

# A Comparative Study of Food Security in Africa Amid Growing Population.

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**Abstract-** Sustainable food security is every nation's goal. For a nation to achieve sustainable food security, the food supply must exceed the demand. Using trend analysis, this study is an attempt to compare the nature of food security from 2000 to 2014 in Nigeria to selected African countries in each region. These countries are Angola, Ethiopia, South Africa and Egypt. The paper shows that Nigeria is food insecure in comparison to the selected African countries in terms of their population and food productions. The index used to select the other African countries from each regions are based on GDP and population. The parameter used for food demand are Food production index, Crop production index and Livestock production index. Meanwhile the parameter used for food demand is population density. The result showed that Angola is more food secured compared to other African countries as they the only country among the selected countries to food production index and crop production index of over 200, though it later fell short of that in 2014 which may be as a result of the factors discussed in the paper. Angola has also recorded the highest livestock productions so far. Meanwhile, Nigeria has the highest population density out of the selected countries which is more than the combined population densities of three of the selected countries in 2014(South Africa, Angola and Ethiopia). This shows that Nigeria's demand for food is more than its supply due to the over population and low agricultural production which means Nigeria depends more on food importation than local food production. To achieve sustainable food security in Nigeria, this paper recommends a checkmate in the population growth and also improvement in agricultural production.

**Index Terms-** Africa, food insecurity, food security, population growth.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Ever since the rise of food price and resulting protests across countries in Africa, the need to look at food security has risen dramatically in the sustainable development goal for 2050 which states food for all is in jeopardy of not been attainable. According to UNFAO, there are 37 Africa countries threatened by food crisis in 2018. Countries like Niger, Senegal, Sudan, Morocco, Mauritania, Guinea, Mozambique, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Egypt, Tunisia, Gabon etc. has witness food crisis protest and civil unrest on food scarcity.

Food insecurity has emerged as a global crisis following the global economic meltdown (USAID, 2009). The united

nation food and agriculture organization defines food security as; (i) the availability of food that is nutritious and safe; (ii) an assured ability to procure and acquire food of good quality in a socially acceptable way. When this two fundamentals are violated i.e. food is not easily accessible and households have difficulty securing adequate food it becomes food insecurity (FAO, 2004).

FAO also defines food security as, "when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life." (FAO, 2004). Food security according to Abdulrahman (2013), is the inability to provide and secure high quality and quantity of food to its people as a result of high demand, shortage in the supply of agricultural commodities, and low purchasing power. He also highlighted reasons for food insecurity which includes rural urban migration, rise in the price of oil, increase in the demand of biofuel and natural calamities. Similarly, decline in agricultural commodity output, population growth and trade liberalization which leads to elimination of subsidies on agricultural inputs, trade restrictions and engaging in export promotion will have adverse effect on food security of a nation.

The global food security crisis jeopardize the lives of millions of people in vulnerable communities, particularly Africa where poverty, malnutrition and death from hunger thrived (IFP, 2001). The combined effects of spiraling food prices and lack of health care could be catastrophic for the poor, this will surely affects the sustainable development goals which state eradication of hunger in any part of the world. The united nation sustainable development goal for 2020 is to end hunger, achieve food security and availability of food improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. According to the UN 2018 estimate Africa population is 1.2 billion people which is equivalent to 16.64% of the total world population.

According to UNEP Africa will attain an estimated 2 billion population by 2050 which makes the continent the second largest continent in the world, and has many distinctive climate zones, which makes the farming system different from each region of Africa. Traditionally, North Africa uses mostly Mediterranean style of farming and crop production, while the Eastern Africa engages in domestication type of farming. In the Western side of Africa there is a distinct cultural development which is mainly staple foods and in the Southern Africa is mainly hunter gathering and mix farming. The paper aim to make a comparative study of countries in Africa that are high in GDP ranking and with high population has they perform in the face of

challenges of their continuous population increase against their agricultural production.

## II. RESEARCH ELABORATIONS

### Causes of food insecurity in Africa

There are numerous causes of food insecurity in Africa, but this paper is going to review some of the important causes as its relevance to the study;

#### 1. Population

The overall demand for food is affected by population growth, most of the countries with the highest number of people facing food insecurity also have high fertility rates and rapid population growth which affects meeting nutritional value. It is projected that by 2050 Africa fertility rate will have doubled even as at a low fertility rate, presently Africa has one of the highest population growth in the world. Africa holds the largest proportion of food insecure people, with one in four people undernourished (UNPD, 2009). The region also has the lowest agricultural productivity in the world and the highest percentage of people living in poverty (World Bank, 2007).

Food production depends on the cropland and water supply, which are under strain as human populations increase. Pressure on limited land resources, driven in part by population growth, can mean expansion of cropland. This often involves destruction of vital forest resources or over exploitation of arable land. Globally, the rates of growth in fish capture and aquaculture has slowed, raising concerns about the future supply of fish for human consumption (FAO, 2009). According to Castro J and Anges 2008, human pressure, including population growth, have adversely affect the productivity of fisheries. The fisheries had previously provided up to 80% of dietary protein for the human population is in decline.

#### 2. Conflicts and Communal violence

Conflicts have always been a bane in food security in Africa. Where conflicts occurs there are tendencies to have food shortage, low agricultural production, destruction of food stocks, live stocks and other agricultural produce and assets. For instance the militias often sack villages and hamlets making the poor farmers flee. Which in turns reduces or eliminate the farming population and creating food insecurities?

Messer and Cohen, 2004 in their works noted that conflicts and communal violence contributes to serious fall in accessibility and availability of food which is the core basis of food security since agriculture is the main stake of rural livelihood in African. Conflict and war has a strong correlation to food security and production has been mentioned in a Food Agriculture Organization, 2004 report that stated communal violence costs Africa over \$120 million worth of agricultural production during the last third of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, given the importance of agriculture to the overall livelihood of the economy, especially in the conflict prone area of Africa.

A Food Research Policy Institute, (2004) identifies that conflicts limits food production and denies people access to food and availability of food supply. In most conflicts and post conflicts zones in Africa are home to substantial number of food insecure people, therefore making Africa countries a zone to high chronic food insecurity.

#### 3. Climate Change

Agriculture is extremely vulnerable to climate change in Africa, high temperature and heat wave coupled with erratic rainfall pattern reduces agriculture yield, encourages weed and pest proliferation and increase the likelihood of short run crop failure and long run production decline (Nelson et al, 2009). In other to prove the impact of climate change on agriculture production Schlenker and Lobell, 2010 combined historical crop production and weather data together, the result shows that 5 major crop African crops (maize, sorghum, millet, groundnut, and cassava) yield will decrease by 7% by year 2046. With the current predictions has how climate change will affects the world. The negative adverse effect is going to have on food security is going to overwhelming in Africa. The projected drying up of many water sources, increased instances of drought and flash floods, the submersion of some land masses under rising sea levels, will all stress the agricultural system in Africa. Crops will suffer from heat stress and water stress with a rise in temperature and precipitation.

Between 1980 and 2014, over 363 million people in sub-Saharan Africa were affected by droughts. Droughts affect more people in eastern Africa with 203 million people affected, compared to southern Africa with 86 million and western Africa with 74 million. Ethiopia and Kenya together accounted for 30 percent of the total number of people affected, with nearly 61 million and 48 million, respectively (FAO, 2015). The countries the loss suffered in economical valuation is about \$31 billion in crop and livestock production after the droughts that occurred between 1991 and 2013, with the highest losses experienced in eastern Africa amounting to \$19 billion. In southern Africa, losses amounted to over \$10 billion and \$2.5 billion in western Africa. After the droughts that occurred between 1991 and 2011 in the region, food imports increased by \$6 billion and exports of the same commodities fell by nearly \$2 billion (FAO, 2011).

For example, in the horn of Africa every year 9.6 million people faced food insecurity caused by drought which indicates a strong relationship between climate vulnerability and food security. In many cases, there is a complex interaction of crises that may combine with drought to produce food insecurity, such as soaring and volatile food prices, livestock and plant pests and disease, resource-based competition, internal conflict and civil insecurity. These are among other important drivers of production loss and food insecurity, which can coincide with drought in a given year.

#### 4. Gender

The women work force in Agriculture industry in Africa is more dependent on women labor than that of men because the livelihood of women is dependent on agriculture for survival. In Africa in 2008, 63% of female in compare to 48% of male workers depended on agricultural-based livelihood (world resources institute, 2008). Women now also constitute a substantial proportion of the total agricultural labor force. Doss, 2010 noticed that if we take time spent on food production, pressing and preparation, women contribute 60-70% of the total labor needed to bring food to the table in developing countries. The dependence of food security in Africa is now dependent on women than men who have moved to non farming job.

Even has at the ever increasing population of women in agriculture they are affected by constant like operating a small

farms and the Africa history of women not owning land. According to a World Bank report of 2007, women are typically those working on family farm where the farm is owned by the men or family, rather than the women themselves. Also there is gender brashness in access to technical information, credit, marketing (World Bank 2009, FAO 2011). All this disadvantages the women face limits the opportunities for higher value production thereby affecting a sustainable food security in Africa.

## **Food Security in the Case Studies**

### **1. Food insecurity in Egypt**

Agriculture is a major component of the Egyptian economy, contributing up to 14.5% of the gross domestic product and 28% of all the jobs (USAID, 2017). The agriculture sector in Egypt is dominated by small farms which use traditional practices that do not comply with internationally recognized standards. Egyptian economy is considered the backbone of the economic and social structure where it represents a major role in comprehensive development of the country. The Economist Global Food Security Index, 2014 observed that most North African countries suffer from triple burden of malnutrition, under nutrition, overweight and obesity are said to be above 50% in all countries of the region.

In 2014, 16.9% of children in North Africa are stunted and 7.3% of children are under weight which reflects the burden has large social and economic losses; productivity losses and direct health care cost (The Economist Global Food Security Index, 2014). Egypt is facing high rates of poverty and unemployment, with 17% of the Egyptians suffering from food security in 2011 has a result of the political unrest in the country. Child stunting rate, in Egypt, is above the regional average, ranging from 28-58% (FAO, 2014). Egypt is the largest wheat importer in the world, wheat import represent more than 50% of the Egypt consumption which make food security in Egypt vulnerable to volatility of international food price, which increases government budget and living costs of the Egyptian population contributing to poverty, under nutrition and other negative social welfare effects (FAO, 2014).

In Egypt, 5% of the population is under nourished in 2012 and 40% of adult population is already stunted by poor nutrition (Power, 2013 and World Bank Development Indicator, 2014). According to UN Egypt 2014, high population rates, increasing per capita income and urbanization are major factors for rising food demand, especially cereals. The country is facing important challenges with diminishing agriculture potential, water scarcity, climate change, deficit on its food balance and rising import bills. Breisinger et al (2013), noted that there is high correlation between poverty and food security in Egypt between 2009 and 2011, 12% of the population became food insecure and income poor, it can be concluded that with poverty rate around 26% in 2012-2013 food insecurity in Egypt is more of economic problem.

The challenges facing agricultural production in Egypt includes climate change, soil desertification, salinization and urbanization, construction on agriculture land in threatening the land availability. Between 2010 and 2011 the total cultivated area decreased by 1% because of such construction particularly in greater Cairo and Nile delta (Breisinger et al, 2013). The federal

ministry of water resources and irrigation in Egypt emphasizes that water shortage and the degradation of water quality is a major challenge facing agriculture in Egypt. Agriculture consumes the largest amount of water available taking 85% of the total demand of water.

### **2. Food insecurity in Ethiopia**

Food insecurity remains a wide spread phenomenon and a great challenge in Ethiopia, the challenge is further enhanced by climate change such as rainfall failure, which affects agriculture activities, livelihood activities for the population (central statistics agency of Ethiopia, 2015). Ethiopia agriculture is weather dependent has such it is erratic and insufficient for even a successive rainy seasons, the entire country is prime to falling into famine (Birara, E; Mequant, M; and Samuel, T; 2015). A 2010 United Nation report, 5.2million people in Ethiopia face an uncertain food security situation. The worsening food security situation is also attributed primarily to poor rainfall (UN, 2010).

The problem of food insecurity has become persistent in Ethiopia as many rural households are already lost their means of livelihood due to recurrent drought and crop failure (Bogale, 2002). Drought and famine has become an everyday reality in Ethiopia, the drought of 1973 and 1986 was estimated to have affected over 50 million Ethiopian (Berhanu, 2001). There are many factors that is contributing to the case of food insecurity in Ethiopia, which are production fluctuations, low non-farm employment, low income, regular fragmentation of markets, high rate of natural degradation, low level of farm techniques, high level of illiteracy and inadequate quality of basic education, poor health and sanitation, high population growth, poor governance, conflicts and war. These factors all impede the achievement of food security and sustainable economic development.

In a UNICEF, 2014 report, about 10% of Ethiopians are chronically food insecure and this figure rises to more than 15% during frequent drought years (UNICEF, 2014). Around 12 million people in the country are regularly exposed to droughts, floods, landslides, epidemic and earthquakes. These incidents have negative consequences such as forced internal displacement of population, destruction of assets and livelihoods, extreme poverty, under nutrition and extreme food insecurity.

### **3. Food insecurity in South Africa**

The government of South Africa has committed itself to fighting food security and poverty by adding adequate nutrition and the right to food to all to the bill of rights. In 2002, the South Africa government adopted the integrated food security strategy (IFSS) which vision statement is to attain universal physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food by all South Africans at all times to meet their dietary and food preference for active and healthy life (Jacob, 2009).

South Africa is likely not to feature in any agenda of an international dialogue on food security. In the country is a net exporter of agricultural commodities and has a high per capita income, even for an emerging economy but has at this can we say the country is food secured? About 14% of the population is estimated to be vulnerable to food insecurity, and 25% of children under the age of six are reckoned to have had their development stunted by malnutrition (HRSC, 2004). Food security in South Africa has taken a complex challenge during the country's food system given the rapidly changing complex in stress such as climate change, political unrest, socio-economic



and environmental vulnerability, rising food prices which puts South Africa livelihoods of millions at risk. These conditions, coupled with external threats, could again trigger widespread suffering and deepen food insecurity (Drimie and Casle, 2009).

In achieving food security in South Africa a multi-facet system must be taken to stem the fast changing reality of challenges such as climate change, urbanization, population growth and environment sustainability. In South Africa even though they are food secure at national level it doesn't translate it to accessibility to household benefits because food security at national level is different compared to food security at local level or household. The food security situation at household is less palatable as argued by De cook et al, a national survey carried out indicate 24% of children under 5yrs of age are stunted and approximately 57% of children under 5yrs of age shows sign of wasting (Ardington and Case, 2009). The 2005, national food consumption survey (NFCS) reports that despite the overall growth and food sustainability of South Africa economy, one or two household i.e. 51.6% experienced hunger; which is one out of three was at risk of hunger and only one of five appeared to be food secured (Labadano et al, 2008).

South Africa is a food secured country producing enough staple foods or having the capacity to import food if needed in order to meet the basic nutritional requirement of its population (FAO, 2008) but all in how readily accessible in the food to household in South Africa. A survey by South Africa Statistics in 2009 reports that an estimated 20% of South Africa households have inadequate or severely inadequate access to food. National food indicator reveals that South Africa has been able to meet the food needs of its growing population over the past years.

#### **4. Food insecurity in Nigeria**

In the last decade or so, Nigeria has become a major importer of basic staples such as wheat and rice and overall, the country account for a major part of Africa's overall food deficit. As at 2013, Nigeria has spent N1.3trillion on the importation of food items annually comprising of only rice, sugar, fish and meat. The UN on Food and Agriculture in 2017 declared that about 1.7million Nigerians are facing acute food insecurity and in need of urgent life saving and livelihood protection (FAO, 2017), even at that the record books, according to a CBN report shows that there have been a 3.5% increase in crop production and 5.9% in livestock and fishery (CBN, 2016)

Nigeria is the largest oil producing country in Africa, and she has 79 million hectares of arable land of which 32 million hectares been cultivated so far. She majorly practice rain fed agriculture and with her population of 160 million which depends on staple food, 70% of her population are under nourished and suffering from poverty (Nwajiuba, 2012). In the 1960s, agriculture was the leading contributor to the economy of Nigeria, the force driving it to global prominence, creating employment, income and foreign exchange. Nigeria was able to feed its population and export its surplus, the discovery of oil changed the system and funds were channeled away from the sector and agricultural production was substituted for oil then the issue of food insecurity became an instant national concern.

With the improvement in agricultural production in Nigeria since the democratic era in the country, both food and livestock production remains below potentials, despite a 7% growth rate between 2002-2008. The growing population is still

dependent on importation of staple food which can be seen in the food import bill. There are several factors that is driving Nigeria towards consistent food insecurity such has climate change, inadequate financing, high cost of farm machine, consistent attack by herdsmen on local villages and farmers prompting farmers to leave their homes and relocate. According to the Nigerian Emergency Management Agency highlighted that 65% of northern farmer have migrated to the southern part of Nigeria due to insecurity of the north.

#### **5. Food Insecurity in Angola**

Following four decade of conflicts, Angola has one of the worst humanitarian situation in the world. Despite its vast mineral wealth and agricultural potential, the country is ranked 160<sup>th</sup> out of 174<sup>th</sup> countries on the UNDP human development index (UNDP, 2000) not counting international refugees approximately 1.8 million people depend on food assistance. After the end of the 30 years civil war in 2002, Angola has seem considerable progress in terms of economic and social development, including its nutritional status in comparsim to other southern Africa countries. The nutritional level has improved from a 58 in 2002 to 33 in 2016 according to global health index (2016). Many programs were set in motion after the civil war to fortify food security and nutritional improvement. In 2003, a 10 year program of food fortification was initiated to produce fortified maize meal (T. Van dan Briel, E. Cheng, J. Zewari, and Khan, R., 2007) with one year production of the fortified maize reached 4 tons per hour and by 2006, almost 10,000 tons of fortified maize meal had been produced reaching 115, 000 people monthly.

In 2010-2011 a severe drought hit Angola which was marked by a shortage of rainfall for more than 60% when compared to normal years the impact is that agricultural production decrease by more than 400,000 tons nationally and an estimated 366,780 household will be affected across the country was projected. Food insecurity, high food prices and other factor linked to drought have impacted negatively on the giant stride taken on the nutritional status of children under 5 (UNICEF, 2012). Most household in Angola are generally food secured due to the augmented supply of food reserve from the nation harvest and steady import of food products.

### **III. RESULTS**

The paper is structured to briefly discuss the causes of food security in Africa given that there are 53 Africa countries, we selected 5 countries from each region of the continent base on their population size and gross domestic product (GDP). The countries selected countries are; Nigeria, Ethiopia, Egypt, South Africa and Angola. Then a comparative study of their food demand using food production, crop production and livestock production as index against its food supply using population as index, to identify which country is food secured with all the challenges encountered and how they can improve on their food security amid the challenges they face. The data for food demand index was gotten from world bank data 2017.

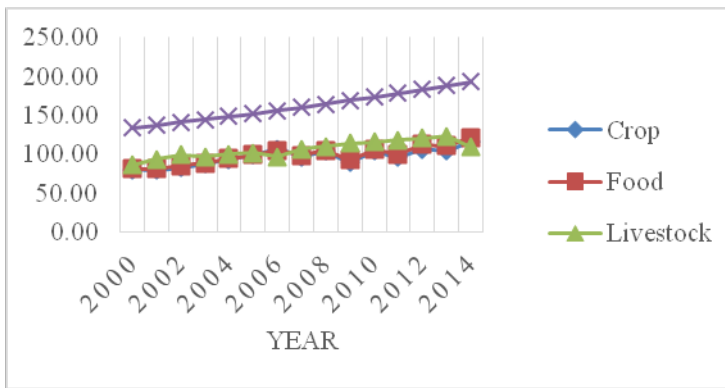


Figure 1: Demand for and Supply of Food in Nigeria (2000 - 2014)

From Figure 1, food, crop and livestock production index and population growth in Nigeria between the period under review shows an increasing trend, but the rise in population is faster than the rise in food production. Food production, a proxy for food supply of food increased from 81.8 in 2000 to 121.61 in 2014, meanwhile crop production also was also on an increase from 80.56 in 2000 to 116.88 in 2014, livestock production also increased from 86.3 in 2000 to 123.66 in 2013 and later fell to 109.4 in 2014; while the population density, a proxy for food demand increased from 134.33 in 2000 to 193.75 in 2014. Nigeria food equation is not balanced because the demand for food is rising faster than the supply of food. This shows that Nigeria is not food secured in terms of availability

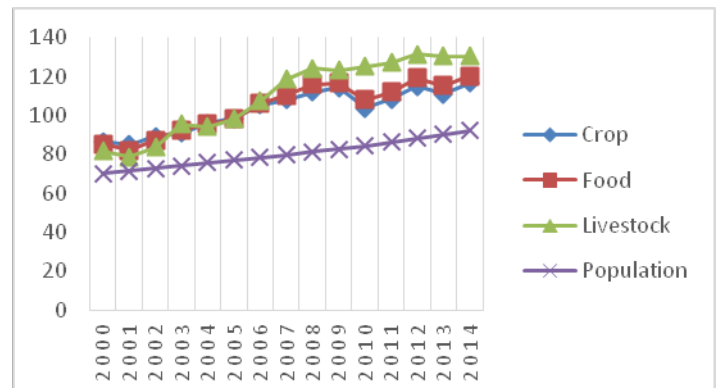


Figure 3: Demand for and Supply of Food in Egypt (2000 -2014)

From Figure 3, food, crop and livestock production index and population growth in Egypt between the period under review shows a rise and fall trend, but the rise in population is lower than the rise in food production. Food production, a proxy for food supply of food increased from 85.27 in 2000 to 120.38 in 2014, meanwhile crop production also was also on an increase from 86.77 in 2000 to 116.58 in 2014, livestock production also increased from 81.91 in 2000 to 131.58 in 2012 and later fell to 130.65 in 2014; while the population density, a proxy for food demand increased from 70.22 in 2000 to 92.23 in 2014. Egypt food equation is a little balanced because the demand for food is lower compared to the supply of food. Meanwhile, the supply for food is non reliable as the trend shows a rise and fall supply while the demand is steadily increasing. This shows that Egypt is a bit more food secured in terms of availability compared to Nigeria.

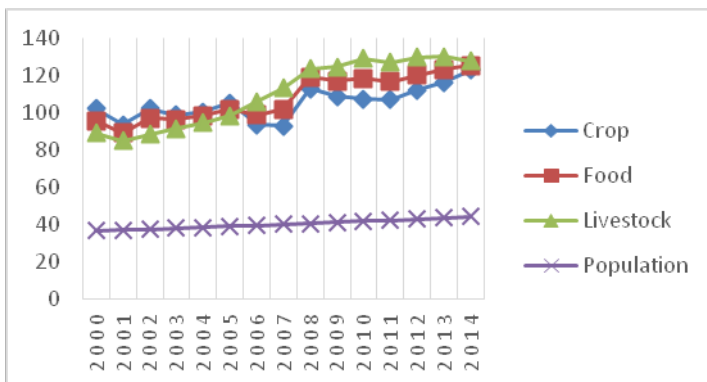


Figure 2: Demand for and Supply of Food in South Africa (2000 -2014)

From Figure 2, food, crop and livestock production index and population growth in South Africa between the periods under review shows an increasing but fluctuating trend, but the rise in population is lower than the rise in food production. Food production, a proxy for food supply of food increased from 96.06 in 2000 to 125.79 in 2014, meanwhile crop production also was also on an increase from 102.47 in 2000 to 123.22 in 2014, livestock production also increased from 89.41 in 2000 to 130.47 in 2013 and later fell to 127.93 in 2014; while the population density, a proxy for food demand increased from 37.01 in 2000 to 44.65 in 2014. South Africa food equation is more balanced because the demand for food is lower compared to the supply of food. This shows that South Africa is more food secured in terms of availability compared to Nigeria.

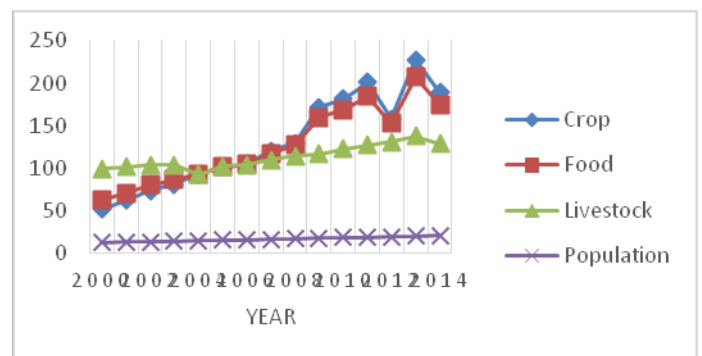


Figure 4: Demand for and Supply of Food in Angola (2000 - 2014)

From Figure 4, food, crop and livestock production index and population growth in Angola between the periods under review shows an increasing but fluctuating trend, but the rise in population is lower than the rise in food production. Food production, a proxy for food supply of food increased from 62.75 in 2000 to a record high of 207.44 in 2013, and later fell to 174.85 in 2014, meanwhile crop production also was also on an increase from 52.53 in 2000 to a record high of 227.3 in 2013 and later fell to 189.08 in 2014, livestock production also increased from 99.86 in 2000 to 138.01 in 2013 and later fell to 128.7 in 2014; while the population density, a proxy for food demand increased from 13.18 in 2000 to 21.59 in 2014. Angola food equation is more balanced because the demand for food is

lower compared to the supply of food. This shows that Angola is more food secured in terms of availability compared to Nigeria due to their low population density.

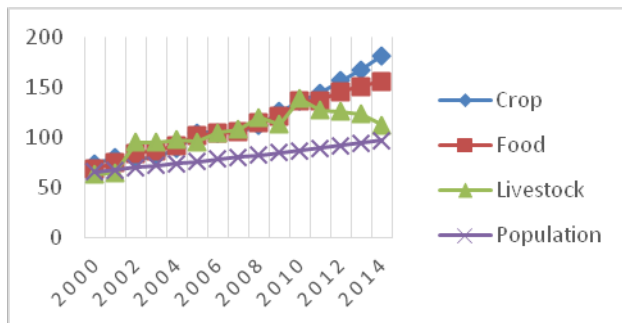


Fig. 2. Demand for and Supply of Food in Ethiopia (2000 -2014)

From Figure 5, food, crop and livestock production index and population growth in Ethiopia between the periods under review shows an increasing but fluctuating trend, but the rise in population is lower than the rise in food production. Food production, a proxy for food supply of food increased from 69.79 in 2000 to 156.55 in 2014, meanwhile crop production also was also on an increase from 74.92 in 2000 to 182.29 in 2014, livestock production also increased from 64.04 in 2000 to 139.02 in 2010 and later fell to 112.93 in 2014; while the population density, a proxy for food demand increased from 66.53 in 2000 to 97.4 in 2014. Ethiopia food equation is more balanced because the demand for food is lower compared to the supply of food. This shows that Ethiopia is more food secured in terms of availability compared to Nigeria.

The inability of food supply to match up with demand is attributed to low productivity in agriculture leading to a fall in locally produced food in Nigeria. To supplement the shortfall in domestic food production, Nigeria depends so much on food importation.

Too much reliance on food importation is not good for the economy of any nation, it could only lead to vulnerability and in case of down turn in the economy as we are expressing recently, the country will be left with no option than to depend on food aid and further exposing the country to a chronic food insecure situation. Since 2000, the prevalence of undernourishment in Nigeria has been decreasing even though the country did not achieve the millennium development goal of eradicating poverty and hunger in 2015. The downward trend in the prevalence of undernourishment maybe attributed to the improvement in food production during the period.

Having compared Nigeria's food security issues with some selected Africa countries, it shows clearly that Nigeria being the giant of Africa is not exhibiting the traits of real giant in terms of securing food security for its citizens. The parameters being considered in this papers shows clearly how the recent insurgent in the North has affected the livestock productions in the country. This also prompted consequent security threat being posed by the Fulani herdsmen who has lost their arable lands for grazing due to insurgency in some parts of the northern region. Thus, this paper recommends the following to the Nigeria government so as to achieve sustainable food security for its citizens.

- i. Population control: The rate at which the population is growing compared to food production index shows clearly the country is not food secured. In such case, government needs to control the population growth in the country by formulating policies which will help checkmate it.
- ii. Improved Agricultural productivity: There should be improvement in food, crop and livestock production. Though these indexes compared to other selected African countries are still close, but there should always be room for improvement as we can't compare the selected Africa countries' population to that of Nigeria.

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

This paper compares food security in Nigeria to some selected Africa countries. The cause of food insecurity are also examined. The issues of food insecurity in the selected African countries are also discussed, recommendations were also made to achieve sustainable food security in Nigeria. Achieving sustainable food security in Nigeria means being able to meet with the present demand for food by the citizen without jeopardizing the chances of meeting up with the food demand of the future generation. Most literatures considers Africa to be one of those continents that is vulnerable to food security. This assertion might be true but this study has shown that the case is actually a fallacy. The rate of population growth in Africa some of the case studies except Nigeria are food sufficient and are capable to feed its population demand. The case of Nigeria is peculiar because of persistent causes of insecurity been prevalent in Nigeria.

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