Review

## **Rural Urban Migration of Farm Families and Its Effect** on Agricultural Production in Kebbi South, Nigeria. An **Overview**

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This paper critically reviewed rural-urban migration and its effect on agricultural production at the origin of migration of farm families in southern kebbi state, Nigeria. It accounts for the net effect of different migration strategies (temporary and permanent migration) on agricultural productivity in kebbi south senatorial district. Migration is a topical issue that has caught the attention of researchers over the past few decades. The study reviewed the concept of rural urban migration, reasons/ causes of rural urban migration in the region, types of migration, nexus between rural urban migration and agricultural productivity, the plight of internally displaced persons in southern kebbi state and consequences of rural urban migration in relation to agricultural productivity. It is recommended that the government should promptly provide adequate security in the affected areas and provide relief materials to the affected farm families for succor. When peace is restored in the affected villages in kebbi south, rural industrialization should be encouraged in order to revamp the local economy, thus creating more job opportunities for the farm families. Also, adequate provision of infrastructure and social amenities to attract immigrants into the rural areas rather than urban centres is needed. Finally, when peace of the local communities is guaranteed, the government should invest in modernizing the agricultural sector so as to improve the agricultural efficiency of farm families and increase production volumes in Kebbi south and off course the country at large.

Keywords: Rural urban migration, farm families, Effect, Agricultural production, Kebbi South

### INTRODUCTION

Migration is considered as the movement of people from one geographical region to another, which may be on temporary or permanent basis (Adegboye, et al, 2008). People migrate based on the prevailing conditions and the reasons for it vary from one person to another depending on the situation that brought about the decision. Migration is a selective process affecting individuals or families with

certain economic, social, educational and demographic characteristics. The movement of people from rural to urban areas is a common occurrence in Nigeria. The movement poses some problems in the rural as well as in the urban centre even though; there are benefits derivable from it. In most rural areas, the impact of rural-urban migration was a rapid deterioration of the rural economy leading to chronic poverty

and food insecurity (Baggelliot, 2006). These arise mainly due to excessive drain of youth from the rural populace thus leaving only the older and aged members to constitute the labour force of the rural area. Echebiri (2005). In the past years rural to urban migration in developed countries grew during the time of industrialization, when more mechanized farming needed few agricultural workers in the rural area and when there was demand for labor in urban based industries. But this is not always the case. Globally, the nexus between migration and development has remained an issue under vigorous academic debate [Eze, 2016]. Therefore, the process of people migrating to other areas in search of a better life is not a novel one. What has however gained currency is the increasing voluntary movement in guest of better guality of life by low-skill and low-wage workers as well as highskill and high-wage workers from less developed rural areas to more developed urban areas, especially among the poor in the developing countries [Fapulande, 2002]. In this regard, rural-urban migration results from the search for perceived or real opportunities as a consequence of rural-urban inequality in wealth [Hussein, 2001]. This inequality and/or urban bias in development according to research findings over the years results from the overwhelming concentration of wealth, assets, purchasing capacity, economic activities, and variety of services in the urban centres as well as the continued neglect and degradation of rural environments or areas [Knox and Marston, 2004]. Migration has also been identified as a survival strategy utilized by the poor, especially the rural dwellers. The assessment of the effects of migration on rural areas has remained relevant since migration acts as a catalyst in the transformation process of not only the destiny of individual migrants but also the conditions of family members left behind, local communities, and the wider sending regions. One significant source of development for the rural populace as a result of this increasing drift towards the cities is remittances

the effects of rural-urban Consequently, migration in the rural places of origin of migrants may be manifest in two ways. First, the rural-urban migrants send remittances to their relatives in the rural areas and these remittance-receiving households use the remittances for various purposes. Secondly, these ruralurban migrants execute various rural developmental projects in their rural areas of origin. In Nigeria, most migrants coming from a particular rural community to live in an urban area usually form rural community associations in the urban area. These community associations in the urban areas articulate, from time to time, the developmental needs of their rural communities of origin and contribute resources to execute projects such as road construction and the award of educational scholarships to students in the rural areas. Rural-urban migrations both temporary and permanent have positive and negative impacts on the origin of migration.

According to Lewis (2004), some of the negative impacts are: Migration impoverishes rural areas because the most able people tend to leave, Creates labor shortage at peak periods and can lead to a vicious circle of degradation as it generates smaller markets for local activities. Migration could also have a positive impact on the origin of migration when migrants send remittances to alleviate financial constraint of migrant households (Adegboye *et al.*, 2008).

#### **Concepts of Rural-Urban Migration**

Human migration is the permanent change of residence by an individual or group; it excludes such movements as nomadism, migrant labour, commuting, and tourism, all of which are transitory in nature (Parnwell, 2003). Rural-urban migration is one of the most common kinds of migration in developing countries including Nigeria and since colonial times it has been a major type of migration in Nigeria. Rural urban migration generally brings changes as individuals migrate for temporary or permanent residence from one geographical region to another. A major change that results from rural urban migration is urbanization which leads to an increase in the number of people residing in towns or cities. On the other hand, rural-urban migration leads to a reduction in the number of people residing in these rural areas which have adverse effects on certain sectors such as agriculture since the remaining individuals residing in the rural areas are the aged and the children. According to Mohammed (2019), ruralurban migration leads to a decrease in farming activities as a result of a reduction in population. The breakaway from subsistence farming to cash crop farming and manufacturing resulted in the temporary or permanent movement of the youth particularly the males from the rural areas to the urban areas in search of paid jobs. Rural-urban migration was formerly a process of economic expansion and growth as well as development since the excess labour in the rural areas were needed for industrial development. (Todaro, 2009). Nonetheless, in recent times, the perspective of rural-urban migration with has altered drastically regards to the conceptualization that have defined it in contemporary times. Rural-urban migration according to certain policy experts and urban developers perceived rural-urban migration to be negative given that it is seen as disrupting urban city development in many African countries including Nigeria creating urban slums and increasing crime rates. (Kayo, 2014)

### **Types/ Classification of Migration**

Routledge (2013) posits that migration could come in different forms depending on the nature and the reason of the movement:

Internal migration: This refers to a change of residence within national boundaries, such as between states, provinces, cities, or municipalities. An internal migrant is someone who moves to a different administrative territory. The four types of internal migration are: Rural to urban Urban to rural, Rural to rural and Urban to urban

**International migration**: This refers to change of residence over national boundaries. An international migrant is someone who moves to a different country. International migrants are further classified as legal immigrants, illegal immigrants, and refugees. Legal immigrants are those who moved with the legal permission of the receiver nation, illegal immigrants are those who moved with out legal permission, and refugees are those crossed an international boundary to escape persecution (Routledge, 2013)

**Forced migration:** Forced migration exists when a person is moved against their will (slaves), or when the move is initiated because of external factors (natural disaster or civil war). The distinction between internal and international migration is crucial because they happen for different reasons. Because structural barriers are more likely to impede the mobility of a potential international migration involves more administrative procedures, greater expense, and more difficulties associated with obtaining employment, accessing state services, learning a new language, and the like—the motivations behind international migration are usually stronger than those behind internal migration (Osondu and Ibezim 2001).

**Classification of migration based on the nature of movement.** This would include immigration and emigration. Immigration refers to the movement of persons or population to another country. Emigration, on the other hand, refers to the movement of persons or populations from one country. For example, immigration of Filipinos to the United States and emigration of Indians from India.

**Classification of migration based on permanence.** Under permanence, we have permanent, temporary, voluntary, and forced. Permanent migration refers to the movement from one area to another without plans of returning to the place of origin. Temporary migration refers to the migration done on a limited time. Forced migration involves migrants leaving without any choice. Voluntary migration is the opposite of forced.

**Classification of migration based on the nature of location**. Under such classification, we have internal and international. Internal migration refers to a chance of residence within the country (Rural urban, Urban urban, Rural rural, and Urban rural. It is also known as internal migration. International migration, on the other hand, refers to the change of residence to different nations or countries. It is also known as external migration (Routledge, 2013).

Hussein (2001) stated that there are other types of migration as follows: gross migration refers to the total number of arrivals of immigrants and the departures of emigrants, net migration refers to the difference between the total number of people coming in and the sum of people living out. It could also refer to the difference between the number of immigrants and the number of emigrants, impelled migration refers to the movement of people from a country or area because of unfavorable instances, step migration refers to the progressive migration from a shorter distance to a father destination, chain migration refers to a series of migration which a defined group of people, rural-urban migration refers to the movement of people from the rural areas to a specific region in the urban area of a country. This could be brought about by the presence of better opportunities for work in the urban areas, interregional migration refers to the movement of populations from a region to another region in a country, intercontinental migration refers to the movement of people between and among different continents. For example, people from Asia would move to Europe, intracontinental migration refers to the movement of people between and among countries within the same continent. For example, people from the Thailand would move to Japan. Both countries are found in Asia, seasonal migration refers to the movement of people or animals due to climate or seasonal reasons. For instance, some people would move to another place in order to plants crops or harvest. Animals, on the other hand, would migrate to prepare for the winter season, return migration refers to the return of people to their country of origin after leaving the country which they went at (Routledge, 2013).

## Reasons/Causes for Rural urban Migration in Kebbi South

Migration may occur in response to changing economic, social, or political conditions. It could also occur due to conflict, war, terrorism, banditry, cattle rustling, kidnappings etc. Push factors are conditions in the sending population that impel or stimulate migration. Conditions that attract in-migrants are classified as pull factors (Baggelliot, 2006). Inadequate employment opportunities in rural areas, Search for better education Inadequate social infrastructure such as schools, Famine and drought resulting in hunger, Lack of interest in farming, Poor medical care services in rural areas, Apprenticeship programmes, Natural disasters such as flood and fire outbreak, Better housing in the city, Change of environment, Escape from punishment as a result of crime committed, Poor chances of marrying, Inadequate physical infrastructure such as good roads

and electricity, Social status of one's parents, Better transport facilities in the urban areas, Join family members in the city. Obtaining money through labour, Displacement as a result of communal crises and Desire for more political or religious power could also be reasons for rural urban drift. Declining insecurity, economic opportunities, political instability, or the weakening of place ties may stimulate out-migration. Expanding economic opportunities, potential for advancement, the presence of family members and friends, or previous vacationing or residential experience tend to attract migrants. Not surprisingly, rural communities experiencing insecurity due to banditry, rural communities with high birthrates and regions with limited opportunities are areas of high out-migration, whereas urban, industrial regions and communities with expanding opportunities tend to have high in-migration (Eze, 2016). Marriage, divorce, increasing or decreasing

family size, and housing adequacy top the list in the review.

Echebiri (2005) proposed a macro-level threestage model of national internal migration. First, with the onset of modernization, the overall level of migration increases, primarily in the form of rural-to-urban moves. Second, as industrialization and modernization spread to more regions, rural urban migration may continue to increase; improved transportation and communication increase the availability of information and decrease the uncertainty of moving. Interurban moves become the majority of all moves. Finally, at advanced stages, when level-of-living differences among areas have diminished, there may be more urban-to-rural movement and more "consumer-oriented" migration toward warm climates or locations with other amenities (Fapolinde, 2002).

### Summary Table for Push and Pull Factors Causing Rural Urban Migration

Push	Pull
Lack of employment opportunities.	Limited food production due to overgrazing or the misuse of land, resulting in soil erosion or exhaustion.
Better paid jobs. (Factory workers receive about three times the wages of farm workers). Starvation, resulting from either too little output for the people in the area or crop failure. Frequently, it	Pressure on the land, e.g. division of land among sons – each has too little to live on.
may also be caused by a change in agriculture – from producing crops for the family/local community to a system that produces cash/plantation crops for consumption in HICs.	A better chance of services, e.g. schools, medical treatment, entertainment.
More comfortable houses and a higher quality of life.	Many families do not own land.
Extreme physical conditions, e.g. aridity, mountainous terrain, cold, heat and dense vegetation.	Lack of services.
The 'bright lights' of the city.	Overpopulation, resulting from high birth rates.
Religious and political activities can be carried out more safely.	Mechanisation has led to a reduction in jobs available on the land, as well as a decrease in yields in many areas.
Farming is hard work with long hours and little pay. In LICs, a shortage of money implies a lack of machinery, pesticides and fertiliser.	More reliable sources of food.
Local communities forced to move.	Lack of investment as money available to the government will be spent in urban areas.

Source: Author construct, 2022

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Local communities forced to move.

Source: Author construct, 2022

## Nexus between Rural urban Migration and agricultural production

A couple of major effects show the link between rural urban migration and agricultural production. First, the loss of labour through rural urban migration which may tighten the labour constraint for agricultural production and second, the earnings in the form of remittances from migrants which may loosen credit constraints and help with investments in agricultural production. These two effects in terms of agricultural income may be positive, negative or they may offset each other. A positive effect would imply that rural urban migration complements agricultural production while a negative effect would imply that the loss of labour caused by rural urban migration reduces agricultural productivity however the finding of a significant effect is evidence in support of NELM (Mohammed, 2019). In view of the fact that rural urban migration has been part of the economy, right from the supply and demand theories of Todaro (2009) and theories of rationality of the individual of Todaro (2009), it is quite clear that migration is no new thing. It is expected that agricultural households which have lost labour to migration will be able to adapt to shortage of labour. Existing methods of adaptation include transitioning to less labour intensive farming methods such as less labour intensive crops and mechanization (Eze, 2016). Mechanization has however been found to be inefficient in situations of decentralized small plots- which is the case in most parts of Africacausing agricultural labour productivity to be below potential (Lewis, 2004)

Considering the empirical studies which have shown a negative effect of domestic rural to urban migration on agricultural production of rural households at origin, the use of the remittances received is then an open question. A couple of thoughts arise, the remittances are either not enough to offset the lost labour effects or they are channeled into other uses other than agriculture. Osondu and Marston (2004) in explanation of the negative effects of migration on the output of the agricultural household which receive remittances argued that remittances cause the rest of the household to substitute leisure for work which results in increased cost of labour and lands lying fallow. Roultledge (2013) also argues that the use of remittances as payment for education of the future generation of the household is a very common practice which would pass as a long run investment to boost agricultural production, however in the short run it may be seen as a misdirected investment. Similarly, other studies have found positive effects of remittances of migration on education or household consumption and housing expenditure. No long run impacts on agricultural production can be established by channeling remittances into housing and household consumption. However, when the households needs on consumption and other expenditures have been fully met, the household may invest remittances into agriculture as well in order to enhance productivity in cases of extended length of migration period (Echebiri, 2005).

## The plight of Internally Displaced Persons in Kebbi south

The most tragic form of internal migration in kebbi south (Rural urban) is often as a result of banditry, conflict and violence. While soldiers and local vigilante (Yan-sakai) warriors often capture the minds of people reading and learning about these conflicts, the truth of the matter is that there are millions of people who never pick up a weapon but are nonetheless affected by banditry and conflict. However, it is not always just conflict and banditry, severe famine and disease can also produce the conditions for people to want to leave their home regions. Once these individuals cross an international border, they are called refugees. However, millions of people want to leave but never actually make it out of the country and they are known as internallydisplaced persons as is the case with kebbi south and other parts of the country. Such internally-displaced persons may move only a few miles away from home for a few weeks while fighting calms down or they may end up shifting hundreds of miles away for quite some time.

# Consequences of Rural-Urban Migration in Kebbi South

Agricultural Productivity: Effects of rural urban migration could be felt in the following: Rural-urban migration has some consequences on members in the places of origin. The farm families leaving the rural areas as a result of banditry may lose valuable human resources such as agricultural labour force, animals,

residences, food stuff and entrepreneurs as well as loss important family members Low agricultural of productivity, Decreases the dependency ratio in rural areas, Reduces number of mouths to feed, Reduces demand on locally grown feeds, Reduces formation of groups and cooperative societies among youths, Farm work is mostly done by aged parents, High cost of labour, Farm work becomes tedious, Unavailability of farm labour, Food insecurity in households, Poor yield of crops as a result of farm input, Leads to poverty among farm families, Reduction of household annual income, Poor standard of living, Leads to diversification into nonfarm occupation (Hussein, 2001). The movement of people from rural to urban areas is a common occurrence in Nigeria and this movement poses some problems in the rural as well as in the urban center even though there are benefits derivable from it. In most rural areas, the impact of rural urban migration was a rapid deterioration of the rural economy leading to chronic poverty and food insecurity (Parnwell, 2013). These arise mainly due to excessive drain of farm families from the rural populace as a result of bandits.

Over the years, there has been a serious shortage of labour in the agricultural sector within the rural areas and this has been compounded by banditry. Nigeria, like most other African countries is endowed with very fertile land capable of producing cereals as well as other crops in abundance. There is plenty of sunshine and rainfall; unfortunately the country is presently unsafe for farmers. That is why the country unable to feed itself simply because there is no labour to till the land. It is through that when a country is developing there is always the need to decrease the labour force in the agricultural sector and deplore the surplus labour in the industries (as in the case of Britain during the Industrial Revolution). Nigeria's economy is still at its rudimentary stage and requires more labour to develop the agricultural sector (Kayo, 2014).

*Health:* Rural urban migration and health keep complex relationships and interactions which operate both ways from rural urban migration to health and from health to rural urban migration and can be either positive or negative from beneficial to deleterious effects on health and from push to pull factors on migration. A most visible effect of population movements is that migrants may carry communicable diseases with them and propagate these diseases in host populations, from country to country and from region to region (Bagelliot, 2006). According to Echebiri (2005) the emerging HIV and AIDS epidemic in the 1980's provoked the screening for HIV and restrictions to migration in countries as diverse as the USA, China, Russia and South Africa, though most of these controls were later lifted for protecting individual human rights. The screening for tuberculosis is still routine for migrant workers in many countries, though with the aim of appropriate treatment to stop the re-emergence of the disease.

In addition, Lewis (2004) indicates that migrants and travelers also contribute to the spread of certain communicable diseases within national populations, in particular from urban to rural areas. A classic example is provided by the sexually transmitted diseases (STD's), which are transmitted primarily in cities within core groups often involving prostitution and other forms of multiple partnerships and are spread to the rural areas by returning migrant workers, merchants and travelers. Syphilis was spread this way throughout Europe, especially in the 19th century at the time of industrialization and urbanization. Furthermore, new job opportunities attracted young single men and women from the rural areas, who were particularly susceptible to multiple partnerships, and STD's. The dynamics of the HIV and AIDS epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa bears many similarities with the earlier syphilis epidemic in Europe, and is also closely linked to rapid urbanization, (Todaro, 2009). It is further stated that migration has clearly facilitated the rapid spread of HIV in the Southern African region over the last two decades. For a number of reasons, migrants and other mobile people are especially vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. The epidemic, in turn, is leading to new forms of migration, including children's migration and return migration of People Living with HIV and AIDS to rural areas. Not only does this lead to a decline in remittances but it also places a greater burden on rural households. Rural food production for urban household members may also be negatively affected by the impact of HIV/AIDS on rural producers. In the context of HIV/AIDS, migrants may be unable to pursue other food security avenues including urban agriculture.

Education: When looking at the impact of rural urban migration and remittances on educational attainment, the underlying hypothesis is that remittances increase educational opportunities. The logic is that the remittances relax the household's budget constraint, which previously limited educational investment, thereby enabling households in developing countries to invest in the human capital of children. Such an outcome is key in terms of country growth and development (Adegboye et al, 2008). Remittances significantly reduce the drop-out rate of individuals aged 6 to 24. Remittances also contribute positively to school attendance. Knox and Marston (2004) explicitly recognize the complex interaction between migration and remittances and find that in Mexico, children in migrant households complete significantly more grades of school at a given age than do other children. In addition, Eze (2016) maintains that school enrolment or dropout may be limited proxies in measuring the impact of rural urban migration and remittances on the education of children left behind. The impact could simply be the result of a higher demand for institutionalized child care in families where one of the parents is migrating. Children of migrants fared better than the children of non-migrants, not only in terms of

school attendance, but also in terms of results and achievement. The economic benefits of rural urban migration somehow translate into better outcomes for the children of migrants.

Migration only affects educational outcomes through remittances and not through any other channel. In addition, migration of a family member may have a number of other effects on child schooling. For example, parental absence as a result of migration may translate into less parental inputs into education acquisition and may also require remaining children to undertake housework or work to help meeting short-term labor and cash shortages (Mohammed, 2019). The positive effect on children's academic performance may reflect specific patterns of investments migrant parents channel into children's education. Bagelliot (2006) argues that in the Philippines, remittances were used to send children to private schools, which were considered better than public schools. He suggests that children in left behind households have a higher probability of attending private schools, and that on average they got better grades than non-migrant children.

## Challenges Faced By Migrants at the Place of Destination

On arrival at the urban centers, the migrants with little or no formal education or skills find life to be difficult because they are used to rural life and accommodation could be a serious challenge especially for those without relatives in the urban areas. They could also find out that life is not as anticipated. There are no readily available jobs, majority find themselves in the informal sector with low income and lacking basic urban services and therefore not being able to improve their dwellings and living standards (Kayo, 2014). In addition, migrants who are not educated often get exploited at work. Because of the unregulated nature of domestic work, many of the migrants have to face harsh working conditions and excessively long working hours. Besides, language barriers are a fundamental hurdle for immigrants and appear to stop them from making vital connections in their communities. Even daily tasks like taking a bus or grocery shopping can be overwhelming (Routledge, 2013).

Stalker (Parnwell, 2013) emphasizes that immigrants also face discrimination including their children at school from classmates and teachers alike. Their children feel like they do not belong, and language barriers and academic struggles also add to the problem. Moreover, this discrimination of migrants leads to trauma. The innumerable losses that migrants experience when they migrate and resettle are often exacerbated by their experiences related to war, or to the violation of their rights as individuals or as a group, based on their race, religion, gender, nationality, political viewpoint, sexual orientation, or membership in a particular social group.Todaro (2009) indicate that migrants experience culture shock at the place of destination. The culture shock may be greater in areas where cultural diversity is less apparent and fewer ethnic clubs are available to support entrants when they arrive. Culture shock is the name given to the physical and emotional distress that comes from being away from one's familiar environment and having one's boundaries greatly changed. It affects almost everyone who becomes involved with a new culture.

This includes facing challenges to one's beliefs, values and practices and often feeling the need to change one's practices as a result. In addition, culture shock results in emotional distress and reinforces feelings of not belonging. In some cases, it may imply rejection which results in a tendency of migrants to isolate themselves and diminishing their ability to overcome their difficulties. On the other hand, migrants often lose their identity when they arrive at urban areas. In order to adapt and be accepted migrants throw off all their customs and cultures. They want to associate themselves with urban people as they feel ashamed about their own identity. For some immigrants this struggle to defining themselves can lead to shame at where they come from, guilt at feeling bad about being ashamed and a feeling of incompleteness and disloyalty to those they left behind (Lewis, 2004). The migrants lose their identity through the process of acculturation and adaptation. Acculturation is the process by which members of one group adopt the cultural traits of another group with whom they are in contact. Acculturation, which is a significant part of the experience of resettling into a new location, involves the process of letting go of certain beliefs, values, and practices, from one's original location and adopting different beliefs, values, and practices that one is exposed to in the new location. The process of acculturation becomes a life-long challenge for every member of a family that migrates to other location. Parents struggle to keep what is really valued to them and to their cultural community, while at the same time trying to facilitate their children's integration into where they have migrated.

# Strategies for Reducing Rural-Urban Migration Resulting from Banditry in Kebbi South

Mohammed (2019) observed that the foremost strategy in reducing rural urban migration resulting from banditry in the troubled villages of kebbi south is the prompt provision of adequate and sustained security by government and voluntary security operatives such as local vigilante (Yan-sakai) to the villages. Provision of relief materials to the already displaced farm families for succor. When these are adequately provided and

relative peace is restored, the following can then be provide in order to ensure continues habitation in rural areas for agricultural production. The provision could be in the form of Provision of basic amenities such as schools, pipe borne water and electricity, Establishment of vocational training centers for skill acquisition, Provision of incentives such as microcredit for farm families in agriculture, Empowering and integrating farm families into agricultural-based activities Establishment of advocacy programme such as youth employment in agriculture Encouraging formation of groups and societies such as young farmers clubs and cooperative societies for easy access to loans by farm families, Provision of improved varieties of crops and breeds of livestock, Use of improved modern technologies such as farm implements, Provision of labour saving devices for easy farm operation, Establishment of agro-processing centres for value of farm produce, Regular and timely provision of farm inputs such as fertilizers and agrochemical Subsidizing prices of farm inputs such as fertilizers, herbicide and pesticide etc. Use of improved method of farming in order to attract more of farm families into farming especially youths, Making agricultural science a compulsory subject in primary and secondary schools to promote interests of youths in agriculture, Establishment of agro-allied industries in the rural areas, Establishing of Bank of Agriculture in rural areas for easy access to loans (Mohammed, 2019)

### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The review discovered that most of the people engaged in rural urban migration were farm families involving male, female and children having a farming experience of 22 years and above. Majority of the respondents belonged to one type of agricultural organization or the other. Causes of rural-urban migration were banditry activities prevalent in the areas that has displaced them. The callous bandits burn their farm produce, houses and rustle their cattle leaving them with no means of livelihood. They therefore have no option than to migrate to urban centres for succor. While in the cities, adequate employment opportunities may abound, better education may be obtained, adequate social infrastructure such as schools, good medical care services may be accessed, etc. Agriculture generally will be affected in the rural areas because farm families have migrated to urban centres as a result of banditry. Other major effects of rural urban migration were reduction in agricultural labour force, low agricultural productivity, high cost of labour, farm work becomes tedious, reduction of household annual income, farm work mostly done by aged parent, unavailability of farm labour, food insecurity in households, among others. The study recommends that adequate security of the affected villages should be ensured and relief material should be provided to the internally displaced persons. When this is done, physical

and social infrastructures such as good roads, electricity, schools and hospitals should be put in place in the affected rural areas by Nigerian government in order to encourage farm families to remain in agriculture, reduce rural-urban migration as well as sustain agriculture for enhanced food security.

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