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# Impacts of Banditry on Consumer Buying behaviour of Agricultural Produce by Local Producers in Katsina State, Nigeria

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#### Abstract

The study examined the impacts of banditry on consumer buying behaviour of agricultural produce by local producers in Katsina State, Nigeria. Descriptive survey design was used to generate data for the study. The study was guided by two research questions. The population for the study was 250 which was drawn across various zones in Katsina State, Nigeria. Due to the manageable size of the population, no sampling techniques was adopted. The instrument for data collection was a structured 18-item questionnaire titled: Impacts of Banditry on Consumer Buying Behaiour Questionnaire (IBCBBQ), which was validated by three experts from Business Education Department, and Measurement and Evaluation Units of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. The researchers were assisted by three research assistants in collecting the data for the study. The collected data were analyzed using mean and standard deviation. The findings of the study indicates that, the crops of local producers are destroyed by bandits acts and, consumers' buying behaviours have been changed as a result of bandit's acts. The study also revealed that, there are efforts made by the government in tackling banditry to improve consumer food security. Based on the findings, some recommendations were made.

Keywords: Banditry, Consumer, Buying behaviour, Agricultural produce, Food security.

#### Introduction

A bandit is an outlaw who belongs to a group and operates in an isolated or lawless area of a country. Criminal acts in countries where the rule of law has broken down are referred to as banditry. The organization of armed bands with the goal of attacking state or societal institutions, businesses, or individuals is known as banditry. Participation in such bands, as well as the attacks perpetrated by them, is considered banditry (Collins, 2000). Bandits have continued to ravage the Horn of Africa, East and Central NAF (2020), and the trans-Saharan trade routes from the Niger Republic to Libya, posing another security threat in Africa. Banditry has existed in parts of Chad and around Lake Chad, and it is also prevalent in parts of southern Africa (Aregbesola, 2020). The prevalence and severity of banditry in West Africa have contributed to a rise in regional instability, posing a threat to the sub-region's regional integration (Abdullahi, 2019). Reports have shown that some of the bandits from some countries in the West African sub-region, such as the Niger Republic, Mali, and Chad Republic, were asked to carry out large-scale strikes in several of the sub-countries' regions (Farouq& Chukwu, 2020). They traveled via West Africa's porous borders with weapons in hand, so as to aid their fellow bandits in carrying out large-scale or retaliatory attacks. Banditry is bound to have an impact on consumer buying behaviour for agricultural produce harvested by the farmers because of the criminal acts exhibited by those bandits. That shows that the act of banditry involves stealing from people. Rural dwellers who have survived on this agricultural produce thereby face problems of food security and starvation. These attacks have a negative impact on both local producers and consumers of agricultural products.

A consumer is a person or a group that intends to order or uses purchased products, or services primarily for personal, social, family, household, and similar needs, and is not directly related to entrepreneurial or business activities (Schor, 2014). The term "consumer" is commonly used to refer to a person who purchases produce for personal use. Therefore, a "consumer" is an individual who buys agricultural produce mainly for consumption. A consumer buys produce for consumption and not for resale or commercial purposes. Henderson (2014) stated that consumers pay some amount of money for the produce they consume. It is on this ground that Scammell (2016) asserts that consumers play a vital role in a capitalist economic system and therefore form a fundamental part of an economy. Without consumer demand, farmers would lack one of the key motivations to cultivate (Krugman & Wells, 2022). This shows that the consumer actually forms one end of the chain of distribution of agricultural produce. It serves as a right and responsibility that cannot be ignored by an individual consumer or denied by any other person. According to the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), consumers have an integral responsibility to their respective governments to assist in the exercise of their rights, including the right to safety and should be protected from the marketing of goods that are hazardous to their health or lives. They should also be protected from other practices such as ensuring life safety and providing satisfactory quality services. The right to be compensated if any damage is done to a consumer The law primarily uses the notion of the consumer in relation to consumer protection laws and farmers. Farmers' and consumers' advocacy and

education are related to the law of farmer and consumer protection, which aims to improve agricultural produce availability and farmer safety. Farmers' safety is jeopardized as a result of banditry, which has also had a negative impact on their behaviour.

Consumer behaviour is concerned with how consumers select, decide, and use goods and services. According to Clemons (2008), human beings affect the exchange aspects of their lives through the interaction of affect and cognition, behavior, and environmental events. Consumer behaviour consists of how the consumer's emotions, attitudes, and preferences affect buying behaviour (Samuel, Sibele& Ana, 2021). Consumer behaviour also investigates the influences of social groups such as family, friends, and reference groups on society in general (Torelli&Rodas, 2017). Consumer behaviour entails all activities associated with the purchase, use, and disposal of goods and services, including the consumer's emotional, mental, and behavioural responses that precede or follow these activities. Samuel, Sibele, and Ana (2021) stated that behaviour is concerned with the character a consumer exhibits when making a purchasing decision. Consumer behaviour includes purchase decisions, information searches, evaluation of products, payment methods, and purchase experiences. Also, consumer behaviour is the use or consumption activities that concern who, where, when, and how consumable goods are distributed within families for consumption purposes (Clemons, 2008). As a result, consumer purchasing behavior is the act of an individual, family, or others fulfilling their needs through consumption. This is the type of decision that agricultural produce consumers make when purchasing the product. The buying behaviours of consumers toward agricultural produce are the main focus of this study. This study is very concerned with the character of agricultural produce consumers when making purchasing decisions.

Agricultural produce is the name given to agricultural outputs that are mainly referred to as foods. The International Food Policy Research Institute (2014) stated that food classes include cereals, which are grains; vegetables; fruits; and so on. Ajmone (2010) defines agricultural local farmers as farmers who engage in cropping systems that differ from farm to farm based on available resources and constraints. Herren (2012) added that it includes the geographical constraints of the area and climate of the farm, economic and social pressure, and the philosophy and culture of the farmer. Banditry acts in Katsina State are one of the constraints that negatively affect local farmers' activities and consumer buying behaviour. This negative impact brings about a shortage in agricultural produce that generally affects consumers' consumption. Nigeria as a country has been faced with the challenges of banditry, especially among the farmers in the northern part, for many years. Therefore, measures are needed to overcome it and ensure the safety of local farmers and consumers.

The other agricultural activities are tilling the soil, cultivation, and weeding. Agricultural produce purchasing habits of consumers According to the World Food Summit of 1996, food security exists when all people 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 at all times (FAO, 2008). Food security is defined by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO, 2010) as the availability of food in terms of production, distribution, and consumption.

Banditry emerged in Nigeria as a result of nearly four decades of unresolved conflicts between established cultivator communities and local farmers. Farouq and Chukwu (2020) stated that they wandered on the high plains of northern Nigeria, particularly the North West geo-political zone in states such as Zamfara. Banditry in Zamfara State began around 2009 and became more prevalent in 2011, particularly after the general election. In fact, Zamfara State has been the epicenter. This is where most of the bandit leaders are based, and they do go by motorcycle from Zamfara state forests to other states, such as Katsina, to operate and then return to their forest dens (Farouq& Chukwu, 2020). Thus, banditry began in Katsina State in 2010, particularly in the seven local government areas (LGAs) that shared a border with Zamfara, namely Jibia, Batsari, Safana, Danmusa, Kankara, Faskari, and Sabua (Aminu, 2020). Banditry is bound to have an impact on consumer buying behaviour for agricultural produce locally harvested by the farmers because of the criminal acts exhibited by those bandits. Rural residents who rely on agricultural produce face food security and starvation issues as a result.

Any sort of criminal activity that causes insecurity in rural areas where the bulk of the population are local agricultural farmers is bound to have an impact on agricultural produce (food security) everywhere. The Federal Government of Nigeria has recognized that banditry poses a severe threat to farming communities in the country's northern regions. As a result, in April 2017, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, in collaboration with the Minister of the Interior, established a special unit for agroterrorism. Farmers and farming investments across the country will be safeguarded by joint security agents securing the land (The Sun, 2017). The use of the Agro-Rangers was supposed to prevent attacks on fields and give farmers more confidence to operate on their farms without fear of being attacked, ensuring the Federal Government's food security plans (NSCDC, 2017). The government announced the deployment of 5,000 Agro-Rangers to defend farmers and farming interests across the country during the Democracy Day speech on June 12 (Oyeleke, 2020). During an on-the-spot assessment of bandit activities in the state in December 2018, the Minister of Interior observed that the persistent attacks on residents of Zamfara state by bandits would affect the consumer buying behavior of agricultural products produced locally as well as food security in Nigeria as a whole (Agency Report, 2018).

Some local agricultural producers and consumers in Katsina state warned in May 2020 that the resurgence of nefarious bandit activities, if not properly addressed by security agencies and the state government, would result in an unprecedented agricultural produce crisis as well as a food crisis in the state (Sardauna, 2020). On the occasion of World Food Day, October 16, the Farmers Association of Nigeria (FAN) identified the current challenges to achieving agricultural produce food security, which included the coronavirus pandemic, the occurrence of flood disasters, drought in some areas, and insecurity, particularly banditry in the North West (FRCN, 2020). In light of these, the researcher examines the impacts of banditry on consumer buying behaviour for agricultural produce from local producers in Katsina State.

#### Purpose of the Study

The general purpose of the study was impacts of banditry on consumer buying behaviour of agricultural produce by local producers in the study area. Specifically, the study examined.

- 1. Impacts of bandits criminal acts on consumers of agricultural produce buying behaviour in Katsina State
- 2. Government efforts in tackling banditry so as to improve consumer access to agricultural produce in Katsina State

#### Research Questions

- 1. What are the impacts of bandits' criminal acts on consumers of agricultural produce buying behaviour in Katsina State?
- 2. What are the efforts of the government in tackling banditry to improve consumer access to agricultural produce in Katsina State?

#### **Literature Review**

In a restricted manner, banditry is described as criminal escapades like cattle rustling and the brazen and gruesome massacre of people in agrarian communities with sophisticated weapons by criminal groups. The criminal group and reprisal attacks by surviving victims are a development that has been brought to the forefront of national security (Ladan&Matawalli, 2020). Banditry is a social crime that can be seen as false imprisonment. It involves the illegal confinement of individuals against or against their own will by another individual in such a way as to violate the confined individual's right to be free from the restraint of movement (Seabasi, 2009). This involves taking away a person against the person's will, usually to hold the person in false imprisonment or confinement without legal authority (Okolo, 2010). This is often done for ransom or in furtherance of another crime. No one is free from being kidnapped as far as the present situation is concerned. This is more prevalent among local agricultural producers (farmers) and agricultural product consumers. Dellaing in Dmella (2018), bandits' actions irritate consumers' lives in both the community and the country. In Nigeria, the bandits are everywhere, targeting both foreigners and non-foreigners alike, with little or no resistance from our law enforcement agents. Little has been done to find the socio-economic and underlying factors precipitating this crime.

Several theories have been put forward to explain banditry within the Nigerian context. Accordingly, the "Economic Theory" views banditry as a criminal act based on the economic concept of making ends meet (Tzanelli, 2006). It has raised the idea that banditry is regulated by the laws of demand and supply and is a type of social action that involves the calculation of the most efficient means to the desired ends. Banditry is a social enterprise, and according to Akamai (2010), bandits are businessmen; they just happen to be on the illegal side of it. If you deprive them of the demand, then there is not going to be any supply. This is the reason why perpetrators of this crime choose their victims based on their ability to cough out good money (Tzanelli 2006).

The political view of banditry sees the act as an act that is motivated by the attempt to suppress, outsmart, intimidate, and subjugate political opponents, like the case in Anambra State when the former Central Bank governor, who was then a PDP gubernatorial candidate, had his father kidnapped by aggrieved opponents of the same party who felt marginalized by the process. Turner in Seabsi (2009) established a relationship between money and politics accordingly, where there are political motivations for banditry and kidnapping and where ransoms are also demanded. Such ransoms are often used to further the political objectives of the organization or simply to facilitate its survival. According to Seabasi (2009), the end result of this act is on agricultural local producers, resulting in the destruction of farm produce and a decrease in agricultural consumer consumption. It is also stated that most top banditry operations are masterminded by government officials, opposition groups, and unrewarded or uncompensated members of election-rigging militant groups, among others.

Banditry is then viewed as a tool for political vendetta and settling political scores. The operation is organized and targeted mainly at key serving politicians or foreign workers or contractors working directly for the government, they affirmed, thereby affecting the buying behavior of consumers and local producers of agricultural products. Once the victim is kidnapped, a high-level negotiation is expected, which will ultimately lead to a very heavy ransom. Such a ransom is used to further political goals, the self-settling of aggrieved groups, or as a way of financially crippling a serving politician. Another theory views banditry as kidnapping from the angle of unemployment, which pervades the country's labour market. This is blamed on the government's inability to create adequate employment for the youth. Onovo (2010) posited that the political consequence of banditry activity has had a spill-over influence on jobless youths and criminals who take it as a new substitute for or complement to robbery and pickpocketing. Such a group of bandits targets not only prominent and well-off individuals but also ordinary citizens who possess little wealth. The common target includes every perceived person with prospects of a high and lucrative ransom, including teenagers, children, and adults who engaged in agricultural activities as local producers and as consumers of agricultural produce.

## Methods

The study adopted descriptive survey research design. Descriptive survey research design focuses on people, the vital facts of people and their beliefs, options, attitudes, motivation and their behaviours (Udoh, 2010). The design of the study aims at collecting data on and describing in a systematic manner the features or facts about a given population (Douglass, 2006)). Descriptive survey research design is suitable for the study because, this study ascertained the impacts of banditry on consumer buying behaviour of agricultural produce by local producers inKatsina State. Katsina State was the

area of the study. The population of the study was 250 which comprised of 50 from Jibia zone, 40 from Batsari zone, 60 from Safana zone, 50 from Danmusa zone, and 50 from Kankara zone in Katsina State, Nigeria. No sampling technique was used because of the manageable size of the population. The instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire titled: Impacts Banditry on Consumer Buying Behaiour Questionnaire (IBCBBQ). The questionnaire was made up of two parts: Part A was designed to collect demographic variable while Part B was designed to collect data to analyze the research questions. The questionnaire was made up of (2) clusters. Cluster 1 contains 9 question items while cluster 2 also contains 9 question items. Each cluster sought for information on each of the research question. The instrument for data collection was a four –point rating scale. Yes (4.00-3.50), Always (3.49-2.50), Sometimes (2.49-1.50), Not at all (1.49-1.00). Hence, any item with mean score above 2.50 was accepted and adjusted to be above criterion level of acceptance while items with mean scores below 2.50 was adjusted to be below the criterion level of acceptance and thus was rejected.

Three experts from the Business Education department, and Measurement and Evaluation Units of the University of Nigeria validated the instrument. Their inputs and corrections were considered and appropriate corrections were made in the final instrument. The internal consistency of the instrument was established using Cronbach Alpha Reliability which yielded 0.82. All the questionnaire were collected by the researchers with the help of three research assistants. Mean and Standard Deviation were used to answer the 2 research questions that guided the study.

#### Results

#### Research Question 1

What are the impacts of bandits' criminal acts on consumers of agricultural produce buying behaviour in Katsina State?

Table 1: Mean and Standard Deviation on the impacts of bandits' criminal acts on consumers of agricultural produce behaviour

SN	ITEMS	X	SD	RMK
1	Consumers' buying behaviour as a right has being denied from consumption of agricultural produce by the banditry act.	3.35	0.51	Y
2	Banditry act is a crime affecting consumer buying behaviour	3.34	0.54	Y
3	Consumer buying behaviour towards agricultural produce are negatively affected by the bandits criminal acts	3.41	0.60	Y
4	The agricultural produce destroyed by the bandits led to the diversion of consumer in consumption of agricultural produce	3.42	0.49	Y
5	The shortage of agricultural produce faced by the consumers is the outcome of the bandits' acts	3.34	0.51	Y
6	Consumers of agricultural produce are harmed by the criminal acts of bandits	3.36	0.84	Y
7	As a result of bandits' criminal acts agricultural produce consumption satisfaction by the consumers are not ascertained or derived	3.41	0.49	Y
8	The immediate needs of the consumers are not met as a result of banditry act	3.55	0.50	Y
9	Consumers' buying behaviours towards agricultural produce changed as a result of banditry	3.48	0.52	Y
	Grand Mean	3.41	0.56	

Key: X = Mean of the Respondent; SD = Standard Deviation of the Respondent; Yes (Y) - (4.00-3.50), Not Always (NA) (3.49-2.50), Sometimes (ST) (2.49-1.50), Not at All (NA) (1.49-1.00)

Data in Table 1 shows that, all the 9 items had their mean values ranged from 3.34 to 3.55, which revealed that their mean values were above the mean cut-off point of 2.50. This viewed that, the respondents agreed that all the 9 items were on the impacts of bandits' criminal acts on consumers of agricultural produce behaviour. The Standard Deviation of all the items ranged from 0.49 to 0.84, which indicates that the respondents were not too far from the mean and the opinion of one another in their responses on the impacts of bandits' criminal acts on consumers of agricultural produce behaviour in Katsina State?

### Research Question 2

What are the efforts of the government in tackling banditry to improve consumer access to agricultural produce in Katsina State?

Table 2: Mean and Standard Deviation on the efforts of the government in tackling banditry to improve consumer access to agricultural produce

SN	ITEMS	X	SD	RMK

10	Banditry route to the destruction of agricultural produce if blocked by the security agents will improve consumer access to agricultural produce.	3.52	0.54	Y
11	Good measure of internal security joint operation being taken by government	3.41	0.58	Y
	against banditry will improve consumer buying behaviour for easy access to agricultural produce			
12	Restriction to the banditry act by the government will lead to the improvement of consumer behaviour to have access to agricultural produce	3.36	0.53	Y
13	Taking steps of assisting local vigilante group by government to fight banditry is a step to improve consumer buying behaviour of agricultural produce	3.34	0.89	Y
14	Protecting local agricultural producers by government is improving consumer access to agricultural produce	3.41	0.49	Y
15	Safe guarding agricultural local producers on their farms will lead to the improvement of consumer access to agricultural produce	3.49	0.50	Y
16	For effective improvement of consumer access to agricultural produce is by government fighting banditry through organizing prayer session	3.47	0.51	Y
17	The collaborative security measures as team work with other neighbouring countries to fight bandits' acts is the effective way of improving consumer access to	3.42	0.51	Y
	agricultural produce			
18	Equipping agricultural local farmers with licensed (guns) weapons by government is	3.72	0.49	Y
	the way forward of improving consumer buying behaviourtowards agricultural produce			
	Grand Mean	3.46	0.56	

Key: X = Mean of the Respondent; SD = Standard Deviation of the Respondent; Yes (Y) - (4.00 3.50), Not Always (NA) (3.49-2.50), Sometimes (ST) (2.49-1.50), Not at All (NA) (1.49-1.00)

Table 2 data showed that the items 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 had their mean values ranged from 3.34 to 3.72, which indicates that their mean values were above the mean cut-off point of 2.50 on four-point response options. This showed that the respondents agreed that the 9 items were on the efforts of the government in tackling banditry to improve consumer access to agricultural produce. The standard deviation of all the 10 to 18 items ranged from 0. 49 to 0.89, indicating that the respondents were not too far from the mean and the opinion of one another in their responses on the efforts of the government in tackling banditry to improve consumer access to agricultural produce in Katsina State, Nigeria

# **Discussion of Findings**

The findings of the study revealed that bandits' criminal acts is seriously affecting the buying behaviour of consumers of agricultural produce. The study is in line with Dmella (2018) who found out that bandits' acts made the consumers' lives frustrated both in the community and the country respectively. It also indicated that Consumers' buying behaviours towards agricultural produce changed as a result of banditry acts. The immediate needs and rights of the consumers are denied, harmed and not met. This is in line with Okolo (2010) who found out that banditry act involves taking away of person against the person's will, usually to hold the person in false imprisonment or confinement without legal authority. In the contrary, banditry is a social enterprise according to Akambi (2010) who revealed that bandits are businessmen, they just happen to be on the illegal side of it, if you deprive them of the demand then there is not going to be any supply. On this opinion it was indicated that banditry is a business in which an individual that wishes can actually ventures into it. This is because if one is caught in captivity, in return is money.

The findings of the study indicated that efforts of the government in tackling banditry to improve consumer access to agricultural produce is a good measure. It was also indicated that equipping agricultural local farmers with licensed (guns) weapons by government is the way forward of improving consumer buying behaviour towards agricultural produce. If Good measure for internal security joint operation being taken by government against banditry will improve consumer buying behaviour for easy access to agricultural produce. It also shows that the collaborative security measures as team work with other neighbouring countries to fight bandits' acts is the effective way of improving consumer access to agricultural produce. This study is in line with Ladan&Matawalli (2020) found out that security joint operation agents respond to the rescue of people whenever they are called on them several bandits are killed while some arrested by these security agents.

# Conclusion

Consumers' buying behaviours towards agricultural produce changed as a result of bandits' criminal acts. These criminal acts exhibited by the bandits negatively affected the agricultural local (farmers) producers. Furthermore, the consumer buying behaviours towards purchasing agricultural produce are also affected. Government efforts in tackling banditry will enhance the improvement of consumers' access to agricultural produce. Good measures for internal security joint operation, and collaborative security measures as team work with other neighbouring countries will fight bandits' acts. These are the effective ways' forwards of improving consumer access to agricultural produce.

#### Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusion drawn from the study, it was recommended that:

- Despite the efforts made by government in tackling bandits' criminal acts against Consumers' buying behaviours towards agricultural
  produce. There should be more sufficient and effective external collaborative joint security measures with other neighbouring countries in
  tackling banditry. These would enable rapid change of Consumers' buying behaviours towards agricultural produce. The local agricultural
  producers to have good periods for cultivations and weeding on their farms
- Attacking farmers-local producers on their farms can be minimized if more internal security agents are deployed to the affected areas. This will drastically in favour of Consumers' buying behaviours towards agricultural produce.
- To enable consumers to have more improvement on access to agricultural produce, government should restrict the bandits' movements along the boundaries. This would be done through sufficient and efficient external security joint operations.

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