

Effects of Boko Haram on Farm Output in Biu Local Government Area, Borno State, Nigeria

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Abstract: - The study deals with the effects of Boko Haram activities on Farm Output in Biu local government area, Borno state, Nigeria. A sample size of 380 Household heads served as respondents, selected from four wards in Biu LGA.

Questionnaire was the instrument used in data collection. Purposive sampling procedure was used in selecting Biu LGA. Descriptive statistics was used in analysing the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents in Biu area.

T-test Statistics was used to measure the difference between level of output before and during the peak period of Boko Haram's activities in Biu local government. The result revealed significant difference between the output before and during the peak period of the Boko Haram activities, which revealed that Boko Haram activity had a significant effect on the farm output of the farmers in the study area. The t-value for all the outputs were very high with 11.71 for maize, 10.97 for groundnuts, 12.38 for cowpea, 12.34 for sorghum and 11.15 for rice. P-value obtained for all the outputs were less than .05, that was .000 for each output which indicated that Boko Haram activities in the area has significantly affected the production of these crops in the area. The researcher therefore, rejected the null hypothesis which stated that Activities of Boko Haram does not significantly effects farm output in Biu and accepted the alternative hypothesis.

The study recommends that; Federal government should make sure farms and farm labourers in the rural areas especially in Biu L.G.A are adequately secured to encourage farmers go back to their farm without fear of attack by the Boko Haram. Agricultural Extension workers should be mobilised and motivated to go and train farmers on modern farming techniques in the affected area. This effort will encourage crop production in the area.

Key words: - Farms, Boko Haram, Farm Output, Household heads

I. INTRODUCTION

Farming is an ancient activity practiced by man from days immemorial. Today, farming at all levels of human development is practiced as economic activity. Farming is one of the economic activities around the world that experienced various challenges resulting from the activities of armed conflicts with devastating humanitarian consequences. *Boko Haram* sect was founded by Mohammed Yusuf in 2002 who led the organisation to 2009, under the name Taliban; where he established a training complex called *Markas*, in the markas, he preached his ideology and recruit followers. Many people from across Nigeria and other neighbouring countries enrolled their children into the school. The unemployed and

children of the poor in the society are targeted for enrolment Imam, (2013). The organisation officially changed its name from Taliban to *Jama'atuAhlisSunnaLidda'awatiwal-Jihad* which translates into 'People Committed to the Propagation of the Prophet's Teachings and Jihad. The people in Maiduguri and environs name the organisation *Boko Haram* due to their strong opposition to western education. The word *Boko* is a Hausa word meaning western education while *Haram* is an Arabic word meaning forbidden, therefore, joining them together will give *Boko Haram* the term "Western education is forbidden".

Activities of *Boko Haram* sects in the north eastern Nigeria cost more than 4,000 lives (Adeolu, 2015). Ibrahim (2015), in a study on the activities of the *Boko Haram* revealed that Boko haram activities in the North eastern Nigeria, has led to the death of seven hundred thousand (700,000) lives. While two million two hundred thousand (2.2million) people displaced from their localities, where they all abandoned their farms. United Nations Children's Fund UNICEF (2015) in a report also indicated that *Boko Haram* activities led to the closure of more than two thousand (2000) schools across Nigeria, Cameroun, Tchad and Niger Republic while hundreds of others have been attacked, looted, or burnt by Boko haram sect.

The group also forced eight hundred thousand (800,000) children of the farming communities out of their homes in the affected zone (Sam 2015). Joda and Abdurashed (2015) indicated that the activities of the *Boko Haram* sect in the northern eastern Nigeria, Cameroun, Niger Republic, and Tchad Republic have seriously damaged the socio-economic nerves which stimulate growth and development in the regions.

Boko haram sect has terrorise the affected region for years, thereby forcing more than two million people to flee their homes and abandon their farms. These activities in the Northeast Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon and Niger Republic created food insecurity which the sects themselves appear to be falling victim to a major food crisis of its own creation. This was experienced practically in Mora village in Cameroon, where the sects have conducted a raid, but instead of the usual burning homes, abducting hostages (Women and Children), they gathered cows, goats and any kind of food they could round up, then fled with it all (Dionne, 2016).

Nigeria is endowed with a vast area of arable land which is highly fertile with very favourable climatic conditions, and directly influences the cultivation of crops and rearing of animals in the country. These are widely practiced by farming communities in all parts of the country, with tree crops widely cultivated in the southern part of the country like oil palm, cocoa, and timber, while cereal crops are widely cultivated in the northern Nigeria. These serve as a major source of employment and income for the farming communities.

Although studies on insurgency generally have been carried out by researchers like Singh (2010), Anthony and Adam (2010), Vincenzo, (2011), Adeolu, (2015), Ibrahim (2015) Kareem (2015), Tari, Kibikiwa and Umar (2016) there has not been much work on the effects of boko haram insurgency on farming output in Biu local government area. The existing literature also failed to provide adequate evidence on the effects of boko haram activities on farm output produced by household heads in the study area.

This study, therefore, address the above in the context of effects of boko haram insurgency on Farm Output in Biu local government area, Borno state during 2013/2014 - 2014/2015 harvesting seasons.

1.2 Study Hypotheses

Ho₁ – Activities of Boko haram activity does not significantly effects socioeconomic characteristics of farmers in Biu local government area.

Ho₂ – Activities of Boko a haram activity does not significantly affect farm output in Biu local government area.

II. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Study Area

Biu is located on latitude 10.61285⁰N and longitude 12.19485⁰E, at altitude of 626 metres (Wikipedia 2015). The predominantly spoken language is Pabir-Bura, and major occupation of the residents is farming. The area has a total land mass of 3,352 square kilometres, (NPC 2006). Population of the area according to the National Population Census figure of the 2006 gave an estimate of 176,072. Therefore, the population may or may not change due to high death rate and migration resulting from the Boko haram' activity in the area. Biu town is the headquarters of Biu local government area (L.G.A) and now is the capital of Biu Emirate in the southern part of Borno State, Nigeria.

Biu area has good climatic conditions divided in to rainy, hot dry and cold dry seasons with favourable Agricultural vegetation, composed of fertile soil for cultivation of different crops which include Maize, Groundnuts, cowpea, sorghum, Rice and guinea savannah grassland for rearing animals. Agricultural activity in Biu area is mostly practiced on small plots of lands using traditional methods where the family members provide labour. These farming activities of Biu

communities were massively hampered by the activities of Boko haram..

Boko haram sect adopted different method ranging from armed robbery, kidnapping and cattle rustling, which threatened households by creating fear in the communities. They engaged in looting of grain stores, attacked villages using guns and explosives all these led to destruction of life and property in the area. Although, the security consisting of the military and Para-military forces called Joint Task Force (JTF) were doing their best but fighting such a guerrilla war require the support of the local residents. Therefore, a group of youth volunteers who were later called Civilian JTF emerged. The combine activities of the military JTF and the civilian JTF forced Boko haram sect to the bush.

The relocation of the Boko haram from Biu town to bush where the farming activities take place worsened the situation. The insurgency had a devastating effect on farming activities, because they do not only pose threat to lives but also occupied the farmlands. With the escalation of these activities, the then president of the federal republic of Nigeria and commander in chief declared a state of emergency in the three states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe on 14th March 2013. The state of emergency was renewed twice and ended on 14th November 2014 not because there was control of the activities of the insurgents but because it had no much significant effect on curtaining the menace. Borno state banned the use of motorcycles in and around major towns of the state, in her effort to control the activities of the sect. This also affected farming activities especially in Biu local government area, where major means of transportation to and from farms is motorcycle.

2.2 Population of the Study

Target population for the study consist of 32,334 household heads (NPC 2006), resident in all the farming communities in Biu Local Government Area, engaged in farming activities. Biu L.G.A. is divided into eleven (11) political wards representing farming communities in the area namely: Buratai, Dugja, Galtimare, Garubula, Gunda, Gur, Mandaragirau, Mirnga, Sil-Umthla, Yawi and Zarawuyaku. Five (5) out of these wards are located in the southern part of Biu, while six (6) wards are located in the northern part of the area.

2.3 Sampling technique

Survey System Software version 12 called "Sample Size Calculator" was used in calculating a sample size of 380 from the population of 32,334 Household heads in Biu local government area, using a confidence level of 95% and margin error of 5%. Stratified random sampling was used in categorizing wards in Biu into output, population density, farm size and occupation where a purposive sampling technique was used in selecting a ward from each category. Mirnga ward was selected based on output, Zarawuyaku

based on population density, Dugja based on farm size and Mandaragirau ward was selected based on occupation (most of the inhabitant are engaged in farming activities). Therefore, out of the 380 sampled, the questionnaires were administered to 28% of respondents in Zarawuyaku which has the highest population representing 110 household heads, while Mirnga, Dugja and Mandaragirau had 24% each representing 90 household heads each from these wards.

2.4 Data collection technique

The researcher employed 4 enumerators who are based in Biu L.G.A. and know the people, their norms and culture very well. The enumerators served as research assistants in administering questionnaires to the respondents. Adequate training was given to them on how to interpret and translate the questionnaire from English to pabir-bura language. The training also covered how to fill the questionnaire to the respondents (Household heads) where necessary.

2.5 Source of Data/Questionnaire

Questionnaire was utilized as an instrument for collecting data. Household heads responded to the questions designed on their experiences on the topic. A total number of 380 questionnaires were administered to the Household heads in the four wards (farming communities) selected. Although the instruments were designed in English, it was interpreted and explained to the respondents in the local language, (Pabir Bura). The questionnaire was divided in to section 'A' in which the respondent Bio data was recorded while section 'B' sought information on effects of Boko haram activities on Farm Output in their communities.

2.6 Data Analysis

Primary data for this study were collected to analyse the effect of Boko haram insurgency on the farming communities in Biu local government area. A questionnaire was used to collect data from the sampled respondents. Descriptive as well as paired t-test statistics were used to identify the effect on Outputs of Maize, Groundnuts, Cowpea, sorghum and rice. The following general form of t-test statistics was used for the analysis with the assumption that; Data must be quantitative and randomly samples from a population that is approximately normally distributed, Varian (1993), (Gujarati 2009) and used in the work of Haider, Jan, and Akram, (2017). IBM SPSS Statistics version 20 was used.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

This chapter deals with the presentation, analysis of data and discussion of the result of the findings in the study area. The researcher with his research assistants administered a total number of 380 Questionnaires in the four ward selected, out of which 376 were filled and returned which represent 98.9% and this formed the basis of data analysis for the study.

3.1 The Socio-economic Characteristics of respondents

Table 3.2 Socio-economic Characteristics of respondents

| Socioeconomic | Frequency | Percentage of total respondents |
|--------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| Age of the respondent | | |
| 18-65 | 365 | 97.1 |
| Above 65 | 11 | 2.9 |
| Sex of the respondent | | |
| Male | 241 | 64.2 |
| Female | *135 | *35.9 |
| Level of education | | |
| Primary education | 82 | 21.8 |
| Secondary education | 98 | 26.1 |
| Tertiary education | 38 | 10.1 |
| Islamic education | 88 | 23.4 |
| No education background | 70 | 18.6 |
| household size category | | |
| <3 | 8 | 2.1 |
| 3-6 | 107 | 28.5 |
| 7-10 | 134 | 35.6 |
| 11-14 | 45 | 12 |
| Above 14 | 82 | 21.8 |
| Farm size(ha) | | |
| <3 | 30 | 8 |
| 3-4 | 124 | 33 |
| 4.1-6 | 107 | 28.5 |
| Above 6 | 115 | 30.6 |
| annual farm income (₦) | | |
| <100,000 | 39 | 10.4 |
| 100,001-200,000 | 234 | 62.2 |
| 200,001-300,000 | 34 | 9 |
| 300,001-400,000 | 21 | 5.6 |
| Above 400,000 | 48 | 12.8 |

Source Researcher's field work 2016

Socio-economic Characteristics of Respondents

Table 3.2 showed the analysis of the socio-economic characteristics as it applied to the respondents (Household heads). Analysis of the age distribution of household heads in the study area showed that most of the respondent (97.1%) fell within the age 18-65 while 2.9% of the household heads fell above 65 years.

The analysis on the sex distribution of the household heads in Biu area showed that 64.2% are males while 35.9% are females. This table revealed that there are increasing numbers of females who are serving as household heads in the study area, due to the Boko haram crisis which resulted in to death

or displacement of men who were known to head the households in Biu area. Analysis on the educational qualification of the respondents revealed that majority of the household heads attended secondary school level this is 26.1%, followed by respondents with Islamic education with 23.4%. Analysis further revealed that respondents with primary certificates were ranked third, with 21.8% and those without educational background were ranked fourth with 18.6%, those with tertiary education are represented with only 10.1% of the total respondents as shown in the table.

Analysis on the household size of the respondents in the study area was revealed that 2.1% of the household heads had less than 3 people in their families, 28.5% had a range of 3-6 family members and 35.6% had 7-10 members. Furthermore, household heads with family members ranging from 11-14 represent 12.0% and household heads with members above 14 members represent 21.8%

Analysis on Farm size (ha) of the respondents revealed that 8.0% of the respondents had less than 3 hectares as the farm land they used in producing different types of crop in a season. Household heads in the study area that had farm lands ranged from 3-4 hectares per household head represent 33.0%, and 28.8% of the total respondents used farm lands ranged from 4.1-6 hectares of land used in cultivating their crops. Household heads that owned farm lands above 6 hectares of farm land represent 30.6%.

Annual farm income showed that 10.4% of the total respondents sampled earned income below 100,000 naira generated annually from farming activities in the area. Highest proportion of the household heads in the study area sourced 100,001- 200,000 naira as annual income and this represent 62.2% of the sampled population. 9.0% of the respondents earned annual income ranged from 200,001 – 300,000 naira in a season. Respondents who earned an annual income ranged from 300,001-400,001 naira represented 5.6% while the respondents who earned above 400,000 naira as annual income represented 12.8% of the household heads sampled for the study.

To examine the effect of Boko haram on farm output in Biu local government the study area, yield (bag/ha) of farmers' crop production were subjected to t-test and the result are presented in Table 3.3 above. The result of the analysis, showed that, maize production before and during high rate of Boko haram's activity in the study area, showed significant decreases at 5% level with t-test value of 11.80 and P-value obtained was less than .05, that was .000 indicating the activities of Boko haram has, significantly affected maize production in the study area.

The result of the analysis on groundnut production revealed that, production of groundnut before and during peak period of Boko haram activities in the study area, indicated a significant decrease at 5% with t-test value 10.66 and P-value obtained was less than .05, that was .000 indicating the activities of Boko haram had significantly affected groundnut production in the study area.

Finding on Cowpea production revealed that production of Cowpea before and during peak period of Boko haram activities in the study area indicated a significant decrease at 5% with t-test value 12.38 and P-value obtained was less than .05, that was .000 indicating the activities of Boko haram has significantly affected Cowpea production in the study area.

Finding of the analysis on Sorghum production revealed that production of Sorghum before and during peak period of Boko haram activities in the research area indicated a significant decrease at 5% with t-test value 12.34 and P-value obtained was less than .05, that was .000 indicating the activities of Boko haram has significantly affected Sorghum production in the study area.

Finding of the analysis on Rice production revealed that production of Rice before and during the period of high Boko haram activities in the research area indicated a significant decrease at 5% with t-test value 11.15 and P-value obtained was less than .05, that was .000 indicating the activities of Boko haram has significantly affected Rice production in the study area.

The result of the analysis on farm output of farming communities in Biu area generally showed that, there was significant difference between the output before and during the peak period of the Boko haram activities which revealed that, Boko haram had a significant effect on the farm output of the farmers in Biu local government. Therefore the null hypothesis which stated that Boko haram activities had no significant effect on farm output in the area rejected and the alternative hypothesis accepted.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

Nigeria has a larger proportion of its population in the rural areas who engaged in farming, in the agricultural sector of the economy to earn a living. This majority consists of peasants farming communities who engaged in agriculture not merely as a source of income or even as just an occupation; rather they have subsistence agriculture as a way of life. They solely

Effects of Insurgency on Farm Output
Table 3.3 Samples t-Test for farm output before and during insurgency

| | Paired Differences | | | | t-value | Df | Sig. (2-tailed) p-value | |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|----------|--------|----------------------------|-------|
| | Mean | Std. Deviation | Std. Error Mean | 95% Conf. Interval of the Diff. | | | | |
| | | | | Lower | | | | Upper |
| Maize 1 & Maize 2 | 22.89600 | 37.58224 | 1.94074 | 19.07987 | 26.71213 | 11.798 | 374 | .000 |
| G/mt 1 – G/mt 2 | 7.02128 | 12.40020 | .63949 | 5.76384 | 8.27871 | 10.979 | 374 | .000 |
| C/pea 1 – C/pea 2 | 6.53333 | 10.21969 | .52774 | 5.49562 | 7.57105 | 12.380 | 374 | .000 |
| Sorgh 1 – Sorgh 2 | 5.40957 | 8.50018 | .43836 | 4.54762 | 6.27153 | 12.340 | 374 | .000 |
| Rice 1 – Rice 2 | 7.30319 | 12.70039 | .65497 | 6.01531 | 8.59107 | 11.150 | 374 | .000 |

Table 3.3 showed the analysis on the effects of Boko haram activities on farm output (Maize, Groundnut, Cowpea, Sorghum, and Rice) in Biu local government area and this responded to objective (ii) of the study.

depend on Farming. This makes agriculture and the rural sector major policy concerns in the country. Biu local government area is one of the largest producers of farm output in the north east Nigeria, where the Boko Haram activities seriously hampered the productivity of farmers in the area. This research in the course its study recommended the following;

Federal government should make sure farms, and farm labourers in the rural areas are adequately secured, to encourage farmers go back to their farm without fear of attack by the Boko haram. Federal government through Agricultural extension workers, should embark on Training and retraining of all farmers to have adequate knowledge on modern way farming. These efforts will increase crop production in the area.

This research also recommended that farm input like fertilizer, agrochemicals, machineries, and improve seeds should be made affordable and accessible to farmers who want to use them. The present effort made by the Federal Government which sought to improve the security agents' effectiveness in fighting Boko Haram, which include relocating the countering Boko Haram command and control centre to Maiduguri, initiating corruption cases against former senior government officials charged with looting money earmarked for arms and operations to defeat terrorists should be sustained.

Nigerian government should ensure that all military and police training schools educate officers on international human rights standards, and develop a system whereby security officers accused of excessive use of force and other human rights abuses are investigated and held accountable.

The study also recommends that Military personnel, facilities and equipment should be deployed to the rural areas to maintain surveillance and patrol against the present practice of sending unarmed police to stay in the police outpost in the rural areas.

This research also recommends that favourable economic environment for doing business in the North east and Nigeria at large should be provided. These will encourage private investors to invest in farming activities to create job opportunities for the youths who lost their means of livelihood. This will reduce the incidents of violence and insecurity resulting from unemployment, high rate of poverty, illiteracy, and inequality, which were seen as the root causes of the Boko Haram insurgency in the northern Nigeria.

Politicians found using youths as political thugs, or tool of causing violence in the society should be sanctioned regardless of his position in the society.

The government should also train the local vigilante group, hunters, and the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) to complement the effort of the security agency considering the role they played in the present fight against the Boko haram insurgents in the north east Nigeria.

It is crucial that the government make concerted efforts to investigate and identify the Boko haram sponsors with the aim of bringing them to justice.

In the above content and indeed, in government responses to Boko haram in Biu area, the Joint Task force (military and Para military), vigilante group and civilian joint task force (CJTF) have helped in securing the area. More so, the current insurgency of Boko haram in north east Nigeria may assist in design a policy respond and negotiation strategy for insurgency related conflict resolution.

The application of forces particularly the military may not yield the desired result as many historic examples outside Nigeria like Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Syria have seemed to indicate. Therefore, Federal government should adopt peace approach to conflict management as against the absolute military approach and this will allow the government to understand the roots cause or reason behind armed conflicts and adopt measure to check the future occurrence of such activities in the society.

It is recommended that this research should serve as an eye opener to other researchers to come in and conduct a research to cover Borno state or extend it to the north eastern Nigeria at large.

V. CONCLUSION

The insecurity created by Boko haram in the north eastern Nigeria has caused fears among farming communities. The trend has led to suicide bombings and all sorts of attacks on the lives and property of the people in the northern part of the country there by significantly affecting farming activities in the area.

Consequently, lives and property are lost, children and women abducted, farms destroyed, farm output stolen, markets closed, accessed roads closed, and shops have remained closed, Banks are frequently looted, curfew are enforced on cities, town and villages in all the three states affected, movement of goods and people were restricted, especially around the study area.

There was also significant level of migration from the crisis zone to areas where lives and property are relatively secure. It was discovered from the study that productive farms were abandoned, farm products destroyed, and farm income were significantly reduced. Some farmers lost their lives on their farms as a result of attack by Boko haram making the victims vulnerable to poverty and other social vices.

It was discovered from the study that the use of force alone like deployment of the military, house-to-house raids as well as mounting of security check points at designated spots along major highways or declarations of state of emergencies by the federal government in the affected states, were of no significant effect in curtailing the activity Boko Haram insurgency.

The study further revealed that, team work among Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF), local Hunters and the Vigilante Group in the study area have compliment the effort made by the security agents Military Joint Task Force (JTF) in recording high level of success in the fight against Boko haram insurgents.

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