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Rural Farmers' Perception of Conflicts as a Cause of Hunger and Malnutrition among Farm Households in Southeast, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The study analyzed conflicts as a cause of hunger and malnutrition among farming households in South east, Nigeria. A 4-stage sampling technique was used in selecting 300 respondents from 3 conflict affected states in South east, Nigeria. Mean and standard deviation were used in analyzing data collected. Results showed that the causes of conflicts in the area were numerous based on the actors involved and the use of natural resources especially land. They included delay in resolving land issued with a high mean response of (M= 2.55), tenure/right issues (M = 2. 05), scarcity of land (M= 2.86), insecurity of tenure (M = 2.75) among others. Conflicts on the other hand cause hunger through the disruption of food production system (M= 4 0.1), reduction in amount or quantity of available food (M= 3.42), disruption of households livelihood assets/income (M = 3.58), insufficient intakes of protein food (M = 2. 97), migration of labour (M = 2.79) among over issues. To reduce hunger & malnutrition, poor people's access to productive assets/resource be improved and pursued via a policy framework. Credit facilities, better seeds, extension services, better seeds, extension services and farm enterprise diversification to pursued and encouraged.

Keywords: *Conflict, hunger, farming, malnutrition, households.*

INTRODUCTION

Nearly 20 years, the proportion of the world's people who are hungry has reduced from one-fifth to one-sixth, and the absolute number of hungry people has fallen slightly. (Sanchez, Swaminnathan, Dobie and Yuksel, 2005). After steadily reducing for over a decade, global hunger appears to be on the rise again, affecting the global population. Hunger has many impacts. It is reflected in high rates of disease and mortality, limited neurological development, and low productivity among current and future generations. It is also a major constraint to a country's ability to develop economically, socially, and politically. Women and children living in developing countries are most vulnerable to the broad and devastating effects of hunger.

Unfortunately, in 2016, the number of undernourished people in the world increased to an estimated 815 million, up from 777 million in 2015 but still down from about 900 million in the year 2000 (FAO,2017). Similarly, while the prevalence of undernourishment is projected to have increased to an estimated 11 percent in 2016, this is still well below the level of a decade ago. Nonetheless, the recent increase is a cause for great concern and poses a significant challenge for international commitments to end hunger by 2030 (FAO,2017). This sobering news comes from food insecure regions and countries most notable in situations of conflicts of different dimensions of which Nigeria and many other countries are among (FAO, 2017).

Over the past ten years, the number of violent conflicts around the world has increased significantly, in particular in countries already facing food insecurity, hitting rural communities the hardest and having a negative impact on food production and availability. The root of these conflicts is land which many users lay claims and counter claims to (FAO,2017). Of all resources available, land resource remains an essential asset to various land users. It is perceived as a source of wealth and an important economic asset but there is more to it which makes it very important. Out of all land users, agricultural users consider land resources as being much more than an asset due to its enormous resources that aids their agricultural production ranging from crop to animal

production and considering its significant effect on world's landscape.

In Nigeria, conflict between crop farmers, conservationists, foresters, nomadic herdsmen and other numerous users over agricultural land is rapidly becoming a critical issue which needs rapid attention as it is considered as being most responsible for the unsustainable utilization of land and water resources. With both groups considered as ardent land users conjoined with existing ineffective farming/grazing laws, conflicts between both agricultural land users appears inevitable(Fashua,2014). Many farming communities in the country have either had or are currently having disputes with herdsmen. Apart from human factors identified as the major source of conflict, natural factors, that is, changing climate and its ensuing depletion of land resources are acknowledged as causes as well. Farmers lay blame on cattle rearers for destroying their farm lands while the cattle rearers also accuse the farmers and their host communities for stealing their livestock leading to clashes between both parties. Aggressions are ultimately stirred up whenever cattle, on their feeding quest eat up cultivated farmlands destroy them in process or even trample and compact the soil with their hoofs rendering the soil unproductive for planting (Fashua, 2014).

Land is a valuable resource, with economic and strategic value, and political and cultural significance. Individuals, communities, private sector actors, the State and others use land for different, often opposing, purposes and seek to benefit from land, sometimes to the detriment—real or perceived—of others. While land remains a largely fixed asset, the demands upon land generally increase, with resulting tensions (Bruce and Holt, 2011). This is because access to and availability of land resources are critical to ensuring real and long lasting improvement in social, economic and political well-being, especially in vulnerable societies that are prone to instability and conflicts. The last decade has seen growing recognition of these dynamics, and of the major role played by competition for land in generating conflict.

Land plays a central role in livelihoods in developing countries. As a base for agricultural production, it is the primary source of the food security of rural people and the major source from which countries feed their urban populations (Bruce and Holt, 2011). Land is increasingly sought after by international corporations as prices of food, biofuel crops and wood products have risen. At the same time, the use of land for conservation purposes has grown, most dramatically as international actors now seek land to preserve trees and plants, driven by concern over climate change. In addition to its economic value in current uses, land has a broader economic role as a capital asset. Land also provides a sense of security in contexts where formal employment opportunities and access to resources are limited. Land resources continue to have major historical, cultural and spiritual significance. The vital importance of land issues to social and economic development in Africa is unquestionable (Odgaard, 2006). The fact that land is becoming an increasingly scarce resource in many parts of the continent, and also a more and more conflict ridden resource, has implied that issues related to land rights and land conflicts now range high on the policy agendas both in African countries and among international donors. As a result, land has been a source of conflict and contestation.

In Nigeria and Southeast, conflicts involving several actors (crop farmers, foresters, conservationists, pastoralists and so on) stem from a constellation of factors, including ethnic rivalries and environmental scarcities, as well as intergroup competition over resources such as land, water, and development aid. In conflict situations, there is usually some combination of perceived unfairness in resource distribution, injury to a group's sense of cultural identity struggle for control over access to high-value primary resources, and a precipitous decline in household incomes due to a natural disaster or a plunge in the price of key mineral or agricultural commodities (Messer and Cohen, 2004;Cramer, 2005).

Conflict affects both the demand side and the supply side. On the demand side, you cannot produce your own food, you don't have your own livestock anymore, and your income opportunities go down, particularly in the sense of agricultural labor. But at the same time, on the supply side, prices of essential food and non-food commodities keep rising because traders working in conflict zones face higher and higher transaction costs, which are then passed on to the consumers. The economic result of both situations is hunger including hidden hunger and other forms of it.

Resource-based conflicts, especially over rights of access to and use of land, are increasing in frequency and intensity in many parts of the world today including Nigeria, generating high levels of refugees and internally displaced persons. Whether caused by greed or grievances, land conflicts cause serious social dislocations; suspend or destroy income opportunities; create food insecurity thereby leading to serious hunger and malnutrition; damage the environment, and frequently result in the loss of life (ILC/NSI, 2006). There is an urgent need for practical ways to prevent, mitigate, resolve and potentially transform land-related conflicts, because the tensions that trigger violent disputes over land and resources pose significant obstacles to managing and transforming conflicts.

In Southeast, Nigeria, poor households bear the heaviest burdens of land-related conflicts for the simple reason that their daily needs and future livelihoods are directly tied to their property rights. Their land dependency ratio is high. Poor households face a high risk of becoming victims of conflict if their fragile access to land is threatened further in the form of hunger and malnutrition. Several analysts have shown a strong association between conflict, hunger, malnutrition and factors closely related to food insecurity, such as high infant mortality (Esty and others 1998) and intergroup competition over land and water (Homer-Dixon 1999). Conflict is also a very important determinant of child malnutrition. A mix of extreme poverty, inequality, and declining per capita incomes was frequently associated with wars, civil disturbances the world over particularly when combined with heavy reliance on a narrow range of primary product exports (Collier and others 2003). The above is not yet known or verified in the study area, thus necessitating the study. Empirical data is therefore needed on this in the study area for documentation and policy decision making. The broad objective of this study therefore is to examine whether conflicts can cause hunger among rural households in conflict areas. The specific objectives are to identify perceived causes of resource use conflicts in the study area; examine whether conflicts can actually cause hunger in the area; and identify perceived strategies for reducing hunger in the area.

METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted in Southeast agro-ecological zone of Nigeria, characterized by tropical rainforest. The Southeast agro-ecological zone lies within latitudes 5oN to 6oN of the equator and longitudes 6oE and 8o E of the Greenwich meridian. Southeast Nigeria is made up of five (5) states – Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo. The zone occupies a total land mass of about 10, 952, 400 hectares with a population figure of 30,381,729 persons in 2017 projected from 2006 National Population Commission Census figure (National Population Commission, 2006). About 60-70% of the inhabitants of the zone are observed to engage in agriculture, mainly crop farming and animal rearing (Okoye et al., 2010). The multi-stage (4-stage) sampling technique was adopted in the process of sample selection. The first stage was the purposive selection of three states from the Southeast agroecological zone where cases of violent conflicts have occurred and were reported. The second stage involved the purposive selection of the Local Government Areas where these conflicts occurred. The third involved the purposive selection of the communities in the Local Government Areas, where conflicts crop farmers and various land users have occurred. The fourth stage involved the proportionate selection of 300 affected farmers from the household lists of 3,005 individuals affected by the conflicts obtained and compiled by various agencies of the three States (Office of the Governor on Peace and Conflict Resolution; Local Government and Chieftaincy affairs) (see table 1).

Table1.*Number of sampled households*

State/LGA	Community	No. of affected Households	Sampled Households
Abia		1050	105
Umunneochi Ugwunagbo	Isuochi Lokpanta&Uturu		
Enugu		695	69
Uzo-uwani Nkanu West Udi	Nimbo Ishi-ozalla Ogui-Agueke		
Imo		1260	126

Ohaji/Egbema Owerri-West Okigwe	Awarra Irete Ihube		

The primary data were collected through questionnaire (survey), observation, and interview schedule. The data were collected from farmers, community leaders, youth leaders and the police. Descriptive statistical tools such as mean and standard deviation were used to achieve all the objectives of the research work. Mean was computed on 18 statements, 3-point Likert type rating scale of major cause, minor cause and not a cause assigned weight of 3,2,1 to capture the perceived causes of the resource use conflicts (objective 1).). The values were added and divided by 3 to get the discriminating mean value of 2.0. Any mean value equal to or above 2.0 was regarded as a major factor causing conflict, while values less than 2.0 were regarded as no cause. Mean was computed on 27 statements, 4-point Likert type rating scale of strongly agree, agree, disagree and strongly disagree assigned weight of 4,3,2,1 to capture the conflicts as perceived cause of hunger (objective 2). The values were added and divided by 4 to get the discriminating mean value of 2.5. Any mean value equal to or above 2.5 was regarded as a hunger effects of conflict, while values less than 2.5 were regarded as cause of hunger. Mean was also computed on 13 statements, 4-point Likert type rating scale of strongly agree, agree, disagree and strongly disagree assigned weight of 4,3,2,1 to capture the strategies for reducing hunger (objective 3). The values were added and divided by 4 to get the discriminating mean value of 2.5. Any mean value equal to or above 2.5 was regarded as a strategy for reducing hunger, while values less than 2.5 were regarded as strategies for reducing hunger.

RESULTS

The causes of hunger are so many as shown in table 1. They include delay in resolving L and conflict issues, acute scarcity of land, corruption, human population pressure and many more with a high mean response of above 2.0.

Table1.*Causes of Resource – Use conflict in the study area*

Perceived causes	Mean	SD
Delay in resolving land conflict issues	2.55	1.242
Tenure system/rights	2.05	1.472
Acute land scarcity	2.43	1.150
Corruption/selfish ambition	2.80	1.187
Unclear land boundaries	2.53	1.051
Human population pressure	2.90	1.191
Lack of proper land use plans	2.42	0.899
Insecurity of tenure	2.75	1.216
Return of displaced populations	2.14	1.241
Challenge of inheritance to land	2.65	0.983
Orchestration of climate change	2.44	1.173
Pollution of water source	2.15	0.641
Disobedience of tenure rules	2.54	1.247
Boundary trespass	2.66	0.652
Uncontrolled grazing by the nomads	2.56	0.932
Lack of respect for culture	2.69	0.807
Lack of respect for authority	2.30	1.273

Source – Field data, 2017 *Decision rule – mean 2.0 and above are major causes*

Table 2 showed that conflict can be a cause of hunger through the disruption of farm production system, plundering of crops, migration of farmers/labourers, reduction in the amount of food taken, loss of farm income among others

Table2.*Conflict as a perceived cause of hunger*

Statement	Mean	SD
Conflict causes hunger through the:		
Disruption of food production system	4.01	1.264
Plundering of crops/animals	2.82	1.264
Loss of farm/household assets/income	3.00	0.101

Reduction of amount/quantity of available food	3.42	0.495
Disruption of access to food by farmers	3.24	1.072
Limiting of farmers access to food preparation	3.05	1.164
Limiting of access of farmers to health care	2.82	1.563
Migration of farm workers to safer areas	2.70	0.880
Increase high levels of undernourishment	3.16	0.367
Destruction of food reserves/harvests	3.14	0.634
Disruption of food transport/movement system	3.30	0.459
Disruption of land use patterns of farmers	3.44	1.045
Closure of food and commodity markets/outlets	3.42	0.459
Damages of livelihoods assets/economy/ systems	3.58	0.492
Disruption of water/river sources/facilities	3.10	1.028
Loss of entitlements to producer assets	2.73	1.126
Increase cost of food items	3.14	0.634
Increase number of refugees who depend on relief	2.72	1.261
Lowering growth rate of children	2.86	0.827
Insufficient food intake among children/adults	2.56	1.277
Prevalence of underweight among children	2.70	0.702
Low intake of protein food	2.97	1.180
Low iron/iodine intake	3.13	0.661
Consumption of unbalanced diets	3.39	0.480
High risk of illness due to malnutrition	3.29	0.635
Untimely death of children	3.60	0.684

Source field survey data,201 mean 2.5 and above are accepted as causing hunger

From table 3 we see that hunger can be reduced when peoples access to productive resources are improved, credit given, health of farmers improved, access to seeds guaranteed, education and training of farmers etc.

Table3.*Strategies for Reducing hunger among Respondents*

Strategies	**Mean**	**SD**
Improving poor people access to production resources	3.31	0.660
Increasing access to credit	3.10	0.737
Improve road transportation/storage facilities	3.33	0.473
Improve health of soil	3.50	0.500
Improve /expand small –scale water management	2.98	1.780
Improve access to better seeds and other planting materials	3.77	0.419
Diversify on-farm enterprises with high-value production	3.39	0.410
Establishes effective agricultural extension services	3.88	0.322
Provision of health care/reproductive health services to women	3.34	0.939
Build/strengthens early warning system against shocks	3.35	1.241
Build/strengthen capacity to respond to emergencies	3.00	1.325
Investment in productive social safety to protect poor farmers	3.10	1.285
Aggressive land-reform/redistribution programme	3.41	**0.986**

Source field survey data, 2017 mean 2.5 and above are accepted as strategies

DISCUSSION

Perceived Causes of Resource Use Conflicts in the Area

The causes of resource use conflict are many and varied depending on the stakeholders involved. With a discriminating mean index of 2.0, table 1 revealed that all 17 items were causes of conflicts in the study area. They included delay in resolving land conflict issues with a mean (M) response of 2.55, tenure systems/rights (M = 2.05), acute land scarcity (M = 2.43), corruption/self-ambition of land administrators (M = 2.86), unclear land boundaries (M = 2.53), human population pressure (M = 2.90), lack of proper land use plans (M = 2.42), insecurity of tenure (M= 2.75), return of displaced populations (M = 2.14), challenge of inheritance (M = 2.65), orchestration of climate change (M = 2.44), which happens due to changes in temperature as seen in flood disasters, displacement of people among other things. Other causes were pollution of water sources (M = 2.05),

disobedience of tenure rules (M = 2.54), boundary trespass (M = 2.66), uncontrolled grazing by the nomads (M=2.56), lack of respect for culture (M = 2.69), and lack of respect for traditional authority.

The above is in line with Mahmoud, et al., (2003) who said conflicts in major urban and peri-urban areas often have to do with land tenure and land rights, and increasing competition between residential and commercial use of land with agricultural use, as the peri-urban areas continue to expand into traditional agricultural areas. Rural issues concerning land also have knock-on effects for urban areas: "rural decline can cause migration to urban areas, placing increasing demand on urban services and increasing political pressure on the state (Barnett and Adger,2007). Again, resource-based conflicts, especially over rights of access to land, are increasing in frequency and intensity, generating high levels of refugees and internally displaced persons. Whether caused by greed or grievances, land conflicts cause serious social dislocations; suspend or destroy income opportunities; create food insecurity; damage the environment, and frequently result in the loss of life. There is an urgent need for practical ways to prevent, mitigate, resolve and potentially transform land-related conflicts, because the tensions that trigger violent disputes over land and resources pose significant obstacles to managing and transforming conflicts(ILC/NSI,2006).

Conflict as a Perceived Cause of Hunger in the Study Area

Conflict is a major cause of hunger and malnutrition in the developing world. Table 2 shows the various ways in which conflicts lead to hunger and malnutrition. Conflicts causes hunger through the disruption of food production system with a mean response of 4.01. When food production systems are altered and destroyed, the inhabitants of such area abandon farms and become in want and lack of food which leads to hunger. Conflicts lead to plundering of crops and animals (M = 2.82), which leaves the owners devastated economically and in hunger. Conflicts lead to loss of farm/household assets and income (M = 3.00), reduction of amount/quantity of available foods (M = 3.42), disruption of access to food by farmers (M = 3.24), limiting of farmers access to food preparation (M = 3.05), limiting of access to health care (M = 2.82), migration of farm workers to safer areas (M = 2.70) which affects productivity/yield as those who were supposed to be in the farm now disappear and abandon farm work.

Again, conflict increases high levels of undernourishment (M = 3.16), destruction of food resources/harvest (M = 3.14), disruption of food transportation/ movement system (M = 3.30), disruption of land use pattern of farmers (M = 3.44), closure of food/commodity markets (M = 3.42) and loss of entitlement to productive assets (M = 2.73), these are true reflection of hunger situation because a lack of adequate feeding leads to undernourishment, and when food reserves are destroyed, scarcity of food will set in, causing hunger. When food products are not transported to the markets, demand will be very high and total absence of it will lead to hunger. Other areas includes increase cost of food items (M = 3.14) due to low supply, increase number of refugees (M = 2.72) who may demand more quantity than available, lower growth rate of children (M = 2.86), low intake of protein foods (M = 2.97), low iron/iodine intake (M = 3.13), prevalence of under-weight children (M = 2.70), untimely death of children/adult (M = 3.60), high risk of illness due to malnutrition (M = 3.25), and consumption of unbalanced diets among others.

Balestri (2015) said it is worth noting that there is a strong connection between conflicts over land and food security. A first correlation is obvious: the existence of conflicts and social unrest over land may substantially limit the ability of individuals to produce food, to access to local markets of agricultural products and livestock as well as to be able to protect own property. Thus, these restrictions have a negative impact on rural households in terms of food production and income generation. In low-income countries, these effects produce even greater impacts since such countries are often characterized by weak institutions, persistent inequalities, a weak recognition of land rights, the existence of economic opportunities generated by illegal actions (capillary systems of corruption or illegal trade, for example) – which can exacerbate existing tensions and support dynamics of conflict(USAID, 2013). Since food insecurity is largely caused by poverty, improving access to food requires increasing the income of the poor. Not surprisingly, given that most of the very poor rely on agriculture and related activities, studies have shown that the income of the very poor

respond more to growth in the agricultural sector than to growth in any other sector (Ligon and Sadoulet, 2011; Christiaensen, Demery, and Kuhl. 2012).

This implies that agricultural growth will reduce hunger and malnutrition more effectively if it involves smallholders. This implies that agricultural growth will reduce hunger and malnutrition more effectively if it involves smallholders. A food security strategy must therefore create an enabling environment that levels the playing field for smallholders, and provides them with the tools, skills, and incentives to participate and be competitive by: (i) investing in rural infrastructure such as roads, information systems, storage facilities, and physical markets to reduce transaction costs and allow them to reach markets; (ii) ensuring land tenure and property rights to provide incentives to invest and make long-term decisions; and (iii) providing the education and skills needed to successfully participate in markets (IFAD, WFP, and FAO. 2012.).

Although hunger and malnutrition are global problems, they have an especially profound impact on the rural poor and on women in particular. Rural women in sub-Saharan Africa are 68 percent more likely to be malnourished than urban women, and "malnourished mothers are more likely to die in childbirth and to give birth to low birth weight babies who are more likely to have stunted growth" (Uthman and Aremu, 2008). This correlates strongly to women's land tenure insecurity: countries where women lack land ownership rights have an average of 60 percent more malnourished children (United Nations Human Rights Council, 2012). Evidence from studies across the developing world shows that increases in land tenure security correlate with improved food security, particularly for women. Securing and recognizing women's land rights can increase agricultural productivity and shared household decision making, and thereby increase the total amount of resources available to the family for nutrition and food security (Allendorf, 2007).

Report study in Uganda shows how land tenure insecurity can affect agricultural productivity and food security. When women farmers did not have independent and secure rights to the land they were farming, many chose not to let it lie fallow for an optimal period. Since their rights to use the land were insecure and dependent on a relationship with a man, the women feared that not using the land for one season would affect their longer term access, thus they overworked the land. The study concluded that when women are forced to struggle to maintain control of their land, productivity and income fall (Mason and Carlsson, 2005). Similarly, a study in Kericho, Kenya shows that women neglect tending tea plantations because they have limited control over proceeds from the tea, resulting in increased household tensions and lower productivity (Von Bulow and Sorenson, 1993).

Therefore, strategies to increase tenure security must recognize women's vital role in food production and address gender-based constraints along the value chain, including improving their access to resources such as land, credit, and productivity-enhancing inputs and services (USAID. 2012). Women are directly involved in food production; research has long shown that women can equal men in productivity as long as they have equal access to agricultural inputs, training, and extension services. Reducing the gender gap in access to productive resources increases household production and aggregate agricultural output (Quisumbing,. 1996; Allendorf, 2006; Fletschner, 2008). Conflict leads to hunger by way of the following causes: it interrupts the agricultural cycle; it drives farmers from their land; it interrupts trade mechanisms; it destroys food stores; it provokes food shortages which pushes up prices.

Strategies for Reducing Hunger

Table 3 shows that to prevent, manage/ resolve conflicts and reduce hunger, governments at all levels and relevant stakeholders should pursue and advocate the following measures: aggressive land reform/redistribution programme with a mean (M) response of 3.41 and improving poor people's access to productive resources (M = 3.31). Vepa, Anneboina, and Manghnani (2004) opined that appropriate policies and institutions are needed to facilitate secure access to productive resources, such as land and capital, and to stimulate employment opportunities essential for pro-poor economic growth. Secure access to land is essential for resource-poor farmers to invest in maintaining and enhancing long-term productivity through soil conservation, tree planting, and other means. Increasing access to

credit (M = 3.10), improve road transportation/storage facility (M = 3.33), and improve soil health (M = 3.50) were measures identified. The soil nutrients needed by crop plants can be provided by either organic inputs or inorganic and mineral fertilizers. In marginal or remote areas, internally generated organic sources of nutrients from animal manures and nitrogen-fixing leguminous plant species may be the best-bet technologies (Omamo,2002), though mineral fertilizers (particularly phosphorus and sometimes potassium) are often needed. Green manure and cover crop systems that improve soil fertility are well proven (Bunch 2001a, b). Another measure is to expand small scale farmers water management (M = 2.98). While soil health remains an issue in these zones, water availability is critical and in many places even more central. Various techniques of water harvesting and small-scale irrigation, combined with efficient water use, should be used to transform crop and livestock production. Building effective technical backstopping capacity in water harvesting, small-scale irrigation, and efficient water use is critical to achieving impact through scaling up. Improve access to better seed/other planting materials (M. 3.77). Other measures included diversify on-farm enterprises with higher value products (M = 3.39), establish effective agricultural extension services (M = 3.88), provision of health care/reproductive health services (M = 3.34), build/strengthen early warning system against shocks (M = 3.35), build/strengthen capacity to respond to emergencies (M = 3.00) and investment in productive social safety to protect poor farmers (M = 3.50). Diversification increases farmer incomes, addresses nutritional deficiencies, and is the first step out of poverty. Diversification not only generates income for individual farmers—it also enhances the whole rural economy(IAC,2004).

Four available methods for diversification with high-value products include- raising livestock, planting farm trees, investing in fisheries and aquaculture, and planting vegetables. Livestock production provides an important opportunity for smallholders to diversify their diets and sources of income, while generating manure that can improve soil health(UN Millennium Project, 2005).

CONCLUSION

Secure access to land is an essential pre-requisite for resource-poor farmers to be healthy and care for their family. Conflicts could be caused by delay in resolving land conflict issues, tenure system/right, acute land scarcity, corruption/selfish ambition, unclear land boundaries, human population pressure, lack of proper land use plans. Conflicts disrupt the productive base of rural residents and expose them to untold hardship and hunger, limiting of access of farmers to health care, migration of farm workers to safer areas, increase high levels of undernourishment, destruction of food reserves/harvests, disruption of food transport/movement system, lowering growth rate of children. To reduce hunger the following strategies need be put in place; improving poor people access to production resources, increasing access to credit, improve road transportation/storage facilities, improve soil health , improve /expand small –seal water management among other things

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