

Perception of IFAD-CASP Staff on the Effect of Rural Banditry in Zamfara State, Nigeria

Sanchi ID¹, Sabo AY¹, Alhassan YJ² and Danmaigoro, A³

¹Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Federal University of Agriculture Zuru, Kebbi State, Nigeria ishaqsanchi@mail.com and aminayahayasabo@gmail.com
08060664031/08065978543

²Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Federal University Wukari, Taraba State, Nigeria

³Department of Agricultural Science, Adamu Augie College of Education Argungu, Kebbi State, Nigeria

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Abstract: The paper studied the perceptions of IFAD-CASP staff on the effect of rural banditry in Zamfara state, Nigeria. Interview schedule and focus group discussion (FGD) was used to collect data from 360 respondents that were selected for the study. A multi stage and simple random sampling technique was used in selecting the respondents. Descriptive statistics tools such as mean, percentage and pairwise ranking were used for data analysis. The results of the study reveals that majority of the respondents were married with an average household size of 8 persons and income level of less than N 20,000/month. The result on the perception of IFAD-CASP staff shows rural banditry disrupts programme and increase rural poverty were ranked 1st. While the result on the perception of crop producers show rural banditry pose psychological trauma, reduce social relationship and induces fear and uncertainty and were ranked 1st, 2nd, 3rd respectively. Based on the finding of the study, it could be concluded that rural banditry posed a threat to IFAD-CASP aims and objectives in the study area. The Study therefore, recommended the urgent recruitment of security personnel for effective policing, conditional grant and other assistance should be immediately rendered to victims of rural banditry to begin a new life again.

Keywords: Perception, IFAD-CASP Staff, Effect, Rural Banditry, Zamfara State.

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INTRODUCTION

Rural banditry has become a widespread social phenomenon that is fast ravaging several societies of the developing world. In most cases rural banditry is usually the decision of an individual centrally organized parties geared to engage in open armed clashes in disputes about power over government and territory and such conflicts are caused by several factors (Haynes, 2009). Which includes insincerity on the part of one or the parties that were involved, disappointment from either of the parties that were involved, internal disagreement, and inability to address the root cause of a long-standing conflict, proliferation of weapons and arms and ethnic factor. According to Newman (2004) rural banditry can only be made possible when weapons are made available to fight, thereby inflicting injuries and sometime death of individuals. Similarly mischievous individuals take advantage of it to cause disturbance in order to achieve their interest (Mueller, 2000).

According to Blattman and Miguel (2010), rural banditry is fast becoming popular in developing countries than in developed ones. It is also fast becoming an integral part of the activities in most developing nations like Nigeria. Earlier researchers (de Beurs and Henebry,

2008; Hanson *et al.*, 2009; Baumann *et al.*, 2014) have shown that the aftermath of rural banditry in society has been consistently negative, for instance, it increases the rate of poverty, resulting to an increase in the number of internal displacement of several persons, causes outbreak of diseases, reduce food security and stunt impediment in economic growth.

Just like other developing nations, Nigeria has in the last five decades, experienced various forms of rural banditry, most notably after independence (1960). It has occurred in almost all the six geopolitical zones of the country. Even though the incidences do not cut across every state in each geographical zones, yet almost all the states has suffered from its negative consequences either directly or indirectly (Mueller, 2000). Thus, the consequences of rural banditry on the Nigerian society are negative and endless because besides affecting almost all the states of the federation it also affected virtually every other area in the state where it occurred. For instance, in Zamfara, it has led to massive loss of lives and properties and caused disease and disabilities. It has also increased the numbers of widows, widowers and orphans. It has raised up the rate of depression, trauma,

mental retardation, suicide and environmental destruction with dire consequences for agricultural production and food shortages (Ngoh, 2013).

The conflict has accounted for the severe food crisis and insecurity in several parts of Zamfara state. Similarly, several agricultural lands have equally been destroyed. It has also accounted for environmental changes, degradation of agricultural soil, erosion of the genetic base of agricultural biodiversity, water scarcity, poor governance and changes in consumption patterns, uncontrolled deforestation, export-oriented agricultural development policies and political malfunctions (Kuna and Ibrahim, 2015).

In a bid to cushion the effects of hardship posed by banditry in the rural areas of Zamfara State, the state government has introduced various programmes such as amnesty. This programme is aimed at relegating the effects of rural banditry on the people of Zamfara State. It was observed that similar strategy was adopted at the Niger Delta by the Federal Government of Nigeria through the amnesty programme when the military force failed to deter the militants and bring normalcy to the region (Ekumaoko, 2013) where people have been forced to device coping strategies to ensure that they survive.

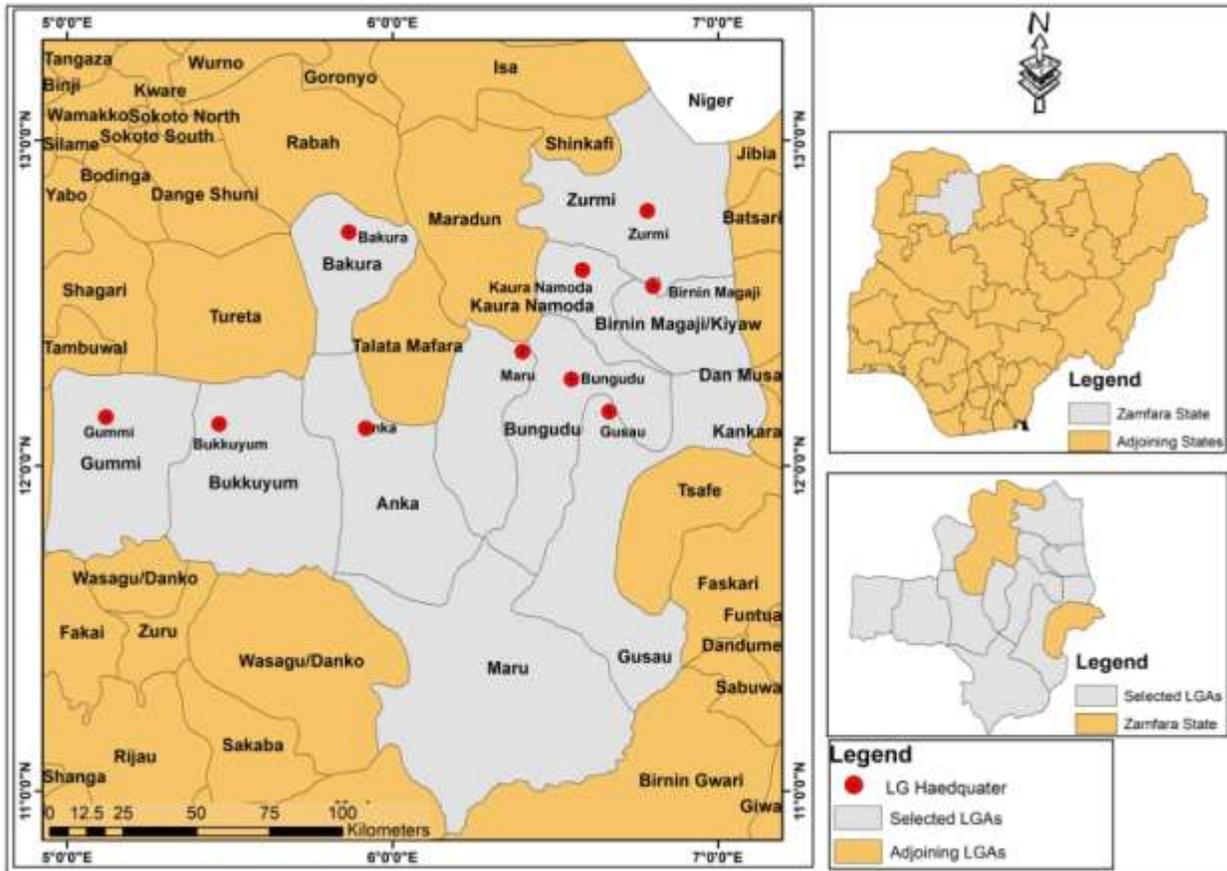
Before the occurrence of rural banditry in Zamfara state, the federal government introduced International Fund for Agricultural Development Climate Change Adaptation and Agric Business Support Programme as a strategy to efficiently combat hunger and poverty, in seven northern Nigeria States of Kebbi, Sokoto, Zamfara, Katsina, Jigawa, Yobe and Borno (Ashe, (2019). In these States, women and farmers with small farm holdings were the most vulnerable group of people because they suffer from hunger and poverty. Since the incessant rural banditry began in Zamfara State, the socio-economic status of these people has become extremely low apparently caused by decreased participation in rural development programmes which by implication pose a threat to the IFAD -CASP.

Statistics have shown that more than 80% of the people living in Zamfara State engage in various forms of agricultural activities ranging from crop production of millet, guinea corn, maize, rice, groundnut, cotton, tobacco and beans to livestock and fish farming. The climate exhibits a definite mark of wet and dry seasons. Tropical continental air mass predominates during the dry season while harmattan last from December to February and wet season June to mid-October. Rainfall distribution varies from 675mm to 1000mm with an average annual temperature of between 26 and 30 degree centigrade (Mamman, 2000).

METHODOLOGY

Study Area

This study was conducted in Zamfara State. The state was established in 1996 by the then military administration of the Late General Sani Abacha. Zamfara State was carved out of Sokoto State. It comprises of fourteen (14) Local Government Areas, with an area landmass of 38,418 sq. km. The state stretches between Latitude 10 21' to 13 15'N and Longitude 60 20'E Fig 3.1 (Google maps, 2019). Zamfara State is bordered in the North by Niger Republic, in the South by Kaduna State, in has a population of 4,515,400 according to (NPC 2019) projection.



Source; Department of Geography UDUS Fig 3.1: Map of Zamfara State

Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

The population of the study comprises of participating crop producers of IFAD-CASP in Zamfara State, North West Nigeria. The State is divided into three agricultural zones namely: Northern Zone (Birnin Magaji, Kaura Namoda, Shinkafi and Zurmi LGAs), Central Zone (Bungudu, Gusau, Maru and Tsafe LGAs), and Western Zone (Anka, Bakura, Bukkuyum, Gummi, Maradun and Talata Mafara LGAs).

Selection of sample for the study was done using multi-stage sampling technique. A List of CDAs was

obtained from IFAD-CASP office in Gusau, the zamfara state capital. At the first stage, from each of the three agricultural zones, three LGAs were purposively selected to obtain a total of nine (9) LGAs. At the second stage, twelve (12) CDAs were selected from each of the LGA selected to obtain a total of thirty six (36) CDAs. At the third and final stage, ten (10) respondents were selected using simple random sampling from each of the selected CDA to obtain a total of three hundred and sixty (360) respondents.

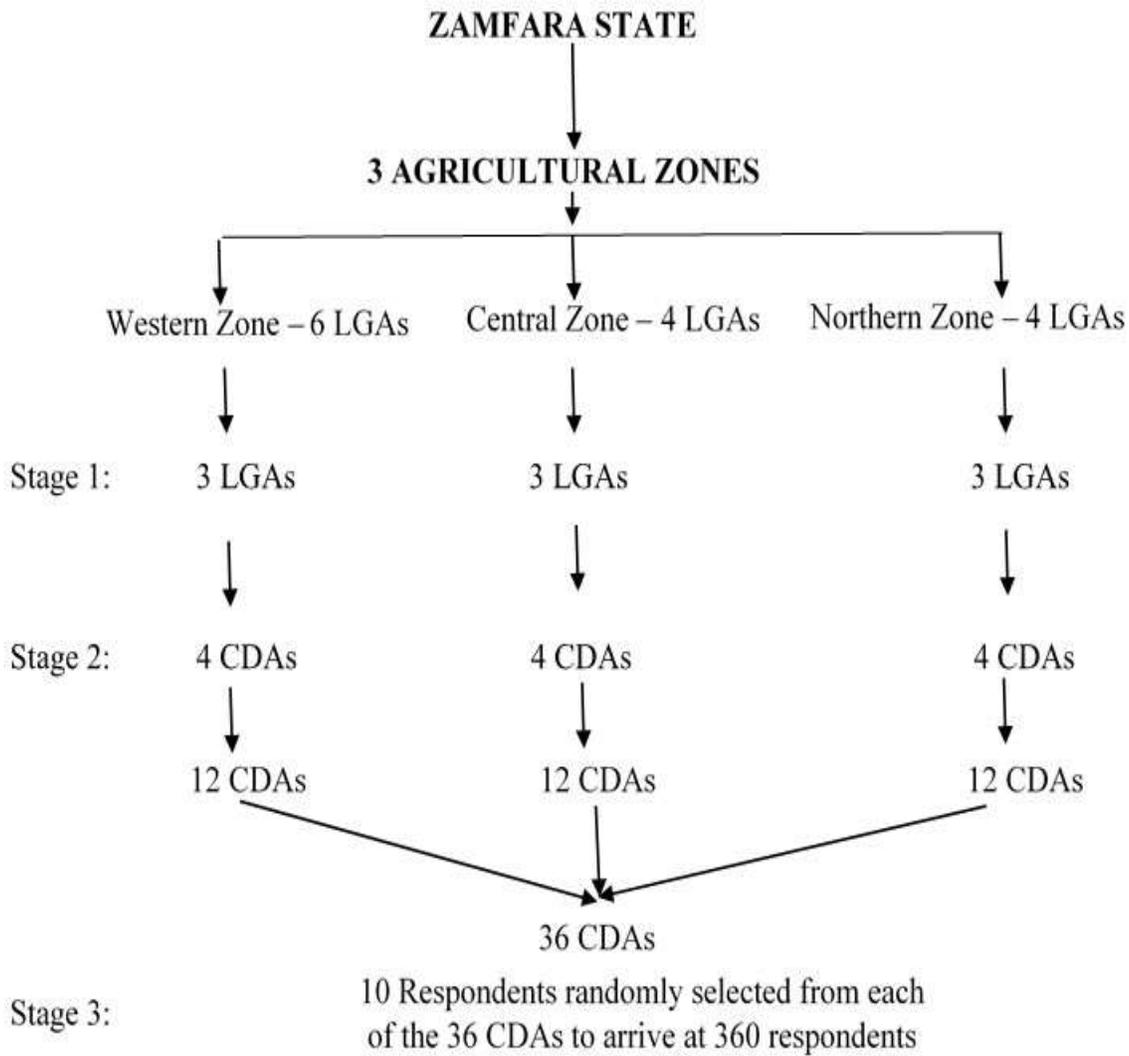


Figure 3.2: Sampling Procedure

Method of Data Collection

The researcher engaged the services of research assistants. Both the researcher and the research assistants administered the structured questionnaire directly to the respondents and immediately retrieved them upon completion. In addition, mixed method was used to collect primary data(Interview schedule and focus group discussion) while, secondary information was obtained through journal, books, magazines, internet, past thesis, Online Library, encyclopedias and research proceedings etc.

Method of Data Analysis

After the data collection process, the researcher reviewed, sorted and labeled the instruments before the commencement of the analysis. This was done using the variables in line with the research instruments (questionnaire and Interview schedule). Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics (frequencies and percentages, mean and Pairwise ranking).

RESULTS

Table 1 Distribution of Socio-Economic Characteristic of the IFAD-CASP participating crop producers in Zamfara State n= 360

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Sex		
Male	259	71.9
Female	101	28.1
Age		
18-27	56	15.5
28-37	117	32.5
38-47	79	21.9
48-57	80	22.2
58<	28	7.9
Marital Status		
Single	49	13.6
Married	280	77.8
Divorced	9	2.5
Separated	5	1.4
Widowed	17	4.7
Income/Month		
>20,000	199	55.3
20,001-50,000	132	36.7
50,001-80,000	16	4.4
80,001-110,000	10	2.8
110,001<	3	0.8
Residence		
Rural	298	82.7
Urban	62	17.3
Household Size		
0-5	122	33.8
6-10	135	37.5
11-15	70	19.4
16-20	33	9.3

Source: Field survey, 2020.

Table 2: Pair Wise Ranking of IFAD-CASP Staff Perceptions on Rural Banditry. (n=360)

Problem /Perception	1	2	3	4	5	Score	Rank
1. Rural banditry displace crop producers	X	2	1	4	1	2	3 rd
2. Rural banditry disrupt IFAD-CASP programme		X	3	2	2	3	1 st
3. Rural banditry increase rural poverty			X	3	3	3	1 st
4. Rural banditry threaten life and security				X	4	2	3 rd
5. Should the programme continue despite rural banditry.					X	0	5 th

Source: Field Survey, 2020.

Table 3. Pair Wise Ranking of IFAD-CASP Crop Producers Perceptions on Rural Banditry. (n=360)

Perception of crop producers		1	2	3	4	Score	Rank
1.	Pose psychological trauma	X	1	1	1	3	1 st
2.	Reduce social relationship		X	2	2	2	2 nd
3.	Induce fear and uncertainty			X	4	1	3 rd
4.	Family inconveniences				X	0	4 th

Source: Field Survey, 2020

DISCUSSION

Table 1 shows the Socio-Economic Characteristic of the IFAD-CASP Participating Crop Producers. Socio-economic information of the IFAD-CASP participating crop producers with regards to impact assessment of rural banditry is very important as studies have shown that outstanding factors which include age, gender, marital status, educational level, income, residence, and household size are considered as the major socio-economic characteristics in this study area.

The gender of the IFAD-CASP participating crop producers is expected to have effect on the level of involvement in farming activities and also IFAD-CASP, this are accredited to the religious and cultural background of IFAD-CASP participating crop producers in the study area, Majority 71.9% of the participating crop producers of IFAD-CASP were male due to their active involvement in outdoor activities such as farming and animal rearing. While female participates mostly in indoor farming activities such as small animal rearing, processing, threshing and packaging of farm produce this is so because Islam is the predominant religion and has put some restrictions on women to interact freely outside the matrimonial homes and getting responses from such category is sometimes impracticable. These discrepancies are believed to have been influenced by the nature of the study theme- rural banditry which is highly practiced by the male counterparts (John. 2018). Again, some women felt this is not their area of interest because they hardly participate. Even though they are also directly affected by these harmful acts as they are mostly the victims of rape abduction and other forms of sexual abuses (Mohammed, 2017).

The age of IFAD-CASP participating crop producers has effect on the level of activities. It determines the level of participation in the programme

and it is an important measure of farm productivity. The age grouping can be divided into say the active group and dependent age group. Table 1 shows that about (32.5%) of the IFAD-CASP participating crop producers were between the age ranges of 28-37years which is the active age range. At this age, the respondents are expected to be virile and able to do a lot of farm work if given proper incentives. According to Mohammed, (2017) majority of the respondents were within their youthful ages of active involvement in rural occupations which are mostly farming and rearing of domestic animals and invariably became more affected by the problem of cattle rustling as they are usually the target.

This agrees with the findings of Hazen, (2008) who posited that youth perform most active farm operation and majority of the youth are between the ages brackets of 18-35years. This was an expected indicator based on the fact that the youths have been highlighted as the main players in the rural banditry activities. This agrees with the findings of Dimelu, (2017) who opined that Majority (52.2%) of the farmers were below the mean age indicating that the farmers were still in their active and productive years. Consequently, they may respond violently to conflict issues or become very aggressive to herdsmen due to youthful exuberance. Also, the results show the dominance of male in farming probably because men are more energetic and capable of involving in tedious production activities associated with farming than women. It is believed that married couples are likely to participate more in IFAD-CASP than single parent families due to labour supply in farming activities and access to productive resources in agriculture (Momale *et al.*, 2019). The research findings show that, majority of the IFAD-CASP participating crop producers are married having (77.8%), single having (13.6%), widowed (4.7%)

and divorced (2.5%). This implies that most of the participating crop producers have some responsibilities; therefore marital status is an important factor to be considered in any programme of change to be introduced to the study area since family decision will be required in any activity to be embarked upon Muller, (2000).

Zamfara State Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Programme Officer (IFADCASP), said that the Programme was aimed to providing access to improved seeds and technologies that has helped farmers increase production as well as their income. According to the State Programme Officer raising the income of farmers through the provision of improved seeds and farming practices, which the farmers adopt has recorded high yields. "The programme has helped many farmers by increasing their yields and enhancing the farmers' income". However, this research finding was in disagreement with the above statement due to rising issue of rural banditry and rural banditry in the study area. Majority (53.3%) of the IFADCASP participating crop producers in the study area has an income of <N20,000. This implies that participating crop producers suffer more loss such as reduction in output and income from crop as a result of the destruction of crops and indiscriminate bush burning by rural bandits. The findings of Adelakun *et al.*, (2015) shows that majority of the farmers suffer more losses from farmer-pastoralist conflicts, especially economic losses such as reduction in output (20.0%), loss of properties (28.3%), and scarcity of food (23.3%) were regarded as severe economic losses experienced by farmers. A larger percentage (46.7%) of the farmers indicated loss of properties as a major economic loss encountered as a result of conflict. It is necessary to establish the residence of the participating crop producers, in such a way to find out the location of the participating crop producers either urban or rural dwellers. Majority of IFAD-CASP participating crop producers (83%) are rural dwellers in the study area which are more affected by the issue of rural banditry and rural banditry while (17%) are urban dwellers. According to Dimelu (2017) in his studies on Livelihood issues in herdsman-farmers' conflict among farming communities in Kogi State, find out that (22%) of the farming family lives in urban area. This could negatively affect the farmers' perception of conflict situation and subsequently their behavior and attitude to conflict. This might be one of the reasons why farmer-herders' conflict has remained unabated and a regular phenomenon in Zamfara state. This is in agreement with finding of this research which revealed 83% of IFAD-CASP participating crop producers are rural dwellers

Relatively the larger the family size of the IFAD-CASP participating crop producers may mean more people to cater for and more labour force will be available to work on the farm and help with other farming activities.

The result in Table 1 shows that majority (33.8%) IFAD-CASP participating crop producers have a household size of 0-5, followed by (37.5%) of the participating crop producers have household sizes of 6-10 people. This implies that most of the IFAD-CASP participating crop producers have a larger household size which may have resulted from the need for family labour which may increase household productivity and larger household size may consequently result to more dependent family members.

The results in Table 2. Shows the perception of IFAD-CASP staff and participating crop producers on rural banditry. The programme goal is to improve the livelihood and living standard of rural-poor communities with emphasis on the vulnerable poor groups through dissemination of information, creating awareness on new innovations and economic development which were all crippled by rural banditry (Rufai 2021).

The result shows disruption of IFAD-CASP programme and increase in rural poverty was ranked 1st using the PRA pair wise ranking tool. The rate of poverty in the study area is quite alarming and the result of this is an increase in rural banditry and other social vices that aggravate the problem of internal security. Lack of confidence on the security agencies mostly prevent IFAD-CASP staff in village communities or masses that are badly affected by the activities of rural banditry to drive the programme towards attaining its stated objectives.

Disruption of IFAD-CASP programme and displacement of IFAD-CASP crop producers led to a dramatic increase in rural poverty where market prices of commodities consumed by the household as well as the decrease in access to exchange markets, this has a significant impact on economic growth. Rural banditry is responsible for the destruction of infrastructure, markets and social cohesion. It could lead to possible increase in violence that might hinder both public and private funds that could be used for investment, as well as valuable human capital development that are meant to reduce rural poverty (Olanrewaju, 2019)

On continuity of the programme despite rural banditry was ranked 5th due to the increase in rural banditry, IFAD-CASP staff perceived attainment of the predetermined goal of IFAD-CASP is becoming an issue of great concern. This is in line with Samaila (2019), who stated that the activities of rural banditry in Zamfara state has many drawbacks on agricultural activities and the local farmer's safety threatened.

On whether IFAD-CASP activities should continue despite the banditry situation. The variable was ranked 5th, IFAD-CASP staff were of the view that the programme should not be continued as a result of prevailing security challenges, even though there are high rate of poverty, unemployment, unbalanced development and loss of sociological and communal value system in

the study area.

According to Rufai (2021) The security agencies are ill equipped and ill-prepared to combat all forms of insecurity such as banditry, kidnapping, cattle rustling, armed robbery etc due to the numerous problems facing the security architecture of the country among which are; Inadequate logistics, Inadequate manpower, Poor welfare packages, Inadequate training and retraining, Poor intelligence gathering mechanism, Inadequate communication gadgets, corruption among others could be the likely factor that pose threat to the life and security of the IFAD-CASP staff and also displacing crop producers respectively.

Table 3 shows the perception of crop producers on rural banditry. Rural banditry and its aftermath on the perception IFAD-CASP crop producers may result in psychological trauma of certain groups and discouragement of social relationship which changes distributional arrangements of rural societies affected by violence. Determining the effect of rural banditry also induces fear and uncertainty among IFAD-CASP participating crop producers which changes on rural welfare and its interlinked with other factors such as increases in transaction costs, access to roads, markets, communication breakdown and disruption of infrastructure in the study area.

CONCLUSION

Based on the summary finding of the study, the research established that rural banditry poses psychological trauma, disrupted IFAD-CAS programme, posed threat to life of both IFAD-CASP staff and participating crop producers and also threatened the continuity of the programme. This implies that IFAD-CASP staff perceived rural banditry as major challenge in the actualization of the programme aims and objectives particularly during banditry situation. Further established was community policing, early warning signal, peace deals and negotiation, traditional authorities and family heads used as management initiative employed by respondent to mitigate rural banditry. Even though government provide logistics to security personnel but it is inadequate. The coping strategies adopted were both reversible and non-reversible, respondent used the coping strategies as a means of survival to cushion the effects of rural banditry during and after banditry situation. The government and other non-government organization are not left behind in provision of shelter and relief materials to victims even though the positioning of security personnel in trouble area by government were inadequate and respondents are dissatisfied.

The research therefore concluded that rural banditry has significantly affected IFAD-CASP participating crop producers in Zamfara state, Nigeria.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the finding of the research, the following recommendation were made:

1. Government in both Federal, State and Local level should see security matter as a priority and should as a matter of urgency begin the immediate recruitment of security personnel.
2. Both government and non-governmental organization should be see victims of rural banditry as people of hope and should not allow them became destitute as a result of post banditry situation arising from the sale of the accumulated asset over the years. Conditional grant and other assistance should be rendered to them to begin life again

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