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ABSTRACT

Agriculture is the major component of the rural economy in Edo State. Maize is a major crop cultivated in Ovia north thus, serves as a source of income and a form of security for farmers. Increasing attacks by Cattle rustlers and Bandits have disrupted the stability and good harvest that has been enjoyed by farmers in the Local Government over the years. This study, primarily seeks to critically investigate the Economic implications of the Herds on Agricultural Productivity, with a particular reference to Arable crops production activities and its Value Chain in the Local Government. The major source of data for the research is Primary data. The approach is basically a combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches. The qualitative approach dwells on the use of questionnaires to obtain data from the respondents. The major findings of the research show that Arable crops production activities is profitable and that it has been drastically affected by the insurgency due to abandonment of farmlands, and forceful migration. As such, the study recommends that adequate security should be provided in villages, as well as Agricultural policies should be reviewed so as to enhance farmers' accessibility to fertilizer, loans and grants. These would help a long way in improving Maize value chain and Agricultural Productivity in the Local Government.

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Agriculture is the major source of livelihood and revenue to Edo state being one of the Northern States of Nigeria. Farmers in the state have been enjoying good harvest of both food and cash crops production thereby contributing their quota to the Nation building.

Ovia north is one of the 34 Local Government Areas of Edo State; located in the Southern part of the State. It is landlocked and is bounded by Dan Musa Local Government in the North, Malumfashi and Musawa Local Governments in the East, Ekiti State in the West, and Bakori Local Government in the South. The Local Government is situated in the Sudan savannah agro-ecological zone. It has an area of 1,462 km² and a population of 245,739 at the 2006 census (NPC). The Local Government has 11 political wards namely; Burdugau, Danmurabu, Wawarkaza, Pauwa, Ovia north, Ketare, Kukasheka, Mabai, Yargoje, Yar Tsamiya, and Zango. Cultivated crops in the area include; millet, maize, beans, cotton, groundnut, soya beans, etc. Ovia north is strategically located and blessed with fertile land for agricultural production as majority of her population depend on farming as a means of survival and economic independence.

However, the recent ugly development of Herds in Ekiti state which manifested in kidnapping, collection of ransom and other forms of terror such as cattle rustling, killings, burning of villages, forceful scattering of farmers from their villages which resulted in formation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps, which affects Ovia north as one of the Local Governments poses great threat to Agricultural productivity and economic status of the Local

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