



## Effect of banditry on the livelihood of maize farmers in Katsina State

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### Abstract

In recent years, Nigeria witnessed a spate of bandit attacks which affected the livelihood and agricultural productivity of farmers. This research assessed the effect of armed banditry on the livelihood of maize farmers in Katsina state. The study employed a cross sectional design and multi-stage sampling technique was used to select 196 maize farmers. Statistical tools used for the study were mean, frequency, percentages and t-test. The mean age of the farmers was 37years, majority (88.8%) were male while 11.2% were females, 87.8% were married, and their mean farm size was 2.45hectares. Their mean farming experience was 14years and 90% had farming as their major occupation. The findings unveiled the effect of banditry in the study area. Employing a 5-point Likert scale, challenges encountered by farmers were displacement of settlements, with mean score of 4.55, psychological toll inflicted by banditry, with a score of 4.41. Also, the disruption of economic activities, scarcity of basic amenities, and limited provision of social services which ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> respectively. Furthermore, the research employed T-test results to analyse the disparities in income and yield before and after the onset of banditry. Income witnessed a significant decline from a mean of N529,180.68 to N372,757.08 yield, too, experienced a substantial reduction, dropping from 6,751.5kg to 3,069kg in the aftermath of banditry. The findings revealed that banditry affected the livelihood of maize farmers, hence, recommends that government should enhance the security of farmers, provide psycho social and financial support, and provide social support programmes to boost their livelihood.

**Keywords:** Banditry, Food security, Income, Livelihood, Maize farmers

### Introduction

Banditry, characterized by criminal activities and armed robberies, has a deep-rooted history and global significance. The term "banditry" refers to acts committed by bandits, who are often armed robbers, gangsters, or exploitative individuals (Encarta, 2009). The term encompasses criminal behaviour like marauding, thievery, and kidnapping in modern usage. The historical context reveals that various societies have labelled different groups as bandits. For instance, Nazi Germans deemed opponents of their regime as bandits, and in China's Ming Dynasty, any forceful robbery was considered banditry and was punishable by death (Robinson, 2021).

In Africa, banditry has also left its mark, particularly in the Horn of Africa, signifying its global reach. Mburu (1999) highlights the profound connection between banditry and international politics in African history. Notably, the Shifta bandits during the British military administration of Eritrea (1941 – 1952) targeted foreigners, British and Italians, as well as groups opposing future Eritrea.

In the last decade Nigeria has witnessed an increase in banditry activities with Katsina State experiencing a significant banditry-related violence. Reports indicate that bandits armed with sophisticated weaponry engage in cattle rustling, attacking farmers, local Fulani settlements, private

farms, and highway travellers, often resorting to kidnapping and rape. Akowe and Kayode (2014) underline the widespread impact of bandit activities across northern Nigeria. The Katsina-Zamfara border regions have borne the brunt of armed banditry, profoundly affecting agricultural zones like Funtua, which falls under the Katsina Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (KTARDA) ZONE II. Given that agriculture is the backbone of Nigeria's rural economy, the disruption caused by banditry has dire consequences for farmers' productivity.

Despite the destructive consequences of banditry on both rural and non-conflict zones, limited scholarly attention has been directed towards the specific issue of armed banditry in KTARDA Agricultural Zone II. While studies (Abdullahi *et al.*, 2017; Ani *et al.*, 2015 and Adelakun 2015) have explored clashes between herders and farming communities, a comprehensive examination of armed banditry in the region is lacking. This study was undertaken to bridge this gap by investigating the effects of armed banditry on the zone's socio-economic fabric. It delves into the multifaceted impacts, ranging from economic losses to disrupted extension service delivery, and the consequent ramifications for farmers' livelihoods. The aim of the study is to investigate the effect of banditry on the livelihood of farmers in Funtua KTARDA Zone II.

The specific objectives are to:

- a. Identify the socio-economic characteristics of maize farmers in KTARDA Agricultural Zone II.
- b. Analyse the yield of farmers before and after banditry.
- c. Evaluate the income of farmers before and after banditry.
- d. Assess the effects of banditry on the

livelihood of farmers in the study area.

- e. Ascertain the coping mechanism and safety nets employed by farmers in the study area.

### **Hypothesis of the study**

H<sub>0</sub>: There is no significant relationship between banditry and livelihood of Maize farmers in Katsina State.

### **Materials and Method**

#### **Study area**

Katsina Sate, established on September 23, 1987, from the former Kaduna Sate is positioned between Latitude 11° 30' N – 13° 15' N and Longitude 6° 52' E – 9° 20' E. It shares borders with Kaduna, Jigawa, and Kano Sates, as well as the Republic of Niger. Encompassing 24,192 square kilometres, the state houses an approximate population of 7.8 million as of 2016 (NPC, 2010) With a primarily Hausa/Fulani population, Katsina state spans varied ecological zones from Sudan Savannah to Arid in the North. Agriculture constitutes the primary source of livelihood, of the people and major crops grown are millet, sorghum, groundnut, and cotton. Also, the people rear livestock such as cattle, sheep, and goats.

#### **Data collection and tools**

A cross-sectional research design was adopted for this study and a structured questionnaire was employed to collect information from the farmers. The target population of the study were maize farmers affected by banditry. Multi-stage sampling technique was employed, KTARDA agricultural Zone II was purposively selected because it is the maize growing hub in Katsina Sate and also the most affected by banditry. The most affected Local Government Areas (LGAs) in KTARDA Zone II (Funtua) were Faskari, Kankara,

Dandume, Sabuwa, Funtua and Bakori (Isenyo *et al.*, 2021). Two LGAs representing 33.3% of the population were selected using simple random sampling. The study considered two LGAs only in order to reduce the high risk associated with conducting research in bandit-controlled areas. These LGAs are Kankara and Faskari. The next stage involved purposive selection of farming communities with incidence of

banditry. The selected farming communities were Gatakawa, Gundawa and Marabar Gurbi from Kankara LGA while Yankara, Mairua and Daudawa were selected from Faskari LGA. The farmers were selected proportionately from each of the selected communities. Lastly, a total number of 196 farmers affected by bandits were selected for the study.

**Table 1: Sampling Procedure and Sampling size**

| Agric. zone    | LGA         | Communities   | No. of farmers | % of farmers |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| KTARDA ZONE II | Faskari     | Yankara       | 64             | 50.5         |
|                |             | Daudawa       | 9              | 6.8          |
|                |             | Marua         | 55             | 42.6         |
|                |             | Total         | 128            | 100          |
|                | Kankara     | Gatakawa      | 20             | 30           |
|                |             | Gundawa       | 19             | 28           |
|                |             | Marabar Gurbi | 29             | 42           |
|                |             | Total         | 68             | 100          |
|                | Grand total |               | 196            | 100          |

### Methods of Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics used for data analysis include frequency distribution, percentage, mean, and standard deviation. They were used to describe objective 1, 2 and 3 while a 5 point Likert scale was used for questions relating to effect of banditry. Additionally, T-test was employed to assess the research hypothesis.

### Likert scale

A 5 point Likert scale corresponding to strongly affected, affected, undecided, not affected and strongly not affected was used. With this scale a statement having a mean of 3 and above indicate significant effect while below 3 indicate not significant effect.

$$\text{Likert scale} = \frac{5+4+3+2+1}{5} = 3$$

## Result and Discussion

### Socioeconomic Characteristics

The mean age of the farmers is 37 years (Table 2). This outcome is congruent with

the findings of Mohammed *et al.*, (2021), who also reported the dominance of ages 31-40 among rural communities in northern Nigeria. The gender dimension is crucial, as it significantly affects family provisioning and responsibilities. The data reveals a considerable gender disparity, with 88.8% of respondents being male and only 11.2% were female. This highlight the prominent role of men in supporting families, a phenomenon attributed to cultural and religious factors. This observation aligns with Adewuni and Fabiyi (2019) and Mohammed *et al.*, (2021), who reported a preponderance of male-headed households in rural Nigerian settings. Married individuals constitute the majority (87.8%) of the households, potentially rendering them more susceptible to the effects of banditry due to larger family sizes. This finding resonates with Tashikalma *et al.*, (2015), whose findings also indicated a predominance of married household heads, thereby

highlighting the vulnerability of families to banditry-related challenges.

Educational status plays a vital role in shaping responses to banditry and its consequences. Respondents exhibit a diverse range of educational backgrounds, with 13.8% lacking formal education while 59.1% have some level of formal education. Of note, religious education appears to empower farmers with insights into banditry's effects and coping strategies. This correlation echoes the significance of religious education in informing decision-making. Farm size serves as a critical factor influencing food production levels. The study's data showed the prevalence of small-scale farmers, with the farmers having a mean farm size of 2.5. This suggests a subsistence-oriented approach to food production while potentially necessitating diversification into non-agricultural activities for enhanced food security. This insight aligns with the conclusions drawn by Oni and Fashogbon (2013) and Tashikalma *et al.*, (2015), regarding the prevalence of small-scale farming practices in Nigeria.

Farming experience contributes to agricultural proficiency and productivity. Results indicated that 27% of the respondents possess 6-10 years of farming experience, signifying a substantial cohort of experienced farmers. Income stands as a critical indicator of livelihood and resource availability. The study's finding revealed a spectrum of annual earnings, these income distributions highlight the diversity of economic situations among respondents. Primary occupation sheds light on the predominant economic activities.

Majority (90.3%) of the respondents are engaged in farming, reinforcing its significance as the principal occupation. This observation is consistent with the

study's geographic context and resonates with the livelihoods of rural communities.

### **Comparative Analysis of Farmers Yield before and after Banditry**

Table 3 illustrated comparative analysis of maize yield before and after the advent of banditry within the study area. This analysis categorizes yields into distinct ranges and presents the frequencies and corresponding percentages of farmers falling within each range for both the "Before Banditry" and "After Banditry" periods. From the result obtained, prior to the onset of banditry, a considerable number of farmers got comparatively higher maize yields. In the "Before Banditry" phase, the preponderance of respondents registered yields falls within the range of 2100 – 4000 kg (25%) and 4100 – 6000 kg (17.3%). These findings revealed a diverse distribution of yields, with a noteworthy proportion of farmers achieving maize production within these ranges. A discernible shift in yield distribution surfaced during the "After Banditry" timeframe. The percentage of farmers' yield below 2000Kg escalated significantly from 8.7% to 31.1%, indicating a considerable decline in maize productivity for this subset. This shift implied a potential adverse influence of banditry on agricultural operations and the livelihoods of farmers. Notably reduced percentages of farmers in higher yield brackets, such as 6100 – 8000 kg and above 10000 kg, substantiate the observed decline in the "After Banditry" epoch. This trend reinforces the hypothesis that armed banditry may have engendered decreased maize yields for a substantial portion of the respondents.

**Table 2: Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Respondents**

| Variables          |                     | Frequency  | Percentage | Mean    |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------|------------|---------|
| Age (Years)        | ≤20                 | 5          | 2.6        | 37      |
|                    | 21 – 30             | 59         | 30.1       |         |
|                    | 31 – 40             | 68         | 34.7       |         |
|                    | 41 – 50             | 37         | 18.9       |         |
|                    | 51 and above        | 27         | 13.8       |         |
|                    | <b>Total</b>        | <b>196</b> | <b>100</b> |         |
| Sex                | Male                | 174        | 88.8       |         |
|                    | Female              | 22         | 11.2       |         |
|                    | <b>Total</b>        | <b>196</b> | <b>100</b> |         |
| Marital Status     | Married             | 172        | 87.8       |         |
|                    | Divorced            | 4          | 2.0        |         |
|                    | Single              | 19         | 9.7        |         |
|                    | Widow               | 1          | 0.5        |         |
|                    | <b>Total</b>        | <b>196</b> | <b>100</b> |         |
| Educational Status | No formal education | 27         | 13.8       |         |
|                    | Qur’anic            | 52         | 26.5       |         |
|                    | Primary             | 42         | 21.4       |         |
|                    | Secondary           | 45         | 23.0       |         |
|                    | Tertiary            | 30         | 15.3       |         |
|                    | <b>Total</b>        | <b>196</b> | <b>100</b> |         |
| Farm size (Ha)     | ≥1                  | 7          | 3.6        | 2.45    |
|                    | 1 – 1.9             | 43         | 21.9       |         |
|                    | 2 – 2.9             | 71         | 36.2       |         |
|                    | 3 – 3.9             | 42         | 21.4       |         |
|                    | 4 and above         | 33         | 16.8       |         |
|                    | <b>Total</b>        | <b>196</b> | <b>100</b> |         |
|                    |                     |            |            |         |
| Farming Experience | 1 – 5               | 42         | 21.4       | 13.99   |
|                    | 6 – 10              | 53         | 27.0       |         |
|                    | 11 – 15             | 39         | 19.9       |         |
|                    | 16 – 20             | 25         | 12.8       |         |
|                    | 21 and above        | 37         | 18.9       |         |
|                    | <b>Total</b>        | <b>196</b> | <b>100</b> |         |
| Household Size     | 0 – 5               | 76         | 38.8       | 8       |
|                    | 6 – 10              | 67         | 34.2       |         |
|                    | 11 – 15             | 33         | 16.8       |         |
|                    | 16 – 20             | 16         | 8.2        |         |
|                    | 21 and above        | 4          | 2.0        |         |
|                    | <b>Total</b>        | <b>196</b> | <b>100</b> |         |
| Income             | 100,000 – 200,000   | 30         | 15.3       | 372,757 |
|                    | 201,000 – 300,000   | 44         | 22.4       |         |
|                    | 301,000 – 400,000   | 49         | 25         |         |
|                    | 401,000 – 500,000   | 43         | 21.9       |         |
|                    | Above 500,000       | 30         | 15.3       |         |
|                    | <b>Total</b>        | <b>196</b> | <b>100</b> |         |

The findings depicted in the table underscore the susceptibility of agricultural activities to the destabilizing effects of armed banditry. It is imperative to acknowledge that an array of contributing factors could underlie this

observed transformation, encompassing diminished cultivation due to insecurity, disrupted supply chains, and broader socio-economic adversities (Tashikalma *et al.*, 2015).

**Table 3: Comparison of Farmers Yield before and after Banditry**

| Yield (kg)   | Before Banditry |            |      |     |         | After Banditry |            |      |     |       |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|------|-----|---------|----------------|------------|------|-----|-------|
|              | F               | %          | Mean | Min | Max     | F              | %          | Mean | Min | Max   |
| <2000        | 17              | 9          | 6800 | 800 | 380,000 | 61             | 31         | 3100 | 600 | 11000 |
| 2100 – 4000  | 49              | 25         |      |     |         | 93             | 47         |      |     |       |
| 4100 – 6000  | 34              | 17         |      |     |         | 30             | 15         |      |     |       |
| 6100 – 8000  | 44              | 22         |      |     |         | 7              | 4          |      |     |       |
| 8100 – 10000 | 22              | 11         |      |     |         | 3              | 2          |      |     |       |
| Above 10000  | 30              | 15         |      |     |         | 2              | 1          |      |     |       |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>196</b>      | <b>100</b> |      |     |         | <b>196</b>     | <b>100</b> |      |     |       |

Source: Field survey, 2023

### Comparative Analysis of Farmers Income before and after Banditry

Table 4 provided a comparative analysis of farmers' income before and after banditry. Data from the table reveals that before banditry, 55.6% of farmers earns an annual income of more than ₦500,000 and the least being those who earn between ₦100,000 –

₦200,000 which represented just 1% of the respondents. On the other hand, the data revealed the earning of respondents after banditry shows drastic decline with only 15.3% earning above ₦500,000. The number of those earning ₦100,000 – ₦200,000 have also comparatively increased from 1% to 15.3%.

**Table 4: Comparative Analysis of Farmers Income before and After Banditry**

| Income (₦)        | Before Banditry |            |         |         |         | After Banditry |            |         |         |         |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                   | F               | %          | Mean    | Min     | Max     | F              | %          | Mean    | Min     | Max     |
| 100,000 – 200,000 | 2               | 1          | 529,180 | 257,399 | 765,823 | 30             | 15         | 372,757 | 120,389 | 592,496 |
| 201,000 – 300,000 | 14              | 7          |         |         |         | 44             | 22         |         |         |         |
| 301,000 – 400,000 | 33              | 17         |         |         |         | 49             | 25         |         |         |         |
| 401,000 – 500,000 | 38              | 19         |         |         |         | 43             | 22         |         |         |         |
| Above 500,000     | 109             | 56         |         |         |         | 30             | 15         |         |         |         |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>196</b>      | <b>100</b> |         |         |         | <b>196</b>     | <b>100</b> |         |         |         |

Source: Field survey, 2023

### Effect of Banditry on Livelihood of Farmers

Findings on Table 5 revealed that displacement caused by armed banditry significantly impacts farmers' settlements, with 55% of the respondents being strongly affected, leading to abandonment of their homes and communities. Displacement

caused by banditry ranked first with a mean score of 4.55 and this is supported by the findings of Field *et al.*, (2019) who emphasized armed conflicts' adverse effects on rural populations, causing forced displacement and negative livelihood and food security consequences. Regarding psychological well-being, 41% of the

respondents were strongly affected by armed banditry, indicating that conflicts causes psychological distress, trauma, and anxiety among farmers with a mean score of 4.41, it ranked second highlighting its impact. Corroborating this, Ekhamheye (2021) also observed psychological toll on conflict-affected individuals, including farmers. Disruption of economic activities due to armed banditry was reported by 66% of respondents. Banditry affected agricultural practices and income-generating activities of the farmers. This ranked third with a mean score of 4.33 underscoring its impact. Mohammed *et al.*, (2021) noted similar consequences on agricultural productivity, marketing, trade, income reduction, and limited livelihood opportunities for conflict-

affected farmers. Access to basic amenities was hindered by armed banditry for 37% respondents who reported being strongly affected. This limits services like water, healthcare, and education with a mean score of 4.08, and it ranked fourth emphasizing its impact. Supporting this, Suleiman (2019), noted insecurity's adverse effect on basic amenities and rural community well-being. Disruption of social services also strongly affected 27% of the respondents while 37% were mildly affected. Armed bandits disrupted social infrastructure like schools, healthcare, and transportation, hindered social development and this ranked fifth. Danmaigoro (2022) had also underline bandits' impact on social services in his finding.

**Table 5: Extent of the Effect of Banditry on Livelihood of Farmers. (n = 196)**

| Statements                           | Strongly Affected |    | Affected |    | Undecided |    | Not Affected |    | Strongly Not affected |    | Mean | Remarks         |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|----|----------|----|-----------|----|--------------|----|-----------------------|----|------|-----------------|
|                                      | Freq              | %  | Freq     | %  | Freq      | %  | Freq         | %  | Freq                  | %  |      |                 |
| Displacement of settlement           | 107               | 55 | 89       | 45 | 0         | 0  | 0            | 0  | 0                     | 0  | 4.55 | 1 <sup>st</sup> |
| Causes psychological problems        | 81                | 41 | 118      | 59 | 0         | 0  | 0            | 0  | 0                     | 0  | 4.41 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |
| Disruption of economic activities    | 66                | 34 | 130      | 66 | 0         | 0  | 0            | 0  | 0                     | 0  | 4.33 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |
| Affects provision of basic amenities | 74                | 37 | 96       | 48 | 0         | 0  | 29           | 14 | 0                     | 0  | 4.08 | 4 <sup>th</sup> |
| Disruption of social services        | 53                | 27 | 74       | 37 | 40        | 21 | 32           | 16 | 0                     | 0  | 3.74 | 5 <sup>th</sup> |
| Prevent access to humanitarian aids  | 53                | 27 | 48       | 24 | 42        | 21 | 0            | 0  | 56                    | 28 | 3.21 | 6 <sup>th</sup> |

**Source: Field survey, 2023**

#### **Coping Mechanism and Safety nets Employed by Farmers Affected by Banditry**

The findings in figure 2 presents a comprehensive list of coping strategies and

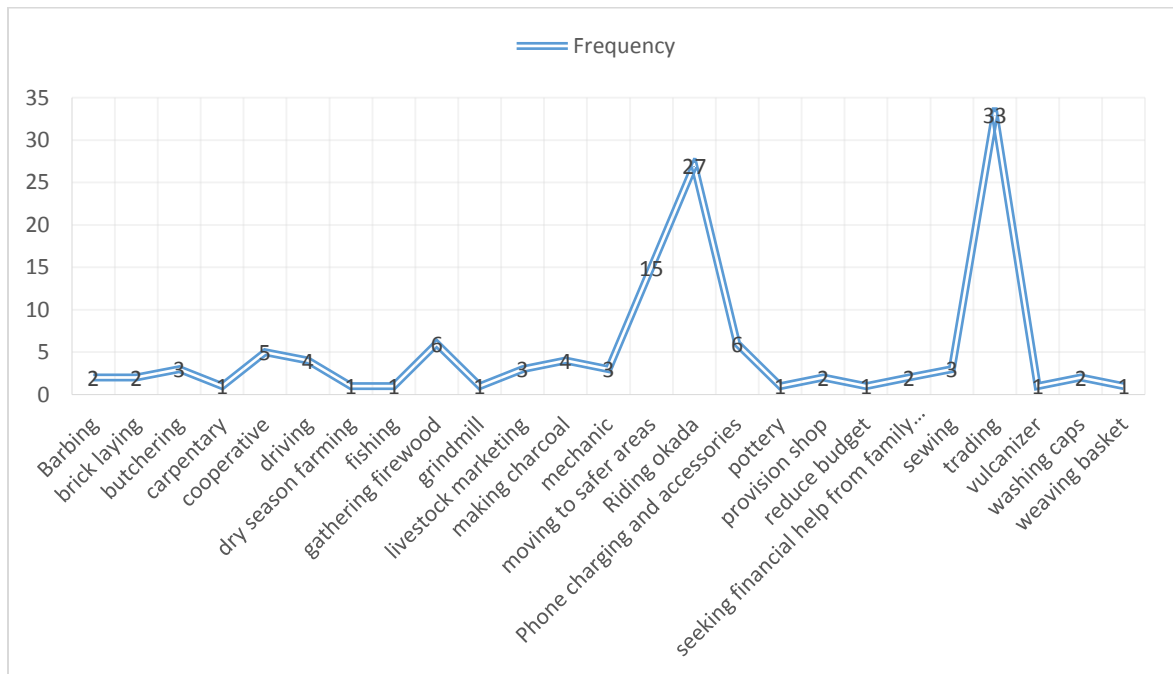
safety nets adopted by farmers affected by banditry, along with their respective frequencies and percentages. The strategies are diverse and encompass a wide range of

activities, reflecting the resourcefulness and adaptability of the affected farmers.

Among the coping mechanisms listed, “Okada” and “trading” stands out in terms of their prevalence. “Okada,” a term referring to motorcycle transportation services, has the highest frequency (27) and the highest percentage (13.6) among all the coping strategies identified followed by trading with a percentage of 11.6.

Moving to safer areas during violence appears as a frequently adopted coping

strategy, with a frequency of 14 (7.0%). This strategy underscores the paramount importance of personal safety and security for the affected farmers. Relocating to safer regions during periods of violence allows farmers to protect themselves, their families, and their livelihoods. However, this strategy may also disrupt agricultural activities and contribute to the displacement of farming communities, posing long-term implications for agricultural productivity and food security in the affected regions.



**Figure 2: Distribution of Respondents Coping Mechanism and Safety Nets**

### Conclusion and Recommendation

In conclusion, the research revealed that armed banditry has significant negative effect on the livelihood of maize farmers in Katsina State. Displacement of settlements, psychological distress, disruption of economic activities, and reduced access to basic amenities and social services were identified as major effects. To address these challenges, it is essential for policymakers,

government agencies, and non-governmental organizations to collaborate in implementing comprehensive strategies that will address the security concerns, enhance support services and promote food security initiatives. By taking these steps, the livelihoods of maize farmers in Katsina State can be safeguarded against the detrimental effects of armed banditry.

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