



## Social Impact of Food Security in an African Country

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### ABSTRACT

This research analyses that Food security has three primary goals ensuring sufficient food supplies, increasing flow stability, and ensuring those in need have access to the available resources. Each of us needs food to survive. It deals with how people were advised to stay home during the recent coronavirus pandemic and need to have enough for family. That way, everyone should have access to food and all the nutrients they need daily and live a healthy and fulfilling life. In addition, it helps reduce poverty and provides jobs for people. Furthermore, Nigeria can become a food bourgeois nation due to government neglect of agriculture. We evaluate oil as a better resource for economic growth than agriculture. As a result of this predicament, the country was rapidly divided into high- and low-income groups. Even while only a tiny portion of the population benefited from the oil boom, many still experienced food insecurity because they could not keep up with the soaring costs of imported goods. Although at a subsistence level, they are still engaged in agriculture. This paper highlights the critical importance of food security.

**Keywords:** Food Security, Social Impact: food flow stability: Agriculture to food

### 1. Introduction

According to the 1996 World Food Summit, food security is the availability of wholesome food to all people in the shortest amount of time to meet their dietary needs and preferences for an active and healthy life[1-3]. To ensure an adequate supply, and most recent thoughtful reframing of food security took place at the World Food Summit (WFS) in November 1996. They were accomplished through the process of international discussion. The conflicting definitions of food security adopted in 1974 and 1996, together with those in official FAO and UN agency publications from the middle of the 1980s, are presented below, with every significant change in definition being marked[4-6]. Comparing those concepts reveals the profound transformation in presidential thought on food security over the past 25 years. These claims also serve as a framework for policy studies that have changed how we view food security as a global and national issue[7-9]. Social impact changes that are good for both people and the environment are better understood through carefully thought-out theories of change oriented at improving results.

The Charity has been an essential part of social Impact for many years. Social enterprise founder Bill Drayton created a new movement in 1972 that created new ways of Social Impact. A social impact revolution is underway, and COVID-19 accelerates it, putting pressure on businesses, influential investors, and philanthropic organisations[10-12]. Without a doubt, food is one of the most basic human needs. Without a well-fed and wealthy population, achieving sustainable economic development across Nigeria and Africa remains a mirage. Indeed, failure to maintain food security inevitably leads to many social problems, including violence and social unrest in many large cities[13-15]. Nigeria is Africa's largest country and had the largest economy in 2014, but its poverty rate is a cause for concern. At least 70% of Nigerians live on less than US\$1 per day, with a prevalence of food insecurity of 79% and 71% in urban and rural households with low incomes. Because it could not compete with the industry's economic expertise, the agricultural sector lost importance to the government in the 1970s[16-19]. The Federal Republic of Nigeria has become intensely obsessed with food imports. Rural communities are now more threatened by hunger, inconsistent food supplies, high prices, substandard food, and sometimes outright food shortages are more likely to encounter this problem. At the world food conference in the middle of the 1970s, the word "food security" initially surfaced (1974)[20-23]. At the summit, "ensuring the provision and price stability of basic food commodities at the global and national levels" was how the food supply was described. Since the 1974 World Food Conference, food security has developed into the widely acknowledged official definition backed at the 1996 World Food Summit. Food security is defined as "access to any or all individuals with appropriate, safe and nourishing food to suit their dietary desires and food preferences for a vibrant and healthy existence," according to the 1996 World Food Summit, and defined as when high food is readily available, both physically and economically[19-21].

This research examines the issue of food insecurity in Nigeria while identifying the reasons, solutions, and mitigating factors that can help the situation. The four aspects of food security—accessibility, use, utilisation, and stability—that may be recognised by this concept were examined. In order to achieve

the aims of food security, it is rational guidance from the Food Security for Action that all four demands be satisfied. FAO can use the following list to define the four elements. (fig. 1)

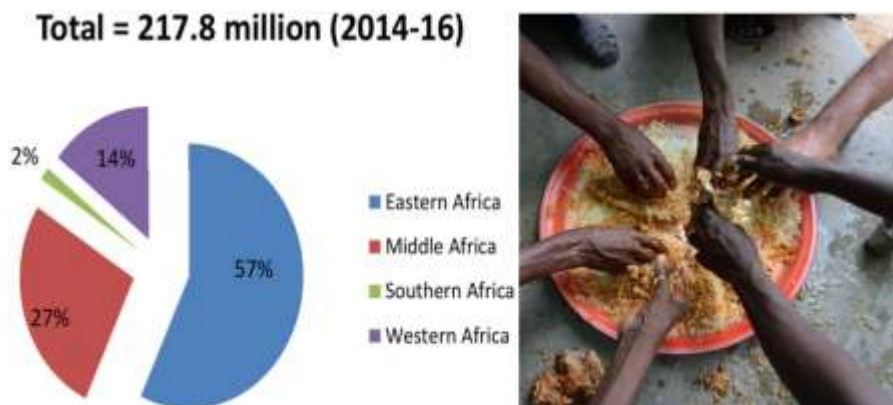


Fig. 1. Share of undernourished people by subregion

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Concept of Food Security

Every person should always have physical, social, and financial access to sufficient, healthy food. Such foods should accommodate people's dietary needs and preferences. It is the amount of food that is available there. The main factors affecting food accessibility are domestic production, imports, stocks, and online food product exchange. This implies that everyone will always have access to food economically, socially, and physically. The availability of good food locally, nationally, or even internationally does not necessarily imply that it is accessible. It must be inexpensive and easily accessible in the area. Utilisation, in general, refers to how the body absorbs and uses various nutrients from meals. Utilisation is controlled by feed quality, nutrient content, preparation, and storage methods, in addition to dietary patterns. Food's usability, accessibility, and stability throughout time are referred to as stability. Always give all three components as a present. Even if their access to food is frequently insufficient and may lead to poor nutritional standing, they are nonetheless considered to be in a state of food insecurity. A few variables that could affect the amount of food security include weather variability, political and economic unpredictability, and value volatility. Food security is the main objective of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Food security is still a mess, even though more than 60 nations have made significant strides in their attempts to meet the MDG hunger objective of halving the number of people who lack access to enough food between 1990 and 2015[22-23]. It is one of the most extraordinary things in the world regarding geography.

## 3. Raw resources for processing and storing

Nigeria uses very little modern technology to produce and distribute agricultural goods, so the industry is even more dependent on physical labour. This is frequently caused by a lack of innovation in local technology, particularly in the mechanisation of agriculture to increase output. Additionally, local farmers lack the maintenance skills and hard-earned money to purchase foreign technology. Waste will result from inadequate or nonexistent storage facilities for grains, sweet potatoes, and beans, further aggravating food poverty. Additionally, a lack of food processing equipment may force farmers to use a large portion of their harvest quickly. Food processing is a crucial aspect of agriculture that conserves food by repurposing it. Agriculture in the modern era is highly industrialised and energy-dependent. Mechanised farms rely significantly on a soft offer of energy, which has thus far eluded the United States of America and has become a mirage for succeeding governments. Many agricultural products we frequently consume today are manufactured on distant farms, processed elsewhere, and transported abroad by air, water, or land[19-20]. Those processes require a lot of energy and fuel to keep food prices low and affordable for the general population. However, diversification is required to increase energy productivity as crude oil product prices rise. Biofuels and alternative agricultural energy production are significant differences. According to predictions, this new situation results in abundant food supplies, especially in developing nations, and will exacerbate food insecurity. Ongoing initiatives are underway to bring agriculture back to its pre-oil boom state and end food insecurity. In order to provide an economically sound framework for addressing food insecurity and deficient diseases in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, numerous policies and initiatives are currently being established. The military regime of General Yakubu Gowon started importing tons of rice in the early 1970s out of despair to end world hunger. Sadly, Nigerian ports had the necessary resources to handle the considerable import initiative known as Rice Pandora. The port became so congested with rice that a commission had to be established to unclog the port.

Despite these efforts by the government, the semi-permanent problem of food insecurity has not been resolved by a large amount of foreign rice. When the Pre-Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) was first announced in 1986, it was discovered that the government mainly focused on industry-related policies rather than agriculture. They claimed to have the oils shown. This argument was made clear in the first National Development Plan (1962–1968), which strongly emphasised industry and encouraged utilising the nation's abundant resources. Instead, the Second National Development Setup (1970–

1974) aimed to increase food production, which the war in Nigeria had sharply decreased. Shimada (1999) disputed this, claiming that the government was only doing this to prevent wasting agricultural resources by reducing food security and agriculture spending to 7.7% of its total budget as opposed to 23.1% for transportation[20-22]. It emphasised that rather than reviving and expanding the nation's agricultural production potential, the Nigerian government chose to consider agricultural product imports of fantastic food.

In addition, the National Food Production Promotion Project (NAFPP) was launched in 1974 to improve agricultural inputs' availability and educate farmers. Due to poor planning and timing in delivering the necessary advisory services to farmers, NAFPP failed to meet its objectives. The government launched the Agricultural Development Program (ADP) in 1975 to compensate for NAFPP's failure. Under the ADP project, 470 Agricultural Service Centers were constructed throughout his four administrative zones, avoiding one of NAFPP's main shortcomings, the issue with the timely delivery of consulting services to farmers. The Promotion Project (NAFPP) was established in 1974 to improve agricultural inputs availability and educate farmers. Due to poor planning and timing in delivering the necessary advisory services to farmers, NAFPP failed to meet its objectives. The government launched the Agricultural Development Program (ADP) in 1975 to compensate for NAFPP's failure. Under the ADP project, 470 Agricultural Service Centers were constructed throughout his four administrative zones, avoiding one of NAFPP's main shortcomings, the issue with the timely delivery of consulting services to farmers. The Third National Development Plan was the basis for the Fourth National Development Plan (1981–1985). There have been attempts to boost food output and improve self-discipline. The program collaborated with numerous governmental organisations to achieve these objectives, including the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Commerce, the Regional and Rural Development Authority (RBRDA), and the ADP.

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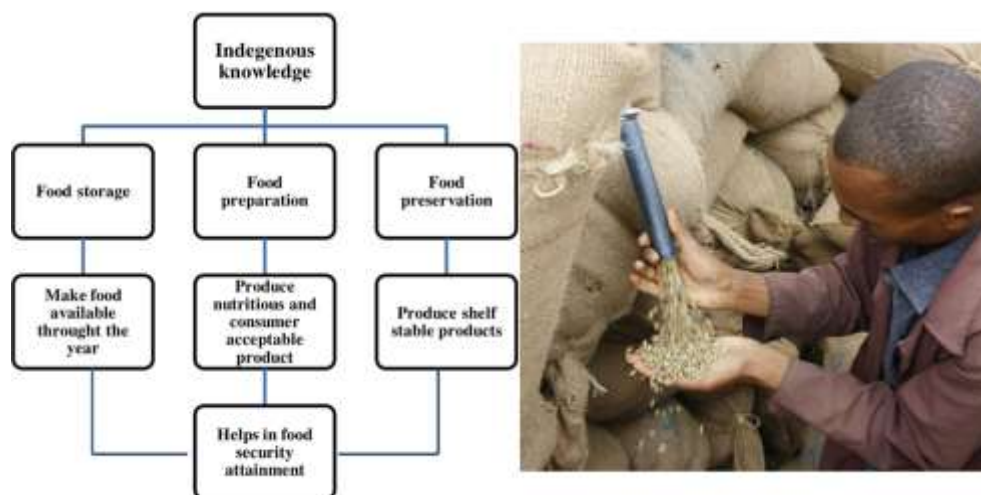


Fig. 2 Present examples of processing and storing food in an African country

#### 4. Economic Strategies and Environmental Policies

Agriculture employment should be kept tight; this is incredibly successful in rural areas. They are among the most food-insecure regions in Africa, even though most agricultural population depends on agriculture for survival. They were pretty informal and easygoing in their actions. They become incredibly vulnerable to exploitation as a result. Implementing policies and programs to change fair marketplaces for infrequent farmers was necessary. Supporting the non-agricultural economy in rural areas: Because Nigeria's urban economy is largely non-agricultural, the target population is the rural people who are most at risk of hunger. Put, diversification is just as important to rural populations as agriculture. While some rural farmers are beginning to gain access to vibrant and equitable agricultural markets and may be able to find a solution to their poverty and food insecurity, others may not be as fortunate. There is a whole rural economy that is unsustainable for agriculture. It could be necessary to look into other commercially feasible non-agricultural options: paid Work or Trade. Governments should provide leadership initiatives and a supportive environment for rural economic diversification. Offering Credits and Incentives: Several studies have demonstrated through empirical observation that having access to credit lines boosts agricultural production. Confirming that credit lines are available for farmers to rent or purchase high-quality seeds, insecticides, fertilisers, and other production-related equipment, especially during the planting season, is essential. Money might also be required to pay for harvesting and storage facilities labour. Farmers may also be helped by alternate incentives, such as chemical subsidies, to enhance output.

Improved commercial waste management: A thorough investigation of how commercial wastewater affects plants and soils in an Asian nation revealed that industrial waste material significantly lowers soil nutrient levels, limiting agricultural growth, yield, and nutrients. The agricultural industry in Nigeria has long been plagued by oil spills, gas flares, and different industrial wastewater, which have decreased output. Improved environmental management

plans (EMPs) compliance monitoring and follow-up procedures are desired to reduce adverse effects on agricultural output. Regulations governing the use of various pesticides and fertilisers: It is impossible to overstate the value of pesticides and fertilisers in modern agriculture. They even have corresponding environmental effects, in any case. When manure gas enters bodies of water, it leads to eutrophication, which kills aquatic life. Phosphorus can also cause alga to build up in water bodies, depriving fish of oxygen and causing them to suffocate, decreasing their availability for food. The initiative should include measures to control farmers' pesticides and fertilisers.

## 5. Conclusion

In conclusion, this research has highlighted the complex issue of food insecurity in Nigeria and identified various factors contributing to the problem. The study also explored potential solutions and mitigating strategies to help alleviate food insecurity in the country. Emphasising the importance of economic strategies and environmental policies, the research underlined the need for a multifaceted approach to tackle this pressing issue. To improve food security in Nigeria, efforts should be directed towards promoting agricultural employment and supporting the rural economy. Diversifying, providing farmers credit and incentives, and implementing effective industrial waste management and environmental regulations. By adopting these measures, Nigeria can foster sustainable agricultural practices, encourage rural development, and create equitable market opportunities for its small-scale farmers. The Nigerian government, non-governmental organisations, and other stakeholders must collaborate and commit to these strategies. Addressing food insecurity ensures adequate nutrition and is vital in achieving social stability, economic growth, and sustainable development. By taking decisive action and investing in long-term solutions, Nigeria can work towards a future where food security is no longer a mirage but a tangible reality for all its citizens.

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