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"Are conflicts making us hungry? Evidence from farmer-herdsmen conflicts in rural Nigeria"

In Nigeria, the threat to sustainable food production is worsened by the ongoing farmer-herdsmen conflict in agrarian communities. To evaluate the impact of the conflict on food security and production decisions, we extend the household production model by introducing three variables: risk perception, severity and incidence of conflict. In three essays the following impacts are evaluated:

- (i) the incidence and severity of conflict on household food security;
- (ii) risk perception on household production decisions; and
- (iii) social diversity on risk perception.

A multistage sampling technique is used to collect data from 401 rural households in two geopolitical zones in Nigeria. In essay one, we evaluate the influence of the incidence and severity of conflict on household food security by employing a two-staged residual inclusion model and conclude that only severity of conflict reduces household food security. Essay two is in progress and develops a risk perception index to evaluate how farmers' risk perception influence their use of of fertiliser and pesticide. The results provide policy insights to combat any disruption of agrarian systems and highlight the need for policy interventions for protecting vulnerable groups from hunger and malnutrition in conflict-prone regions across the world.

Speakers

Amaka Nnaji is a Ph.D. student at the Faculty of Agribusiness and Commerce, Lincoln University, New Zealand. She started her Ph.D. in 2018 as a NZAid Scholar under the supervision Dr. Nazmun N. Ratna, Prof. Alan Renwick and Dr. Wanglin Ma. After finishing her Masters in Agricultural Development Economics from the University of Reading, United Kingdom, she worked as lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

Dr Nazmun N. Ratna is a development economist teaching at the Faculty of Agribusiness and Commerce, Lincoln University, since 2007. She has published about development issues related to institutions, food security, social capital, poverty, diversity, and genderagricultural policy nexus, based on her research in Asia (Bangladesh & Vietnam), North America (the US & Costa Rica), and Africa (Nigeria & Malawi). Currently, she is involved in two externally funded projects on the horticultural value chain and nutrition in Bangladesh and India, and eradication of forced labour and modern slavery for Bangladeshi and Nepalese female migrants in the Middle East.

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