



## **EFFECT OF BANDITRY AMONG MAIZE PRODUCERS IN DANDUME LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, KATSINA STATE, NIGERIA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Banditry remains one of the major forms of insecurity that has created instability and exposed the agricultural sector to numerous threats and challenges, thus hampering socio-economic advancement. This research was conducted to assess the effect of banditry among maize producers in Dandume Local Government Area, Katsina State, Nigeria. A multistage sampling procedure was used to select 63 respondents across the study area. The data were collected through a structured questionnaire and key informant interviews, and the information collected was analysed using descriptive statistics. The result revealed that the average age of the farmers was 44 years, with a majority (87.3%) being married. The average household size was 17 individuals, while the mean farmland size was 20.22 hectares. Additionally, the farmers possessed an average of 25 years of experience. Furthermore, banditry has significantly hampered farming activities; farmers and their household experienced kidnapping (69.8%); some were forced to relocate, leaving their farms (57.2%); and large hectares of farmland are now inaccessible (57.1%). In addition, the results show that currently, about 39.7% produced an output in the range of 61–90 bags, whereas 28.6% produced a maize output of more than 121 bags with an average of 276 bags, and the average production of maize before the onset of banditry was 504 bags. The findings further revealed that the farmers are now devising community policing as a measure to tackle the banditry (92%). The study concluded that there was a drastic decrease in the volume of maize produced annually, which consequently caused a reduction in the annual income of the respondents. It is therefore recommended that the stakeholders exert greater endeavour in safeguarding this significant agricultural community from the perils of banditry, as the eventual outcomes are anticipated to be profoundly calamitous.

**Keywords:** Banditry, Effects, Kidnapping, Maize production

### **INTRODUCTION**

Banditry remains one of the major forms of insecurity that has created instability and exposed the agricultural sector to numerous threats and challenges, thus hindering socio-economic development. It is a fact that the development of any country in the world is dependent on many factors, which may either accelerate or slow its expansion, with security being a key factor. (Adebayo, 2014). The safety of people and property is vital to the prosperity of any country, as investors in any economy want to know that their investments are protected. Because the danger of doing business increases when the policy is insecure, investors who want to support industrial expansion and job creation attempt to avoid such an unfavourable economic environment as much as possible. (Adebayo, 2014).

Banditry has thrived and functioned in various parts of the world since the 19th century, when bandits riding largely on horseback moved from their hideouts to attack settlements and then withdraw. They have thrived in Europe, mostly in hilly areas of Italy, Spain, Greece, and Turkey; in Asia, bandits have lived in numerous countries, including Iran, the Philippines, and



India. (Ladan and Matawalli, 2020). In the context of India, individuals engaged in acts of banditry are commonly referred to as "daku" in the Hindi language. It is worth noting that during the colonial period, British colonialists introduced the term "dacoity" to describe such criminal activities. Therefore, across the Indian subcontinent, where the presence of bandits has been prevalent for an extended period in the northern and north-central regions of India, the term "dacoity" has come to be synonymous with acts of banditry. Banditry in South Asia has a longstanding and lucrative past. Despite continuous efforts to combat banditry, the issue persists in contemporary India. According to Tahir and Bernard (2021). Furthermore, banditry is a significant security concern in Africa, as it persists in causing devastation throughout several regions like the Horn of Africa, East and Central Africa, and the trans-Saharan trade routes spanning from the Niger Republic to Libya (Aregbesola, 2020). Banditry has been observed in many regions of Chad, particularly in the vicinity of Lake Chad. Additionally, it has also been noted to have a substantial prevalence in certain areas of southern Africa (Aregbesola, 2020). The escalating incidence and severity of banditry in West Africa have played a significant role in the growing regional insecurity, hence posing a possible risk to the process of regional integration within the sub-region (Abdullahi, 2019). Based on available data, it has been indicated that a number of individuals involved in criminal activities, commonly referred to as bandits, originating from countries within the West African sub-region, including the Niger Republic and Mali, have allegedly been extended invitations to execute extensive acts of aggression against other nations situated in the same sub-region. They advanced across the permeable borders of West Africa, armed with their weaponry, with the intention of assisting their comrades in executing extensive retaliatory attacks. According to Yusufu (2022). The emergence of the war in Nigeria can be attributed to a prolonged period of unsolved disputes between sedentary farmers and nomadic herding communities. High plains of northern Nigeria, specifically in the North West geopolitical zone, which includes states like Zamfara, are the primary location of these conflicts.. The insurgency in Zamfara State commenced in 2009 and experienced a surge in 2011, notably in the aftermath of the general elections (Anka, 2017). Zamfara state has emerged as the central hub of banditry within Nigeria, serving as the primary location where the majority of bandit commanders are situated. These commanders utilise the forests inside Zamfara state as a base of operations, employing motorcycles to go to neighbouring states like Katsina in order to carry out their illicit activities, before subsequently retreating to their woodland hideouts (Farouq & Chukwu, 2020). Therefore, by 2010, banditry had already begun in Katsina State, namely in the seven local government areas (LGAs) of Jibia, Batsari, Safana, Danmusa, Kankara, Faskari, and Sabuwa that shared a border with Zamfara State. Since then, it has spread to Dandume and other areas of the state.

Banditry is considered to be a major potential threat affecting Nigerian towns, mostly through economic activities. The study area is one of the local government areas in Katsina State that constitutes the agricultural hub of the state. Farmers in the study area produce mostly maize, rice, soybeans, and sorghum in large quantities. However, maize production, which has been a major source of livelihood for the populace in the study area, is under serious threat due to the insecurity that has resulted from banditry from 2010 to date. This led to a drastic decline in the level of maize production in the study area due to threats of attacks that caused farmers to abandon their farms and flee to safety. During the launch of the 2021 maize wet season farming and the first maize pyramid in Nigeria in the state, Governor Aminu Bello Masari revealed that farmers in the state abandoned over 50,000 hectares of field owing to bandit attacks. In related developments, it was reported that over 60 villages and hamlets were forced



to relocate to safer towns and cities, which led to farming activities being put to a standstill in some parts of the area (Mahmoud, 2021).

Moreover, about 60 maize farmers were reported to have been killed by bandits; harvest maize left on the farm waiting to be threshed was set on fire (Ifedayo, 2021). The main point is that these bandits' actions could hurt the economy and make it harder for communities to reach socioeconomic development. This is because farmers and investors in agriculture are becoming less likely to put money into farming because of the rise in banditry in the study area. This study was therefore carried out to describe the socio-economic characteristics of farmers in the study area, describe the pre- and post-banditry levels of maize production, describe the effects of banditry on the farmers and identify and describe the strategic measures to improve maize production.

## METHODOLOGY

### Description of the Study Area

Dandume local government area is found in Katsina state, which is domiciled in the Northwest geopolitical zone of Nigeria. The area is located at 11°27'30"N, 7°07'37"E. It has an area of 422 km<sup>2</sup> and a projected population of approximately 220,066, with an average temperature of 34 degrees Celsius. Humidity is often around 15%, and the wind speed is typically around 10 km/h. Dantakari, Jiruwa, Dan Soda, Mahuta, Magaji Wando, Mai Kwama, Dandume, and Ilalla are only few of the cities and communities that make up the Dandume Local Government Area (LGA). The Fulani are the most numerous and influential among the indigenous peoples. Both the Ffulde and Hausa languages are widely spoken there, and Islam is the dominant religion.

The LGA relies heavily on agriculture as its primary source of income, and the region produces a wide range of crops including maize, sorghum, rice, beans, groundnut, soya beans, pepper, potatoes and cocoyam. Dandume's economic vitality is bolstered in part by the city's thriving market economy, which includes the Dandume grain market. However, bandit attacks in the study region have terrified residents in recent years, leading to a decrease in agricultural output as farmers flee the area.

### Sampling Procedure and Sample Size

In this research, a multistage sampling procedure was used to select 63 respondents across the study area. In the first stage, three wards were purposefully selected based on the intensity of the issue, concentration of farmers, and accessibility. In the second stage, a list of farmer groups was collected, out of which 5% were randomly selected from each ward, making a total of 63 farmers for the study.

**Table1:** Sampling Frame

Ward	No. of farmer group	Total number of members	5% sample size
Dandume A	21	525	26
Mahuta A	15	375	19
Dantakari	14	350	18
Total	50	1,250	63

### Data collection and Analysis

The primary data were collected using a well-structured questionnaire, which was administered to the respondents through a supported interview. Data were analysed with the use of descriptive statistics such as frequency distribution, percentages, and mean to achieve the research objectives.



## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Respondents

The results (Table 2) from this study revealed that the respondents in the age range of 21–50 years constituted the majority (69.9%), which implies that most of the farmers were of active age and could participate actively in the production of maize and other livelihood activities. The mean age of the respondents is 44 years, with 76 years as the maximum and 23 years as the minimum. Most (87.3%) of the respondents were married, which indicates that married people comprised the bulk of the respondents, which implies that farmers have responsibilities to protect and provide for their families and make decisions on behalf of the family. The findings support Idrissa (2013) study, which found that the majority of farmers in northern Nigeria were married. The average household size of the respondents was 17, with 3 persons as the minimum and 45 persons as the maximum. The large household size can be attributed to the culture of the people in the study area. This is in line with the findings of Adegbeniga (2014) and Sani et al. (2022), who observed that most of the farmers in rural communities in Nigeria have large families. Table 2 also revealed that the majority (66.7%) of the respondents had one form of formal education or another. The respondents were literate, and this will help them get new information on improving maize production and can enhance the level of adoption of improved farm practices to cope with the current banditry that is affecting the production.

**Table 2:** Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Respondents

Variables	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)	Mean (x)
<b>Age</b>			
21-30	15	23.8	44
31-40	16	25.5	
41-50	13	20.6	
51-60	6	9.5	
61 and above	13	20.6	
<b>Min</b>	23		
<b>Max</b>	76		
<b>Std. deviation</b>	15.057		
<b>Marital status</b>			
Single	8	12.7	
Married	55	87.3	
<b>Household size</b>			
≤ 10	24	38.1	17
11-20	23	36.5	
21-30	4	6.3	
31-40	9	14.3	
41 and above	3	4.8	
<b>Min</b>	3		
<b>Max</b>	45		
<b>Std. deviation</b>	12.067		
<b>Educational level</b>			
Informal Quranic education	21	33.3	
Primary	4	6.3	
Secondary	20	31.7	
Tertiary	18	28.6	
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>100</b>	

Source: Field Survey, 2023



The respondents in the study area had large farm sizes, some under production and some cannot be accessed to produce due to the current issue of banditry as presented in Table 3, and the average farmland size was 22.22 hectares with a minimum of 1ha and 110ha as the maximum. This is an indication that there are large-scale farmers who can produce a substantial amount of food, especially if things go well. The claims made by El-Ladan and Sani (2012), who claimed that Katsina State is one of the largest producers of maize and cotton in the nation with more than 80,000 farming families and more than 1.5 million hectares of farmland under cultivation, can support the large farmland size reported. The study area accounted for a high percentage of the 1.5 million hectares of land asserted, mainly utilising the farmlands to grow maize and other crops. Table 3 shows that the average years of experience of the respondents were 27 years, with 6 and 50 years as the minimum and maximum, respectively. These farmers had farming experience that can help them improve their productivity on the farm by knowing the correct practices. This agrees with the finding of Ume and Ochiaka (2016), who posited that a long number of years of farming equip farmers to make rational decisions through efficient resource use, high farm productivity, and increased income. The results from Table 3 further show that the average annual income of the respondents was ₦8,283,412.70, with a minimum of ₦180,000 and ₦75,000,000 as the maximum. The high average annual income is due to the large scale of production.

**Table 3: Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Respondents (n=63)**

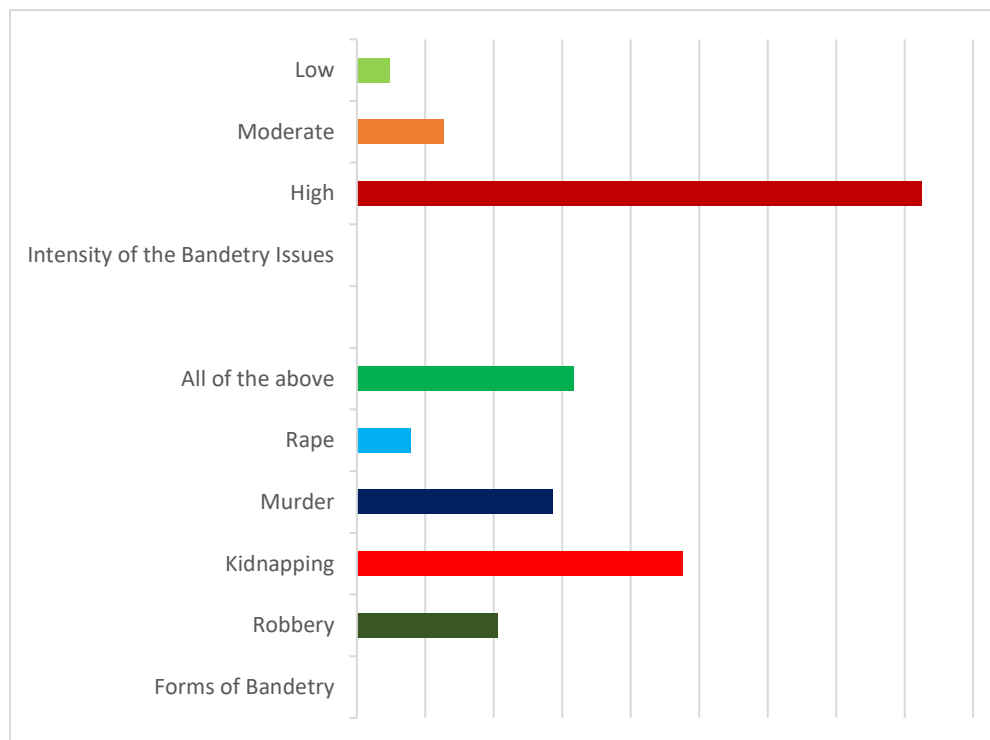
Variables	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)	Mean ( $\bar{x}$ )
<b>Farm land size (ha)</b>			
1-10	36	57.2	20.22
11-20	14	22.2	
21-30	5	7.9	
31-40	2	3.2	
41 and above	6	9.5	
<b>Min</b>	1		
<b>Max</b>	110		
<b>Years of farming experience</b>			
1-10	14	22.2	25
11-20	14	22.2	
21-30	16	25.5	
31-40	5	7.9	
41 and above	14	22.2	
<b>Min</b>	6		
<b>Max</b>	50		
<b>Std. deviation</b>	15.704		
<b>Average annual income (₦)</b>			
≤ 5,100,000	38	60.4	8,283,412.70
5,100,000-10,000,000	13	20.6	
10,100,000-15,000,000	6	9.5	
15,100,000-20,000,000	0	0	
20,100,000 and above	6	9.5	
<b>Min</b>	180,000		
<b>Max</b>	75,000,000		
<b>Std. deviation</b>	12449332.792		
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>100</b>	

Source: Field Survey, 2023



### Levels and forms of banditry

Forms of banditry were considered in this study in order to understand the intensity of the problem. All the respondents attest to the presence of banditry in the area; however, robbery, kidnapping, murder, and rape were the forms of banditry experienced, especially the kidnapping of members of their communities (47.6%), while rape (7.9%) of women and girls was the least common in the area. Moreover, 82.5% have asserted a high intensity of banditry, whereas only about 4.8% consider the intensity to be low. The ones experiencing a low level were those closer to the main LGA, and their houses are close to the security offices.

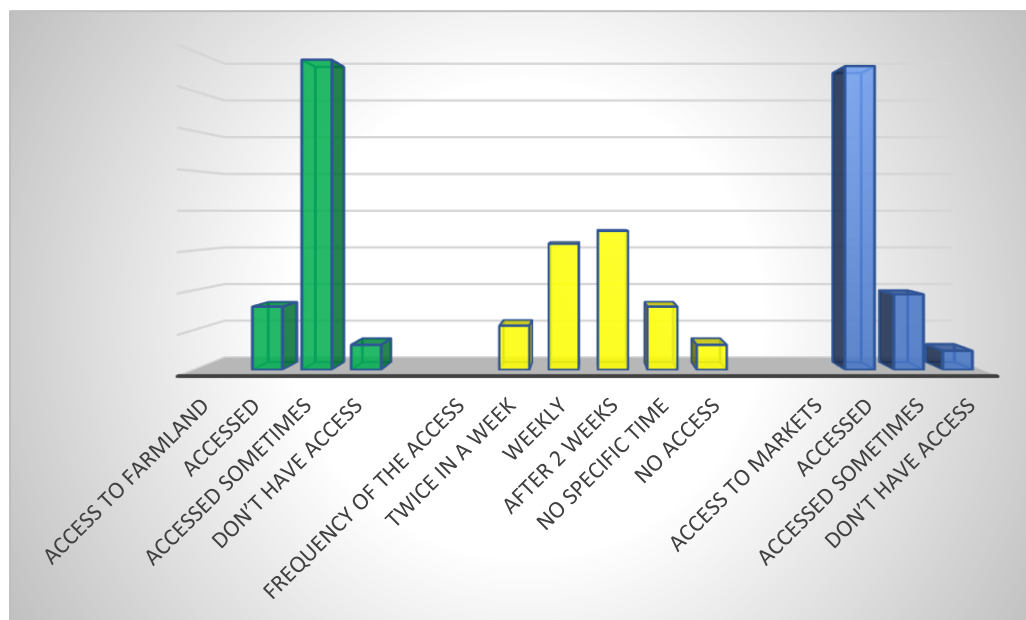


*Figure 1: Forms and Levels of Banditry*

Figure 2 shows that the majority (77.8%) of the respondents had access to their farms sometimes because of the intensity of the banditry, and a few (6.3%) did not have access to their farm, which was lost completely, and no longer have access to the farms. However, access to the farm is difficult daily, even during the rainy season, as most of the respondents visit and work on it every two weeks (34.9%), only visiting when they noticed less danger, whereas 31.7% access the farm on a weekly basis. This has contributed greatly to the decline in the level of maize production in the study area, since the lack of access will prevent the crops from getting the required care and attention needed to produce a considerable yield. When there is constant access to farms, it is sometimes possible to detect, prevent, or control pest and disease issues before they cause significant damage.

On access to the market where farmers sell their produce, the majority (76.2%) had access to the market at all times. This is possible since the major market in the study area is inside the town, where the intensity of banditry is minimal compared to other places in the study area due to the high presence of armed forces. However, 4.8% have confirmed that they don't have access to the market, whereas 19.0% confirmed that they only have access to the market sometimes. These two categories of respondents are mainly those living on the outskirts

of the town, so when they receive reports of bandit attacks on the market road, they don't try to access the market due to fear of being attacked by the bandits on their way.



*Figure 2: Access to Farm and Market*

### **Effects of Banditry on Farmers and Maize Production**

Results in Table 4 further revealed that there is a drastic decrease in farm sizes cultivated by the farmers in the study area as a result of the banditry. 52.4% of the total respondents had farmland sizes of 1–10 hectares, whereas 1.6% of the total respondents had a range of 31–40 hectares. The respondents cultivated an average of 50.38 ha, with a minimum of 1ha and a maximum of 900ha before the incidence of banditry. With the present banditry incidence, the average land under cultivation for maize production by the respondents was 22.22 ha, with a minimum and maximum of 1ha and 200 ha, respectively (Table 4). The decrease in farmland size is mainly because the farmers either sold their farmlands in an attempt to settle ransom to secure their release or loved ones, or they no longer have access to those farmlands due to their proximity to the bandits. However, this decrease in farmland size has consequently affected the overall production capacity in the study area.

Results in Table 4 revealed that the farming activities in the area were appreciable prior to the onset of banditry because farmers had access to quality inputs and farms at all times and also operated in a conducive atmosphere without any threat to their lives or farmlands. The result from Table 4 indicated that 76.3% of the total respondents were able to obtain high outputs of more than 121 bags of maize. The results showed that before the onset of banditry, only 6.3% obtained outputs of less than or equal to 30 bags of maize. The extent to which the activities of banditry affected the farming activities in the study area cannot be overemphasized. The volumes of maize production in the study area, as observed currently, have drastically declined. The results showed that currently, about 39.7% produced an output in the range of 61–90 bags, whereas 28.6% produced a maize output of more than 121 bags with an average of 276 bags, and the average production of maize before the onset of banditry was 504 bags. The findings clearly indicate how the volume of production declined, as they revealed that the maximum production capacity, which used to be as high as 6,000 bags before banditry, is currently 2800 bags.



**Table 4:** Pre and post banditry level of maize production

Variables	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)	Mean (x)
<b>Farm size before banditry (ha)</b>			
1-10	33	52.4	<b>50.38</b>
11-20	8	12.7	
21-30	8	12.7	
31-40	1	1.6	
41 and above	13	20.6	
<b>Min</b>	1		
<b>Max</b>	900		
<b>Std. deviation</b>	155.970		
<b>Current farm size (ha)</b>			
1-10	36	57.2	<b>22.22</b>
11-20	14	22.2	
21-30	5	7.9	
31-40	2	3.2	
41 and above	6	9.5	
<b>Min</b>	1		
<b>Max</b>	200.0		
<b>Std. deviation</b>	34.9194		
<b>Production capacity before banditry (bags)</b>			
≤ 30	4	6.3	<b>504</b>
31-60	3	4.8	
61-90	4	6.3	
91-120	4	6.3	
121 and above	48	76.3	
<b>Min</b>	30		
<b>Max</b>	6000		
<b>Current production capacity (bags)</b>			
≤ 30	9	14.3	<b>276</b>
31-60	7	11.1	
61-90	25	39.7	
91-120	4	6.3	
121 and above	18	28.6	
<b>Min</b>	15		
<b>Max</b>	2800		
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>100</b>	

Source: Field Survey, 2023.

Table 5 shows that the majority of the respondents (69.8%) have either been kidnapped or household members have been kidnapped; 57.1% of them paid ransom to secure their release or household members. However, as a result of the payment of ransom, the respondents lost their produce (38.1%) and farm (28.6%), respectively, which they had to sell in order to get money for the payment. More so, the respondent had testified to being indebted as a result of money they received as debt in the process of securing the release. The result (Table 5) shows other ways that banditry also affected the respondents; it indicated that about 57.1% of the respondents had lost a household member or someone close to the banditry; the high number of lives lost reported is attributed largely to when the victims resist attack or the bandits failed to get what they demanded from their family members. Twenty-two percent of the respondents





were forced to relocate to another community due to the attack, while 20.6% lost their properties (land, shops, and machinery).

**Table 5:** Effects of banditry

Variables	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
<b>Household member ever been kidnapped</b>		
Kidnaped	44	69.8
Not Kidnaped	19	30.2
<b>Have paid ransom</b>		
Paid	36	57.1
Not Paid	8	14.3
<b>Effect of the paid ransom</b>		
Never paid	8	14.3
Indebted	13	20.6
Loss of farm	18	28.6
Loss of produce	24	38.1
<b>Other effects of Banditry</b>		
Loss of property	13	20.6
Forceful relocation	36	57.2
Loss of lives	14	22.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2023

### Strategic Measures to Tackle Banditry Issues

The measures suggested by the respondents to address the banditry-related issues, the results from Table 6 revealed that the majority (77.8%) of the respondents have not received any kind of support, while 22.2% have received support. Almost all (92.1%) of the respondents testified that the community as a whole is taking measures to tackle the banditry, whereas only 7.9% revealed that the community is not taking any measures to tackle the banditry. However, community policing (92.1%) was one of the measures taken by the respondents to defend themselves from banditry while deploying armed forces in the area where these issues were raised. This shows that the communities were trying their best to take measures to defend themselves.

**Table 6:** Strategic measures to improve maize production

Variables	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
<b>Received any kind of support</b>		
Received	14	22.2
Not Received	49	77.8
<b>Measures to tackle banditry by the community</b>		
Taken Measures	58	92.1
No Measures	5	7.9
<b>*Measures the community/Stakeholders taken</b>		
No any measure	5	7.9
Community policing	58	92.1
Deployment of Armed forces	26	41.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2023

\*Multiple response



## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Based on the findings of the study, the maize farmers in the study area have experienced banditry, which has led to a reduction in yield, the loss of farms, and the loss of lives for the members of the community. It is recommended that the security of the study area be upgraded and strengthened so that farmers can access their farm at any time, and financial assistance in any form should be given to the farmers who have suffered banditry attacks.

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