

Appraisal of Farm Produce Loss and Mitigating Strategies on Farmers Affected by Banditry in Some Affected Lga's of Kaduna State Nigeria

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Publication Date: 2025/11/20

Abstract: The issue of banditry in Kaduna State North West Nigeria is a household phenomenon. Today farmers in Kaduna State and especially in Zangon Kataf, Kajuru and Birnin Gwari respectively experienced significant losses of their farm produce as a result of the activities of bandits who attack their communities and destroys their farms thereby causing a serious challenge and food insecurity. The attacks by these bandits and other criminals hampers the smooth running of their farming activities of providing food for the nation. This research have shown that banditry in Zangon Kataf, Kajuru, and Birnin Gwari LGAs has transitioned from an isolated security challenge to a developmental crisis that led over 60% of farmers in the areas to experienced devastating agricultural losses. The research adopts a mixed-method approach combining “qualitative and quantitative” methods for the understanding of the problem as well as preferring mitigating strategies such as strengthen rural security infrastructure through permanent joint task forces and mobile patrols, formalizing community policing with training and supervision by state authorities, promoting inter-communal peace dialogues involving traditional and religious leaders and integrating environmental management into conflict prevention frameworks etc in other cub food insecurity in Kaduna state and Nigeria at large.

Keywords: Banditry, Farmers and Food Security.

How to Cite: Abraham, Sambo Paul; Stephen, Victor Dutse; Maichiki Isaac Peter (2025) Appraisal of Farm Produce Loss and Mitigating Strategies on Farmers Affected by Banditry in Some Affected Lga's of Kaduna State Nigeria.

International Journal of Innovative Science and Research Technology, 10(11), 906-913.

<https://doi.org/10.38124/ijisrt/25nov647>

I. INTRODUCTION

The rate at which insecurity in Kaduna State Nigeria continues unabated has been a thing of concern to many. Recently, the issue has taking a different dimension and magnitude whereby lives and properties mostly farmers farm

produce were been destroyed causing a serious national challenge leading to food insecurity.

Agriculture contributes 42 percent of Nigeria's GDP and engages over 65 percent of Nigeria's workforce (Usman, G. B. 2022), where Kaduna State North West Nigeria remain a major contributor in the food safety of the country

contributing significantly to the national Gross Domestic Product (Menson, et al 2023). The state is known for the production of food and cash crops like Maize, Guinea Corn, Groundnut, Cow pea, Ginger, Turmeric, Fonio or Hungry Rice (Acha), Millet, Yam, and horny (LAAH, E. D. 2020). Zagon Kataf, Kajuru and Birnin Gwari Local Governments Areas are among the major producers of these crops but hitherto faced the hit of insecurity as a result of banditry and farmers headers conflicts (Ekpo & Izge 2023).

In Northwest Nigeria, particularly in Kaduna State, the history of armed conflicts predates many years. But of recent, many associated the attacks on farmers in some of its local government areas to reprisals with particular reference to Zagon Kataf, Kajuru and Birnin Gwari Local Governments areas respectively. Criminal gangs engage in banditry, farm produce theft and destruction, cattle rustling and livestock theft resulting in the displacement of rural dwellers. Abdussalam A. et al (2022) observes that the criminal's activity in Kaduna State force the rural inhabitants of these local governments into poverty and impoverishment, rural urban migration, idleness, reduce crop cultivation that consequently lead to severe hunger and malnutrition which further led to the increases in prices of food stuffs and livestock, thereby exacerbating the conflict with newer forms, dimension and dynamics. Banditry appears to be increasing by the day.

Reports has it that the people of Birnin Gwari Local Government Area celebrated the resumption of buying and selling in the popular Birnin Gwari market which was disrupted and stalled for over twelve (12) years as a result of arm conflicts by bandits who have been terrorizing the area. Zagon Kataf Local Government as well as Kajuru are also not left behind as to date many farmers who have fled their homes and resides with relations in safer communities have not gone back to their homes to continue their farming activities despite community and government efforts to salvage the situation.

It is nonetheless important to note that these local government areas are among the major producers of farm produce in the state who have witness serious attacks by bandits who killed and destroy their farm produce. This has grievously affected not only the farmers but thwarts economic activities, create food scarcity and reduce the internally generated revenue (IGR) to government.

No nation can develop without enough, quality and nutritional food for its citizens. Today, Nigeria relies on food imported from neighbouring countries despite its rich and vast arable land for cultivation. Report has it that Nigeria spends over \$10 billion USD annually on food imports, according to the Federal Government. This figure was highlighted by the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security Senator Abubakar Kyari in August 2025 at the First Bank of Nigeria Plc 2025 Agric and Export Expo in Lagos. He lamented that Nigeria, with 85 million hectares of arable land and a youth population of over 70 percent under the age of 30, still earns less than \$400 million from agro exports. He further says that the imbalance highlighted the urgent need

for stronger financing and innovative systems to drive agricultural productivity and exports. Food items such as wheat, rice, sugar, fish, and tomato paste constitute the major food items imported into the country. And the high import bill underscores the need for increased financing and development in Nigeria's agricultural sector to boost local production and exports.

Kyari further disclosed that despite huge contribution of Agriculture to the nations GDP and employs about the same percentage of our workforce, yet Nigeria accounts for less than 0.5 per cent of global agro exports. He said, "to build a non-oil export economy, we must rethink how we finance agriculture" (The Nigerian Observer, 2025).

It is nonetheless worthy of note to asserts that government and community leaders most adopt concerted efforts in nipping the issue of criminal banditry and insecurity to the bud as they work toward increasing the financing and development of agricultural sector in Nigeria. This paper therefore, aim to appraise the magnitude of farm produce loss on farmer's affected by bandits by suggesting mitigating strategies for national development.

➤ *Description of Area of Study*

Zagon Kataf, Kajuru and Birnin Gwari Local Government Areas respectively are among the twenty three Local Government Areas in Kaduna State. The Local Government Areas covers diverse landscapes, including both urban and rural areas and which where strategically selected for this study because of their peculiarities and location. There terrain ranges from flat plains to hilly and mountainous areas with forest (Ishaya and Abaje, 2008). Zagon Kataf Local Government Area falls in the Southern Senatorial Zone while Kajuru falls in the Central Senatorial Zone and Birnin Gwari in the Northern Senatorial Zone. Each is representing a Senatorial Zone since the state is divided into three Senatorial Districts namely Zone A (under which Birnin Gwari falls within), Zone B (under which Kajuru falls within) and Zone C (under which Zagon Kataf is located). These Local Government Areas are under the devastating siege of bandits.

The population of the Local Governments is ethnically diverse, with various indigenous ethnic groups, including the Jju, Atyap, Angan, Bakulu, Fulani and Hausa, Adara, and Gbagi (Peter, et al, 2023). The population also includes a mix of religious affiliations, predominantly Christianity and Islam with trivial traditional worshippers (Uroko, 2018).

The areas local economy is primarily agrarian, with farming and livestock rearing as major sources of livelihood for the residents and small-scale trading and businesses also contribute to the local economy (Duru, et al, 2020).

➤ *Problem Statement/Justification*

There is no doubt that the Nigerian State in general and Kaduna State in particular is faced with a serious security, economic and environmental challenges which over the years seems not abated with its dire consequences on the country's Gross Domestic Product. Many household survives from

hand to mouth as a result of unemployment and high poverty rate which has a telling effect on the moral, social, economic and healthy life style. It is significant to note that the larger percentage of the productive age in the country are unemployed this is not to talk of a white collar job because even many who tore the part of agriculture as a means of livelihood both in commercial and subsistent quantity have nothing to do as a result of the activities of bandits and other criminal element including climate change. Over 75% of farmers in the study areas have experienced huge loss occasioned from these challenges and with insignificant assistance. These losses have consequently not only succeeded in crippling the farmers economic base but hitherto dampened their moral in providing not only for themselves and their immediate families but for the entire nation.

Therefore, if Nigeria and Kaduna State must regain its global economic, moral and social developmental status, there is need to find out how banditry can be abated and mitigating strategies formulated and provided to farmers affected by this menace with the aim of boosting agricultural production as no nation can develop in hunger and abject poverty.

Therefore, this study seek to factor how farm produce loss can be mitigated especially on farmers who were affected by banditry so as to boost agricultural production and reduce poverty.

➤ *Aim and Objective of the Study*

The main objective of this study is as stated below:

- Appraise the extent of farm produce loss experienced by farmers affected by bandits in Zangon Kataf, Kajuru and Birnin Gwari Local Government Areas respectively and Kaduna State in general.
- Investigate the remote and immediate causes of banditry within the Local Governments with the aim of abating the problem and seemingly providing lasting peaceful measures within the areas.
- Asses both government, non-governmental organizations, cooperate bodies, individuals and even the community roles in mitigating the problem by providing measures of cubing the problem.
- Suggest newest agricultural farming measures that would yield greater harvest and could reduce loss risk.
- To access quantum of previous losses experienced by the farmers in order to suggest rightful and appreciable assistance to the farmers within rightful possible time.

➤ *Significance of the Study*

This study is significant to government especially the Federal Ministry Agriculture and Food Security in their quest of mitigating food insecurity as well as the security agencies in their effort of curtail the spread of violence and the activities of bandits in our communities.

It is also significant to farmers in rural areas whose lives, properties and farm produce are the major target thereby utilizing the mitigating strategies in realizing bumper harvest.

➤ *Research Design*

The researchers utilize a mixed-method approach combining “qualitative and quantitative” methods for the understanding of the problem under study.

➤ *Sample Size and Sampling Technics*

The sample size for this study is 450 farmers (150 from each of the Local Government) which were selected from the population of the study area using “random sampling” and “purposive sampling” techniques. The choice of this technique is as a result of mixed method research design that is: qualitative and quantitative methods, descriptive analysis is also used. The researchers select their respondents from among farmers in the affected communities.

➤ *Method of Data Collection*

The researchers use questionnaires to collate their data on appraisal of farm produce loss and mitigating strategies on farmers affected by banditry in Zangon Kataf, Kajuru and Birnin Gwari Local Government Areas of Kaduna State. A structured questionnaire, and a modified five Likale scale was used (Strongly Agree “S.A”, Agree “A”, Disagree “D” and Strongly Disagree “S.D”) is used. While also, journals published and unpublished works were used as secondary data.

➤ *Method of Data Analysis*

The researchers used qualitative research data design to describe the phenomenon by labelling and coding the data in order to recognize the similarities and differences of the phenomenon. The method used in the study is “content analysis” that is “a procedure for the categorization of verbal or behavioural data, for purposeful classification, summarization and tabulation”. Both basic level or the manifest level and higher level or latent level of analysis was used. By basic level: it means a descriptive account of data, this is what was said, but no comments or theories as to why or how. And higher level: means a more interpretive analysis that is concerned with the responses as well as what may have been inferred or implied.

Data collated were analysed using descriptive statistical technique in the form of frequency and percentage. Section ‘A’ used the respondent personal information using arithmetic means while section ‘B’ used the responses of the respondents. The formula for calculating the mean score is shown below:

$$\Sigma x/n$$

Where: Σ =summation

X=score

n=number of respondents

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The issue of banditry and the activities of armed militia groups in Nigeria and in the North West is a household phenomenon. In Kaduna state in particular, the issue constitute a terrifying consequence on the people whereby many lives, properties and farmers farm produce were destroyed in substantial magnitude. Many residents of the

state capital and in most local governments areas in the state hardly sleeps in their homes with their eyes close for fear of what could possibly happened. In fact, many had to relocate to safer locations abandoning their homes and properties for fear of been attacked. In recent past, there is no particular time nor day that one could speculate when the criminal gangs could strike, because the attacks becomes recurring and abysmal even to schools, government institutions and to security facilities. In March 2021, at least 30 students were kidnapped from the Federal College of Forestry Afaka Kaduna by armed bandits. The Attackers came into the school and to the student hostel in their numbers and force them out to an unknown destination until ransom was paid by their parents. Also, at approximately 1:45 am on 5th July 2021, a bandit gang kidnapped over 140 pupils from Bethel Baptist Secondary School in Kujuma, Chikun, Kaduna State, Nigeria an adjoining community from the state capital without obstruction whatsoever from security agencies. Precisely also in August 21st 2021, the Nigerian Defense Academy (NDA), Kaduna was attacked by bandits of which two military officers were killed and one senior officer kidnapped (Nasiru Ayitogo 2021). These hitherto caused a severe fear on the people thereby making them loss hope on the security agencies and government to aid mitigate the situation.

➤ *Banditry*

The concept banditry over the years, has defied any single universally accepted definition. Many scholars viewed it from various standpoint. Meaning, banditry can be defined in the context of its usage why because no definition of the concept is ever intelligibly safe in the context of its history. That is why, what we may conceive as banditry may mean a different thing to others. But despite its ambiguity, this work attempt to define it.

The term “banditry” refers to the presence or prevalence of armed robbery or other forms of violent crime. It entails the use of force, or the threat of force, to frighten someone with the purpose to rob, rape, or murder them especially in areas or communities with lax security or where the security is compromised. Banditry is a crime committed against people (Adewuyi, 2021). Banditry involves acts of theft, violence, and coercion carried out by criminal gangs or group of armed men and women, frequently utilizing intimidation or force to achieve financial gain. This encompasses offenses like armed theft, abduction/kidnapping, property and farm produce destruction, people or car hijacking, especially in areas where security authority is lacking (Abdullahi & Mukhtar 2022).

These definitions clearly demonstrate the dimension of the activities of bandits and the advantage they leverage on usually as a result of the laxity, accomplices or insufficiency of security personals. Many have accused the Nigerian security agencies of either aiding or giving security cover to the criminal gangs to perpetuate their actions uninterruptedly on the grounds of financial gratification. Some alludes that the criminal gangs disguise themselves in security wears to easily lay ambush and attack their prey. Such claims and insinuations continues in many communities that have faced one form of attack or the other by the bandits.

In Nigeria today, banditry is also linked to cattle rustling which has become a serious public concern. It could refers to the theft of cattle and animals from herders, as well as livestock raiding from ranches. It is increasingly an economically based form of criminality perpetuated via informal networks, despite being driven by many demands and circumstances (Mahmoud, 2021). Many associated it to the upsetting of pastoralist trans-human activities. It involves kidnapping, organized attacks and looting on villages and communities. (Adewuyi, 2021).

Abdullahi, I. (2022) assert that Nigeria’s diminishing global standing as a country with the happiest people as a result of its peaceful nature demonstrates the security challenge the country is facing today. It was formerly known as having one of the happiest populations on the planet, but it has since devolved into a country torn apart by bloodshed, and various crimes, including banditry, secessionist and separatist criminal activities, ethnic militias’ attacks etc., which has made life oppressive. The Fragile States Ranking of Fund for Peace Index 2014 ranked Nigeria the 17th least peaceful country in the world out of 178 countries rated on the basis of security, conflict intensity and militarization and other forms of brutality. The survey notes that the level of peace in Nigeria has decreased by 5% since 2008, and those nations such as Chad, Lebanon, and Yemen are more peaceful than Nigeria (The Fund for Peace, 2014). Criminals are having a field day, raping, killing, maiming, and extorting victims, and Nigeria’s security apparatus is currently overwhelmed. Almost every section of Nigeria is currently dealing with some type of insecurity, with numerous crimes continuing virtually unchecked. The police, who are underfunded and under-motivated, and the military, which is fighting a decade-long insurgency in the North-east, appear to be at a loss on how to stop the security onslaught. Bandits have essentially taken over swaths of the North-West, kidnapping for ransom and killing victims who cannot pay for their release (All Africa, 2021).

For example in Kaduna state and in other North-Western States, bandits engages in raids, cattle rustling destructions of crops and farm produce, abductions of people for ransom which becomes worse by the day. Raids on farmers and pastoralists by these armed gangs heighten existing community tensions and increase demand for guns in the region, which the armed gangs then provide, resulting in even worsening security. Cattle rustling, the growth of small arms and light weapons, chronic youth unemployment, unlawful artisanal mining, poverty and inequality and, most crucially, the developing instability across West Africa are all driving the crime (Campbell, 2020). The attacks’ intractability is exacerbated by the military’s corrupted and demoralized status, which has been overstretched by its deployment in many of the federation’s states. Despite the government’s declaration that the terrorist group has been ‘technically defeated,’ the military’s engagement in a war in many part of the country is still ongoing (Onapajo, 2017).

Recently precisely on the 11th September 2025 a Punch Newspaper reporter Godwin Isenyo reports the United Kingdom officially lifted its travel restrictions on Kaduna

State, upgrading it from the “Red” to the “Amber” category in its foreign travel advisory, a move that reflects renewed international confidence in the state’s security landscape. Many analysts associated such lifting to politics since nothing has changed significantly in the security architecture of the state especially when a neighbouring state like Katsina is negotiating with the terrorist. Hadiza Musa a reporter with the Daily Post Newspaper also reports on the 15th September 2025 of a peace deal between the Katsina State Government and some notorious bandit leaders in Faskare Local Government Areas of Katsina state. Notable among bandits that attended the meeting includes Ado Aleru, Babaro and Kwashen-garwa who have been alleged to have masterminded the Bethel Secondary School, Afaka College of Forestry and the NDA attacks all in Kaduna State. It is nonetheless important to note that Kaduna and Katsina State are neighbours that share boundaries and this was not the first time that such peace deals with bandits end abortive.

It is usually assumed that majority of the bandits are foreign militia groups from neighbouring countries who were recruited and mobilized into the country as political war lords (Campbell, 2020; Vanguard, 2020). While others associated it to the current culmination of years of deteriorating political, economic, and security conditions in the north, the rising tension between farmers and herders arising from the trans-Saharan pasturing as well as the proliferation of small arms and light weapons throughout West African countries, exacerbated by the collapse of some African countries, which brought about the rising number of armed gangs substantially (Barnett & Rufai, 2021).

➤ *Food Security*

The term “food security” as observed by Emegha & Sharkdam (2020) originated in International Development Literature in 1970s when public interest in global and domestic food supply grew rapidly, following the world oil and food crisis of 1972-1974. They further opine that according to Life Sciences Research Office (LSRO 1990), food security is seen as access by all people at all times to provide enough food for an active, healthy life.

World Bank 1996 World Food Summit defines food security as when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. This definition is viewed from four main dimensions: physical availability of food, economic and physical access to food, food utilization and stability of the other three dimensions over time.

The physical availability of food addresses the “supply side” of food and is determined by the level of food production, stock levels and net trade. While the economic and physical access to food has to do with an adequate supply of food at the national or international levels. It is basically concerns with the sufficiency of food access resulted in a greater policy that focus on incomes, expenditure, markets and prices in achieving food security objectives. And also, food utilization is commonly understood as the way the body makes the most of various nutrients in the food. Sufficient

energy and nutrient intake by individuals are the result of good care and feeding practices, food preparation, and diversity of the diet and intra-household distribution of food. This is combined with good biological utilization of food consumed, this determines the nutritional status of individuals. While lastly the stability of the other three dimensions over time has to do with how the food intake is adequate against the odds of adverse weather conditions, political instability, or economic factors (unemployment, rising food prices) etc. For food security objectives to be realized, all the four dimensions must be fulfilled simultaneously.

Consequently, Emegha and Sharkdam (2020) further observes that the concept of food security has expanded and evolved over time to integrate a wide range of food-related issues. They opine that some authors describe food security as a bivariate concept composed of anti-hunger or poverty elimination goals, and that on the other hand, the conceptualization goes beyond the adequacy of food quantity (i.e. sufficient supply of food) and quality and to an extends, availability and acceptability. Acceptability addresses food’s cultural and symbolic value, that the food available and accessible should respect individual’s traditions. It also focuses on the ability of a region or nation to assure an adequate food supply for its projected population, and the role of food as a vehicle for maintaining security and playing social and political roles.

It is nonetheless important to note that food shortage may likely lead to unwarranted pressure on the social behaviours which might be a security threat. For instance, in a household where resources diminish, anxiety occurs, followed by compromise on quality and subsequently anger. It is necessary that the government should provide food for everyone, at all times, through acceptable food channels and such should be enough for healthy life, safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate since the “Right to Adequate Food” is a right inherent to all human as contained in Article 11 of The International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

➤ *Food Security Challenge in Nigeria and National Development*

Nigeria’s population is projected to grow significantly, exceeding 237 million in 2025 and potentially reaching 401.3 million by 2050, which would make it the third most populous country globally. These projections indicate a continuing trend of rapid population growth, with figures for 2025 around 237.5 million and a projected increase to over 400 million by 2050 (Lootah, M. 2021). This means, we need to feed an estimated population in excess of 163.8 million by 2050 amidst diminishing natural resources, limited access to finance, high costs and poor distribution of farm inputs, inadequate infrastructure (such as roads and storage), the disruptive impact of climate change and land degradation, and increasing insecurity from banditry and herder-farmer conflicts whilst ensuring the health of the people.

Herein we connect the future global food demand to the role of farmers and agricultural and food science in producing

and stabilising foods to meet the global food demand. But significantly, government at all levels must be sincere in tackling the issue of insecurity in the nation and most importantly in the North West and in particular Kaduna State being one of the major food producers in the country. Recently, government made emphasis on providing farmers with farming inputs which though inadequate and also, negating tackling insecurity to the end as the issue remains an ugly orgy.

Feeding our people sustainably today is one of our society's grand challenge. An exponential rise in population in Nigeria between 2000-2020 increased the demand for food and its urbanized population increases to reach approximately 70% by 2050 (Sojecka, et al 2025). The demand was met by a combination of scientific and technological advances, government policy, institutional intervention and business investment, innovation and delivery. However, the security of the farmers and their farm produce, increased farm inputs and outputs were partly at their expense cum the detrimental effects of environmental degradation. If Nigeria's government did not rise to its feet to mitigate these problems, by 2050, when its estimated population will significantly rise to about 400 million people with a marginal increase of about 163.8 million people, there will be a serious food crises since she will require about 70% more food available for human consumption than it is consumed today.

Kaduna State North West Nigeria for instance, prior to incessant attacks on farmers by bandits, resulting in killings, kidnapping and destruction of homes and farm produce majorly from 2017, report has it that the state produced Over 1.6 million tonnes of maize, approximately 540,000 tonnes of Cowpea and a notable 11.1 million tonnes of cassava (Abu & Blake, 2024). But today, research revealed that almost 80% of farmers in Northern Nigeria experienced some level of food insecurity in 2020 (AFEX, 2021). Because of this and many other factors, Nigeria ranks 97 out of 113 countries in the Global Food Security Index (Steemers, et al 2022). The country scores particularly low on food affordability, accessibility and in nutritional content. Food quality and safety has a mixed image: nutritional values are generally low, while diet diversity and food safety have also decreased significantly. (Economist Impact, 2021). Today, most major crops yields per ha in Nigeria are lower than their global benchmarks (FAO, 2022). Nigeria relies on \$10 billion of imports to meet its food and agricultural production shortfalls (mostly wheat, rice, poultry, fish, food services, and consumer-oriented foods) (USDC, 2022).

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

➤ Objective 1: Demographic Overview

The total questionnaires distributed across the three Local Governments Areas (LGAs): Zangon Kataf, Kajuru, and Birnin Gwari is 450 of which 220 were validly completed and returned giving a response rate of 48.9%. The demographic representation of the research respondents from Zangon Kataf 56%, (n=123), Kajuru 50%, (n=110), and Birnin Gwari 40.6%, (n=89), indicates a balanced representation from the three research areas. Over 60%

(n=132) of the research respondents from the research areas indicates that they had been engaged in farming for more than five years, signifying that they possessed adequate experiential knowledge of the farming sector before and during the escalation of banditry in their areas.

➤ Objective 2: Extent of Farm Produce Loss Due to Banditry

100% of respondents (n=220) answered "Yes." This unanimous response confirms the pervasive impact of banditry on agricultural livelihood across the study areas.

The severity of losses varied, with "very high" 40%, (n=88), "high" 35%, (n=77), "moderate" 17%, (n=37), and "low" 8%, (n=18). These figures show that three-quarters (75%) of farmers experienced substantial loss.

Table 1 Severity Level

Severity Level	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Very High	88	40%
High	77	35%
Moderate	37	17%
Low	18	8%

Most affected crops were cereals (maize, Sorghum, and millet), followed by tubers and legumes, suggesting a disruption in both staple and cash crop production. Frequent attacks also prevented timely harvesting, further compounding post-harvest losses.

According to the respondents, many farms were abandoned midway through the season due to fear of attacks, while stored produced was looted or destroyed.

Additionally, about 80% (n=176) of respondents indicated that banditry attacks affected farming activities "frequently." This implies that insecurity has transitioned from sporadic to chronic, resulting in continuous loss of economic output in Kaduna State.

➤ Objective 3: Causes and Duration of Banditry

601% (n=134) of the respondents when asked how long banditry had been a major problem in their communities, reported that for "over five years" 30% (n=66) said yes "1-5 years", while 9% (n=20) noted less than one year. This shows the protracted nature of the crisis, which aligns with previous reports highlighting escalation since 2017.

Table 2 Respondents Attributed the Rise of Banditry to Multiple Factors

Causes of Banditry	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Political Issues	119	54.1%
Lack of Security Presence	88	40.00%
Ethnic/Religious Conflicts	82	37.3%
Unemployment	38	17.3%
Poverty	38	17.3%
Others	5	2.3%

The most cited causes included political instability 54.1% (n=199), week security architecture or lack of security presence 40% (n=88), and ethnic/religious conflict 37.3% (n=82). Unemployment and poverty were also mentioned by 17.3% (n=38) each. Around 42.9% (n=95) believed climate change contributed to banditry, while 37.1% (n=81) disagreed and 20% (n=44) remained uncertain.

➤ **Objective 4: Evaluation of Government and Stakeholder Responses**

About 70% (n=154) of respondents said that government had not done enough to address banditry, while 20% (n=44) were “Not sure,” only 10% (n=22) rated its performance as excellent. This shows the perceived effectiveness of government interventions as rated poorly thus: “Poor” 45% (n=99), “Very Poor” 30% (n=66), and “Fair” 15% (n=33). This demonstrate widespread dissatisfaction with the state’s crisis management. Non-state actors such as NGOs 48.6% (n=107) and philanthropists 51.4% (n=113) were seen as more supportive than government agencies 25.9% (n=57). Preferred forms of assistance included financial compensation 68.6% (n=151), improved security presence 57.3% (n=126), and provision of farm inputs 45.9% (n=101).

Table 3 Identification of Post-Attack Support

Stakeholders	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Individual Philanthropists	113	51.4%
NGOs	107	48.6%
Religious Leaders	94	42.7%
Community Leaders	69	31.4%
Government Agencies	57	25.9%
None	19	8.6%

This shows that non-state actors (especially NGOs and philanthropists) were more visible than official government agencies in providing relief and assistance.

Table 4 Concerning Recovery Assistance, Respondents Prioritized

Types of Assistance	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Financial Compensation	151	68.6%
Security Presence	126	57.3%
Farming Equipment	101	45.9%
Seeds and Fertilizers	95	43.2%
Training in Modern Farming Techniques	82	37.3%

The preference for monetary support and enhanced security underscores the need for immediate relief and the restoration of a safe farming environment.

Most respondents over 80% (n=176) agreed that assistance should be provided “immediately after attacks” to prevent prolong disruption. Delayed interventions often led to food insecurity and indebtedness, as confirmed by field observations.

➤ **Objective 5: Mitigation and Coping Strategies**

Respondents identified several coping strategies including formation of community policing (vigilante groups), dialogue with neighbors (awareness campaigns), youth employment (Youths engagement), and establishment of security outposts especially near major farmland. About 60% (n=132) of respondents were aware of modern farming techniques that could improve yields but had limited adoption due to insecurity, inadequate training and lack of access to credits facilities.

IV. SUMMARY DISCUSSION

The findings demonstrate a severe and widespread impact of banditry on agriculture in Kaduna State. The unanimous loss rate (100%) underscores total vulnerability among rural farmers. Major causes which includes political issues and poor security presence highlight governance failures. Government interventions were rated poorly by 75% of respondents, indicating loss of public trust. This explains why non-state actors have become de factor responders. Community-driven mitigation strategies, such as vigilante formations, rapid response team, employment programs and peace dialogues, are recognized as effective short-term stabilizers similar to what was done in other crisis prone African areas like Kenya’s pastoral regions and Mali’s Sahel corridor (World Bank, 2023). Therefore, there is need for coordination and state oversight to prevent misuse of arms or vigilante excesses.

Furthermore, farmers’ demand for immediate post-attack assistance and improved access to inputs underscores the dual need for humanitarian aid and development recovery. Financial compensation 68.6% (n=151) and seed/fertilizer support 43.2% (n=95) are short term recovery priorities, while training in modern techniques 37.3% (n=82) signal willingness to embrace long-term resilience strategies once safety is restored.

V. CONCLUSION

Farmers in Zangon Kataf, Kajuru, and Birnin Gwari LGAs have experienced devastating agricultural losses. Banditry has transitioned from an isolated security challenge to a developmental crisis. Restoring security, rebuilding trust, and supporting livelihoods must form the cornerstone of recovery efforts in Kaduna State.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strengthen rural security infrastructure through permanent joint task forces and mobile patrols.
- Formalize community policing with training and supervision by state authorities.
- Establish emergency agricultural relief funds for immediate post-attack support.
- Create youth empowerment and skill development programs to reduce vulnerability.
- Promote inter-communal peace dialogues involving traditional and religious leaders.

- Rehabilitate abandoned farmlands, roads, and irrigation systems.
- Integrate environmental management into conflict prevention frameworks.
- Develop continuous monitoring and data collection for policy guidance.

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