



Impact of Insecurity on Agripreneurship Development in ... Zakari, M. Et. al. (2025)

Impact of Insecurity on Agripreneurship Development in Niger State, Nigeria

¹Zakari M., ¹Rahab B., ¹James G., ²Saleh D.B. & ¹Aliyu G.

¹Federal University of Education PMB 39, Kontagora Niger State, Nigeria.

²Federal University of Agriculture PMB 28, Zuru Kebbi State, Nigeria.

* Corresponding author: dezakx@gmail.com
(08036489512)

Abstract

This study investigated the impact of insecurity on agripreneurship development in Niger State, Nigeria, a region rich in agricultural potential but increasingly destabilized by violent conflicts. Agripreneurship, which blends agriculture with entrepreneurship, has been widely promoted as a driver of rural development, youth employment, and food security. Yet, persistent insecurity particularly banditry, cattle rustling, and kidnapping continues to disrupt farming activities, limit investments, and threaten the survival of agribusiness ventures. A survey research design was adopted, with data collected through a structured questionnaire administered to 240 agripreneurs drawn via a multi-stage sampling technique from four Local Government Areas (Rafi, Shiroro, Kontagora, and Mariga) in Agricultural Zones II and III of Niger State. The questionnaire was subjected to expert review for content validity, while reliability was confirmed through Cronbach's alpha test, which showed acceptable internal consistency. Data analysis involved descriptive statistics and regression techniques. Results indicated that 87.1% of respondents had experienced insecurity, with 65% affected by banditry and 57.1% reporting loss of farm assets. Critical agribusiness elements such as income generation, land access, and business expansion were severely constrained, with mean scores of 4.3, 4.2, and 4.0, respectively. Regression analysis revealed a significant negative effect of insecurity on agripreneurs' income ($\beta = -0.482, p < 0.01$), while access to markets and inputs showed positive and statistically significant impacts. Coping strategies included reducing farm size, diversifying income, and relying on community security groups, though institutional support was weak. The study concludes that integrated measures on security, infrastructure, and agricultural support are vital for sustaining agripreneurship. Enhancing resilience through better credit, input supply, and market access remains essential to protect livelihoods and promote rural development in conflict prone areas.

Keywords: Agripreneurship, Insecurity, Rural development, Agricultural marketing, Niger State.

Introduction

Agripreneurship a term that merges agriculture and entrepreneurship has emerged as a transformative force in rural development, poverty reduction, and food security in many developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa (Sanchez, 2015). In Nigeria, where agriculture employs over 70% of the labor force and contributes significantly to GDP (National Bureau of Statistics [NBS], 2022), agripreneurship is increasingly recognized as a strategic avenue for empowering youths, reducing unemployment, and enhancing the commercialization of agriculture (Adeola & Oyelere, 2020). However, in recent years, the growth and development of agripreneurship in various parts of Nigeria, including Niger State, have been severely threatened by rising insecurity. In Nigeria Insecurity has manifested in multiple forms, including banditry, farmer herder conflicts, cattle rustling, kidnapping, and communal clashes (Okoli & Iortyer, 2014). Niger State, located in North Central Nigeria, has been a hotbed for several of these violent activities. The consequences of insecurity in the region go beyond loss of lives and property it severely disrupts agricultural activities, weakens rural economies, and erodes the confidence of existing and potential agripreneurs



Impact of Insecurity on Agripreneurship Development in ... Zakari, M. Et. al. (2025)

(Chukwuma & Ume, 2020). Many farmers are forced to abandon their farmlands and relocate entirely to urban areas that is relatively safe, while agricultural value chains are truncated due to transportation risks and market access limitations.

Agripreneurship depends on an enabling environment characterized by land security, stable markets, access to capital, and functional infrastructure (Kahan, 2013). When these factors are undermined by insecurity, the spirit of enterprise is dampened, and the capacity of agriculture to act as a development catalyst is diminished. For instance, insecurity limits access to farmlands, reduces investment in agriculture, discourages youth participation, and restricts innovation and adoption of new technologies (Bamidele & Oginni, 2021). These disruptions threaten not only agricultural productivity but also long-term development goals tied to rural industrialization and food sovereignty. The concept of agripreneurship transcends traditional subsistence farming. It encompasses innovation, value addition, and risk taking in the agricultural sector with the goal of creating sustainable enterprises (FAO, 2016). Agripreneurs engage in crop and livestock production, agro-processing, input supply, marketing, and agri-tech innovations. In Niger State, with its vast arable land and strategic position within the North Central region, agripreneurship holds immense potential. Yet, persistent insecurity has created a hostile environment where entrepreneurs in agriculture face elevated risks of investment loss, physical harm, and operational disruption (Ibrahim *et al.*, 2022). Youth involvement in agripreneurship has been widely advocated by national and international development organizations as a viable strategy for addressing unemployment and revitalizing the agricultural sector in Nigeria (Oladeji, 2019). However, insecurity challenges has proven to be a major deterrent. Youths are less likely to invest their time and limited resources in uncertain and high risk ventures, especially in areas prone to violence. Consequently, the vision of modernizing agriculture through youth led enterprises is being delayed, if not derailed. Several studies have addressed the effects of insecurity on agriculture in general (Okeke & Eze, 2021; Omobowale & Olutayo, 2022), yet there remains a paucity of empirical research focused specifically on how insecurity affects agripreneurship particularly in the context of Niger State. Most existing studies tend to aggregate all agricultural actors, without isolating the experiences, constraints, and coping mechanisms of agripreneurs who often bear both the risk of farming and the challenges of enterprise development. Understanding the specific impact of insecurity on this group is crucial for designing targeted interventions, policies, and support systems.

This study, therefore, aims to bridge this gap by empirically investigating the effect of insecurity on agripreneurship development in Nigeria. Identify the types and forms of insecurity affecting agripreneurs in Niger State. Examine the impact of insecurity on agripreneurs' access to land, markets, finance, and inputs. Assess the effect of insecurity on agripreneurs' productivity, income, and business sustainability. Explore the coping strategies adopted by agripreneurs in response to insecurity. Recommend appropriate policy interventions to mitigate the effects of insecurity on agripreneurship in the study area.

Objectives of the Study

The study was designed to:

- i, Identify the types and forms of insecurity affecting agripreneurs in Niger State.
- ii. Examine the impact of insecurity on agripreneurs' access to land, markets, finance, and inputs in the study area.
- iii. Explore the coping strategies employed by agripreneurs in response to insecurity in the study area.



Impact of Insecurity on Agripreneurship Development in ... Zakari, M. Et. al. (2025)

Research Questions

- i What types of insecurity are experienced by agripreneurs in Niger State?
- ii. How does insecurity affect agripreneurs' access to land, markets, inputs, and finance in the study area?
- iii. Which coping strategies are adopted by agripreneurs to mitigate the effects of insecurity in the study area?

Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses guided the study:

H₁: There is a significant association between the type of agribusiness and insecurity experience in the study area.

H₀: Insecurity incidence has no significant effect on agripreneurial income in the study area.

Methodology

The study employed a survey research design, which is appropriate for assessing the perceptions, experiences, and coping mechanisms of agripreneurs within an insecure environment. This design allowed for the collection of both quantitative and qualitative data that captured the complex interactions between insecurity and agripreneurship development in Niger State. The target population comprised all agripreneurs engaged in various agricultural enterprises across Niger State. From this population, a sample of 240 respondents was drawn. The choice of this sample size was informed by the need to ensure adequate representation of agripreneurs across zones prone to insecurity, while maintaining feasibility in terms of data collection. Multi stage sampling technique was adopted. At the first stage, Agricultural Zones II and III of Niger State were purposively selected due to their high prevalence of agripreneurial activities alongside recurring insecurity incidents. In the second stage, four Local Government Areas (Rafi, Shiroro, Kontagora, and Mariga) were randomly selected two from each zone. At the third stage, three communities were randomly chosen from each LGA, yielding a total of 12 communities. Finally, 20 agripreneurs were randomly selected from each community, resulting in a sample of 240 respondents. This approach ensured adequate representation of the study area. Primary data were collected using a structured questionnaire and interview schedule administered with the assistance of trained enumerators from the Niger State Agricultural Development Project (NSADP). The questionnaire covered socio-economic characteristics, experiences of insecurity, effects on agribusiness, coping strategies, and policy needs. The instrument's content validity was established through expert review by academics and extension officer's familiar with agripreneurship and rural security issues. To ensure consistency, the instrument was pre-tested in a pilot study conducted in a community outside the selected LGAs. Reliability was determined using Cronbach's alpha coefficient, which yielded values above the recommended 0.70 threshold, confirming acceptable internal consistency. The data collected were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, and mean scores were used to summarize the socioeconomic characteristics of respondents and the perceived effects of insecurity. Likert scale analysis was employed to rank severity levels of insecurity impacts. Inferential statistics included Chi-square tests, used to determine relationships between agripreneurial characteristics and insecurity experiences, and multiple regression analysis, which estimated the effect of insecurity incidence, market access, input access, and land access on agripreneurial income. All analyses were conducted at 1% and 5% levels of significance.



Impact of Insecurity on Agripreneurship Development in ... Zakari, M. Et. al. (2025)

Presentation of Results

The socioeconomic characteristics analysis of respondents' presented in table one reveals that agripreneurial activities in Niger State are predominantly practiced by middle aged 60.0%, married men 85.0% with moderate levels of education, particularly 65% engaged in crop production. These demographic factors significantly influence the extent to which individuals are affected by insecurity, as well as their capacity to adopt effective coping strategies. The predominance of crop farming implies that a majority of agripreneurs are highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of insecurity, particularly during critical stages such as planting and harvesting. Security challenges like banditry, farm raids, and market disruptions often lead to losses in productivity, displacement, and reduced access to agribusiness opportunities (Adesina & Ibitoye, 2017).

Table 1: Socio-economic Characteristics of the Respondents

Variable	Category	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	173	72.1
	Female	67	27.9
Age Group (Years)	18–35	48	20.0
	36–50	144	60.0
	51 and above	48	20.0
Marital Status	Married	204	85.0
	Single	24	10.0
	Widowed/Divorced	12	5.0
Educational Level	No formal education	72	30.0
	Primary	24	10.0
	Secondary	96	40.0
	Tertiary	48	20.0
Main Agripreneurial Activity	Crop production	156	65.0
	Agro-processing	48	20.0
	Livestock	24	10.0
	Marketing	12	5.0

Source: Computed from survey data, 2025.

Additionally, the relatively low participation of women 27.9% and youth 20.0% suggests underlying structural barriers, possibly worsened by safety concerns and limited empowerment opportunities in insecure environments. Therefore, addressing insecurity in agripreneurship requires targeted interventions such as the protection of farming communities, improvement of rural infrastructure, and capacity building programs for marginalized groups. Educational empowerment and inclusive security policies are essential in enhancing the resilience and sustainability of agripreneurship in conflict prone areas.

Research question 1: What types of insecurity are experienced by agripreneurs in Niger State?

Table 2 presents the respondents' experiences with various forms of insecurity, the data clearly highlight the widespread and multifaceted nature of insecurity affecting agripreneurs in Niger State.

Table 2: Insecurity Experience Among Respondents (N = 240)

Variable	Category	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Insecurity Experience	Yes	209	87.1
	No	31	12.9
Types of Insecurity			



Impact of Insecurity on Agripreneurship Development in ... Zakari, M. Et. al. (2025)

Experienced*	Banditry	156	65.0
	Kidnapping	115	47.9
	Cattle rustling	72	30.0
	Armed robbery	67	27.9
	Communal conflict	48	20.0
Frequency of Insecurity Occurrence	Very often	79	32.9
	Often	98	40.8
	Sometimes	48	20.0
	Rarely	15	6.3
Displacement Due to Insecurity	Yes	96	40.0
	No	144	60.0
Loss of Farm Assets or Produce	Yes	137	57.1
	No	103	42.9
Physical Harm to Self/Workers	Yes	53	22.1
	No	187	77.9

Source: Computed from survey data 2025, *Multiple Responses were allowed.

Table 2 reveals that 87.1% of agripreneurs in Niger State experienced insecurity for some number of years past, with banditry (65%), Kidnapping 47.9% and Cattle rustling (30.0%) as the most common threats. Over 70% faced insecurity frequently, while 40% were displaced, 57.1% lost farm assets, and 22.1% suffered physical harm. These findings highlight the widespread and severe impact of insecurity on rural livelihoods. And echo calls by researchers and development agencies for integrated security, economic, and humanitarian interventions to stabilize conflict-affected agricultural zones (World Bank, 2020; FAO, 2021).

Research question 2: How does insecurity affect agripreneurs' access to land, markets, inputs, and finance?

The results in table three clearly demonstrate that insecurity poses a multidimensional threat to agripreneurship in Niger State.

Table 3: Effects of Insecurity on Agripreneurship (N = 240)

Agribusiness Component	Mean Score	Interpretation
Access to farmland	4.2	Severely affected
Access to inputs	3.8	Moderately affected
Access to markets	4.1	Severely affected
Labor availability	3.5	Moderately affected
Cost of production	3.9	Moderately affected
Income generation	4.3	Severely affected
Business expansion	4.0	Severely affected
Investment willingness	4.2	Severely affected

Source: Computed from survey data 2025, *Multiple responses were allowed

Components most severely affected are access to farmland with 4.2 Mean Score (MS), market access 4.1 (MS), income 4.3 (MS), business expansion 4.0 (MS), and investment willingness 4.2 (MS) as shown in table 3 are critical pillars of agribusiness sustainability. When agripreneurs cannot access land or sell their produce, and when they fear expanding or reinvesting due to insecurity, the entrepreneurial ecosystem weakens, food supply declines, and rural poverty increases. These findings align with the findings of Adesina & Ibitoye, (2017) which notes that prolonged insecurity



Impact of Insecurity on Agripreneurship Development in ... Zakari, M. Et. al. (2025)

limits economic activity, shrinks agricultural investment, and causes youth and skilled labor to abandon farming for safer livelihoods.

Research question 3: Which coping strategies are adopted by agripreneurs to mitigate the effects of insecurity?

Table 4 highlights the coping strategies adopted by agripreneurs in Niger State in response to insecurity. The most prevalent strategy was reducing farm size (55%), reflecting efforts to minimize exposure to risky areas, consistent with (FAO, 2021). Diversification into less risky livelihoods such as trading and livestock keeping (48%) was the next most common response, aligning with IFPRI’s (2019) resilience framework. About 37% of respondents relied on community-based security measures, such as vigilante groups, indicating limited trust in formal security systems (Okoli & Ugwu, 2019).

Table 4: Coping Strategies and Support Received by Respondents (N = 240)

Coping Strategy / Support Source	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Reduced farm size	132	55.0
Diversified into less risky activities	115	48.0
Formed/joined community watch groups	89	37.0
Relocated business/farm	53	22.0
Hired private security	43	18.0
Received support from Government	29	12.1
Received support from NGOs	19	7.9
Received support from Cooperatives	12	5.0

Source: Computed from survey data 2025, *Multiple responses were allowed

Other coping mechanisms included relocation of farms/businesses (22%) and hiring private security (18%), typically accessible to better resourced individuals. Institutional support was notably limited: only 12.1% reported receiving government assistance, while support from Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) (7.9%) and cooperatives (5%) was even lower. These findings underscore the scarcity of structured support systems for agripreneurs in insecure areas, as also noted by the World Bank (2020).

Research Hypothesis 1:

H₁: There is a significant relationship between type of agribusiness and insecurity experience in the study area.

Table 5 shows a statistically significant relationship between the type of agribusiness and insecurity experience ($\chi^2 = 14.52$, $p = 0.002$).

Table 5: Chi-Square Test: Insecurity Experience and Type of Agribusiness

Type of Agribusiness	Experienced Insecurity	Not Experienced	Total
Crop farming	145	11	156
Livestock	22	2	24
Agro-processing	32	16	48
Marketing	10	2	12

Source: Computed from survey data 2025, Chi-square statistic (χ^2) = 14.52. p-value=0.002



Impact of Insecurity on Agripreneurship Development in ... Zakari, M. Et. al. (2025)

Most cases of insecurity were reported by crop farmers in the study area by the respondents (145 out of 156), indicating that land based agricultural activities are more exposed to security risks, likely due to their open and fixed operational nature. In contrast, agro-processing and marketing often conducted in more secure or urban settings recorded lower insecurity experiences. This finding suggests that insecurity disproportionately affects primary production, aligning with Akinyemi (2020) and FAO (2021), who noted that farmers working directly on the land are most vulnerable in conflict-prone areas.

Hypothesis 2:

H₀: Insecurity incidence has no significant effect on agripreneurial income in the study area.

Regression analysis was conducted to assess how key independent variables; incidence of insecurity, access to farmland, market access, and input access influence the agripreneurial income of respondents in the study area. The dependent variable, agripreneurial income, represents the total seasonal derived from agribusiness ventures such as crop production, livestock rearing, agro-processing, and marketing.

Table 6: Multiple Regression Analysis Determinants of Agripreneurial Income

Independent Variable	Coefficient (β)	t-value	p-value
Insecurity incidence	-0.482	-4.21	.000**
Market access	0.301	2.78	.006**
Input access	0.215	2.10	.037*
Land access	0.174	1.82	.070

Note:implies statistically significant in 1% level and *statistically significant in 5% level**

Source: computed from survey 2025

The regression analysis in table 6 reveals that insecurity incidence has a statistically significant and negative impact on agripreneurial income ($\beta = -0.482$, $p < 0.01$), highlighting the disruptive effect of violent conflict, banditry, and kidnapping on agribusiness profitability in the study area. This confirms earlier findings that insecurity erodes economic productivity by limiting mobility, access to farmland, and market participation (Akinyemi, 2020; Adepoju & Oyewole, 2014). Conversely, market access ($\beta = 0.301$, $p < 0.01$) and input access ($\beta = 0.215$, $p < 0.05$) show statistically significant positive effects on agripreneurial income, indicating that farmers who can reach markets and obtain essential resources are more resilient against insecurity shocks. This supports the argument that well functioning input supply and output market systems can mitigate income loss in conflict prone areas (Wiggins & Keats, 2014; Olwande & Mathenge, 2012). Although land access exhibited a positive but statistically insignificant effect ($\beta = 0.174$, $p = 0.070$), its limited impact may reflect the reality that land alone does not guarantee productivity unless it is accompanied by peace, capital, and adequate inputs (FAO, 2021). Overall, these results suggest that policy interventions must address the root causes of rural insecurity while also investing in market infrastructure and input systems to support agripreneurial resilience and income stability (World Bank, 2020; IFPRI, 2019).

Conclusion

The study concludes that insecurity especially banditry, cattle rustling, and kidnapping severely hampers agripreneurship in Niger State by restricting access to land, markets, and inputs, while



Impact of Insecurity on Agripreneurship Development in ... Zakari, M. Et. al. (2025)

increasing costs and discouraging investment. Crop producers are most affected due to their field based exposure.

Recommendations

The study recommends;

- i. Strengthening rural security through collaboration between government agencies, community groups, and traditional leaders to reduce the risks faced by agripreneurs.
- ii Improving rural infrastructure, particularly roads, electricity, and storage facilities, is necessary to enhance market access and reduce post harvest losses.
- iii Access to affordable credit and agricultural insurance should be expanded to help agripreneurs cope with insecurity related losses and sustain their businesses.
- iv. Capacity building through extension services and targeted training for youth and women will enhance resilience and encourage greater participation in agripreneurship.
- v Finally, integrated policies and multi-stakeholder partnerships are required to provide comprehensive support that links security, infrastructure, finance, and agricultural development.

References

- Adeola, O., & Oyelere, S. (2020). Youth unemployment and agripreneurship: Can agriculture serve as a sustainable source of employment for young people in Africa? *African Journal of Economic Policy*, 27(1), 45–62.
- Adepoju, A. A., & Oyewole, O. O. (2014). *American Journal of Economics*, 4(1), 17–25.
- Adesina, J. O., & Ibitoye, S. J. (2017). *Insecurity and agricultural productivity in Northern Nigeria*. *Journal of Rural Development Studies*, 9(3), 45–58.
- Akinyemi, O. (2020). The impact of insecurity on agricultural productivity in Nigeria. *Journal of African Security Studies*, 5(2), 101–115.
- Bamidele, O., & Oginni, A. (2021). Security challenges and agricultural development in Nigeria: A review. *Journal of Agricultural Studies*, 9(3), 35–50.
- Chukwuma, O., & Ume, S. I. (2020). Insecurity and its implications on agricultural development in Nigeria. *International Journal of Innovative Development & Policy Studies*, 8(1), 1–12.
- FAO. (2021). *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021*. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization.
- FAO. (2016). *Developing the knowledge, skills and talent of youth to further food security and nutrition*. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
- Ibrahim, A. M., Haruna, U., & Tukur, M. (2022). The impact of rural insecurity on agricultural production in North Central Nigeria. *Nigerian Journal of Rural Sociology*, 22(1), 15–24.
- IFPRI. (2019). *Resilience and Food Security in Conflict-Affected Regions*. Washington, D.C.: International Food Policy Research Institute.
- Kahan, D. (2013). *Entrepreneurship in farming*. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). (2022). *2021 GDP Report*. Abuja: NBS.
- National Population Commission (NPC) (2006). *Provisional Census Figures*, Federal Government of Nigeria P.15.



www.zijstemfugusau.com.ng
des@fugusau.edu.ng

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.64348/zije.2025126>

Impact of Insecurity on Agripreneurship Development in ... Zakari, M. Et. al. (2025)

Niger State Bureau of Statistics, (NBS)(2011). Niger State Planning Commission. Facts and Figures about Niger State: 2011 Edition.

Niger State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (2004) Executive summary.

Okeke, J. O., & Eze, M. U. (2021). Insecurity and agricultural productivity in Nigeria: An overview. *African Journal of Sustainable Development*, 11(2), 118–129.

Okoli, A. C., & Ugwu, I. (2019). Community vigilantes and rural security in Nigeria: An exploratory study. *Journal of African Studies and Development*, 11(5), 67–75.

Okoli, A. C., & Iortyer, P. (2014). Terrorism and humanitarian crisis in Nigeria: Insights from Boko Haram insurgency. *Global Journal of Human-Social Science Research*, 14(1), 39–49.

Oladeji, T. O. (2019). Youth in agriculture: An assessment of youth agripreneurship programmes in Nigeria. *International Journal of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development Studies*, 6(2), 1–10.

Olwande, J., & Mathenge, M. (2012). "Market participation among poor rural households in Kenya." *Tegemeo Institute Working paper*.

Omobowale, A. O., & Olutayo, A. O. (2022). The effect of banditry on food systems and agricultural livelihoods in Nigeria. *Development Practice Journal*, 32(6), 723–732.

Sanchez, P. A. (2015). Enabling agricultural success in Africa through science and innovation. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 112(29), 8826– 8833.

Wiggins, S., & Keats, S. (2014). *ODI Report on Rural Wages in Asia*.

World Bank. (2020). *Addressing Fragility, Conflict, and Violence in Africa*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank.

World Bank (2016). *A strategy to develop agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa region*. Washington DC, USA. PP. 67-69