

ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTS OF BANDITRY ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN TOTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF NASARAWA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

Banditry have paralysed agricultural sectors where the populace derived their livelihood. The menace posed by bandits has affected the populace thereby making people sojourn in neighbouring communities. The study therefore assessed the effects of banditry on agricultural production in Toto Local Government Area of Nasarawa State, Nigeria. The study adopts the Situational Theory which posits that crime is motivated by the prevailing socioeconomic circumstances of individual in society. The data collected was through structured questionnaire administered to one-hundred and fifty (150) respondents using five (5) communities in the study area and was analysed and presented with the use of descriptive statistics (tables, frequencies and percentages) using SPSS version 20. The results revealed that banditry has affected agricultural production which in turn affected livelihood with increase in the prices of goods and services. Therefore, the study recommended that the government should make employment a top priority for citizens as these would reduce poverty and criminal acts. Also, there should always be an equipped and well-trained personnel with sophisticated weapons to ensure that all borders in the country are well-policed to confront the bandits. Lastly, there should be a synergy between communities and government at various levels with a view to mapping out strategies on how to end banditry not only in the affected states or regions, but Nigeria in general.

Keywords: Assessment, Effects, Banditry, Agricultural Production.