hills and mountains of Adamawa state border communities of north-east Nigeria. About 87.79% of the respondents opined that the bandits typically escaped into the nearby forests after successive attacks on farmers communities. This implies that bandits have established a base of operations in the communities.

Table 3: The Nature of Banditry activities in the study area.

Variables	Frequency (Percentage %)	
Gender Of The Bandits Attacks On The Community		
Male	147	(96.3)
Female	8	(3.7)
Total	217	
Estimated Number Of Bandits When Attacked		
2-6	56	(25.8)
6-10	142	(65.4)
11 Above	17	(7.8)
Total	217	
Types Of Weapons Used		
Sophisticated Weapons	198	(91.2)
Small And Light Weapons	15	(6.9)
Non-Above	4	(1.9)
Total	217	
Kidnapping/killing of Farmers and burning houses of farmers		
Yes	185	(85.3)
No	24	(11.1)
None	8	(3.7)
Total	217	
Chasing Of Farmers Away From The Farm		
Yes	168	(85.3)
No	45	(20.7)
None	2	(0.9)
Total	217	
Extorting Money and farm produce From Farmers Daily		
0(0)		
Weekly	37	(17.1)
Monthly	180	(82.9)
Total	217	
Bandits escaping means after attack		
Escape by foot	4	(1.9)
Escape by motorcycles	210	(96.8)
Escape using vehicles	3	(1.4)
Total	217	

Source: Field work 2024

Perceived effects of banditry on respondents' agricultural development

Table 4. showed the perceived impact on agriculture development of respondents. The farmers reported that banditry led to relocation of farmers affecting agricultural activities that impact negatively on agricultural production ($\bar{x}=4.61$) which ranked 1st. As expected, insecurity displaces and disorganizes people regardless of creed, class, gender, race or ethnicity of the victim. They also indicated that banditry activities made farmers abandon their farmlands for fear of been killed ($\bar{x}=4.59$).

Also, banditry led to loss of farmlands ($\bar{x}=4.45$) and decrease in agricultural production ($\bar{x}=4.41$) which ranked, 3rd and 4th, respectively. This is eminent in the study area where the devastating impact of banditry on agricultural activities resulted in increase in hunger and starvation due to deprivation of farmers' access to their farmlands and denying their sources of livelihoods. This finding validates the result of Abubakar et al., (2017) who reported that activities of banditry, to a large extent, hampered thousands of people from their major activities which is farming. The protracted violence in the affected zone has forced many farmers to abandon their farming activities to save their lives impacting negatively on agricultural development in the region.

Furthermore, the banditry activities led to death of many farmers ($\bar{x}=4.25$), poor access to production inputs ($\bar{x}=4.20$) and reduction in the contribution of agriculture to the rural economy ($\bar{x}=4.13$) which ranked 5th, 6th and 7th, respectively. It was evident that most communities in sankera axis t including the study area were taken over by bandits, hence preventing farmers from accessing the necessary production resources and inputs.

The impact of banditry activities is enormous as many able-bodied who could have contributed to agricultural development was lost. Ojo et al., (2018) reported that banditry activities had negative and significant impact on agricultural productivity. Other impact of banditry by the respondents were loss of farm produce in storage ($\bar{x}=4.12$), increased food insecurity status particularly among the rural farmers ($\bar{x}=4.01$) and low yield of crops ($\bar{x}=3.79$) which ranked 8th, 9th and 10th, respectively. These suggests that activities of armed banditry had a devastating impact on regional economy as most people lost their farm produce either at storage or in the farm as they could not access their farm. Food insecurity in the study area forced many people to migrate into IDP camps where they would get succour. Amana, Aigbedion, and Zubair (2020)) who posited that the activities of bandits have been very damaging both physically and psychologically as most farmers lost their crops, livestock and other properties. This has impacted greatly on agricultural development in the rural farmers and their households.

Table 4 : Perceived effects of banditry activities on agriculture activities of respondents (n=217).

Perception statements	SD	D	UN	A	SA	WS	WM	Rank	Remark
Banditry has led to relocation of farmer	5	2	6	53	166	1069	4.61	1st	Agreed
Fear of been killed has made farmers									
Abandon farmlands	0	2	1	86	143	1066	4.59	2 nd	Agreed
Banditry has led to loss of farmland	3	0	1	114	114	1032	4.45	3 rd	Agreed
Banditry has led to decrease production	4	2	5	106	115	1022	4.41	4 th	Agreed
Banditry has led to the death of several farmers	2	0	5	155	70	987	4.25	5 th	Agreed
Banditry causes poor access to production inputs	1	2	9	157	63	975	4.20	6 th	Agreed
Reduction in the contribution to the economy	5	5	32	103	87	958	4.13	7 th	Agreed
Banditry activities have led to loss of farm produce in storage	0	5	42	105	80	956	4.12	8 th	Agreed \
Banditry has increased food insecurity status of the area	11	15	12	117	77	930	4.01	9 th	Agreed
Banditry y activities have led to low yield of crop	1	11	79	85	56	880	3.79	10 th	Agreed

Sources: Field survey, 2024

Note: SA = Strongly Agreed (5), D = Disagreed (4), UN= Undecided (3), A = Agreed (2), SD = Strongly Disagreed (1), WS = Weighted Sum and WM = weighted mean.
the mean score of < 3.0 implies Disagreed, while mean score of ≥ 3.0 implies Agreed

Impact of banditry on agricultural development of the respondents

From the regression analysis result presented in Table 5, reveals that the coefficient of determination (R²) value was 0.7563 implying that about 76% variation in the crop output of the farmers" was explained by the independent variables included in the model, the remaining 24% unaccounted could be due to type error or other variables not captured in the model. The result reveals that out of fourteen (14) variables included in the model, seven (7) variables were statistically significant at 0.01, 0.05 and 0.10 probability levels, respectively. The seven variables, such as loss of farm land, loss of animals, loss of assets, relocation, frequency of attack, people displace and kidnapping were found to be negative and statistically significant, thus inversely influence the crop output of the farmer.

The coefficient of farm land lost (-0.3001) was negative and significant at the 0.01 probability level; implying that a unit increase in loss of farm land will lead to 0.3001 decrease in crop output of the respondents. This has the expected a priori because land is important factors of agricultural production thus any activity that decreases land availability will invariably affect the total output. The land meant for farming is used as the hideout of the insurgent thereby rendering the land unutilized.

The coefficient of animals lost (-0.2447) was negative and significant at the 0.01 probability level; implying that a unit increase in loss of animals will leads to 0.2447 decrease crop output of the respondents. Animals such as goats, pigs and cattle as well as poultry dung aid crop production. Apart from providing the needed cash after sales to procure inputs, they play one role or the other especially in supplying organic manure. Majority of the farmers lost their

animals due to activities of banditry activities which had negative effects on crop production in the study area.

The coefficient of assets lost (-0.5605) was negative and significant at the 0.01 probability level; showing that a unit increase in loss of assets especially production assets will lead to 0.5605 decrease in crop output of the respondents. Production assets like hoes, cutlasses, plough, ridger and other equipment are very key to crop production. In most cases, farmers were deprived of them due to activities of banditry which will in turn have negative effects on crop production and agricultural development at large.

The coefficient of relocation (-0.1449) was negative and significant at the 0.05 probability level; suggesting that a unit increase in relocation of farmers in the study area decreases crop output of the respondents. The activities of banditry activities had forced many farmers to abandon their farmland and relocate for their dear lives. This act of relocation had negatively affected crop production activities and output of the farmers in the study area.

The coefficient of frequency of attack (-0.7582) was negative and significant at the 0.01 probability level; showing that a unit increase in frequency of attack from banditry activities decreases crop output of the respondents. The more the attacks from the bandits, the more farmers abandon their farmland for cultivation and consequently affecting their production activities and output negatively in the study area.

The coefficient of people displace (-0.1661) was negative and significant at 0.05 probability level; implying that a unit increase in people displace will leads to 0.7582 decrease in crop output of respondent. This has the expected a priori. Many of the respondents take refuge at IDP camp for safety abandoning their home and farm land which invariably leads to decrease in their crop output

The coefficient of kidnapping (-0.2548) was negative and significant at 0.10 probability level; implying that a unit increase in kidnappings will lead to 0.2548 decrease in crop output of respondent. This has the expected a priori. The more people are afraid of been kidnapped; the more farmers abandon that location for safety.

Table5, Regression estimates on impact of banditry activities on agricultural development

Variables	Coefficient	T-value
Loss of farm land	-.3001	-2.89***
Loss of crops	1096	1.39
Loss of animals	-.2447	-3.73***
Loss of asset	-.5605	-5.76***
Loss of lives	-.0596	-0.47
Relocation	-.1449	-2.25**
Frequency of attack	-.7582	-6.23***
People displaced	-.1661	-2.42**
Death of several farmers	-.0084	-0.09
Exposure to bombs	-.2548	-1.98*
Fear of being killed	.1502	0.90
Fear of abduction	.0501	0.40
Fear of attack	-.1268	-0.96
Constant	10.6271	13.15***
R-squared	0.7563	
Adjusted R-squared	0.7239	
F-ratio	14.07***	

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Note: *** implies statistically significant at 0.01, ** implies statistically significant at 0.05%, * implies statistically significant at 0.10%. Figures in parenthesis are the t – values.

5. Conclusion

It can be concluded that majority were in their active productive ages with no formal education. The nature of banditry activities is attacking communities, kidnapping/killing of farmers and chasing farmers away from their farms. Similarly, perceived effects of banditry activities on agricultural activities were relocation of farmers, fear of been killed, loss of farmland and decrease in agricultural production among others. The regression result on the estimates of impact of impact of agricultural development in the study area on revealed that loss of farm land, loss of animals, loss of assets, relocation, frequency of attack, people displace and exposure to bomb had inverse influence on agricultural development. It was recommended, government should collaborate with village heads for provision of security for farmer and their agricultural products in the study area. Lastly, there should be stiffer penalties for perpetrators of armed banditry in the State. Armed bandits should be made to face capital punishment as penalty. This would serve as deterrent to anyone with intent of indulging in armed banditry.⁸

Good governance is yet another solution to the problem of armed banditry in the State. Government should shun corruption and ensure it lives up to the promises made to the people during electioneering campaigns. More professionally trained security personnel armed with more sophisticated weapons of warfare should be deployed to communities and LGAs in the State that are prone to bandit attacks. (Play towards the improvement of their agricultural development.

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propelling the innovation and scientific breakthrough in Humanities, Education, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences and information and communication technology (ICT). The intervention is impacting significantly in the radicalization of education propelled by artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics and artificial natives. TETFUND has revolutionized tertiary Education in the country both structurally and intellectually. The research is another aspect of demonstrating an impending food crisis occasioned by the activities of banditry vis-a-vis the irreconcilable antagonism between farmers herders clashes which is deteriorating the output of farm produce and exacerbating the food crisis in the country.

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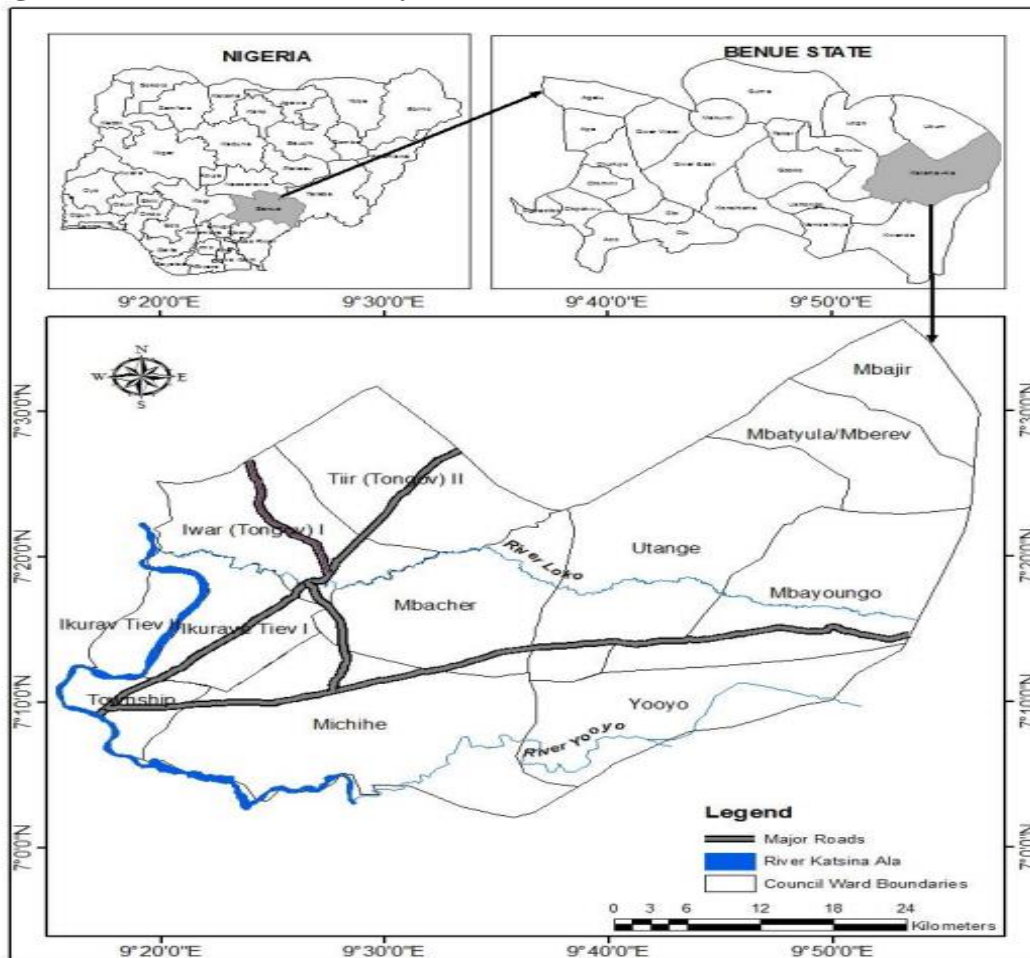
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Table 1: Total Population of District and Sampled sizes in the study area.

S/No	Districts (DW) Wards	Target Household (TH)	Sampled population (SP)
1.	Mbayongo	958	19
2.	Yooyo	1606	32
3.	Mbatyula/Mberek	622	12
4.	Mbacher	864	17
5.	Michihi	1051	21
6.	Mbajir	749	15
7.	Tiir	977	20
8.	Iwar	806	10
9.	Utange	1253	25
10.	Township	2328	46
	Total	30,892	217

Source: Field work 2024

Figure 1.: Location of the study area



Source: Modified from the Administrative Map of Katsina-Ala showing Ward Districts, GIS Laboratory Work, (Hundu, e.tal. 2020)

Table 2: Socio-Economics characteristics of respondents

Variables	Respondents	Percentages	Total
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11-15	16	7.4	
>15	68	13.3	
Education			
Primary	56	25.8	217
Secondary	76	35.0	
Tertiary	15	6.9	
Non-formal education	70	32.3	
Farming experience (yrs)			
<6	15	6.9	217
6-10	49	22.6	
11-15	66	30.4	
>15	89	40.0	
Farming status			
Full time	149	68.7	217
Part time	68	31.3	
Farmland acquisition			
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Rent/lease	52	24.0	
Gift	10	4.6	

Source: Field Survey, 2024

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No		24	(11.1)
None		8	(3.7)
Total		217	
Chasing Of Farmers Away From The Farm			
Yes		168	(85.3)
No		45	(20.7)
None		2	(0.9)
Total		217	
Extorting Money and farm produce From Farmers	Daily		
0(0)			
Weekly		37	(17.1)
Monthly		180	(82.9)
Total		217	
Bandits escaping means after attack			
Escape by foot		4	(1.9)
Escape by motorcycles		210	(96.8)
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Banditry has led to loss of farmland	3	0	1	114	114	1032	4.45	3 rd	Agreed
Banditry has led to decrease production	4	2	5	106	115	1022	4.41	4 th	Agreed
Banditry has led to the death of several farmers	2	0	5	155	70	987	4.25	5 th	Agreed
Banditry causes poor access to production inputs	1	2	9	157	63	975	4.20	6 th	Agreed
Reduction in the contribution to the economy	5	5	32	103	87	958	4.13	7 th	Agreed
Banditry activities have led to loss of farm produce in storage	0	5	42	105	80	956	4.12	8 th	Agreed \
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Banditry y activities have led to low yield of crop	1	11	79	85	56	880	3.79	10 th	Agreed

Sources: Field survey, 2024

Note: SA = Strongly Agreed (5), D = Disagreed (4), UN= Undecided (3), A = Agreed (2), SD = Strongly Disagreed (1), WS = Weighted Sum and WM = weighted mean. Thus, mean score of < 3.0 implies Disagreed, while mean score of ≥ 3.0 implies Agreed

Table5, Regression estimate on impact of banditry activities on agricultural development

Variables	Coefficient	T-value
Loss of farm land	-.3001	-2.89***
Loss of crops	.1096	1.39
Loss of animals	-.2447	-3.73***
Loss of asset	-.5605	-5.76***
Loss of lives	-.0596	-0.47
Relocation	-.1449	-2.25**
Frequency of attack	-.7582	-6.23***
People displaced	-.1661	-2.42**
Death of several farmers	-.0084	-0.09
Exposure to bombs	-.2548	-1.98*
Fear of being killed	.1502	0.90
Fear of abduction	.0501	0.40
Fear of attack	-.1268	-0.96
Constant	10.6271	13.15***
R-squared	0.7563	
Adjusted R-squared	0.7239	
F-ratio	14.07***	

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Note: *** implies statistically significant at 0.01, ** implies statistically significant at 0.05%, * implies statistically significant at 0.10%. Figures in parenthesis are the t – values.