

Food Security as an Instrument for Peace Building in Nigeria

Rev Fr. Dr. Alexander Ifeanyi Anagor

Uhuana Isuakpu, Akpu

Orumba South Local Government Area
Anambra State

anagoralex@gmail.com; +2348037748724

Abstract

This paper examines food security as an instrument for peace building in Nigeria. Going by the spate of conflicts in the country giving rise to series of security challenges, successive governments have tried to address the problem associated with these challenges. More often than not some of the approaches adopted by these governments have only succeeded in addressing the triggers of these conflicts and not the root causes. Hence this paper attempts to examine one of the root causes of conflict which is hunger. Hunger is usually caused by insecurity of food. Consequently this paper tackles this food insecurity from this topic, *food security as an instrument for peace building in Nigeria*.

Key words – food security, peace, peace building, Agriculture, Instrument

Introduction

The concept of peace building first emerged over thirty years ago through the work of Johan Galtung who called for the creation of peace building structures to promote sustainable peace by addressing the root causes of violent conflict and supporting indigenous capacity for peace management and conflict resolution. Hence peace building is one of the United Nations cardinal models of peace process. This concept was made universally popular in the writings of Boutros Ghali, *An Agenda for Peace*, which he wrote in 1992 when he was the UN Secretary General.

Peace building as a project involves, not only addressing the triggers which are the immediate variables that cause the outbreak of armed conflicts. For instance the killing of some political leaders as it occurred in Nigeria in 1966, during the first coup d'état, triggered power struggle in the Nigeria military within the framework of regional divides, which eventually led to the counter coup saga culminating to outbreak of civil war in Nigeria. Since then, peace situation in the country has remained more or less fragile, and as such viable peace building measures need to be the primary responsibility of every serious government as well as the citizens.

These triggers or proximate causes of conflict are only those factors that could be said to be responsible for the outburst of a given conflict situation. Meanwhile, there are also roots or remote causes which are the major structural or underlying causes of conflict which are

instrumental, but sometimes, not manifest or rather not sufficient to accentuate violent situations. Such remote causes may include, hunger, ignorance, religious bigotry, lack of good governance, ethnicity, political apathy. etc.

By and large, peace building does not only address the triggers but also takes care of the root causes of the conflict in order to generate a true and sustainable reconciliation and peaceful co-existence of the citizenry.

The writer in this paper addresses one of the root causes of conflict, lack of food, which usually results to hunger. This will be addressed under the topic, Food Security as an Instrument for Peace Building in Nigeria.

Concept Analysis

Peace building

This covers a broad range of measures implemented in the context of emerging, current and post- conflict situation and which explicitly guided and motivated by a primary commitment to the prevention of violent conflict and the promotion of lasting and sustainable peace. Peace building has three mutually reinforcing dimension;

1. Security,
2. Governance and political,
3. Social economic and environmental.

In all peace building intervention, particular emphasis should be given to promoting and fostering national ownership alignment, co-ordination of the international community's effort and harmonization of procedures. Peace building can be categorized into two- The pre-conflict peace building and the post-conflict peace building.

According to the British Army (1997.2) as quoted in Agbu, (2006), peace building usually involves:

Action which support political, economic, social, and military measures and structures aiming to strengthen and solidify political settlement In order to redress and support structures that tend to consolidate peace, advance a sense of confidence and well-being and support economic reconstruction.

Boutros Ghali (1992) in his, *An Agenda for Peace*, categorize peace building into two- pre-conflict and post-conflict peace building. According to him, pre-conflict peace building includes such measures like, militarization, control of small arms, institutional reform, improved police and judicial system, the monitoring of human rights, electoral reform, social and economic development.

In this same vein, Reychler (1997.6) sees pre-conflict peace building as-preventive measures that aim

To reduce the gap between the Rich and the poor, to promote and implement human rights and the rights of the minorities and to promote durable

development and realization of a just and Fair social order in which there is no discrimination based on race or sex.

In effect pre-conflict peace building is a kind of early warning mechanism to monitor conflict triggers or catalysts and address the underlying root source of conflict which may be latent or a conflict situation that is still in “sleeping phase”.

Food security

Food security has been variously defined by different scholars. According to WHO (1995) and FAO et al (2013), food security is access to food needed by all people to enable them live healthy life at all times. A country is said to be 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 (Rentlinger, 1985; Idachaba 2004). This entails that food must be available to the people so as to meet the basic nutritional requirement needed by the body. But it is good to observe that availability of food does not mean accessibility to the food. Availability depends on production, consumer price, flow of information and the market dynamics.

Food security is an access by all people at all times to enough food for an active and healthy life at present, and ability to provide enough for future generation. Issues on food security was brought to limelight in 1974 during the world food conference, when it became clear on the governments of the nations the world over need to strategize on how best to improve agricultural production so as to meet the per capital needs of the production. Ban Ki Moon, the UN General Secretary at a world food summit in Rome in 2009, stressed that six million children die of hunger every year, 17,000, die of starvation every day and by 2050, the world will need to feed two billion more people. This has rekindled the idea of sustainable food security in all countries of the world, Nigeria inclusive.

Nigeria is blessed with the abundance of human and natural resources, but despite this abundance endearment, majority of her citizens are living below the poverty line. For instance, according to WDI, (2015) an estimated 60% of Nigerians live on less than \$1.25 US dollars per day. Nigeria was also ranked 91 out of a total of 104 countries on the 2015, Global Hunger Index and 153 out of a total of 187 countries on the 2012 UNDP, Human Development Index. Malnutrition and hunger which is associated with poverty have been ravaging most developing countries and affecting the productive capacity. Nigeria being classified as one of the poorest countries, testifies to our collective failure to achieving our development policy as well as national food security.

The population of Nigeria is estimated to be above 200 million people, the largest in Africa, almost accounting for 47% of West African's total population. As the population increases, the country's demand for food increases while the capacity to produce food diminishes because of the pressure accruing from the growing population in the form of desertification, climate change, and erosion affecting the already diminishing resources and further threatening food production.

Food security involves access and availability of food stuff, stability of supplies and the quality of the diet (Honfoga and Vanden Boon 2003). According to FAO, International Fund For Agriculture Development (IFAD) and World Food Programme (WFP) (2013), Nigeria has an average intake of 1730Kcal and an average protein supply of 64g capita per day. Far below 2500-3400Kcal minimum recommended daily intake per day. This shows that Nigeria is facing the challenges of unbalanced diet leading to various deficiency symptoms. Also among the 109 countries assessed by Global Food Security Index (GFSI) (2015), Nigeria is 91st with 37.1 scores based on indices of affordability, availability, quality and safety.

One of the goals of Nigerian's agriculture development policy is to ensure that there is enough food reserve at every household, state and federal government level to forestall any threat to food security. Since domestic agricultural production has failed to meet up with the increasing demand for food, the government had to resort to importation to feed her teeming population. For example importation of food increased from 19.9% in 2000 to 30.6% and 22.7% in 2011 and 2012 respectively while food export is barely 5.3% of merchandise (World Development Indicator 2016). The second sustainable development goal of zero hunger incorporates the need to achieve food security and improved nutrition, promote sustainable agriculture, ending rural hunger, empowering small scale farmers especially women and ensuring healthy lifestyle by 2030. The Nigerian government is working seriously to achieve these goals, but the question is, how far she has gone to this set out goals.

More so, according to FAD, et al (2013), the core determinants of food security are availability, utilization and stability.

Food availability: Availability of food plays an outstanding role in food security. Having enough food in a nation is necessary but not adequate to ensure that people have satisfactory access to food. Over the years, population has increased faster than the supply of food as such resulting in food unavailability per person.

Food accessibility: To have access to food depends on two major conditions- Economic access and Physical access. Economic access depends on one's income, the price of food and the purchasing power of the people. Physical access depends on the availability and quality of infrastructure needed for the production and distribution of food. Lack of economic access to food is a result of the increase in the rate of poverty.

Food utilization: Food Utilization is measured by two outcome indicators which reflect the impact of inadequate food intake and utilization. The first outcome is measured by under-five years of age nutrition level, while the second measurement is quality of food, health and hygiene. According to FAO measuring of nutritional status of under-five years of age is an effective approximation for their entire population. The indicators for the measurement of under- five years of age are wasting, (too thin for height); underweight (too thin for age), and stunting (too short for age)

Most times, progress in terms of having access to food is not always accompanied by progress in the utilization of the food. A more direct indicator of food utilization is underweight because it shows improvement more promptly than stunting and wasting whose improvement can take a longer to be noticed. Since 1990, the prevalence rate of under- five stunting and underweight have declined in some developing countries, while some countries still report a prevalence rate of 30% or more and WHO categorizes this as being high (WHO-UNICEF,2011)

Food stability

Stability has to do with exposure to short- term risks which have a way of endangering long-term progress. Key indicators for exposure to risk include shocks such as droughts, erosion and volatility in the price of inputs for food production. The world price shocks lead to domestic price instability which is a threat to food producers as they stand the chance of losing invested capital. In Nigeria, farmers are mainly smallholders, farming for subsistence, thus make it difficult for them to cope with changing in the prices of inputs, and it also hamper their ability to adopt new technologies thereby resulting in reduced overall production. Changing weather patterns as a result of climate change have contributed to reducing food supply. For example, flood in the southern part of the country and drought in the northern part, lead to substantial losses in production and income.

The interplay of all these variables determines whether an individual household, state or nation is food secured or not. This is because sustainable food security at the household level does not guarantee sustainable food security at the state or national level.

A Cursory Look at Government's Policy on Domestic Food Production in Nigeria

Prior to the contact between Nigerian and the colonial masters, agricultural practices were very pronounced in that it was regarded as the main stead of the economic activities. However, when British colonial masters came into Nigeria, they made notable changes in the nations agricultural practices. First the adopted an agricultural policy which encouraged agriculture to be carried on in the traditional forms of African Land Tenure devoid of mechanization and plantations (Buchanau & Pugh, 1958)

Sir Hugh Clifford justified the latter approach using the economic and social upheaval connected with plantation agriculture that were experienced in East Africa as an excuse. What the British policy on agriculture was bent to achieve at this time was how to ensure steady flow of agricultural produce that would serve as raw material for her industries especially those in their mother land England. To attain this objective, the British sought to create a money economy in which commercial agricultural export was the key factor, even as they left the prosecution in the hands of the native peasantry. According Ijere (1924) as the native were not informed on the new agricultural practices, they began to “educate” them in the scientific and economic methods of modern agriculture and in the importation and distribution of agricultural implements superior to those locally made. The British went on to complement those latter efforts with the provision of extension services to farmers. With respect to extension services Hugh Clifford in 1920 argued as quoted in Ijere (1974), the

average native of West Africa derives little benefit from a European agricultural station because he cannot be induced to visit it. Similarly, as experience in the Gold coast has shown that the only instruction which can be rammed into the understanding of the average Africa farmer is that which is imparted to him personally and directly by officers of the department who visit him in his own village and accompany their advice by practical demonstrations.

To ensure that they reaped the benefits of their efforts at improving agricultural productivity, Britain restricted manufacturing in Nigeria. For instance in 1921, of the 102 non-mining firms in Nigeria only 7 were allowed to engage in manufacturing; by 1946, the figure rose to 11. In the words of L.S Woolf, (1920), this was made to ensure that Britain maintained her policy of finding new markets and defend old ones.

Implicit in L.S Woolf's observation is the fact that agricultural production at this stage was not meant to ensure domestic food security but for export. This was made eloquent in 1926, when Clifford stated that Great Britain is a manufacturing country which depends very largely upon tropical countries. He moved thus in Nigeria legislative council debate, 4th session 1926, that it is important that tropical countries within the British Empire should produce these products in ever increasing quantities of the highest quality and Nigeria he said should be able to produce the maximum of raw materials. This logic was one of the policies of the colonial administration that made Nigeria to suffer domestic food insecurity as it diverts the attention of farmers to cash crops for sale and eventual export.

A clear manifestation of this negativity was evident in the Northern Nigeria where the colonial administration systematically and heartlessly attacked traditional food economy through four major initiatives. Mahmud Modibbo Tucker noted that they conducted a detailed census on every food item including spices to ensure full and effective control. They levied taxes on every food item grown consumed and marketed as reflected by the census in order to extract maximum revenue from it. They also taxed food item carried by trading caravans at a high rate than they did for British goods as a measure to deter traders from handling food items, by lowering their profits and by deliberately replacing food crops with cash crops, and demoting food crop into the "informal" and so called "subsistence sector" of the colonized economy.

Hence the colonial policy on economy generally was to exploit the Nigerian farmers intensively and their soil. For instance in the southern part of the country, precisely in Benin Province, the British continued with the policy of forest reservation throughout the 1940s in spite of local opposition. This forest reservation policy had negative effects on local food production as it limits access to farm land among the local farmers. This led to paucity of food in the province in 1945 which made an old farmer retort to British colonial authority- "we chop yam and corn not timber and rubber- S.A Shokpeka and O.A Nwaokocha, (1959) However it is important to note that colonial agricultural orientation which though, in part disarticulated and disorientated the local agricultural and food production philosophy did not eliminate the primary objectives of food production in the colonial societies-elimination of hunger, sustenance and war against poverty- Adebawale, (2013)

Post- Independence Attempts at Achieving Food Security in Nigeria

On attaining independence, in 1960, Nigeria's agricultural sector had the same orientation that existed during colonial era, though pockets of policies initiated by the government geared towards improving food production were observed.

In 1963, the Nigeria government conceived the idea of River Basin Development Authority, aimed at helping the development of land and water resources potentials for agricultural purposes and general rural development: Goshit (2007). However this idea was not put in practice in the first republic, but later around 1973.

Hence it was after the civil war that government came up with several agricultural programmes that were targeted at improving domestic food production for local consumption. In the early 1970, the Gowon government in a quick reaction to domestic food scarcity resorted to massive importation of rice into the country to ward-off hunger. Meanwhile, Nigeria ports did not have the facility to cope with what came to be tagged "Rice Amada". The ports were choked by rice and port decongestion committee was set up. Ekpu (2009), has this to say, therefore the importation of food became a stop-gap emergency means resorted to by Nigerian's leaders to cushion the effect of domestic food shortage unleashed by the economic policies of colonial regimes which neglected food crops during their reign.

As this interim measures could not provide the needed respite, the administration of General Gowon came up with some measures. One of such measures was the introduction of the National Accelerated food production project (NAFPP), which came into effect in 1973, this programme was targeted at stirring massive production of six major crops- rice, sorghum wheat, millet, cassava and maize. Commenting of the success of this programme Anyanwu says, great as this program was, it was jeopardize by inadequate finance, paucity of publicity and infrastructure and low commitment in some states.

Gowon administration equally toyed with the idea of an agency to help farmer's source fund. This idea led to the founding of the Nigeria Agricultural and Co-operative Bank (NACB) in 1973. The bank was mandated to ensure that there is a serious improvement in storage facilities and also to promote the marketing of agricultural products. Under this arrangement, the federal government through the central bank owns 40% of equity shares of the bank. The bank functioned by providing two forms of credits to farmers. These are the direct- lending to individual farmers and organizations and on-leading to establish institutions mainly state governments and co-operative bodies against guarantee for on-leading to third parties. Even in the face of what appears to be impressive record, the quantity of loan granted to small holder farmers was grossly inadequate (Anyanwu,). Before Gowon's regime could make amends of the deficiencies in their agricultural programmes, it was driven away through coup d'état.

In May 1976, the Obasanjo administration began what it called Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), which was meant to be a form of agricultural revolution in which every Nigeria was to be engaged in planting. However the programme was doomed from inception. First, it was a hurried political initiatives launched in mid-way into the farming season by a regime that

was anxious to secure some support and legitimacy from urban groups and students. Peasant farmers who are the vertebrate of food crop were out of calculation in the original planning, of the programme, Ukase (2007).

When Nigerian saw a new democratic government in 1979, everybody thought it was going to be “Uhuru” especially as it pertains to food availability but that was far from it. The Green Revolution which the administration of Shehu Shagari introduced in 1980 was also a total failure, Opata (2009), observes that the programme turned out to be a Yellow Revolution, as plants in the nation under the programme did not photosynthesize. The failure of the programme could be seen from various angles. First the nation’s food payment bill rose from one billion Naira (#1.00 billion) in 1979, to #1.9 billion in 1983. Equally in the 1980s the average Nigerian ate 12% of less grown homemade food than decade earlier, confer Njoku (2001). A greater criticism leveled against the programme hinges on why it failed has to do with its extroverted orientation rather than auto-centric disposition.

The succeeding military regime of General Ibrahim Babangida initiated two major agricultural programmes aimed at combating food crisis in Nigeria. In 1986, the Directorate for Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFFRI) was introduced. This programme which was meant to harness all the resources in the rural areas had three major objectives among others –provision of food in abundance for the hunger-stricken Nigerian populace, provision of infrastructures like good roads, markets etc. to the rural dwellers and to improve and to encourage the production of export crops. As observed by scholars DFFRI was marred by massive corruption, confer E.O Ojo and P.F Adebayo (2012).

The second agricultural scheme was the National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA) which was established in 1992 with the aim of executing a national agricultural land development programme to moderate chronic problem of low utilization of abundant farm land under which it was to develop 30,000 to 50,000 hectares of land in each state of the federation within a space of two years. As at 1995, NALDA had developed a total of about 16,000 hectares of land out of which 8% was cultivated with various crops. According to Goshit (2007) granted that it helped generating farm land, it ended up increasing the number of rural-poor and increasing rural-urban drift.

Other regimes in Nigeria came up with their own scheme to improve food security in Nigeria, for instance the National Accelerated Crop Production Programme (NACPP) and the Agricultural and Rural Transformation Programme came into effect in 2000. The National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy was launched in 2003, the 2003 Rice initiative and the cassava initiative of Obasanjo. Even Goodluck Jonathan battled with food insecurity especially as it concerns rice. Nigeria spent about \$2.85 billion dollars on importation of rice in 2008. Analyzing this situation of food insecurity in Nigeria, Njoku (2014), says the irony of Nigeria’s situation is the parallel existence of food insecurity with available abundant agricultural resources capable of making Nigeria once more food secure and self-reliant. In the 1960s, Nigeria’s global shares of some key export crops were as

follows, 60% of palm oil, 30% of groundnut, 20-30% of groundnut oil and 15% of cocoa. By year 2012, Nigeria's share of each of these crops was less than 5%.

An analysis of Nigeria's quest for food security over the years indicates that it has been a story of minimal successes and huge failures. As such, it is imperative that meaningful enquiry into this must take into account some of the factors that had jaundiced the search for food security in the nation.

Factors Militating Against Sustainable Food Security in Nigeria

Poverty is the major problem of food accessibility, availability and utilization. Poverty leads to insufficient income needed to meet the basic household needs. There also other political, and socio-economic problem leading to food insecurity.

Government policy: Nigeria depended so much on Agricultural productivity for its revenue until the exploration of oil in the 1970s. The oil boom led to the negligence of the non-oil sectors of the economy especially agricultural which used to be major source revenue for the country. The attention drastically reduced. Government policies with respect to Agricultural production were rapidly and hastily planned and little or no participation from those who are engaged in agricultural production. Policies that may give incentives for local farmers' improvement for local food production are usually neglected. Urban and community farming and even home garden were no longer encouraged as land agents made it too difficult for people to obtain land for building as well as for agricultural purposes.

Agricultural practices: The method of farming system prevalent in Nigeria is the traditional subsistence farming. This system is characterized by use of simple farm tools, small farm holdings restricted access to credit facilities and low agricultural inputs, inadequate storage facilities, insecure market for post harvest products and exploitation of farmers by middlemen. In terms of technology, Nigeria is still lagging behind when compared to other nations in the West and Asia countries. Due to poverty coupled with illiteracy, farmers do not have access to modern communication system with which to access information regarding new technologies. Also there are few extension officers to transfer new technologies to the farmers. Government policies have not also encouraged mechanized agriculture. Funding for Agricultural Research in Nigeria is still very low. Also heavy importation of food crops affects productivity of local farmers because the small farmers cannot compete with the imported crops.

Population increase: As posited in the Malthus Population Theory, a situation where the growth in population exceed the growth in food supply, it makes the teeming population struggle for limited food supply, giving rise to hunger and food insecurity. This is the situation of things in Nigeria, also this large population continues to relocate to urban areas in search of white collar job. This rural-urban drift in Nigeria especially among the youths makes it difficult for the country to be food secured.

Environmental issues: Flood, drought, desertification are mainly the environmental issues affecting availability of food in Nigeria. Climate affect food supply through loss of farmland, fluctuating food prices, increased in food borne diseases and utilization issues (GCF,

2016). The recent degradation through deforestation and flooding has wide range of negative implication for food production. For instance, in 2012, the country witnessed an unprecedented rainfall as a result of extreme weather. The rainfall resulted to severe flooding causing loss of agricultural crops, livestock and human lives. As MetuKalu and Ezenekwe put it, the estimated loss of the country's GDP was worth #2.6 billion. In the same period, share of agriculture value added to total GDP declined from 23.8% in 2010 to 22.05% in 2012 (WDI 2014). Other environmental factor that may affect food security includes soil degradation, soil pollution and deforestation. Also air and water pollution from industrialization threaten both human and natural resources to an extent that food security capacities are damaged.

Corruption: This is a canker worm in the Nigerian's body polity. It is on the increase every day, leading to money budgeted for public utilities being siphoned for private use. This leads to decay in the infrastructures especially rural infrastructures where majority of the farmers live and operate from. For example, we have seen a situation where monies meant for importation of fertilizer and other implements were siphoned.

Menace of cattle rearing and herdsmen: The activities of Fulani herdsmen recently in the country have driven many farmers away from their families and villages. Many at times these cattle invade farms full of crops and destroy farm crops, and any attempt to drive them out most often cause a violent clash between farmers and these herdsmen leading to loss lives and properties and most often driving farmers away from their farmland and villages.

Solutions to Achieving Food Security in Nigeria

It should be noted that food production is only a means to end. Solution to achieving sustainable food security must include reduction of poverty because income must be improved to enable people meet the basic necessities of life, including food. However, reduction in poverty level takes a long time to achieve, therefore, immediate solvable solution must be taken and they include,

Improved agricultural productivity: Different projects/schemes have been established by different successive government in Nigeria in order to improve agricultural productivity, but they have failed because of poor implementation. Agricultural productivity can be improved through the encouragement of research. Research institute should be funded so as to encourage innovation and participatory research. Through, research, foreign technologies can be modified and applied in Nigeria. Organic fertilizer and chemical can be replaced with alternative such as cow waste, poultry waste and composite manure which are more environmental friendly. Also extension should be encouraged and strengthened because through the extension services modern technologies can be transferred to the farmers. There should be storage facilities to enable farmers store their post harvest crops. Farm products are perishable; farmers are forced to sell the products so quickly thereby making revenue that do not meet the daily needs. The storage facilities will help them preserve their products before taking them to market for sale. The storage facilities will also help provide enough food reserve for the country.

Agricultural biodiversity: Improvement of agricultural biodiversity through improved agricultural practices will also increase food supply. Large scale farming involves planting one type of crop on a large piece of land but with improved farming different genetically improved crop types and species may be planted on a piece of land. Mono-cropping also exposes crops to both pest and disease and also increases the use of organic fertilizer and pesticides that erodes soil bio diversity. In order to achieve sustainable food security, Nigerian farmers as well as the government should embrace this modern food production technique that comes in the form of agricultural biodiversity aimed at increasing livestock and crop production.

Environment management: Efforts to increase economic productivity in general have led to pressure on natural resources as well as environmental damages. There should effective environmental management, which entails reduction in the rate of deforestation. Trees should be planted as often as possible especially in the desert. Providing habitat for agricultural pests and increasing resilience to shocks and long-term climate can help in the improvement and management of natural resources. Tree planting should be encouraged because forest trees outside the forest helps to protect soil and water resources, promote soil fertilizer and provide protection from extreme weather situation.

Policy changes: Sustainable food security can be achieved, if the government adopts inclusive growth in its development efforts. Development should be participatory and environmental friendly. People centered agricultural development puts the farmers first and attack poverty with other gainful opportunities including education. It requires involving the rural population in decision making stage of agriculture productivity. The inability of government to involve these sets of people in defining and designing projects has led to the failure of some of these projects. There should be well designed social and community empowerment to help household sustain their resilience to shocks.

Food Security as an Instrument for Peace Building in Nigeria

Nigeria as we all know is country richly blessed with fertile agricultural land and water. The British colonial administration noticed this and quickly tapped into this enormously. Prior to the contact between Nigerians and the colonial government agricultural practices were very pronounced in economic activities. As such Nigerian before the colonial had abundant food sufficient for household needs, meanwhile, the advent of the colonial masters, and the system of Agriculture they promoted changed the orientation of Nigerians about the essence of Agriculture. The colonial in their quest to make to tap extensively from this abundant riches of their colonies virtually made the colonies especially, the ones in the tropic major source of raw material to feed the British companies and industries more especially those in the mother land. Hence L.S Woolf (1920) observed, the agricultural production at this stage (colonial era) was not meant to ensure domestic food security but for export. This was also made eloquent when Clifford stated in the 4th session of 1922 Nigerian legislative council Debate that Great Britain is a manufacturing country which depends very large for its new products upon other countries and largely upon tropical countries. With this notion, they discouraged

the production of food crops, meant to feed the household and encourage our people to embark more on the production of cash crop with the argument that it fetches cash more eerily than the food crops. Tukur M.M(1985) noted that:

The colonial Administration conducted a detailed census on every food item, including spices to ensure full and effective control; levied taxes on every food item grown and consumed and marketed as reflected by the census in order to extract maximum revenue from it. They also taxed food item carries by trading caravans at a higher rate than they did for British good as a measure to deter traders from handling food item by lowering their profits and by deliberately replacing food crops with cash crops and demoting food crops into the informal and so called subsistence sector of the colonized economy

Even in the southern part of the country, precisely in Benin Province the British continued with the policy of forest reservation throughout the 1940s in spite of the local opposition. The forest reservation policy had negative effect on local food production as it limited access to farm land among the local farmers (Opata, 2014). This created paucity of food and reaction to this shortage of food was noticed in this region around 1945, an old Benin farmer told the British government- as reported by Shokpeka and Nwaokacha (1989) “we chop yams and corn not timber and rubber”.

At the attainment of independence, Nigeria’s agricultural sector had the same orientation that existed during the colonial era. This is because the crop of Nigerians that took over from the colonial master, saw themselves as not too different from the white men. The position they occupied was just to replace the colonial masters, including their imperial style of leadership. They never looked inward to adapt our native tradition system of life to the imposed Western Civilization of the white man. Hence the system of agriculture bequeathed by the colonial government was never transformed to improve our indigenous local farming system and production.

It was only after the civil war, that the government of Gowon came up with several agricultural programmes that were targeted to improving domestic food production for local consumption, aimed at stamping of hunger and poverty accruing from war situation. As such General Gowon’s administration also embarked on massive transportation of rice, sold at subsidized rate to support local production.

Successive governments also introduced agricultural programmes. In 1976, the Obasanjo administration began what it called Operation feed The Nation (OFN) which was meant to be an agricultural revolution in which every Nigerian family should engage in planting. However the programme was doomed from inception because of lack of proper planning and implementation. The administration of Shehu Shagari introduced another programmed during the second republic known as Green Revolution. In the world of Opata (2009) the programmed turned out to be Yellow Revolution as the plants in the nation under the programme did not photosynthesize.

The succeeding military regime of General Ibrahim Babangida initiated two major agricultural programmes aimed at combating food crisis.

- i. Directorate for food, Road and Rural infrastructure (DFRI) (1986) This programme was marred by massive corruption as observed by scholars like Ojo E.O and Adebayo P.F.
- ii. National Agricultural Land Development Authority was established 1992, with the main objective being to execute a national agricultural land development programme to moderate the chronic problem of low utilization of abundant farm and to curtail dependency on imported food.

This programme also failed. Other regimes in Nigeria came up with own schemes to improve food security in Nigeria for instance the National Accelerated Crops Production Programme (NACPP) and the Agriculture and Rural Transformation programme come into effect in 2000.

The national Economic Empowerment Development strategy was launched in 2003 which was meant to cater for 2003 Rice and cassava Initiates of Obasanjo. Even the government of Goodluck Jonathan battled food insecurity, especially trying to make production of agricultural produce domestically available especially rice, by subsidizing seedling and fertilizer to the farmers. He also provided modern communication equipment for easy dissemination of information to farmers.

These programmes including the ones embarked upon by the present government of Mohamed Buhari have not been able to assure adequate food security in Nigeria especially in the troubled zones. Coupled with this bad governance both from the colonial master and from our indigenous political leaders the root Causes of food insecurity has not been addressed because of the discovery of crude oil and its concomitant petro-dollar. According to Nwalie (2017) 'the genesis of food crisis in Nigeria has mostly been associated with collapse of Agricultural sector in the mind-1970s. As the oil industry development the Nigeria government's attention moved away from agricultural sector to the petroleum sector. Owing to the 1970's oil boom and the availability of Petro dollar, the nation resorted to food importation in place of its usual domestic production. At the end of the oil boom, food insecurity set in when the oil price crashed making the petro dollar ran out''

The remaining petro dollars are in the hands of few politicians who rather decided to spend these dollars buying houses overseas and furnishing the Swiss bank with their fat Dollars savings. As such majority of the Nigeria population are hungry. As the popular saying has it that a hungry is an angry man, suffice it to say that majority of Nigerians are potentially angry. Hence it logically follows that; it will only take a little trigger for the suppressed anger occasioned by hungry and poverty to blossom into serious violence.

As peace building is a process that tries to engender peace in both pre-conflict and post conflict situations, food security is a measure that a meaningful government should be able to put in place to check the root, remote and immediate causes of Conflict.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This paper reviews the food security as an instrument for Peace building in Nigeria. Food security is not a single factor phenomenon, it is multi-factorial. It reflects not only the condition of the economy as whole but also the nation's politics of resource allocation and use, Mamadou, (2002) and I dare argued from the perspective of this write-up, the security situation of the nation. Already, it has been projected that by 2030, food will likely account for the largest share of human consumption in Nigeria, Adedapo (2014) As such Nigerians and their government have a serious challenge ahead. Daniel Wit (1956) Warned that welfare constitute a third object of modern government and any government be it democratic or dictatorial that make its citizen go hungry will automatically run into trouble.

To avoid further trouble Nigeria government should take some necessary steps. These include drawing lessons from history of Nations like Japan by integrating their traditional technologies into their farming practices rather than jettisoning them. Nigeria should borrow technologies it can handle not those that would turn her into a ready market for advanced nations. Corruption which has marred most of the agricultural programmes in Nigerian should be checked by government exercising strong political will to deal with it. Those found to be sabotaging food security effort should be sentenced to jail and should be made to farm throughout the period of their jail term. Government should also place a perpetual ban on the importation of any food item that can be manufactured or produced locally to encourage local production. The consumption habit of the urban elites should undergo a re-orientation as they are prone to consuming imported food. Land should be mapped out in all the states of the federation and be distributed to genuine farmers who are to plant the crops best situated for such environment. This would encourage the use of comparative advantage in the plating of crops and rearing of animals. The constant war between Fulani nomads and local farmers could be checked through the establishment of ranches by the owners of these cattle. If these measures are taken, it will go a long way to fast track food security in the country.

It is an obvious fact that a generation without regeneration must as a matter of fact suffer some irreversible somersault. Laying the blame of food insecurity in the nation on the colonial rule is an escapist approach. A fool at forty is a fool forever and Nigeria as an independent nation is over forty years. I want to believe that Nigerians are not fools, only we have failed to make the right choice and deliberately at that. This means that some people are eating fat though the malady of food insecurity and would resist any genuine attempt to address it. For those who are bent on enthrone hunger in the nation, let them remember that a hungry man is an angry, it will take but a while and this anger will be vented back on the entire society. The Christians among them should reflect on this axiom of the 2nd Vatican council as quoted by A.P Castle, "Since there are so many people in this world afflicted with hunger, this sacred council urges all, both individuals and government to remember the saying of the fathers: Feed the man dying of hunger, because if you have not fed him, you have killed him". Government should also encourage researches geared toward the improvement of sustainable food security.

References

- Adebayo, P.F.& OJO EO (2012). Food security in Nigeria: An overview. *European Journal of Sustainable Development*, 1(2), 199-222.
- Adedapo, (2014). "Economic changes that businesses should explore, *The Punch*, Thursday Sep 18, 2014 10-11
- Adeoti, J. (1982) Economic crisis in developing comities. The Food dimension. *Ilorin Journal of Business and social Science*.
- Agbu, O et al, (2006) *The Political economy of peace building* NOUW Course Materials.
- Anyanwu S.et al (1997). *The structure of the Nigeria economy (1960-1997)* Onitsha: Joane Education Publisher.
- Boutros-Ghali (1992). *An agenda for peace*. New York: United Nation.
- British Army (1997) Annual Journal of Peace Initiative London: Ramsy Pub.
- Bucharan, K. M & Pugh, J. (1958) *Land and people in Nigeria*, London, University of London Press.
- Dachaba, F.S (2006) *Strategies and policies for food security and economic development in Nigeria*, Lagos: CBN
- Ekpu R. (2008) Newswatch Magazine May 5th ,Vol So2, No1.
- Njoku, ON, (2001) *Economic history of Nigeria: 19th and 20th centuries*, Enugu: Magnet Business Publishers.
- Opata, OC. (2009) Perpetuation of poverty through Governance in Nigeria in Otagburuagu EJ, Governance in Africa in 21st century, Nsukka: Institute of African studies University of Nigeria Nsukka.
- FAO, (2009) Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security Rome, FEp./FEp. fa Fao.org/drocrept/ Fao/meeting/ 018/K6050e. pdk
- FAO, /FAD & WFP (2013) "The state of Food insecurity in the World: The Multiple Divisions of Food Security
- FAO, (2010) Global Forest Resources Assessment Main Report, Rome FAO
- Goshit, G.G. (2007) Agricultural Development Programmes and food security In Nigeria (1970-2004) in Ojiji P. (Ed) *The Nigeria Economy: Challenges and Direction for Growth in Next 25 years*, Makurdi, Aboki Publishers
- Ijere, MO (1974) *Colonial policy in Nigeria agriculture and its implementations in agricultural history*, Enugu, Imperial Press.
- Mamadou B (2002) Food security and livelihood in North West Haiti. *J. Polit Ecol*.
- Metu, A., Kalu. C, And Ezenekwe R. U (2015) Demographic. Pattern and Sustainable development in Nigeria" in Mbanefo A.C and Nnonyelu Eds. *Challenges of Sustainable development A Social Science Approach*, Awka. Fab Anieh Nig Ltd 129-140
- Nigeria Legislative Debates (1926) 4th Session, Lagos Government Printers

- Nwalie M. The Paradox of Food Insecurity in Nigeria (2011-2017) in African Journal of Agriculture & Food Security www.intanationalschooljournals.org/16th April 2018, 9, 45pm
- Opata. C.C (2014). Nigeria and the Search for Food Security since Amalgamation in Global Advance Research Sound of Agricultural Science Vol. S (11) (334-341) <http://gar.org;1> (2017) garjas/index.htm. 13th April 2018 10.15pm
- Otaha, I. J (2013) Food Security in Nigeria: Way Forward, Ethiopia” *An International Multidisciplinary Journal*, 7(4)
- Reychler, L. (2001). From conflict to sustainable Peace building. Concepts and analytical tools in Reychler and Thania Pattenhol2 (eds) *Peace building in AUC* BouldwerColoradis: Lynne Rienner Publishers Inc.
- Second Vatican Council- The church Today as Cited in AP caste (1998) Quotes and Anecdotes: An Anthology For preachers and teachers. MunubicilBombag St. Paul Society Pub.
- Shokpeka S.A &Nwokocha O.A, (2009) British colonial Economic Policy in Nigeria. The Example of Benin Province 1914-1953 as cited in Ekemmadu J.C. (E) *Journal of Human Ecology University of Nigeria Nsukka* 28, (57-66)
- Tukur M.M. (1985), The Nigeria Economic Crisis: Causes and solution as cited in Abba A. et al (ed) *Journal of Political science, University of Nigeria Nsukka*.
- Ukase P.I, (2007) Nigeria food security system and poverty reduction policies: Option strategies for sectorial reforms in the 21st Century as quoted in Osuji P (Ed) *The Nigeria Economy: Challenges and Direction for Growth in the Next 25 years*. Makuridi: Aboki Publishers
- Wit Daniel (1953) *Comparative Political Institutions: A study of Modern Democratic and Distortional System*. New York Holt Rinehant & Wiston Publishers
- Woolf, L.S. (1920) *Empire and commerce in Africa*, London: Allen & Union Pub. (1926)
- World Bank, (2013) *Poverty and Hunger: Issues and Options for Food Security In developing countries*. Washington D.C