

Food security crisis in Nigeria: An assessment of the influence of National Policy on food and nutrition on food security in Nigeria

Lawal A. Bakare & Olatunji Moshood Abiodun
*Department of Political Science & Public Administration,
Fountain University, Osogbo, Osun State, Nigeria.*

Corresponding Email: abikemolatunji2015@gmail.com

Abstract

Over the years, experts have raised concerns over the food and nutrition insecurity that is prevalent in Nigeria despite its favorable agroecological endowments. Government in its effort, has put in place a number of measures including the National Plan of Action on Food and Nutrition. This study thus examined the influence of the said programme on food security in Nigeria. The study employed the descriptive survey design. The population of this study cut across the people of the South west Nigeria and a purposive sampling technique was employed to select 1,200 respondents for the purpose of this study. A structured questionnaire was used for the collection of data and the results obtained were organized using the simple percentage techniques and simple mean deviation, with the use of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS). Result revealed that the NPFN has not reduced the rate of food scarcity and unhealthy living in the country ($\chi = 1.3$), and has not helped in the massive production of food in the country ($\chi = 1.1$). It was equally found that the strategies of the National Policy on Food and Nutrition in Nigeria has not significantly influenced and guaranteed food security in the studied area, and by extension, Nigeria ($F=52.346$, $R=0.925$, $p > 0.05$). There is still wide gap between food production and food demands by the people despite the policy of government on food security. The government should facilitate communication with the regional farmer so that the issue can be identified and a remedy provided. National insecurity can deepen food insecurity as we are witnessing with the disruptive actions of the Boko Haram and Fulani ranchers. Therefore, the nation's security issues require a multifaceted approach.

Keywords: Food Security, Food, Nutrition, Policy, NPFN.

1. Introduction

The issue of food security has been on the front burner for long. Available records in Nigeria, have shown a horrific photograph of starving children especially in the northern part of the country and among other southern parts, for instance, Zamfara, Benue and Oyo States (Bakare, 2022). These frightening photographs depict an avoidable disaster. Nigeria's agricultural system is backward, and worsened by high food prices caused by insecurity in most of the food producing states (Agbarakwe, 2018). It should be noted that food accounts for a large, and increasing share of family budgets for poor and urban families.

Thus, when prices of food skyrockets, the low-income earner and the poor will be at the receiving end.

The goal of the federal government according to the National Policy on Food and Nutrition in Nigeria (NPFN, 2016) is to attain optimal food production and nutritional status for all Nigerians, with particular emphasis on the most vulnerable groups such as children, adolescents, women, elderly, and groups with special nutritional needs by 2025. The main objectives of the policy include to improve food security at the national, community and household levels; reduce undernutrition

among infants and children, adolescents and women of reproductive age; significantly reduce micronutrient deficiency disorders, especially among the vulnerable group; and promote optimum nutrition for people especially in difficult circumstances.

However, the recent increase of clashes between farmers and herders has resulted into food insecurity and as well promoted hunger and poverty in the country (Bakare, 2022). On the other hand, there are challenges surrounding the full implementation of the National Policy on Food and Nutrition. Some of these challenges include poor strategic planning, monitoring and funding (Nwozor *et al.*, 2019;). Although, the policy stated that “Government shall regularly ensure mobilisation and timely release of resources required from budgetary allocations to fully implement the policy on food and nutrition security at all levels”. However, judging by the current state of affairs, the government's focus appears to have changed away from ensuring the safety of its population but towards bolstering the fortunes of a select few in the country. This has really affected the pursuit of the goal of food and nutrition policy in the country, making the reality of achieving food security seemingly narrow. Nevertheless, researchers have paid little attention on the study of Food and Nutrition Policy in Nigeria. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to analyse the difficulties in implementing Nigeria's National Policy on Food and Nutrition and to assess its impact on the food security and nutritional status of the country's population. This study comprises five parts, which include the background to the study, conceptual and theoretical review, methodology, findings and lastly, summary, conclusion and recommendation

2. Literature Review

This section discusses literature review on the concept of food security, review of past studies and theoretical framework for the study.

Food Security

Food security has been defined in various ways by different scholars. According to World Health Organization (2015) and Food and Agriculture Organization, *et al.* (2013) food security is access to the food needed by all people to enable them live a healthy life at all times. A country is said to be food secured when there is access to food of acceptable quantity and quality consistent with decent existence at all times for the majority of the population (Reutlinger, 2015; Idachaba, 2014). This means that food must be available to the people so as to meet the basic nutritional standard needed by the body. But it should be noted that availability of food does not mean accessibility to food. Availability depends on production, consumer prices, information flows and the market dynamics.

World Bank (2016) defined sustainable food security as an access to enough food for an active, healthy life at present as well as ability to provide enough in the future. Abudullahi (2018) defined sustainable food security as when people have physical and economic access to sufficient food to meet their dietary needs for a productive healthy life at present as well as in the future. This definition outlines some indices for measuring the extent or degree of food security to be achieved by any country and the indices are adequate national food supply, nutritional content, accessibility, affordability and environmental protection. Absence of food security is food insecurity, food insecurity on the other hand therefore, represents lack of access to enough food and can either be chronic or temporary. Adeoti (2019) opined that chronic food

insecurity arises from lack of resources to acquire and produce food thereby leading to persistent inadequate diet.

FAO (2017) refers to food insecurity as the consequences of inadequate consumption of nutritious food bearing in mind that the physiological use of food is within the domain of nutrition and health. When individuals cannot provide enough food for their families, it leads to hunger and poor health. Poor health reduces one's ability to work and live a productive healthy life. Poor human development destabilizes a country's potential for economic development for generations to come (Otaha, 2013).

Furthermore, food security is a broad concept which cuts across many dimensions. It means access to adequate food for a healthy life. This definition discusses two main issues: access to available food and adequate nutrient intake for sustainable health (Akemere et al., 2018). It is a complex and tricky task to formulate a one-size-fits-all set of food security targets. This is clear from the multiple determinants of the food security status of a household or its members. The most salient determinants can be summarized in the following way:

Firstly, household composition which vary in terms of size (number of household members), age structure (adults and children) and gender (females and males). Nord and Hopwood (2017) examined the importance of household composition insofar as it aids in understanding the food security status of children in the household.

Secondly, wealth and livelihood strategy. This consists of various incomes (wages, social grants, etc) and assets (land, livestock, etc.).

Thirdly, geographical location: This refers to the rural and urban locations, whether the settlement is largely formal or informal, and distance from the nearest or from frequently-used food markets, as for the sake of this study, a city (urban) is being considered.

Fourthly, institutions: markets, the state, social capital/networks. Fifthly, time: the food security condition could be transitory or chronic. Sixthly, risk: shocks that are related to the weather, health as well as commodity price movements.

Household food security depends substantially on household income and asset or wealth status. A low-income household is more likely to suffer food shortages than a wealthier household. Food expenditure comprises a large share of the spending of poor households, making them relatively more vulnerable to the impacts of food price inflation. This relationship between a household's food security status and its purchasing power is far from static; it changes over time (Aliber, 2019; Romer-Lovendal and Knowles, 2016). All other factors remaining constant, changes in income alter the quantity and quality of foods purchased and consumed. Price movements of food and non-food items also affect the ability to buy food. For example, to cope with rapid food inflation, a household could cut its food purchases and adjust its consumption patterns. Typical coping strategies include: buy a smaller quantity of food, switch to different types of food, reduce dietary diversity and skip meals (Oldewage-Theron *et al.*, 2016). Furthermore, Aliber (2019) pointed out that those high dependency ratios mean that losing an income-earning opportunity can make a household that might have been food-secure into one that is not.

The New Partnership for African's Development (2015) adds that food security requires an available and reliable food supply at all times. At the global, regional and national levels, food supply can be affected by climate, disasters, war, civil unrest, population growth, lack of effective agricultural practices, and restrictions to trade. Government initiatives that encourage a policy environment based on macroeconomic stability and competitive markets can improve food availability. At the community level, food security is essentially a matter of access to food. Insecurity can be temporary or chronic. It may vary with age, status, gender income, geographic location and ethnicity. Poverty is the main cause. Sustainable progress in poverty reduction is critical to improve access to food. Individuals need access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food. They need adequate health services, and a healthy and secure environment, including a safe water supply. Food security is therefore closely linked to the economic and social health of a nation, society and individual.

In 2006, the United State Department of Agriculture, (USDA) introduced new language to describe ranges of severity of food insecurity. USDA made these changes in response to recommendations by an expert panel convened at USDA's request by the Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) of the National Academies. Even though new labels were introduced, the methods used to assess households' food security remained unchanged, so statistics for 2005 and later years are directly comparable with those for earlier years for the corresponding categories

The CNSTAT panel also recommended that USDA make a clear and explicit distinction between food insecurity and hunger. According to the report:

- i). Food insecurity—the condition assessed in the food security survey and represented in USDA food security reports—is a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food.
- ii). Hunger is an individual-level physiological condition that may result from food insecurity.

The word "hunger," the panel stated in its final report, "...should refer to a potential consequence of food insecurity that, because of prolonged, involuntary lack of food, results in discomfort, illness, weakness, or pain that goes beyond the usual uneasy sensation." (USDA, 2005). To measure hunger in this sense would require collection of more detailed and extensive information on physiological experiences of individual household members than could be accomplished effectively in the context of the CPS. The panel recommended, therefore, that new methods be developed to measure hunger and that a national assessment of hunger is conducted using an appropriate survey of individuals rather than a survey of households.

Empirical Review

In this part of the research, we present the review of past studies relating to the theme of this study. Akemere et al. (2018) conducted a study on the challenges, options and prospects of food security in Nigeria. The study explores the myriads of challenges confronting food security in Nigeria. Finding from the study indicated that Nigeria's over reliance on, and obsession with crude oil exacerbates her food security problems and that apparent lack of sincerity on the part of the government, corruption and contradictory government policies are at the root of why policies aimed at boosting food production have so far failed. The study suggests ways

of tackling these challenges and concludes that the task of ensuring adequate food for Nigerians requires innovative agricultural policies, renewed commitment on the part of political leadership to co-ordinate the efforts and energy of the citizenry to achieve increased food production. The study did not however establish the possible nexus between insecurity and food production in Nigeria.

Research into food insecurity in Nigeria was conducted by Okechukwu et al. (2014). Their research was analytical, drawing primarily on information already publicly available in print, online, and official documents. According to the results of their research, farming is still vital to national economies. Sustainable food production and storage programmes are essential to any state's ability to provide for its inhabitants. Agriculture is looked down upon in Nigeria since few of the country's young, able-bodied adults have any interest in working in the field. Food insecurity has arisen as a result of climate change, conflict between farmers and ranchers, and Boko Haram's activities, all of which have resulted in the loss of life and livelihoods as well as the destruction of crops and livestock. Although the Federal Government assured Nigerians that there was no food crisis in 2013, many people in the country, especially concerned stakeholders, remain sceptical that the government at any level can resolve the issue. It was determined from the research that food insecurity in Nigeria will continue for a long time unless the underlying causes were addressed. The problem with their research is that it was primarily theoretical and not evidence based.

Food security in Nigeria was the subject of Ojo and Adebayo's (2012) thematic and situational analysis. Many different types of written resources were mined for secondary data for the study. Their research was

theoretical, but it provided a thorough analysis of Nigeria's agriculture strategy. In a supposedly democratic dispensation that should promote the value of welfarism, they pointed out that much work still to be done if the crisis in the sector is to be contained. There is an implication in the report that Nigeria has to develop a food policy, which it now lacks. In reality, the gap between policymakers' goals and the realities of the agriculture sector is still quite large.

Amaka et al. (2016) presented on the obstacles to and strategies for long-term food security in Nigeria. According to the research, a major objective of Nigeria's agricultural development policy is to lessen the country's reliance on food imports in order to make nutritious, reasonably priced food available to all citizens. The results demonstrate that there is a food shortage in Nigeria since the country's population is increasing at a pace of 3.2% while food production is increasing at a rate of less than 1%. This demonstrates that factors including erratic government policies, environmental degradation, and unsustainable agricultural production are contributing to a gap between the population's need for food and the amount that can be produced. The results also demonstrate how reliant Nigeria is on food imports. In order to ensure Nigeria's population has access to enough food in the long term, this report calls for better environmental management and a corresponding rise in agricultural output.

There has also been a resurgence of focus on food security issues across the developing world, as observed by Eme and Onyishi (2014) in their article on the difficulties of achieving food security in Nigeria. This renaissance is prompted by the rapid rise in food costs around the globe occasioned by growing global food consumption, depleting global food stocks,

irregular weather patterns, increased cost of petroleum goods and unlawful land use among others. Multiple agricultural programmes have been developed in Nigeria to address the country's food insecurity issues. These measures have not increased food output as was hoped. According to the findings, a person's behaviour and productivity in contributing to national development suffer when he or she is unable to fully benefit from the food they consume. Additionally, government should foster local initiatives by raising awareness at the grass-roots level about the value of cooperative farming, which will lead to higher yields in food production, and by providing a forum for interaction with the local farmer to identify the issue and offer a solution. This is why it's important for agricultural policy to be developed from the ground up.

Considering the studies from other countries, Atuahene and Yacoub (2019) evaluated HIV-affected households in selected regions of Ghana. This study focused on the 2018 survey of HIV-affected households in four regions of Ghana to enable other stakeholders better create future strategies and activities to address the problem. Cross-sectional design with solely quantitative data collection. The study enrolled adult members of HIV-positive households in Ghana. The analysis discovered food security and food insecurity weaknesses. Both the coping strategies index (CSI) and the food intake score were used to evaluate these factors (FCS). Research was collected using ONA Collect and analysed using IBM Statistics for Windows, Version 21.0. Households impacted by HIV reported information on household demographics, income and expenditure, livelihood categories, food consumption, coping strategies, and the nutritional health of selected household members. Given that there are more

female-headed households in food insecure or borderline categories, they should be prioritised when developing and executing interventions to alleviate food insecurity and vulnerability.

In their 2020 study, Mutea, Rist, and Jacobi analyse the impact of rights and powers on food security in households in the area north-west of Mount Kenya. They conducted in-depth interviews with a random sample of 380 households (n=76) that were either food secure or food insecure. There was no single cause of food insecurity because many farmers were able to maintain their property rights. Instead, access to productive resources was limited for food insecure households due to the high cost of agricultural technology (i.e. hand tools and implements). Because of the correlation between having access to technology and having a voice in one's community and peers, improving the latter requires also improving the former. This study only examined access factors based on the Theory of Access. The authors failed to adequately explain the interplay and correlation between various rights and powers characteristics. This study called for additional investigation into the immediate and underlying conditions that influence the availability of productive resources.

Ahn et al. (2022) evaluated Ghana, Liberia, and Senegal's household food security. West African agroclimatic, ecological, social, and farming situations were shown. In order to compare and understand food security, this study classified 644 Ghanaian, 323 Liberian, and 510 Senegalese families. Growing decision trees in Liberia and Senegal point to rising community support, diversifying sales channels beyond communities, ending the struggle over farmland, and increasing investment at the community level to ensure food security. The food security of Ghana depends in large part on the efforts

of independent farmers and suppliers. Liberia and Senegal suffer location- and gender-specific food insecurity. An empirical field investigation and its interpretations demonstrated a need to increase agricultural education and extension. These findings can complement other aspects of food security already known to the public, such as the ability of farming households to behave as independent producers and consumers.

In conclusion, this research has been successful in reviewing relevant literature in the following areas: food security's obstacles, opportunities, and prospects; food security's subject exposition; food security's overview; and the difficulties inherent in achieving sustainable food security. However, there has been little published research on the evaluation of Nigeria's national plan of action on food and nutrition implementation in the study region. Therefore, this research is being conducted to fill that void in the existing literature.

3. Theoretical Framework

This study is premised on the Theory of Access, Bundles of Rights and Powers, which is closely linked to food security. This theory was propounded by Ribot and Peluso (2003) and states that those who have access to resources may not necessarily have the capacity to make use of them. Even if people have the legal right to use a resource, Ribot and Peluso (2003) argue that they may be constrained by insecurity to their life and properties, lack the capital, technology, labour, expertise, authority, market processes, social ties, and identity necessary to put that right into practise and reap the benefits. According to McKay and Colque (2016), exclusion occurs when people are denied access to resources while having the legal right to do so. Access is broken down into a "bundle of rights" and a "bundle of abilities" by Ribot

and Peluso (2003). The former refers to any and all rules or norms, whether official and informal, while the latter refers to the structural and relational mechanisms of access that determine who obtains, retains, and controls resources. For this reason, the theory proposes that bundles of powers mediate or act in parallel to rights-based access mechanisms to mould how resource users acquire control and retain benefits. This broad definition of access allows us to separate the relevance of property rights and recognise the function of structural and relational access mechanisms that allow households to gain, keep, and regulate access to productive resources. First, in terms of agricultural output for smallholder farmers is access to land, followed by water for irrigation. Gaining access to productive resources, like irrigation water, can encourage smallholder farmers to implement sustainable land management practises like water conservation and nutrient management, which are essential for achieving sustainable livelihoods through raising productivity and adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change. Having reliable access to nutritious food is one of the many outcomes of cultivating a sustainable livelihood. Smallholder farmers are at risk of food insecurity due to a lack of access to productive resources, leading to unstable economic conditions.

4. Methodology

Descriptive survey research design was chosen in this study because it aims to provide detailed understanding on the variables of the study by interacting with the people that are most concerned with the subject. The target population of this study are the inhabitants of South-west geopolitical zones in Nigeria. The study used both purposive and simple random sampling techniques to select respondents for the study. Purposive sampling was used

to select two states; Oyo and Osun states as the study area, because, the inhabitants of these two states are predominantly farmers, and to select only those who are predominantly practicing farming, and are members of Farmers Association of Nigeria, South-west Nigeria. This allows the researcher to get deeper insight into food security issues vis-à-vis the implementation of the National Policy on Food and Nutrition on Food Security in Nigeria. The sampling frame which indicates the number of registered farmers with the association shows the membership strength of 15,000, out of which 10% of this number is randomly drawn from different communities, totaling 1,500 as the sample size. The nature and source of data for the purpose of this study was a primary source of data, which was collected through the use of questionnaire from respondents. The data were analysed with descriptive statistics using the simple percentage techniques and simple mean deviation, and inferential statistics with the use of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS).

5. Results and Discussion

Results

This section presents the analysis as well as the discussion of finding of the study. Out

Table 1: Socio-Economic Background Information of the Respondents

Item	Frequency	Percent
Sex	Frequency	
Male	500	41.7
Female	700	58.3
Total	1200	100.0
Age		
20-30years	250	20.8
31-40years	600	50.0
41-50years	300	25.0
51 years and above	50	4.2
Total	1200	100.0
Marital Status	Frequency	Percent

of 1,500 copies of questionnaires administered, a total of 1,200 copies were retrieved from the filed, and hence, decision is based on the responses from the copies retrieved.

Table 1 shows respondents' sexuality. Male participants are 500 (41.7%) while female participants are 700 (58.3%). This study has mostly female participants. Most of the study's participants are aged 31-40. Participants are mostly mature. About 80% of participants were single, 11 were married, and 90 were divorced, according to the data. The study shows most participants are single. The indicates respondents' education. According to the results, most of the study's participants had a diploma, with 38 (31.7%) having one. According to respondents' occupation, 43.3% were public servants. So, most working-class respondents have jobs.

400 of 33.3% of respondents had worked 6-10 years. Most responders have so experienced inflation. According to the table above, most respondents receive a monthly salary of 50,000 or less (43.3%). Most responders could hardly subsist on this amount, despite earning more than Nigeria's minimum wage.



Item	Frequency	Percent
Single	1000	80.0
Married	110	10.2
Divorced	90	8.8
Total	1200	100.0
Educational Qualification		
SSCE	300	24.7
OND/NCE	380	31.7
HND	280	23.0
B.SC.	200	16.7
Postgraduate	40	4.0
Total	1200	100.0
Years		
Civil servant	520	43.3
Member civil society organization/NGO	340	28.3
Students	190	15.8
Private sector employee	150	12.5
Not employed	00	0
Total	1200	100.0
Years		
Under 5years	300	25.0
6-10years	400	33.3
11-15years	200	16.7
16-20years	180	15.0
21years and above	120	10.0
Total	1200	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Influence of National Policy on Food and Nutrition on Food Security

This section focuses on how the National Policy on Food and Nutrition influence Food security and nutrition of the people in the South west, Nigeria. The study assessed whether the National Policy on Food and Nutrition has helped in the massive production of food in the country. Result revealed that the National Policy on Food and Nutrition has not helped in the massive production of food in the country. This is confirmed by the mean value of 1.1 which is less than the threshold value of 1.5.

We considered whether the NPFN made provision of micro credit for farmers in order to improve the annual output. Result revealed that the NPFN did not make

provision of micro credit for farmers in order to improve the annual output. This is confirmed by the mean value of 1.2 which is less than the threshold value. Thus, we reject the assertion.

The study assessed whether the National Policy on Food and Nutrition has reduced the rate of hunger and poverty in the country. Findings revealed that the National Policy on Food and Nutrition has not reduced the rate of hunger and poverty in the country. This is confirmed by the mean value of 1.3 which is less than the threshold value. Hence, we reject the assertion.

Furthermore, we assessed whether the implementation of National Policy on Food and Nutrition has influenced the growth and economic development of the country.

Result revealed that the implementation of National Policy on Food and Nutrition has influenced the growth and economic development of the country. This is confirmed by the mean value of 1.7 which is greater than the threshold value. Hence, we accept the assertion.

Finally, we considered whether the NPFN has reduced the rate of food scarcity and

unhealthy living in the country. Result revealed that the NPFN has not reduced the rate of food scarcity and unhealthy living in the country. This is confirmed by the mean value of 1.3 which is less than the threshold value. Thus, we reject the assertion.

From the foregoing, it is deduced that the National Policy on Food and Nutrition has no influence on food security.

Table 2: Influence of National Policy on Food and Nutrition on food security

S/N	Item	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	Status
1	The National Policy on Food and Nutrition has helped in the massive production of food in the country	120	1.1667	.47338	.04321	Rejected
2	The NPFN made provision of micro credit for farmers in order to improve the annual output	120	1.2500	.43483	.03969	Rejected
3	The National Policy on Food and Nutrition has reduced the rate of hunger and poverty in the country	120	1.3750	.48615	.04438	Rejected
4	The implementation of National Policy on Food and Nutrition has influenced the growth and economic development of the country	120	1.7500	.43483	.03969	Accepted
5	The NPFN has reduced the rate of food scarcity and unhealthy living in the country	120	1.3333	.47338	.04321	Rejected

Field survey, 2022

Challenges hindering the implementation of the NPFN policy

This section assessed the last objective which focuses on the challenges hindering the implementation of the NPFN policy. The study considered Natural and man-made disaster as a challenge, result of the mean value of 1.7 confirmed this as a challenge since it is greater than the threshold value of 1.5. Thus, we accept this assertion. The study assessed Continuous insecurity rate in the country. result revealed that insecurity rate in the country is a challenge for the implementation of the NPFN policy. This is confirmed by the

mean value of 1.6 greater than the threshold value. Thus, we accept the assertion.

Bad leadership was assessed. It was revealed that bad leadership is a challenge hindering the implementation of the NPFN policy. This is confirmed by the mean value of 1.6 which is greater than the threshold value. Thus, we accept the assertion. Increase rate of corruption was assessed as a factor. Result revealed that Increase rate of corruption is a challenge hindering the implementation of the NPFN policy. This is confirmed by the mean value of 1.5 which is greater than the threshold value. Hence, we accept the assertion. Climatic shock was assessed as well. Result revealed that

Climatic shocks is a challenge affecting the proper implementation of NPFN policy. This is confirmed by the mean value of 1.5 which is equal to the threshold value. Thus, we accept the assertion. Increase rate of raw materials was assessed. Findings revealed that this is one of the factors hindering the implementation of the NPFN policy. This is confirmed by the mean value of 1.8 greater than the threshold value. Hence, we accept the assertion.

Unavailability of financial resources was assessed. Result revealed that Unavailability of financial resources is not a challenge affecting the implementation of

the NPFN policy. This is confirmed by mean value of 1.2 which is less than the threshold value. Hence, we reject the assertion. The Unstable economic situation was assessed. Findings revealed that Unstable economic situation is a challenge affecting the effective implementation of the NPFN policy. This is confirmed by the mean value of 1.5 equal to the threshold value. Thus, we accept the assertion. From the foregoing, it is concluded that all the listed challenges except unavailability of financial resources are challenges affecting the full implementation of the NPFN policy.

Table 3: Challenges hindering the implementation of the NPFN policy

S/N	Item	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	Status
1	Natural and man-made disaster	120	1.7083	.45644	.04167	Accepted
2	Continuous insecurity rate in the country	120	1.6667	.47338	.04321	Accepted
3	Bad leadership	120	1.6250	.48615	.04438	Accepted
4	Increase rate of corruption	120	1.5143	.75648	.09042	Accepted
5	Climatic shocks	120	1.5833	.49507	.04519	Accepted
6	Increase rate of raw materials	120	1.8714	.94672	.11315	Accepted
7	Unavailability of financial resources	120	1.2500	.43483	.03969	Rejected
8	Unstable economic situation	120	1.4714	.84650	.10118	Accepted

Field survey, 2021

Test for Research Hypotheses

H₀₁: NPFN implementation has no significant effect on food security in Nigeria

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.925 ^a	.856	.840	.36387

ANOVA^a

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	34.654	10	6.931	52.346	.000 ^b
1 Residual	5.826	109	.132		
Total	40.480	119			

Field survey, 2021

The strength of the correlation between the model and the dependent variable is reported in the model summary table. If the p-value of the data analysis is smaller than the required level of significance (the

alpha), the result of the study is considered statistically significant (significance level). For example, if the p-value is higher than 0.05, it suggests that there was no significant difference.

Therefore, from the above table, result of the regression analysis revealed no significant outcome ($F=52.346$, $R=0.925 > p=0.05$). This therefore implied that NPFN implementation has no significant effect on food security in Nigeria. The result also revealed that the predictor variable

Research Hypothesis Two

H_{02} : NPFN has no significant relationship with food security in Nigeria

accounted for 85% ($R^2 =0.856$) of the variance on food security. Hence, we reject the alternative hypothesis and accept the null hypothesis which states that NPFN implementation has no significant effect on food security in Nigeria.

Correlations

		Food security	NPFN policy
Food security	Pearson Correlation	1	.834**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	120	120
NPFN policy	Pearson Correlation	.834**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	120	120

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Field survey, 2022

The Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient above shows the relationship between food security in the country and implementation of NPFN policy. The result revealed a strong relationship between the variables with a correlation coefficient of $0.834 > 0.05$ which is statistically significant at $p=0.01$. It is therefore concluded that there is a significant relationship between the food security in the country and implementation of NPFN policy

Discussion of Findings

Though there have been many attempts to address the issue, the issue of food and nutrition security in Nigeria has not been fully and critically examined. A fundamental review of past approaches and achievements in the areas of designing and implementing the National Policy on Food and Nutrition is required in light of the massive amount of money spent on ensuring the food security of Nigerians without success in order to learn the lessons necessary to re-strategize and develop an approach that will guarantee better progress

is made toward achieving food security. The results indicate that the National Policy on Food and Nutrition has little bearing on food safety. According to the available literature, the growth of agriculture and the prevalence of food insecurity are both hampered by government inconsistencies and a lack of access to loans and agricultural supplies. (Okechukwu *et al.*, 2014).

Findings revealed that Natural and man-made disaster; Continuous insecurity rate in the country; Bad leadership; Increase rate of corruption; Climatic shocks; Increase rate of raw materials and Unstable economic situation are the challenges hindering the full implementation of the NPFN policy. Akemere *et al.* (2018) suggested that the task of ensuring adequate food for Nigerians requires innovative agricultural policies, renewed commitment on the part of political leadership to coordinate the efforts and energy of the citizenry to achieve increased food production. Finally, findings revealed that NPFN implementation has not significantly guaranteed food security in Nigeria,

whereas, there is a significant relationship between food security in the country and implementation of NPFN policy.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

The study has showed that various governments that has emerged from the time of independent till date has persistently formulated policy aimed at ensuring food security in the country. However, it is sad to note that many citizens still live-in abject poverty and could barely have a three-square meal per day. This could be attributed to bad leadership, increase rate of corruption and social vices, insecurity, unstable economic situation, poor implementation of policies among others. In this new period of democracy in Nigeria, food security must undoubtedly be a top priority for the government. If the government of a country is unable to create and efficiently implement agricultural and food policy, it may struggle to employ its people as the engine of a lasting democracy. The ability of a country's economy to provide for the material needs of its citizens and its government is crucial to the nation's very survival. The government should facilitate communication with the regional farmer so that the issue can be identified and a remedy provided. Food insecurity can both cause and contribute to national insecurity depending on the circumstances. In other words, national insecurity can deepen food insecurity as we are witnessing with the disruptive actions of the Boko Haram and Fulani ranchers. Therefore, the nation's security issues require a multifaceted approach.

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