

**LOCAL PRESS, FOOD SECURITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN NIGERIA:
CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES**

Blessing Arsun DAPOET

Department of Mass Communication

University of Jos, Plateau State

dapoetb@unijos.edu.ng, blessingdapoet@gmail.com

Abstract

This paper looks at the issues around the role of the local press in promoting food security and curtailing environmental degradation in Nigeria. As well as exploring issues militating against the development of the country, because of insurgency, flood, drought, land alienation and disputes, there is likely to be food insecurity and environmental degradation such as cutting down of trees, gas flaring, this and many more has made the country to be unable to meet its economic potentials. As a result, the press has a critical role to play in addressing factors of food shortage and supply for the populace towards achieving food security and sufficiency for all.

Keywords: Local Press, Media, Food Security, Environment, Nigeria, Africa

Introduction

We may live in an era of remarkable shift in technology, but we still face many challenges that still plague the world. Many regions face the issue of food insecurity, arm banditry, drought, hunger, starvation and climate change which are exacerbating. Food and agriculture feature greatly in the dream towards living in a world with zero hunger, starvation and malnutrition. Today, Nigeria is struggling with different levels of political, economic, social and environmental insecurity that threatens its stability and development. Persistent weakness on governance, dysfunctional public institutions and reliance on oil to generate foreign exchange and revenue, Boko haram insurgency, arm banditry, and commercial kidnapping is a course for concern challenging farmers and

pastoralist thwarting the production of agricultural products towards food security and sustainability.

Food security according to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) explains it in five levels (individual, household, national, regional and global) it is when “all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for active and healthy life style” (FAO, 1996; Ayinde et al.2020). The sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, at the United Nations General Assembly adopted Goal 2 as one for food security to address the importance of nutrition and food security with the wider agenda and a call to member nations to “end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition to promote sustainable agriculture”.

Metu, Okeyika et al (2016) asserts that one of the goals of Nigeria’s agricultural development policy is to ensure that the nation produces enough food and less dependent on importation so as to ensure adequate and affordable food for all. One of the most important debates in the world today is how to provide sufficient food for all citizens of the Nigerian society and the world at large.

Nigeria is faced with critical hunger level as it ranks 98 out of the 107 countries in 2020 global hunger index, with a proportion of 7.6% in 2012 to 12.6% in 2020 of undernourished population. SBM intels report that Food insecurity is a major challenge for developing nations like Nigeria occasioned by Boko haram terrorists, increase in insecurity, killer herders that have forced farmers to abandon their farmlands, flood, drought, arm banditry, commercial kidnapping, environmental degradation, starvation, poverty and corruption amongst other things like lack of proper storage facilities, climate change, rising cost of energy and logistics, stifling government policies and currency devaluation, coronavirus pandemic and natural disasters. The bureau for statistics reports food inflation has seen a 48.94% rise from 15.04% to 22.95% (Sahara Reporters New York, 2021) The global food security index rank Nigeria as the 100th among other countries.

Therefore, this paper aspires to look at the issues around the role of the local press in promoting food security and curtailing environmental degradation in

Nigeria. As well as exploring issues militating against the development of the country, because of insurgency, flood, drought, land alienation and disputes, there is likely to be food insecurity and environmental degradation such as cutting down of trees, gas flaring, this and many more has made the country to be unable to meet its economic potentials. As a result, the press has a critical role to play in addressing factors of food shortage and supply for the populace towards achieving food security and sufficiency for all.

Conceptual Clarification

- a. Local Press:** This is the press in Nigeria. This includes the media conversant to the local communities within the urban and rural areas in Nigeria. e.g., Television, Radio, Newspaper, Community radio, Traditional leaders, Town crier, Religious leaders. This serves the functions of providing communication and information needs to communities.
- b. Food Security:** Having access to nutritious food for everyone enough/sufficient, hygienic and healthy food to feed the nation and even export to other countries without threat to life and food supplies. It is a sustainable access to healthy and functional food for the citizens putting together knowledge, access as well as training and support for improved agricultural practices.
- c. Environment:** The Eco system in Nigeria, this includes the human, and natural environment in the light of meeting economic potentials of the country. The concept of the ecosystem helps us to understand the interactions between living organisms and their environment, it provides a way in which the functioning of the biological world and its interaction with the physical environment helps us to understand the behavior of the ecological systems, and predict their response to human or natural environmental changes. The ecosystem provides a convenient atmosphere of structuring and understanding the complex systems which is our world (Dickinson and Murphy, 2007) one or more functional groups together with a defined set of abiotic environmental conditions form an ecosystem and groups of ecosystems who share broad environmental characteristics.

Literature Review

a. The press in Nigeria: A historical sketch

The historical background and development of the Nigerian Press commenced with the printing media on 3rd December 1859 by a Christian Missionary named Reverend Henry Townsend who established the first Newspaper in Nigeria called "Iwe Iroyin fun awon Egba ati Yoruba" which literary means "A Newspaper for the Egba and Yoruba Nations" (Ese Malemi, 1999) in today's Abeokuta the Capital city of Ogun State to promote literacy and build up elites among the then EGBAs and not with current serving political motive but as a matter of fact succeeding Newspapers choose contrary with an indelible footprint as far as political history of Nigeria is concerned. The demise of 'Iwe Iroyin' later resulted to the emergence of other Newspapers like Anglo-African Lagos Time and Gold Coast Advertiser, Lagos Observer, The Eagle and Lagos Critic, The Mirror, The Nigerian Chronicle

The Lagos Standard, Lagos Weekly Record African Messenger, The West African Pilot, Nigerian Tribune (Reuben Abati, 1998). The era not only resulted to the emergence of Newspapers in Nigeria but also gave birth to an articulated vibrant and veteran journalist who made judicious use of this created institution {press} to fight Colonialist under nationalist struggle which gradually led to Nigeria Independence in 1960 and as a matter of fact, this has placed them in front role in Nigeria political arena since then. Corroborating this, M. H. Kukah (1999) stated that journalism was the major vehicle through which the anti-colonial struggle in Nigeria was carried out. Many of the Major figures in this struggle are Herbert Macaulay, Nnamdi Azikiwe, Ernest Ikoli, Obafemi Awolowo, Anthony Enahoro, Dutse Mohammed Ali, Mokwugo Okoye to name but a few who were newspaper publishers, journalists, commentators and or editors. Their newspapers served as platform for mobilising the people, spreading nationalist awareness and for opposing the worst manifestation of colonial subjugation and the racialism which is customary to them.

Also Fred Omu (1978) the pre-eminent historian of the Nigerian Press aid the early Nigerian Press provided the most distinguished intellectual forum in

Nigeria history. One in which the high standard of debate, discussion, the quality of thought and expression cannot fail to fascinate the modern reader. Interestingly, Nigerian Press moved beyond publication industry to electronic industry around 1932 when radio broadcasting was introduced as a relay of the British Empire service with the establishment of a Relay Station in Victoria Island (parts of today's Lagos State) through which broadcasting were made to major Cities in Nigeria via wired-wireless called Radiofusion (Goke Raufu, 2003). This was succeeded by Radio Nigeria which was established through Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) incorporated and operates under Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation Ordinance of 1956 was subsequently divided along with 3 Regions we have in Nigeria then under the control of the concern Region and headquarter remain in Lagos.

The regionalisation introduced then coupled with political bias of Radio Nigeria as well as inadequacy as regards coverage and availability of market to be exploited by commercial broadcasting inter alia instigated the then Western Region spear headed by the Late Legend; Chief Obafemi Awolowo to inaugurate Western Nigeria Broadcasting Corporation (WNBC) around May 1959 and successfully went on air in the same year. The Western Nigeria Broadcasting Corporation (WNBC) was followed on 31st October 1959 by Western Nigeria Television (WNTV) which as a matter of fact served as the first television station in Nigeria and Africa at large and later emulate by other Region around 1962. After the Independence, the Nigerian Press was so developed to the extent that so many Newspapers and Magazines were established, and electronics media such as WNTV, WNRC and NBC among others have been metamorphosed to Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) and Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) with many stations across the Nation as well as other stations owned by the State Governments.

Although, private individuals were not empowered to own electronic media as it is for publishing counterparts. The interesting fact about Nigerian Press at this stage of our political development is that men of the press continuously playing their roles which appears as a threat to the selfish desires of some people in government who intend to monopolised and controlled the public space as a

result of which instruments available in government were sagacious use to achieve their objectives. Not only that, men of the press move to the extent of informing the people that the primary motive of the Colonialist Successors were not different from the Colonialists themselves as well as shedding light on their competency (Reuben Abati, 1998).

Later on, Politicians gradually employed the press as a strain of ethnical affiliation and avenue for negotiating power and as a matter of fact the Pilot which is non-ethnical then began to participate in ethnic politics to the extent of supporting one candidate against the other and the then practicing regionalisation increased the level of partisanship of the Nigerian Press. The attainment of Independence status in 1960 coincident with the reshaping of the Nigerian press in the sense that most of the Proprietors of the then available Newspapers were Politicians during colonial era and as well saw the presence of the Press as an instrument of acquiring their different aspired office to the extent that those who did not have any print media were motivated to established their own and as a matter of fact those papers were serving their proprietors' interest based on an adage which say: the piper dictates the tune. Corroborating this, Reuben Abati (1998) stated thus: At every moment in Nigeria history, the press has been in the forefront, manning the barricades.

The centrality to the issues of the day and lives of the people has brought the Nigerian press much travail. From colonial times, it has been treated as a major tool of power. Opposing powers centres which feel threaten by its dynamism invariably seek to control the press through several means in which politician's latter result to misuse of mass media to achieve their selfish desire". And as a matter of fact, this appears to this present writer as one of the major factors that led to the intervention of the Military (through revolution) in our Political Arena in 1966. The transitional government tagged Second Republic which commenced on 1st October 1979 changed the historical development of the Nigerian Press from this point and despite the fact that Nigerians expect the institution to have learnt her lesson, the partisan politics peculiar to the Nigerian Press affect it realization which was caused by political affiliation of the owner of the institution that was finally brought to an end through coup d'état on 31st

December 1983. It will interest you to note that one of the commendable achievements of the military government vis-à-vis Nigerian Press is that the government empowered privately owned electronic media in Nigeria by granting license to non-governmental bodies to commence broadcasting in Nigeria upon fulfilment of some requisite.

Different levels of insurgency across the country especially the Northeast are driving limited engagement in agricultural activities, declines in humanitarian access, and displacement, with many populations being internally displaced multiple times. This is as a result of the significantly above-average staple food prices, constrains in household purchasing power and food access. As a result, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes are widespread across much of the Northeast. The harvest is expected to somewhat improve outcomes in areas of the region for a short period of time; however, Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes are expected to persist throughout the scenario period in hard-to reach areas.

A risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5) persists in hard-to reach areas of the Northeast. While it is not FEWS NET's most likely scenario, Famine could occur in a worst-case scenario if there is a dramatic uptick or shift in conflict that limits access to typical food and income sources and humanitarian assistance for a prolonged period. As humanitarian access has declined in recent months with increased conflict and continued displacement, many households in hard-to-reach areas are experiencing large food consumption gaps indicative of high levels of acute malnutrition and excess mortality. As these populations face severe difficulty meeting their food needs and are only expected to engage in the ongoing agricultural season at minimal levels, the Risk of Famine persists through at least January 2022.

Considering the available evidence, it is likely notable population areas in the Northwest affected by conflict are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5). These areas are of increasing concern as conflict is disrupting household engagement in typical livelihood activities and high levels of displacement. According to IOM, over 690,000 people have been displaced in the Northwest and North-Central areas of the country. Few humanitarian actors are

operating in this area to provide needed assistance for those facing food consumption deficits. Additionally, due to the high levels of displacement and continued disruption in livelihood activities, it is expected that the harvest will be significantly impacted for many households, limiting typical seasonal improvements.

Factors Promoting Food Insecurity in Nigeria

Environmental degradation

World Bank (1991) defines the environment as the natural and social conditions surrounding the existence of mankind. Furthermore, the National Conservation Environmental Protection (NCEP) Act in 1987 see the environment as any physical factors of the surrounding of human beings, land, soil, water, atmosphere, sound as well as others. This solidifies the interrelationship that exists between the plants and animals with water, air and land inclusive. However, environmental degradation is the slowing down or deteriorating of the environment without actualizing its full potentials through human activities which lead to contamination of air, water and soil as well as its effects on the ecosystem and the reduction of the value of the environment resulting to poor output in agricultural, animal and human activities.

Environmental degradation has a great impact on economic activities in Nigeria. Insecurity is a major drawback to this effect, increase in different degrees of insecurity, arm banditry, commercial kidnapping, book haram insurgency, terrorism, herder-farmer clashes amongst others has deflated growth and development in all spheres of life. E.g., the incessant killings and destruction of farmlands by Fulani herders has decreased food production resulting to food insecurity, hunger and starvation, recent killings in Miango, Zangam and killings at Rukuba road has resulted to crisis that is taking a religious undertone. And the effects of bombs and explosives leads to damage of land that will be used for food production, pollution on land, water and air, creates extinction of wildlife especially in parts of Nigeria experiencing insecurity.

The global food security index ranks Nigeria at 100th with the overall score of 40.1, affordability 32.9, availability 46.8, quality and safety 41.5, natural resources

and resilience 39.3 in the regional ranking in sub-Saharan Africa Nigeria is ranked the 18th. Attah (2012) food is life, just as air is important for human existence. Food security has become an issue of great concern in the world. Nigeria is endowed with great potentials including natural resources. Insecurity, book haram insurgency, commercial kidnapping, flood, environmental degradation among others is major factors militating against food security in Nigeria.

Attah (2012) asserts that Nigeria can realize the potentials of ensuring and achieving food security by implementing rural development, provision of easy access to basic farm inputs, budgetary allocation and high reduction in rural poverty and peasant farmer's education. Cadre harmonise analysis (2019) indicates that there is an estimated 2.6 million people faced with severe food insecurity especially in northern Nigeria. Book haram insurgency has led to recorded cases of displacement, food insecurity, hunger and starvation, low farm production among others food is hardly sufficient to carter for the need of the common man towards attaining zero hunger and achieving food security and sustainability.

Food security cluster (2021) opines that food security in Nigeria has drastically deteriorated, cadre harmonise in an analysis in 2012 projects 4.4 million people will be food insecure across Nigeria especially those faced with different degree of insecurity. The deterioration in food security is linked to the upsurge of insecurity as evident in renewed armed conflicts between government and non-state armed groups (NSAGs) which has led to a new wave of displacements, covid 19 related challenges, limited access to markets, farming and grazing land which are essential for opportunities to livelihood.

Action against hunger in Nigeria opines that Nigeria is seen as the giant of Africa and the fastest growing economy. Despite its rich natural and human resources majority of the populace live below poverty line, especially Northern Nigeria suffers chronic under nutrition among children as a result of insurgency. This is caused by lack of access to safe water, sanitation and rising degrees of food insecurity, disruption of the basic services due to conflict and poor knowledge of healthy feeding practices for infants and young people, as well as absence of

food security, livelihoods, healthcare, education, clean water and domestic violence among others.

Okafor, Aluko and Asaolu (2020) opine that food insecurity in Nigeria is aggravated by communal conflicts, Covid 19, Boko haram violent crisis has compounded the issues towards realizing food security, poor funding, limited mechanized farming, poor rural development, women disenfranchisement of women farmers are pointers to food insecurity, Bloomberg, 2020 asserts that 9 out of 10 Nigerians cannot afford a healthy meals. The environment is everything that makes up our surrounding and influence the ability for us to survive on earth Muarya et al (2020). Environmental degradation is the utmost problem leading to the extinction of several living organisms on the earth. It is seen in the form of loss or disturbances in the ecosystem. Recent developments in civilization are the major causes of degradation in the environment.

Maurya et al (2020) opine that environmental degradation is the deterioration of the environment through depletion of resources in the environment like the biotic and abiotic elements that form our surrounding thus comprises of air, water, soil, plant, animals and other living and nonliving things. The factors of degradation are is as result of human (deforestation, urbanization, overpopulation and growth) and natural (flood, droughts, fires, climate change) cause. Increase in poisonous gases and smoke in the atmosphere are among the causes of environmental degradation

Use of fertilizer is a major factor of degradation of the quality of the soil, soil erosion, and loss of fertility of agricultural land for food production and the quality of crops produced. Ground water are over exploited in many semi-arid and many arid areas, surface water sources are also highly polluted, fishery yields are declining, water for drinking and irrigation is getting scarce in health (Malix et al, 2014, 2018). Climate change and environmental degradation affects the essential growth in the society they are rapidly affected by many communities in developing countries like Nigeria.

Ecological Problems

Nigeria by virtue of its location within the tropical latitudes has been severely exposed to the destructive influences of climatically induced hazards. These hazards manifest in the forms of soil erosion, flood and drought constituting a bulk of the ecological problems and most of which constraints sustainable land and water development in Nigeria.

The menace of soil erosion, flood and drought has assumed an alarming dimension gaining global interest geared towards addressing issues dangers it poses to our environment. In the past neglects by the public and government have contributed to the magnitude of the present ecological problems. However, sufficient visual destructive impressions and evidences distributed nationwide there has been increasing concern by these hazards. Various levels of government have often reacted by providing relief materials after the hazards have occurred.

In realization of these facts and in order to tackle the problems, the Federal government of Nigeria set up the department of Soil Erosion and Flood Control (SEFC) in the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Rural Development in 1990. The department is saddled with the responsibility of managing these ecological problems through disaster forecasting and packing amelioration measures to reduce their impacts. To also formulate policy guidelines to prevent reoccurrences

Soil Erosion and Conservation Issues

Soil erosion is seen as the general removal of the soil by the action of wind and water, which is accelerated by certain human activities (agriculture, construction, deforestation and bush burning) in the past these where peculiar to some Nigerian ecological zones. Today, the problem has spread to other ecological belts of our country for instance gully development is common landmarks in all parts of Nigeria. Erosion is evident in the eastern part of Nigeria like Anambra, Imo, Enugu, Aba, Akwa Ibom and the middle belt like Niger, Plateau, Benue, Kogi and Kwara.

Most water sources are contaminated and silted up; this contributes to rise in the cost of surface water treatment, making it difficult for sustainable water

development. The consequences result to land disputes, high process of agricultural produce and over exploitation of agricultural land. Soil erosion is a disastrous form of environmental degradation. Its causal and developmental factors should be determined globally through coordinated inventory and data analysis system towards a national solution (Kanu & Imatiri 2019a).

Flood and Water Management

Flooding is a common environmental phenomenon associated with inundation of land, which is caused by inadequate drainage of low-lying areas. Other causal factors include high intensity rainfall of long duration, silted channels, urbanization, deforestation and other human activities. Recorded floods incidents have shown phenomenal increase both in extent and destructive power which have resulted in increasing loss of large farm lands, lives and properties. Government on the other hand has spent billions on relief for flood victims. Despite government efforts flood incidents have been frequent on different scales. Indeed, no state is immune to flooding. Government will keep galvanizing efforts towards designing appropriate flood monitoring management strategies and programmed for timely response and adjustment to flood occurrences as well as installation of appropriate structural measures in certain cases.

Drought and Desertification

Drought implies a period of rainfall deficit, reduced stream flow and soil moisture deficit, desertification is the degradation of land in arid and semi-arid areas of Nigeria as a result of climatic variations and human activities. They are two most serious environmental problems facing the Sahel ecological zones of Nigeria a percentage of the land mass is threatened by drought and desertification. Desertified and desert prone land constitutes about 70 percent of Nigeria's land area. This has resulted in socio economic problems especially in northern parts of Nigeria. Desertification and drought are caused by natural climate factors aggravated by human factors including, population pressure, energy crisis, over grazing, bush burning, bad farming practices and rural poverty (Kanu & Imatiri 2019b). Abubakar & Yamuda (2013) adds that the

northern part of Nigeria is endowed with a large expanse of arable land that has over the years provided a vital resource for agriculture and other economic activities. Demographic displacements, Boko Haram insurgency, armed banditry across 11 states in the north have resulted in loss of about 350,000 hectares of land to desert encroachment (Federal Ministry of Environment, 2004).

Record has it that the major Sahelian drought occurred in 1857/1886, 1914/1915, 1943, 44, 1972/2073. It has been identified to occur at intervals of approximately 30 years with the duration of 2-3 years. Many livestock perished following loss of pastoral sites, drying up of rivers and the wells as vegetation in the region. There was heavy emigration and migration of humans and livestock from without and within the country thereby causing unexpected large concentration of refugees in certain parts of the country.

Ecological Management Support Systems (EMSS)

The management of flood, soil erosion, drought and desertification required timely data on the variables evident to influence this problem, the conventional methods of acquiring such useful data which is needed to combat ecological problems in Nigeria. Satellite imagery is often an efficient and cost-effective source of environmental information, via satellites; especially those in orbits around the equator and mid latitude regions permit real-time monitoring of transient events especially terrestrial atmospheric phenomena in our sub region. Such environmental data can be acquired with various types of sensors and the combination different wave bands to enhance interpretation and enrich the quality of the data. Earth observation satellite data are valuable sources of environmental data.

Geographical information system technology is another valuable environmental information management tool that enables the creation of scenarios and production of valuable secondary data from combinations of primary data. Such secondary data are invaluable for the design and implementation of projects especially for natural resources management, environmental monitoring and infrastructural planning.

Effective Management Support System (EMSS) incorporates an information database with linkages to other databases. Such information databases with connectivity to decision support systems greatly enhance the capacity of environmental managers. These are used to identify, monitor, assess and execute environmental programs in the areas of flood, soil erosion, and drought and desertification control. To ensure sustainable use of our land and water resources, government must initiate effective and coordinated programs for the management of ecological problems like flood, soil erosion, drought and desertification.

Socio Cultural Issues

The effects of ecological problems are catastrophic dust from wind erosion, which obscures visibility and pollutes air, causes traffic hazards, fouls machinery and causes problems to human and animal health. Blindness sometimes results, water erosion brings about siltation in open reservoirs and pollutes water in streams and land use problems usually rise. Infra structural damage may be caused to power and communication lines. When communities are forced to shift from their traditional holdings and farming or land use system, the capability to pursue an effective social self-development is brought low. Land tenure problems and population growth cause difficulties for both social and cultural development. Changes in outdoor recreation pattern brought by the effects of erosion and flooding are a reflection of the level of conflict with interest of land use location, living styles and living standards. This results to forceful introduction of new elements of development culture despite the known culture-based resistance to new innovation and /or technologies in communities.

Institutional Issues

The solution to ecological problems is multi-disciplinary; this shelve off duplication of responsibility as well as misdirection of reports and complaints on the problems. Establishment of the national committee on ecological problems and the ecological funds in the presidency is good for effective planning, execution and funding and monitoring as well as providing checks and balances. These agencies should be kept functioning. International agencies should be

recognized appropriately. Well intentioned developmental programs have failed because of the lack of involvement of traditional institutions. Government and NGOs should recognize the important roles local cooperatives; farmers association, youth clubs play a role in implementing result-oriented policies that will enhance improvement of economic, social and cultural conditions in rural communities.

Food Crisis in Nigeria: Which Way Out?

It is common human weakness that when the common man is faced with a difficult or unsolvable problem, they conveniently invent a phrase, give it a palatable name or coating to entice everybody to a bite and thus make them the proverbial Adam and the apple. In this way everyone becomes a sinner and the problem remains unresolved. The topic food crisis in Nigeria must have been invented by some technocrats. Regardless of who, how and when it was first used in the context of our national campaign for food production, it has become a cliché. Students used it for pedantic reasons; policy makers and politicians wave it at citizens to mobilize them to action while some governments within the federation sing it to beg for subventions from the federal authorities or from some philanthropist organizations. It finds it necessary to address this point to logical way of teaching the heart of our matter in the farmer's language and method if you need to examine the soil you must first remove the weed, dig the soil and then begin the laboratory test. Similarly, in examining the matter of food crisis we must remove all connotations that the cliché may have gathered along the path of its development in order to place the subject in its proper perspective.

In the weeding process we should begin by asking the pertinent questions: is there really food crisis in Nigeria? If so, what kind of crisis; of over supply or scarcity, general or partial? Indeed the crisis is in different dimensions. We may be producing enough quantities of food but the wrong qualities. Again, we may be producing the right quantities and qualities of food stuffs but putting, them into the wrong use we can go on and on. Daniel Arab Moi in a magazine "the African farmer" asserts that "agriculture remains the single most important sector of the economy. We depend on it to generate employment opportunities and income for the populace, we depend on it to meet the nation's food

requirements and we depend on it to provide raw materials and much needed foreign exchange to support the economy”, though agriculture may not be regarded as the only important sector but it is vital to the Nigerian economy.

The question is to what extent has the Nigerian agriculture fulfilled this expectation? To further explain this confusion that hatched the Never-Ending Triangle (NET) the theory assumes that food protection is a triangle or three prolonged affairs involving the farmer, the government and the consumers. This is illustrated in the form of a triangle. The reason why it is termed never ending triangle that each Centre of activity can also represent members of the other two centers. For example, the government of consumers and the farmers, which farmers are made up of consumers and possibly of members of government. So, in this we can go on extending or projecting the lines of the triangle and forming, further triangles and infinitum.

We shall examine the role of each activity Centre. Basically, the tripartite arrangement, the farmer is the machinery for the production of food in essence he is required to make himself and all his relevant resources available for the production of his area of interest. Thus, physically he is expected to keep it fit and mentally fit. For the job he is faced safe mentally fit for the job he is faced with certain limitations, the extent of his mental, physical and financial facilities that are normally provided by other agencies outside himself (land training) which we shall discuss/in order for the farmer to perform effectively he requires the following resources.

Recommendations

1. Government should strengthen the development of education on environmental issues at all levels as they relate to environmental degradation and water conservation. Comprehensive programs for monitoring and progressive implementation of sustainable projects in ecological distressed zones of the country.
2. All media platforms should be utilized to encourage and promote public awareness on the adverse effects of environmental degradation arising from poor land, water and agricultural management.

3. Government should explore the use of mechanisms for predicting ecological disaster on the environment for effective hazard management and control in Nigeria. Also, there should be public access to early warning information and indicators, strengthen the nation's food security system, public awareness campaigns and enlightenment, promote community education.
4. Measures on environmental degradation. Promoting information sharing among various educational and research agencies, promotion of public awareness on practice contributing to environmental degradation. Sponsoring of publications of environmental degradation, food security and environmental journals, bulletins and periodicals.
5. The press should galvanize support for food security and be a front burner of addressing insurgency as well as liaising with the press to reduce the menace of banditry, commercial kidnapping, hunger and starvation.
6. Provision of adequate security in large farmlands who have invested so much to curb the shortfall of food productions. Government should mechanize agriculture to ensure self-sufficiency in food production for sustainable security.
7. Land alienation mutates individuals who acquire lands not for agricultural production but use them as collaterals for banking facilities that are usually diverted for other uses. This stops the small-scale farmers who could have used it to boost food production.
8. Land disputes if not checked will result to social upheaval following land and hunger. To this end, farmers of grain crops and tuners especially in the rural areas should be assisted with the best preservation methods in order to curtail waste that usually accompany the harvest season. Agricultural assistance to farmers should be through provision of farm lands, fertilizers and mechanized modern farm implements.

Conclusion

To ensure a sustainable environment towards achieving food security effective policy on agricultural production, soil, water and other environmental resources should be adequately managed to supplement government efforts in ecological problem management, poverty alleviation, zero hunger for the citizenry and the

promotion of economic growth and development of the Nigerian society as well as minimize human induced disasters. Government should intensify efforts to ensure a safe and secured environment and curtailing activities that reduce productivity like environmental degradation, arm banditry, commercial kidnapping and other man-made factors that will enable increased food production that will cater for the needs of the populace. Therefore the modern information communication technologies are bridging the digital divide for knowledge and skill empowerment where people can reach other farmers quickly and a platform for sharing new information from general knowledge to specific location, as well as rural computer aided knowledge centres for all age groups is needed towards food sustainability and security.

References

- Abu, O. (2012). Food Security in Nigeria and African Policies and Challenges. *Journal of Human Ecology*. 38 (1) 31-35.
- Adebayo, F.P&Ojo, O.E (2012) Food Security in Nigeria: An overview. *European Journal of Sustainable Development* (2) 199.
- Adegboyega, A. (1988) *Winning the war on food*. Nigeria: National Accord
- Adegbola, J.A, & Bamishaiye, E.I & Daura, A. M. (2011). Food Security in Nigeria: Government's Intervention and the Place of Effective Storage. *Asian Journal Development* (4). 56-63.
- Agbaje, A. (1992). *The Nigerian press, hegemony and the social construction of legitimacy*. New York Edwin Mellin.
- Amuwo, Bach, D.C & Lebeau, Y.(eds) 2001 . Nigeria during the Abacha years (1993-1998). *The domestic and international politics of democratization*. IFRA-Nigeria. Doi:10.4000/books.ifra.623.
- Ayinde, A. I, Otekunrin, O. A. Akinbode, S.O. (2020) Food Security in Nigeria: Impetus for growth and development. *Journal of Agric. Econs*. 6, 808-820.

CSIS- Centre for Strategic & International Studies: Conflict, Environmental Degradation and Food Security in Northeast Nigeria.

Danfulani, C. (1989). *The Antidote of Food Crisis*. The Standard Newspaper

Dickson, G & Murphy, K (2007). *Ecosystems*. London: Routledge.

Fasoyiro, S. B& Taiwo. K.A (2012). Strategies for increasing food production and food security in Nigeria. *Journal of Agricultural and Food Information*. 13 (4).

Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Rural Development (1999). *National Policy on Soil Erosion and Flood Control, Drought and Desertification Mitigation*.

Food Security Cluster (2021). *Nigerian food security sector available at <https://fscluster.org>nigeriaaboutfoodsecuritycluster>*.

Howard. J & Simmons, E. (2020). *Centre for Strategic International Studies: Risk and resilience: Advancing Food and Nutrition Security in Nigeria through feed the future*. Report of CSIS global food security project.

Kanu, I. A. and Imatari E. P. O. (2019a). The Question of Food Security in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands in Africa: Indigenous Knowledge and Implementers of Development. *Journal of African Studies and Sustainable Development*. Vol. 2. No. 8. pp. 190-200.

Kanu, I. A. and Imatari E. P. O. (2019b). Food Security in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands in Africa. *Journal of African Studies and Sustainable Development*. Vol. 2. No. 8. pp. 50-83.

Kralovec. S.(2020) *Food security in Nigeria : an analysis of the impact of climate change , economic development and conflict on food security*. MA Thesis. Malmo University.

Kukah , M(1999)Nigerian newspaper and survival in the digital age. Sabinet available at <https://journals.co.za/doi/pdf/10.10520/EJC159485>

OCHENDO: AN AFRICAN JOURNAL OF INNOVATIVE STUDIES

ISSN: 26814-0788 (Print) 2814-077X (e). Vol. 2 No. 1. 2021

A Publication of the Association for the Promotion of African Studies

Kumar, V., Singh, J., Kumar P. (2020). *Environmental Degradation: Causes and Remediation Strategies vol 1*. Agro environ media, India. Available at <https://books.google.com.ng/books>

Environmental crisis and development in Nigeria. Available at <https://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/view/doc/download/Doi-10.1.1.460.7133>.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/nigerianfood-security-outlook,june2021tojanuary2022>.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/nigerian-food-security-outlook-june-2021-januanry-2022>.

Kanu, Ikechukwu A. (Eds.). (2021). *African Indigenous Ecological Knowledge Systems: Religion, Philosophy and the Environment*. Maryland, USA: Association for the Promotion of African Studies.

Kanu, Ikechukwu A. (Eds.). (2021). *African Eco-Philosophy: Cosmology, Consciousness and the Enviornment*. Maryland, USA: Association for the Promotion of African Studies.

Kanu, Ikechukwu A. (Eds.). (2021). *African Eco-Theology: Meaning, Forms and Expressions*. Maryland, USA: Association for the Promotion of African Studies.

Kanu, Ikechukwu A. (Eds.). (2021). *African Ecological Spirituality: Perspectives on Anthroposophy and Environmentalism. A Hybrid of Approaches*. Maryland, USA: Association for the Promotion of African Studies.

Metu, A., Okeyika, K. & Maduka, D. (2016). *Achieving Sustainable Food Security in Nigeria: Challenges and Way Forward in 3rd International Conference on African Development Issues*. Nigeria: (CU-ICAD) Covenant University Ota.

Nwozor, A., Olanrewsaju. S. J, Ake, B. M. (2019) National insecurity and the challenges of food security in Nigeria. *Academic Journal Of Inter Disciplinary Studies* 8(4). 9.

Sahara reporters (2021). *Nigeria ranks available at* <https://globalhungerindex.org/nigeria>

OCHENDO: AN AFRICAN JOURNAL OF INNOVATIVE STUDIES

ISSN: 26814-0788 (Print) 2814-077X (e). Vol. 2 No. 1. 2021

A Publication of the Association for the Promotion of African Studies

History of the Nigerian press from 1859-2015 inordr.com latest versions available at <https://tsutonma.inoxdvr.com/28> html

Radio development in Nigeria. doc available at <https://www.coursehero.com/file/79329068/radio-development-in-nigeria.docx>.

Lal, O. & Pate U. (ed). *Mass media and society in Nigeria*. Lagos: Malt house Press Ltd.

Tijanni, A (1989). *Food Crisis in Nigeria: which way out? A Paper presented at the annual dinner, Nigeria Institute of Food Science and Technology, Kaduna state.* The Reporter Newspaper.

Ngoddy, P. (1988). *Developing Food Technology in Nigeria*. The Standard. Keynote address at the 12th Annual Conference of the Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology (NIFST). The University of Maiduguri, 18th October.