
EFFECT OF BOKO HARAM INSURGENCY ON WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES IN JERE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF BORNO STATE, NIGERIA

¹Baba Gana Alimi & ²Bintu Kachallah Galadima

¹Department of Social Services, Ramat Polytechnic, Maiduguri, Borno State. Nigeria.

²Department of Sociology & Anthropology, University of Maiduguri, Borno State. Nigeria.

Email: bgalimi2@gmail.com

Abstract: *This paper examined the effect of women participation in agricultural activities and further investigated whether the emergence of Boko Haram insurgency in 2009 had serious negative effects on the active participation of women in agricultural sector in Jere Local Government Areas of Borno State. The study obtained a sample size of (60) sixty respondents and all were women spreaded across five (5) villages, that includes: Addamari; Zabbarmari; Amaramanti; Gongulon Lawanti; and Nguddo. All the respondents were selected using simple random sampling techniques and structured questionnaire on the subject. An explanatory research design was applied in order to get sufficient information under investigation. A statistical data of simple frequency distribution and percentages coupled with chi-square analysis was used to understand the facts about the phenomena examined through the respondents responses. The researchers decline figures to appears in the work but extensively discussed. The study revealed that the emergence of Boko Haram has paralyzed the agricultural activities and seriously affected the women role and their participation in the agricultural activities and agro-allied businesses. The respondents appreciates the efforts of Borno State Government and some International Non-government Organization (INGO's) for their supports.*

Keywords: Boko Haram Insurgency, Women, Participation, Agriculture.

Reference to this paper should be made as follows: Baba Gana Alimi & Bintu Kachallah Galadima (2017), Effect of Boko Haram Insurgency on Women Participation in Agriculture Activities in Jere Local Government Areas of Borno State, Nigeria. *J. of Social Sciences and Public Policy*, Vol. 9, Number 3, Pp. 92-101

INTRODUCTION

The international development community has recognized that agricultural is an engine of growth and poverty reduction in countries where it is the main occupation of the poor. But the agricultural sector in many developing countries is not better up to favour women. The global GDP could be meaningful, if the international and national efforts to achieve their goals for agricultural development, economic growth and food security are strengthened and accelerated to open a bold step path for women through policy to eliminate all constraints confronting women active participation in the agro-allied activities and businesses. (www.fao.org/economic/esa,2011). Ogunlela and Muktar (2009: 20) has noted that the role women play in agriculture and their position in meeting the challenges of agricultural production and development are quite/dominant and prominent. Their relevance and significance therefore cannot be overemphasized. UNECA (1972) also revealed that women make up some 60-80 percent of agricultural labour force in Nigeria, depending on the region and they produce two thirds of the food crops. On the other hand, FAO (1984) reported that women constitute between 70-90 percent of the agricultural labour force in many sub-Saharan African countries (FAO, 1984). Yet in spite of these, the widespread assumption that men-and not women-make the key farm management decisions has prevailed. Sadly, female farmers in the country are among the voiceless, especially with respect to influencing agricultural policy. According to Sahel, (2014) over the years, women have established more defined roles in agriculture. In Nigeria, women are involved in agricultural production, processing and utilization. The women's role in the agricultural sector is significantly affected by socio-economic factors such as income, education and access to infrastructures.

In order for agriculture to advance in Nigeria, gender specific policies and services tailored to women in the value chains should be developed. Similarly, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development reported that women account for 75 percent of the farming population in Nigeria, working as farm managers; and suppliers of labour. (Sahel, 2014). Though, women constitute a large portion of the farming population, women possibilities in agriculture are hindered by formal and traditional rules. Generally the extent of gender involvement in agricultural production varies across ethnic groups in Nigeria. Nigerian women farmers work alongside

with their male counterparts with some clear distinctions in activities between them. In most cases, the men execute the tedious tasks such as land clearing and felling of trees, gathering and burning of bush, and making ridges, while the women engages in planting. In addition, harvesting, on-farm processing, and selling of farm produce. Generally, women are rarely connected with agricultural export crops such as cocoa, rubber, cotton, yam, and groundnut to some extent, but rather involved with the production of food crops such as maize, cowpea, watermelon, pepper, cassava, and vegetables. In some cases, women participate in small scale animal production including small ruminants, poultry and aquaculture (Sahelcp.com/the role of women in Nigeria agriculture. 2014). In spite of the huge contribution of African leadership forum (1989; 4) observed that the contribution of women in African agriculture has not received adequate policy recognition. Accordingly, special constraints faced by women, especially in the denied or very limited access to farm credit, land and production inputs, have not been addressed by the policy makers. In some instances, women account for no less than 50 percent of the food produced on farms, but are only allocated one percent of the resources. Consequently, their full potential in accelerating agricultural production and food security has not been realized. The introduction of new technologies has not always been gender-neutral as some new innovations have unwittingly imposed economic losses on women in agriculture; the failure of researchers and inventors to incorporate knowledge of existing food production, processing and marketing between men and women (www.africaleadership.org.1989).

Agriculture sector is the leading economy sector with appreciable capacity strength of producing adequate foods for the nation, creating job opportunities and generating sufficient revenue to increase national (GDP and GNP) index to strengthen the national economic and enhance the living condition of peoples. It is also global perception that women play an important role in agricultural sector, and their active participation in the agricultural farming activities and agro allied businesses as well as their contribution to the national economic growth cannot be quantified (Field Survey, 2017; Fabiyi, *et al.*, 2007; Buth *et al.*, 2010). Prior to the advent of the dreaded sect otherwise known as Boko Haram in 2009 in Borno State, agricultural sector was receiving priority and highly attractive at appreciable level to the extent that the state government using the agricultural sector as

a tool of job creations and minimizing youth employment in Borno State (Cf. Alimi, 2013). It was during the period before the emergence of Boko Haram insurgency in 2009, women participation in the agricultural activities were appreciable and their agro-allied businesses was equally recorded a great success. (Cf. Field Survey, 2017). Though unfortunately the intensive indiscriminate attack which led to a mandatory suspension of agricultural farming activities in most of the local government areas of Borno State. The implication of the Boko Haram sects attacks against the innocent peoples of Borno State had crippled the progressive efforts of Borno State Government in the agricultural sector and these also undermined the contribution of women in the agricultural sector and national economic development. (Cf. Field Survey, 2017). It is against this backdrop that, this paper intended to examines the role and challenges of women in agricultural sector and implications of Boko Haram attacks toward women participation in agriculture activities and agro-allied businesses. Identifying these factors and proffering appropriate suggestions are concern of the researchers.

OBJECTIVES

- i. To examine the circumstances undermining the contribution of rural women in agricultural sector in Borno State.
- ii. Proffer suggestions and recommendations that could improve the situation.

HYPOTHESIS

- i. That the emergence of Boko Haram in 2009 was the factor responsible for weaken of women's participation in agricultural activities and subsequent paralyzed of the entire agricultural sector in Borno State.
- ii. That emergence of Boko Haram was not the only factor responsible for poor women participation in agriculture activities and temporal suspension of the agricultural sector in Borno State.

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in five (5) community of Jere Local Government Areas of Borno State. These villages or community selected for the research were; Addamari; Zabbarmari; Amaramanti; Gongulon Lawanti; Nguddo. The sampling method adopted in this paper was simple random sampling

method. The sample size for this study were sixty (60) respondents. All respondents were women, twelve (12) from each of the five (5) identified villages made up of (60) respondents respectively. Structured questionnaires and face to face interview were conducted to get the required information on the challenges of women participation in agricultural activities and examine whether the emergence of Boko Haram insurgency was responsible for poor functions temporary suspension of the agricultural sector in Borno State. The research design in this study was an explanatory in order to give room for flexibility in enhancing data for the conduct of the study. A statistical method of frequency distribution and percentages coupled with Chi-square analysis were used to distinguish the responses of the respondents. The researchers declined figures and tables to appear in the work content but extensively discussed the result without bias.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- i. What were the challenges confronting women participation in agricultural activities in Jere L.G.A of Borno State.
- ii. Do you agree that the emergence of Boko Haram insurgency was responsible for poor women participation in agricultural activities.

DISCUSSION

Based on the objectives of the study, consistent with the study hypotheses and questions advanced, the findings of the study showed that the emergence of Boko Haram insurgency in 2009 has greatly affected the smooth operation and practice of agricultural sector in Jere Local Government Areas which led to undermine the morale of women farmers participations in agriculture activities and agro-allied businesses. The study further confirmed that Boko Haram continuous attacks has paralyzed agricultural farming activities in approximately 18 eighteen local government areas of Borno State (Cf. Research Field Survey, 2017). Supporting the research hypotheses and position of women farmers, Ephrain and Stella (2011: 153) in Alimi (2012) opined that the economic empowerment of the rural communities must come largely through agriculture and proper agro-allied industrial project management. Similarly, Alimi (2012) reported that prior to the emergence of Boko Haram insurgency in Borno State, the Borno State Government has embraced the culture of training the youth of both gender to do certain work or to teach them how to handle farm implements

or machines to learn how to become a specialist on fish farming, livestock and poultry production and irrigation as well as related dry season farming in order to be self-reliant after graduation. The above giant efforts of Governor Kashim Shettima in the agricultural sectors before the Boko Haram attacks worsen and spread to other part of Borno State was commendable and worthy of emulation (Alimi, 2012). It is quite fact that participation of women in the agriculture activities and agro-allied enterprises was practically active with some constraints. Fabiyi *et al.*, (2007) contends that low economic status of women limits their opportunities for broader participation in society. He said many women took to prostitution due to poverty and inadequate information and education. Lack of access to extension services, credits/loans, agricultural facilities, and other relevant agricultural innovations will entice many women to agricultural productions and will reduce poverty among women farmers. In spite the security challenges that barred cultivation within the most of the local government areas of Borno State, women farmers in Jere Local Government community are partially conducting their agricultural activities for self-sustenance and survival (Research Field Survey, 2017). The majority of the women interviewed within the five (5) selected villages responded that the Boko Haram indiscriminate attacks had mandated them to limit their agricultural activities scope to a house compound agro-allied livelihoods.

According to them, the little assistance accessing annually from Borno State Government are not enough for them to get surplus profits, nor surplus goods for market, until recently additional token of financial support efforts was initiated by some international non-governmental organization (INGO's) to boost their agro-allied businesses such as livestock productions, and dry season farming respectively (Research Field Survey, 2017). It is therefore glaring that women farmers in Jere community are lacking the basic required agricultural farming activities tools and agro-allied businesses supports. Another evidence reveals that female farmers are largely excluded from modern day farming contract treaty due to the lack of control over farm land, family labour and other resources required to guarantee sufficient food production (Dolan, 2011) in related development, Famoriyo (1979) reported that inability of women to own land prevent them from improving their expertise in crop production and animal husbandry because of the rigidity of land tenure system in many part of Nigeria. Apart from the Boko

Haram attacks challenges, women farmers interviewed complained about high cost of farm inputs and late delivery of fertilizers; lack access to bulk loans and credit facilities. They also confessed that culture is most often responsible for their poor participation in agricultural activities, hence the husbands restricting their wives from participating in most unnecessary agricultural farming related awareness activities (Research Field Survey, 2017). Other problems confronting women farmers in their agricultural struggles are inadequate and instability of funding, poor logistics support for field staff, use of poor trained personnel at local level, ineffective agricultural extension linkages, insufficient and inappropriate agricultural technologies for farmers, disproportionate extension agent, farm family ration and lack of clientele participation in programme development, poor inputs supply, irregular evaluation of extension programmes and policy are some of the contributory challenges affecting smooth operations of agricultural farming activities and active participation of women in the practice (Koyenikan, 2008; 53).

CONCLUSION

It was concluded that the emergence of Boko Haram insurgency around 2009 in Borno State has undermined the progressive efforts of Borno State Government in the agricultural sector and women empowerment. The study revealed prior to the worsening of the Boko Haram indiscriminate attacks which led to the current humanitarian crises and mandatory migration from rural community to city, the Borno State Government has procured bulk agricultural farming facilities and other related agricultural tools with a view to boost agricultural production and strengthen the women participation in the agricultural sector. All these efforts was frustrated by the security challenges and rendered the agricultural sector operation temporally suspended and women participation in agricultural activities were equally paralyzed (Research Field Survey, 2017).

It has been reported that Borno State Government and various non-governmental organization (NGO's) are helping the women farmers in cash and kind so as to boost the agricultural production and agro-allied businesses in the local government. Another challenges the study found is absent of agricultural related agencies in the agricultural farming activities of Jere local government area, nor provide them with required agriculture

farming activities tools and facilities to improve production. (Research Field Survey, 2017). These has manifested that apart from the security challenges there were many problems affecting smooth operation of agriculture and women farmers participation in agricultural activities in Jere Local Government Areas of Borno State. Women farmers play a significant role in food production and food security. They account for 70% agricultural workers, 80% of food producers, 100% of those who process basic food stuffs and undertake from 60% to 90% of the marketing. It was also confirmed that four of the ten agricultural farmers are women (Fresco, 1988; UN, 1986). In order to maintain the current status of women and improve beyond in respect of contribution to socio-economic of a countries through agricultural productivity. The study recommends the followings;

- That the federal government should intensify efforts to end the challenges of Boko Haram insurgency urgently so as to establish conducive atmosphere for farmers of either gender to resume active agricultural farming activities for progress and development of our nation.
- That Borno State Government and non-governmental organizations are encourage to continue to fund and support the agricultural sector in both cash and kind in order to avoid total decay of the sector and subsequent frustration of the farmers.
- That foreign indigenous agricultural agencies are encourage to partner with Jere local government areas women farmers and support them with all required agricultural farming facilities, credit/loans and fertilizers at the right time so as to boost the sector for mutual benefits.
- That legislation policy is needed to either minimize or completely curb the unnecessary cultural rites and tradition which granted male a veto of domination over the female that restricted most women from active participation in the agricultural activities.
- That the agriculture extension services workers should extend their services to the remote rural areas such Jere Local Government Area communities in order to create awareness amongst the women farmers on matters related to agricultural innovation technology and improved seeds variety.

REFERENCES

- Africa Leadership Forum (1989: 4). Paper on Contribution of African Women in Agricultural Sector. www.africanleadership.org.
- Alimi, B.G. (2013). Agricultural as a Tool for Job Creations and Youths Empowerment in Borno State, Nigeria. *Journal of Agriculture and Veterinary Science. Vol. 4, Dec, 2012 – ISBN-2277-0062. Niger State, Nigeria.*
- Butt, T.M. *et al.*, (2010). Role of Rural Women in Agricultural Development and their Constraints: *Journal of Agriculture and Social Sciences. ISSN print: 1813-2235-ISSN, online, 181-960X09-068/zip/20106-3-53-56. <http://www.fpublishers.org>.*
- Ephraim, N.O & Stella, O. (2011). Enhancing Rural Development through Small Scale Agro-allied Industrial Enterprises in South East, Nigeria. *International Journal of Sustainable Development. Vol.4. No.8. 2011. Pan African Book Company, Medina, Accra Ghana.*
- Fabiya E.F. *et al.*, (2007). Role of Women in Agricultural Development and their Constraints: A Case Study of Biliri Local Government Area, Gombe State, Nigeria. *Pakistan Journal of Nutrition 6, (6): 676-680, 2007. ISSN, 1680-5194. Asian Network for Scientific Information, 2007.*
- Fresco, I.O. (1988). Higher Agricultural Education: An Opportunity in Rural Development for Women Sustainable Development, Department of Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) UN. Pp4.
- FOA, (1984). Women in Food Production and Food Security in Africa. Report of the Government Consultation held in Harare, Zimbabwe 10-13 July, 1984, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation, Rome, Italy.
- Koyenikan, M.J. (2008). "Issues for Agricultural Extension Policy in Nigeria" *In Journal of Agricultural Extension. Vol. 12 (2) December, 2008.*
- Ogunlela, I.O and Muktar, A.A. (2009). "Gender Issues in Agriculture and Rural Development in Nigeria: The role of women" *In Humanity and Social Sciences Journal 4(1): 19-30, IDOSI publishers.*

Research Field Survey (2017). Interview Session on the Effect of Boko Haram Insurgency on Women Participation in Agriculture Activities. Maiduguri, Jere Local Government Areas, Borno State. Nigeria. August, 2017.

Sahel (2014). The Role of Women in Nigeria Agriculture. www.sahelcp.com/theroleofwomeninnigeriaagriculture/

Sofa, T. & Cheryl, D. (2011). The Role of Women in Agriculture. ESA Working Paper No.11-02, March, 2011. www.fao.org/economic/esa,2011).

UNECA (United Nation Economic Commission for Africa). The Neglected Human Resources for African Development. *Canadian Journal of African Studies/Revue Canadienne des Etudes Africaines, Special Issue; The Roles of African Women: Past, Present and future. Vol. 6 (2). 359-370.*

UN, (1986). World Survey on the Role of Women in Agricultural Development. Published by Department of International and Affairs. Pp.12.