

Open Grazing, Food Insecurity and Sustainable Human Development in Nigeria: A Horn of Dilemma

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Abstract. Nigeria is blessed with numerous agro-ecological resources that should make it a major exporter of food items in the world. Regrettably, it has become a major food importer as a result of food insecurity. The critical state of food production in the country is worsened by the phenomena of open grazing, climate change, global warming and the Covid-19 global pandemic. These developments have deleterious effects on agricultural activities in general, food production and sustainable human development in particular. While there are policies and agencies in the state to combat these developments, it appears they have proved ineffective in the face of increasing inconsistency in government policies, open grazing, climate change and global warming. The article within the framework of modernisation theory examines the issues of open grazing, food insecurity and sustainable human development in Nigeria. This is because any country that cannot feed its population cannot boost of human development. This study was carried out using the qualitative desktop method in deriving data for addressing the issues under analysis. 31 literature sources were consulted and analysed in order to explore the nexus between open grazing, food insecurity and sustainable human development in Nigeria. This article adopts a qualitative approach and is descriptive in nature, with the researcher setting out to illustrate the association that exists between the dependent and independent variables. Authoritative scholarly sources were reviewed, during a desktop study. The purpose was to identify the relevant publications and apply them in the research. The article argues that unless concrete efforts are made to mitigate the effects of open grazing and Covid-19, ensure increased and improved food production, the country may experience worst cases of Fulani herdsmen-farmer

clashes, food crisis and human underdevelopment. The article concludes that government at all level should rise up to their responsibilities by providing enabling environment for herdsmen and farmer to engage in the production of sufficient food for sustainable human development in the country.

Keywords: Conflict, environment, peace, sustainability, survive

1. Introduction

Nigeria has the potentials to be a great country. It has the human capital and natural resources to put itself in the comity of developed nations. In spite of its huge and enormous potentials, the country remains a crippled giant (Osaghae 2011). One area that it has failed to leave up to expectations is in feeding its over 200 million population. While the increase in population has been growing in arithmetic progression, however, food production is growing in geometric progression thereby not able to provide sufficient food for such increase in population. The current Coronavirus (Covid-19) global pandemic has worsened the situation. This has led to food shortage and crisis of human development in the country, thus, leading to scarcity and high cost in the prices of staple food in the country. Currently, so many citizens and non-Nigerian alike cannot meet their food requirements because food prices have gone up beyond the reach of most citizens, thereby making the people susceptible to hunger, malnutrition, diseases and other health hazard. Besides, it reduces their potentials to engage in other productive human activities such as education, fishing, farming and other mental and physical activities.

However, it is important to note that the current food shortage and crisis is not limited to Nigeria alone. All over the globe, there is the issue of food insecurity and its attendant effect on agriculture cannot be overemphasised. Studies carried out in Archaeology and the environment has revealed that decisions made by people in prehistory about agriculture and land use within diverse environmental settings, affect people on both indigenous and county levels. In his study on long-term sustainability of agriculture and land use in Turkey and Israel, Marston (2017) examined archaeological plant remains of about 220 botanical samples recovered from his excavations and contends that diverse governmental and economic systems executed in his area of study resulted in forms of agricultural decision making that were well adapted to the social setting of farmers in each period. These archaeological investigations proved that such practices had differing environmental and ecological impacts, and had enduring effects on other agricultural practices, leading to significant environmental change.

In Nigeria in particular and African in general, the phenomenon (climate change) has assumed frightening dimension. In a continent devastated by terrorism, herdsmen-farmers clash, kidnapping, famine, drought and diseases, fighting among ethnic nationalities. The present food insecurity and the ravaging Covid-19 pandemic appears to have added to the litany of hydra headed crisis confronting the African continent. This is particularly alarming because imperialist penetration and exploitation of Nigeria in particular and Africa in general have already done a lot of damages to the continent and its people. The attainment of independence in 1960 was expected to usher in improvement in the standard of living of the people. Indeed, this could only have happened if people-oriented policies and programmes were pursued and realised. Regrettably, this was not to be, almost all successive governments especially during the military era paid lip services to policies and programmes aimed at producing enough food for the feeding of its esteem population.

The discovery of oil in Nigeria dealt a serious blow to the structure of the economy as it relegated agriculture, hitherto, the main stay of the Nigeria economy to the background (Igbokwe-Ibeto 2019). Indeed, the current herdsmen-farmers clash all over the country has further arrested development of agricultural activities as farmers have abandoned farming for fears of being killed by Fulani herdsmen. Climate change emphasizes the urgency and seriousness for Nigeria to develop policies and programmes to combat this challenge as well as

mitigate its effect on the environment and sustainable human development (Igbokwe-Ibeto, 2019). Therefore, this article seeks to examine the nexus between open grazing, food insecurity and sustainable human development in Nigeria. In the light of the foregoing, the article will address the following questions: how has government responded to these issues pose by insufficient food production and open grazing system? What problematic confront these remedial steps? What can be done to manage these challenges? These are some questions the article seeks to address.

To address the issues raised in this article, the article is structured into six compartments. Aside introduction, the first section examines conceptual and theoretical underpinnings central to the article. The second carries out historical analysis of policies on food production. The third traces the evolution of the Nigerian economy particularly in the area of food production and security. The fourth analysed the effects of open grazing, food insecurity on sustainable human development and efforts of government through its various agencies to tackle the problem. The fifth, discusses the challenges facing government in managing the agricultural sector and open grazing. The sixth suggests some remedial steps to attenuate the present food crisis and open grazing in order to ensure sustainable human development.

1.1 Methodology

This article adopts an eclectic methodological approach. Firstly, the paper is descriptive in nature in the sense that it provides a detailed account of policies on food production in Nigeria. It is exploratory because the paper attempts the nexus between open grazing food insecurity and human development in Nigeria. Also, it is explanatory because it attempts to look at the implications of open grazing and food insecurity on sustainable human development.

2. Conceptual and Theoretical Epistemology

Open grazing as a concept has attracted several definitions. But unlike other concepts, it has not generated much controversy as to its actual meaning. However, before going further, it is imperative to first understand the meaning of grazing. Grazing is a method of feeding in which an herbivore feeds on plants such as grasses, or other multicellular organisms such as algae. In agriculture, grazing is one method used whereby domestic livestock are used to convert grass and other forage into meat, milk and other products (Chukwemeka, Aduma & Eneh

2018), which is commonly practice in Nigeria by the Fulani herdsmen who move from one part (North, West, South and East) of the country to another pasturing and in search of food for their animals.

While this type of pasturing is now obsolete and outdated in many countries of the world, however, Fulani herdsmen have come to take this method of indiscriminate open grazing of animal with its attendant negative consequences as normal (Olugbenga 2017). Fulani herdsmen have been restricted to living a nomadic lifestyle as opposed to settling down in modern ranches. The system, which encourages them to continue the implementation of open grazing, as opposed to the modern ranching method, has confined them, their livestock and their families to a life of moving from one place to the other. Open grazing was appropriate at the time when human and animal populations were small with many virgin grazing lands (Chukwuemeka et al. 2018), but then over the decades, both human and animal populations of have quadrupled, with many fallow lands now being inhabited. Weather patterns have also changed due to climate change and global warming. As a result, experts are of the view that changing this primitive culture of open grazing system in

Nigeria has become inevitable imperative. Furthermore, modernization and increase in human population, has made this old-age method of pasturing a health hazard for the animals and the herdsmen/nomads themselves (Chukwuemeka et al. 2018). Yet, according to Okeke (2014), open grazing system as it is today, constitutes a serious threat to sustainable human development, food and national security in Nigeria.

The Middle Belt region of Nigeria is considered the “food basket” of the country. The fertile soil and temperate climate offer a favorable environment for farmers and herders to thrive. These two communities have been farming and rearing cattle in Nigeria for centuries, benefiting from mutually beneficial relationships –farmers benefit from cattle manure to fertilize their crops and herders benefit from crop refuse to nutritionally feed their herds. This symbiotic practice tied the wellbeing of the farmer to the wellbeing of the herder and allowed for most disputes between the two groups to be resolved non-violently, through traditional mediation mechanisms. However, since the year 2000, this interdependence has increasingly deteriorated due to changing demography, climate variability, shrinking natural resources, and socio-political manipulation. As a result, violent confrontations have become a

major defining feature of their interactions (Muhammed, Ismaila & Bibi 2015). The country-wide challenges including poverty, unemployment, and reduced livelihood opportunities, competition between farmers and herders for limited resources has isolated and deeply polarized the two groups.

A cursory analysis of the above analysis, indicates the threat posed by open grazing and therefore, calls for seriousness and urgency for the country to come up with policies and programmes to confront the challenge and mitigate its effect on environment, food security and sustainable human development. The frequency and growing rate of droughts, floods, extreme weather conditions, as well as other impacts speak loudly the urgent need to deal seriously the threats posed by open grazing (Oli, Ibekwe & Nwankwo 2018; Nze 2015). According to Igbokwe-Ibeto (2019); Olajide, Akinlabi and Tijani (2015); Alhassan (2013), food insecurity has been identified as one of the effects of open grazing

In a society where there is good agricultural' development programmes and policies, the people, can feed themselves and ensure sustainable human development. Sustainable human development can be operationalised as the ability to enlarge capabilities of the people by expanding the choices people have to make in the process of creating life. One of the needs that have to be met to realise this goal is food and food security (Igbokwe-Ibeto 2019). Once this basic need is met, people are prepared to challenge and conquer other needs (Igbokwe-Ibeto 2019). As people develop their capabilities, they are able to challenge and possibly conquer short life span as well as accessibility to renewable resources needed for decent and happy living and sustainability.

As soon as these processes are carried out on a consistent basis, it brings about sustainable human development. Sustainable human development can be defined as the process of empowering the people to continually bring about a state of being where each stage is progressively better than the previous ones, using their cultural values as platform for these changes in an environment sustainable manner (Anazodo, Igbokwe-Ibeto Osawe & Nkah 2015). This all-encompassing and eclectic view of sustainable development, however, brings to the fore the centrality of the people as the basis of development goals and objectives. When viewed from this angle, sustainable development should pursue the following objectives: life sustenance in the area of providing food, shelter, health and protection, achievement of self-esteem through provision of those things that can generate respect for and from others; for example, wealth and technological development, and attainment of freedom through emancipation from material poverty, social servitude,

ignorance dogmatic belief (Akhakpe 2014). Each of these elements reinforces the other. However, such interface should not affect the prospect for unborn or future generations to benefit and enjoy a quality of life as well as the present generation.

Among the theories that could adequately explain agricultural development is the modernisation theory because of its advantages in analysing the issue under investigation. The modernization theory can be a representation of production function showing agricultural output as a function of various inputs. According to Igbokwe-Ibeto (2019), such inputs for modernising agriculture are institutional in nature which include educational and research facilities. Such facilities can be regarded as essentials for sustainable human development. These facilities include: production incentives, an organised market for farm products, a constantly change in science and technology, reliable local availability of supplies and equipment, land reforms and transportation credit systems (Elegalam 2009). However, the pursuit of these laudable goals in Nigeria has not metamorphosed into quantitative changes in the nature of pasturing in particular and food production in general. This has made the search for other theories to explain the state of food production necessary. But the failure of the modernisation theory in the country can be attributed to be the problem of the country's leaders not entirely that of the modernisation school. The failure of the theory also points to the fact that food production and sustainable human development have not been given the desired attention by successive governments in the country.

3. Analysis of Policies on Food Production in Nigeria

It is not in doubt that food is a basic necessity of life. Abraham Maslow argued that food is one of man's basic necessities of life as well as housing, clothing and security. Therefore, the basic function of every government is to provide these basic necessities of life to the people in such a way and manner that they can live a happy and secured life. It is within this context that the social contract theorists admonished that; the main role of the state through its agency, government, is to provide the full moral and human development of the individuals that make up the state. It is when the government have fulfilled this obligation that it could demand complete loyalty of her citizens, even to the extent of requiring the sacrifice of an individual's life in times of war (Gamble 1981).

One crucial area where this goal and obligation can be realised is in food production. This is borne out of the fact that in as much as it is not only food that is required for

human existence, indeed, any nation that cannot provide food for its citizens, is not respected in the comity of nations. Thus, making every country to strives toward self-sufficiency in food production. A careful analysis indicates that the Nigerian governments since independence have come out with a number of policies geared towards increasing the level of agricultural activities and food production in the country. This is often part of its macro-economic policies. Regrettably, almost over fifty-five (55) years of pursuing this goal, the country is still experiencing food crisis to the extent that country is now a major importer of food (Igbokwe-Ibeto 2019). What has happened to agriculture and food production? To address this question, it is imperative to first discuss some of the efforts made by the Nigerian state in this direction.

Between the years 1980 and 2000, the federal government put forward a number of comprehensive policies, programmes and policy instrument to develop and improve the performance of the country's agricultural sector, through a 15years period. One of the basic objectives of this policy and programme was to ensure rapid increase in food production with a view to adequately feed the growing population and drastically reduce food importation. The main objective in this respect was the attainment of 4percent growth rate for the agricultural sector, so as to achieve food self-sufficiency by 1996 (Olaniran 2012). To achieve this goal, a number of strategies were put in place. These include: agricultural credits through banks, farm input supply and subsidies, implements, extension service workers, mechanisation of agriculture by providing tractors, water and irrigation resources etc. However, an examination of these efforts presents a mix-bag of success and failures. But it appears more of the latter have been the story as evident by the present food crisis and insecurity which has been made worst by the global Covid-19 pandemic. The reason for this is too numerous to be analysis here but some of them can be identified as: inconsistency of government policies and programmes on agriculture, political instability, the top-bottom approach to policy and programme initiation and formulation on agriculture, the tendency of the political elite to pursue primitive accumulation of wealth to the detriment of Nigerians, portfolio famers, and delay in the release of funds meant for food production (Igbokwe-Ibeto 2019).

However, all these challenges are not inevitable and may have been easily resolved, but for the structure of the country's political economy (Igbokwe-Ibeto, Nwobi & Nnaji, 2019). For example, the participatory theory contends that there is not enough citizen participation in the economic activities, while the liberal political economy theory argues that distortion in the flow of resource allocation by Nigerian leaders is the root cause

of the present food and economic crisis, the Marxian political economy theory is of the view that the economic sub-structure of the Nigerian society determines what happens at the level of governments' policy formulation, social relation of production (Ake 1981). All these theories point to the fact that food production for sustainable human development has not been given the right place in the country.

4. Agriculture and Food Security

Agriculture is the main supplier of food and Nigeria is blessed with abundant agro-ecological resources and diversity. In Nigeria, agriculture accounts for over 70 percent of the nation's food supply (Igbokwe-Ibeto 2019). Indeed, food production is just one aspect of this all-important sector. Food is seen as very vital to all human life and its provision is indeed one of the basic functions of the state through its agency (government) all over the globe. Every reasonable government ensure that its citizenry is well feed by creating an enabling environment for adequate and affordable food for its people (Bamisaga, 2005).

Flowing from the above, it is imperative for all levels of government to put forward policies and programmes on food production. The policies and programmes of the pre-colonial era focused on food production mainly for subsistence purposes. The various social formations in Nigeria produced different kinds of food crops and animals for domestic consumption. Also, the methodology of farming was mainly rudimentary in nature as open grazing, hoes and cutlasses were and still remain the; major instruments used for farming and animal pasturing. However, these methods of farming and pasturing were good enough to support the demand of the local population and in some cases left over were exchanged for other goods that were in short supply in communities. Thus, herdsman-farmers clash, food crisis and food insecurity, and hunger were not popular and frequent topics in the discourse of this era. In other words, there was sufficient food to feed the population of the various peoples in the country. This was the situation in Nigeria in particular and Africa in general before the advent of the Europeans.

The sojourn of the Europeans into first, the coastal areas and later the inter-lands of Nigeria, brought about structural changes in the character of its economy. It brought about a semi-capitalist system (Igbokwe-Ibeto et al., 2019). The colonial economy "concentrated only on economic activities beneficial to the colonial state, and was thereby disarticulated theoretically. It promoted the interests of the centers of

activities - the urban settlement and thereby neglected the rural mass settlements (Political Bureau Report 2007). This practice alienated the rural (peasant) farmers who were the geese that laid the golden eggs. This began a process where men and women lost hope in the rural areas as domain of material reproduction and human development. They began to see the urban centers as their promised land where there is greener pasture. Expectedly, agriculture became affected as production of food for subsistence gave way for production for export and urban consumption. As the Political Bureau Report (2007) puts it, production for export and sale of imported European commodities increased.

Although agriculture and food production increased, it did so not to the benefit of the domestic market but, to the advantage of industries in the metropolitan countries, and those in charge of the production of cash crops that were bases of the colonial economy. Also, marketing boards were set up in the three regions of Nigeria namely the North, East and West mainly to facilitate food production for export. Later, the Mid-west region was carved out of the Western region and was assigned its role in the process. One feature of this era was that each of these regions was made to specialize in the production of a particular cash crop (Okigbo, 1987). The goal was to ensure that there was steady supply of these commodities to Western Europe. Though, some of the objectives of these commodity boards were to improve crop production through better funding and research into seedlings, to boost production and improve the condition of farmers, among others. It was also used to prop-up the colonial master's reserve and balance their trade relations. Because, these objectives were not genuine, its successors used its funds to line their pockets and finance political activities (Political Bureau Report, 2007).

The post-colonial era did not deviate from the pattern discussed above. The indigenous political leaders also realized the need to use the state as instrument of material accumulation. Every policy and programme embarked upon by the ruling class were designed to consolidate their material base and secure power., Thus, the post-colonial state retains the structures bequeathed by the colonial administrators at Independence, Production of goods and services by industries especially the import substitution ones, are meant to extend the goals of metropolitan capital. As the Political Bureau Report (2007) argues, the mere replacement nature of these industries rather than undermine the dependent capitalist political economy of the country at the expense of peasant and petty commodity production, they were also, understandably, in location and concentration, based towards the urban centers at the expense of rural areas.

5. Open Grazing, Food Insecurity and Sustainable Human Development: The Nexus

It is in the public domain that open grazing is one of the primary factors responsible for desertification. It converts arable lands into unproductive one thereby rendering the soil suited for growing food unproductive because the land has lost its essential nutrients. Open grazing of livestock has been argued to have two effects implications on food production in particular and agricultural activities in generally. First, grazing ungulates can facilitate seed germination by trampling seed into the soil and through their dung, can produce manure needed by plants to grow. Secondly, animals can disperse seeds by transporting them in their digestive tracts through open grazing system (Chukwemeka et al. 2018)

A number of stakeholders have advocated for the suspension of open grazing system because it is one of the factors undermining food security and sustainable human development in the country. Local farmers hardly can cultivate at their full capacity due to fear of being attacked and killed by the rampaging Fulani herdsmen. The activities and fear of gun wielding Fulani herdsmen is preventing farmers from going to the farm. Yet, the few that manage to farm their cultivated farmlands have their crop yields destroyed by cattle. The result is a sweeping food shortage, abject poverty and high rate of unemployment in the country (Thisday, 2017). In this vein, Ibrahim, Abdurraham and Umar (2015) argued that cattle and cattle farmers also suffer damages because sometimes crop farmers inflict physical injuries on their cattle and even poison the cattle. Corroborating the claim of Ibrahim et al (2015), Odoh and Chilaka (2012) revealed that about 34

cattle, 11 sheep/goats and other items valued at over N2.64 million naira were lost from a particular conflict involving farmers and pastoralists. The resultant effect of these incidents is the prevailing food crisis in the country.

The world is living in stirring times. It suggests to us that the pursuit of the goals of sustainable development should not be left in a state where it cannot renew and recreate itself for the present and future generations. This refers directly to socio-economic polices and activities which took place in the course of development but have deleterious effect and endangers global environmental security. These actions and activities should be well managed so that predetermined resources can be used for both present and future generations. Sustainable human development has two sides: the formation of human capabilities such as improved health, knowledge and skills – and the use people make of their acquired capabilities – for leisure, productive purposes or being active in cultural, social and political affairs. If the scales of human development do not finely balance the two sides, considerable human frustration may result (Cruz in Thakrar and Minkley, 2015).

The constant herdsmen-farmers clash in Nigeria and its attendant effects on food production is a threat to food security and sustainable human development. For instance, these developments have led to increase in the prices of food items that eventually find their way to the market. The situation is made worst by Covid-19 pandemic which has limited freedom of movement and human interaction globally. These ugly developments have led to high increase in the prices of food items across the country that eventually find their way to the market. Table I below is a graphical picture of the trend in price increases of seven staple food items in the country.

Table 1: Market Survey of Some Staple Food in Nigeria 2013-2020

Items	Year								Wt	Remark
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020		
Flour	5600	6800	6900	6400	8950	9100	9400	10380	50kg bag	Egan Market
Sugar	6500	7900	6550	8400	13650	14500	16500	19000	50kg bag	Relieve Market
Gari	4400	4400	5600	7500	8000	16000	1500	20000	50kg bag	Eke Awka Market
Beans	3500	3700	4000	7000	14000	14000	16000	30000	50kg bag	Ikotun Market
Rice	6500	8000	7000	13000	20000	23000	25000	29000	50kg bag	Igando Market
Corn	3000	3000	3500	6000	8000	16000	16500	18000	50kg bag	Jos Main Market
Yam	250	330	450	500	800	1200	1600	1800	A tuber	Ogbote Market

Source: Igbokwe-Ibeto (2019)

Table 1 above showcases a consistent increase in prices of seven staple food items in Nigeria. In all ramifications, it appears the trend is bound to continue going by impact of Covid-19 pandemic and the constant herdsmen – farmers clash in almost all farming communities across

the country coupled by the banditry and Boko Haram insurgency being experienced in some Northern parts of the country is a pointer to this claim.

6. Significance of Effective Grazing Management in Nigeria

The significance of effective grazing management is that, drawing experiences from developed and developing countries in this globalized era, Nigeria can successfully address challenges of food insecurity and sustainable human development if the herdsman departs from their current open grazing culture which hinders food security and sustainable human development.

Political elites will realise the urgent need to bring about political and administrative leadership anchored on rule of law, transparency and accountability, administrative probity and culture of good governance. The ecology of public sector management in any given country could prosper or hinder the goals of sustainable human development if not well managed (Agbodike, Igbokwe-Ibeto, & Nkah 2015). It is arguable that the ecological environment within which farmers operate in Nigeria could shape and reshape their conception of farming. However, in contemporary times, government should know that their goal should be the pursuit of public interest and in doing this; they must put national interest over and above personal interest and primordial issues.

Majority of Nigerians depend on agriculture as their means of livelihood. With an enabling environment, the decline in farming and other agricultural activities due to banditry, kidnapping, Boko Haram insurgency, the Fulani killer herdsman and the global Covid-19 pandemic, farmers will have sufficient resources in meeting the food needs of the country. Therefore, the immediate priority for policy makers and public sector managers in Nigeria is to re-examine the reliability and validity of traditional method of open grazing still in practice in the country with the aim of adopting the modern cattle ranching as obtain in western developed countries.

7. Open Grazing, Food Insecurity and Human Development: The State Intervention

This section of the article examines open grazing, food insecurity and human development and challenges facing state intervention in combating and managing them. Since the military era, government policy on issues of grazing/pasturing and food production has tended to place its implementation in the hands of public servants leaving those directly affected by its policy out of the scheme of things. Where government does otherwise, their implementations often fall short of expectations. Although successive governments have come up with well-articulated policies on food production, such as Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) Green Revolution, Presidential Initiative on Staple Food Production, Agricultural Transformation Agency etc.

they have not been able to manage these policies to achieve their goals due to lack of government commitment.

In addition, the availability of organisation and structure required to confront challenges emanating from natural disaster and occurrence like the global Covid-19 pandemic, climate change and ozone layer depletion are non-existent (Igbokwe-Ibeto 2019:6, FAO 2017). Even where they exist, they are poorly managed by personnel who lack the skills and capacity, making it difficult for such personnel to be truly committed to schedule and details of their work (Igbokwe-Ibeto 2019). The lack of equipment to manage open grazing and climatic changes is a demonstration of the fact that the right priorities are not pursued. In view of the fore-going challenges, what can be done in the short and long term to reduce, manage, or eliminate these constraints? This is what the paper seeks to address in section that follows.

8. Recommendations

There can never be any meaningful progress in resolving the food insecurity and crisis in Nigeria without a critical and major assessment of the developmental approaches, strategies and ideology. Ideologically, the imperative of psychological power with which people evaluate and communicate ideals among themselves and their environment cannot be overemphasised (Political Bureau Report 2007). Sustainable human development emphasis qualitative and quantitative changes in the welfare and wellbeing of the people. According to Igbokwe-Ibeto (2019), the interface between development and ideology is dialectical in the sense that ideology is responsible for managing and organising both perceptively and actively, what is it that should be transformed or developed (Political Bureau Report 2007), In this context, agriculture and food security.

A clear analysis of agricultural policies and programmes suggest that the present development paradigm of Nigerian government is not tailored towards food self-sufficiency and self-reliance. It is skewed in favour of the metropolitan, which have consistently served as the development model in the country since the 1970's and 80's. Regrettably, this model of agricultural development has proved to be a failure. Therefore, there is urgent need for paradigm shift to socialist development framework that would priorities people's welfare and well-being as the primary responsibility of government thereby put the control of government effectively in the hands of the people rather than the few political elites as witness presently (Osaghea 2011). By doing this, some of the challenges confronting herdsman-farmers clash, food insecurity and sustainable human development can effectively be addressed.

Obtaining bank loans and aids as part of government policy of funding agriculture, should be made easy and accessible for farmers while effective machinery for proper implementation and monitoring of such funds should be put in place. This is to ensure that monies get to the target populations as well as used judiciously. In Nigeria, government monies and aids meant for food production is often hijacked by portfolio farmers who divert such funds for personal uses. Government should devise a way of identifying the real farmers and make them active in food production and other forms of agricultural activities just like the e-wallet of former president Jonathan's administration.

No doubt, the present open grazing coupled with climate change is impacting negatively on agriculture, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and sustainable human development in general. (Akuwudike, Mac-Ozigbo & Igbokwe-Ibeto 2020). It has to be well managed for sustainable human development to be achieved. For this to be realised, all hands must be put on desk as it cannot be left to government alone to manage. Everyone in the society is a stakeholder. The way and manner people burn bushes should be reduced to mitigate the impact of greenhouse gases on arable lands and animal life. Mosquitoes bite and other rodent attacks reduce the abilities of the people to engage in active enterprises especially in the area of agriculture and food production. Thus, managing this phenomenon is for the good of all in society.

Indeed, governments at all levels have not been up and doing in their regulatory functions most especially as it concerns the use of the environment. Unfortunately, the legal frameworks for managing herdsman-farmers clash remains blunt or un-activated, bringing in the process a lot of sorrows and pains to communities where herders/pasturing activities are carried out (Igbokwe-Ibeto 2019). However, there are seeds of hope particularly with the expansion of the democratic space that people will take their destiny in their hands and directly participate in matters that affect their life, individually and collectively. But does the present Nigeria state permit unfitted democratisation of the society? What is the nature of present APC change mantra in the country? Perhaps, these constitute another area of research. Suffice to say here that the Nigerian state needs to be fully transformed for it to be relevant to the ordinary man on the street.

9. Conclusion

The issue of open grazing, food insecurity and sustainable human development as captured by

scholars have been espoused with an attempt at clarifying the intellectual "cobweb" surrounding the issue of open grazing, food insecurity and sustainable human development. In addition, searchlight was also beamed on the theoretical framework for a better understanding of the concepts under interrogation. Thus, modernisation theories have been examined as postulated by scholars. An attempt was also made to establish the nexus between open grazing, food insecurity and sustainable human development in Nigeria.

This article argues that the state of killings by Fulani herdsmen and food insecurity in the country currently is alarming. Prices of food items have astronomically gone high and government appears not to have the technical know-how on how to tackle the crisis. Government should rise up to its primary responsibility by providing safety nets in the short-run as discussed in the body of the article. However, managing the present situation of things should not be left to government alone. It requires collective efforts by the civil society. Proper management of the state in the interest of all-irrespective of ethnic sentiments and religious bigotry cannot be overemphasized.

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