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**EFFECTS OF BANDITRY ON INCOME AND LIVELIHOODS OF YAM  
MARKETERS IN SHIRORO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF  
NIGER STATE, NIGERIA.**

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**ABSTRACT**

*The study was on Effects of Banditry on Income and Livelihoods of Yam Marketers in Shiroro Local Government area of Niger State, Nigeria. Multi-stage sampling technique was used to select 197 of yam marketers. Data were collected using structured questionnaire and interview scheduled; and analyzed using descriptive statistics (percentage and frequency), multiple regression, Livelihoods status index and Kendell correction Coefficient. The result of Demographic characteristics revealed that majority of respondents were male, married with long year of experience in yam marketing. Also the results of Multiple regression indicate that the coefficient of Low participation on weekly contribution (Adashi) (1.9823.93) was negatively significant at 10% level of probability, implying that lack of access to weekly contributions possess a negative threat to livelihood of yam marketers. The result also shows that more than half (84.8%) of the respondents in the study area were of very low livelihood status. Similarly 16.8% and 17.7% of yam marketers respectively had decreased improvement in procurement of food items and Improved expenditure for non-food item following the banditry activities. However, constraints faced*

*by yam marketers range from displacement of yam marketers from their native markets, ( $\bar{x}=2.42$ ), Rising of the price of yam steed ( $\bar{x}=2.20$ ) respectively. It was recommended that Establishment of sustainable yam market in different parts of the State and strengthening of State cooperation and fighting cross border movement of illicit arms and trafficking of drugs.*

***Keywords:*** Bandits, Income, Livelihoods, Yam, Marketers, Effects.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

A bandit is a person or groups of individuals who involved in the activities ranges of kidnapping to murder, robbery, rape and cattle –rustling. Who uses weapons and typically operating in particular area. Banditry is a term used to refer to acts of robbery, conspiracy and violence where the rule of law were not duly followed (Isah, 2019). Banditry consists of the organization of armed bands for the purpose of attacking states, local governments, communities, social institutions, enterprises and individual persons.. Globally, banditry has existed and operated in different parts of the world since the 17th century. In Europe, bandits have existed in mainly mountainous areas of Italy, Spain, Greece and Turkey (Aisha, 2020). In Asia, bandits have existed in several countries such as Iran, Philippines and India (Mohammed 2019). In Africa, precisely Nigeria bandits mostly organize their crime in isolated areas such as villages, community market squares, places of worships. Therefore, banditry has a rich and lucrative history throughout Africa especially Nigeria and despite continued anti banditry efforts by the government, the problem of banditry persists in Nigeria most especially in the Northern part of the country presently (Awwal, 2020). Banditry is another security challenge in Nigeria where bandits have continued to ravage the agricultural activities of the country. In Nigeria, the prevalence and severity of banditry has effects to the rising increase in regional insecurity with a potential threat to regional integration of Northern Nigeria (Aisha, 2020). Reports have shown that some of the bandits from some countries of the West African sub-region such as Niger Republic and Mali were invited to carry out large scale attacks in some countries of the sub-region. They moved through the porous West African borders with their arms to assist their fellow bandits in carrying out large scale or reprisal attacks. In Niger state, banditry came as a result of nearly four years of unresolved conflicts between

settled cultivators and nomadic herders communities that wander on the high plains of some local governments such as Rafi, Rijau, Wushishi, Mashegu and Kontogora in Agricultural zone C. While in agricultural zone B, Shiroro, Bosso, Muye and Paikoro are also affected by banditry activities. Banditry in Shiroro LGA started since around 2017 and increased in 2020 especially during COVID 19 pandemic (Awwal, 2020). In fact, Shiroro LGA has been the epicenter of banditry in Niger state, where most of the bandit's leaders were based and they would move riding on motor cycles from one village or community to another to operate and return to their dens (Awwal, 2020). Since banditry involved acts of robbery and violence on the people particularly rural dwellers who mainly engaged in agricultural production, processing and marketing. Cattle rearing and other food production, processing and marketing activities are bound to have effects on income and livelihood of rural dwellers. Food security according to the World Food Summit 2018 "exists when all people at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active healthy life" (FAO, 2018). The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO, 2018) simply defines food security as the availability of food in terms of production, processing, marketing, distribution and consumption. Any form of violence that leads to insecurity in rural areas where majority of the people are farmers that produce two third of the food in the country. The United Nations in September 2020 observed that attacks by bandits group will deepen food insecurity into the year 2021 in Nigeria (Federal Ministry of Agriculture, 2020). In Nigeria, the Federal Government has realized that banditry has posed a serious threat to farming communities in the northern parts of the country. Therefore in April 2017, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development in conjunction with the Minister of Interior initiated the formation of a special unit of Agro-Rangers Corps to protect farmers and farming. The use of the Agro-Rangers was expected to forestall attacks on farmlands and boost farmer's confidence to work on their farms without fear of attacks, thereby guaranteeing the Federal Government avowed food security plans (Ahmad, 2020). The deployment of 5,000 Agro-Rangers to offer protection to farmers and farming investments across the country (Ahmad, 2020). The key actors of agricultural sectors identified the present challenges of attaining food security which included corona virus pandemic, occurrence of flood disasters, drought in some parts,

and insecurity especially banditry in the Northern Nigeria (FMA & RD, 2020). This study therefore examines the effects of banditry's on income and livelihood of yam marketers in Shiroro LGA of Niger state. The objectives of this study are to:

- I. describe socio-economic characteristics of yam marketers in the study area
- II. determine the effects of banditry's on income and livelihood of yam marketers in the study area
- III. determine the livelihoods status of yam marketers in the study area.
- IV. describe the constraints faced by yam marketers in the study area

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State is located in Agricultural Zone II, its headquarter is in the town of kuta. It has an area of 5,015 square kilometers (1,936 sq mi) and a projected population of 335,604 as at 2020. (Niger State Bureau of Statistics 2020). About 75% of its land area is good for arable crops production (Niger State Geographical Information System, 2020). It is located within Latitudes 6–9°N and Longitudes 3 – 8°E) and with a growth rate of 2.2%. Shiroro Local Government experiences two distinct season dry and wet seasons with annual rainfall varying from 1,100mm in the Northern part to 1,600mm in the Southern parts. The average annual rainfall is about 1,400mm. The duration of the rainy season is approximately 180 days. The wet season usually begins in April/May to October, while the dry season starts from November to March. The maximum temperature of 29°C, average temperature of 22°C and minimum temperature of 26°C. The mean average temperature is around 32°C. Dry season commences in October (Niger State Geographical Information System, 2020). Most of the communities in the Local are predominantly agrarian. Tuber crops grown such as yam and cocoa yam, vegetables grown in the Local Government are, Spinach, Pumpkin, bitter leaf and water leaf leave. Tree crops grown are mango, citrus, coconut, cashew, banana and pawpaw. Other non-agricultural activities engaged by the people include blacksmithing, leatherwork, mat and basket making and trading. Women on the other hand engaged in technical handicraft and trading

### Sampling Procedure and Sample Size

Multi-stage sampling technique was used for the study. The first stage involved random selection of Agricultural zones B in the State. At the second stage, one (1) Local Government Area (LGA) was randomly selected, this is due to frequent occurrence of banditry activities in Shiroro local government area of agricultural zone B. The third stage involved random selection of six (6) communities from the Local Government Areas (LGA). At the fourth stage, 10% of the farmers were randomly selected from the sampling frame of each community. In all, a total of 197 respondents were selected from the LGA as the sample size for the study.

Table 1: Sample distribution of the respondents in the study area

Villages	Sample frame	Sample size (10%)
<b>Kuta</b>	208	20.8
<b>Godora</b>	97	9.7
<b>Zumba</b>	145	14.5
<b>Kukoki</b>	190	19
<b>Agwaja</b>	183	18.3
<b>Erena</b>	177	17.7
<b>Total</b>	1000	100

Sources: Field survey, 2020

### Method of Data collection and Analytical Techniques

Primary data was used for the study, the data were collected by researchers and trained enumerators using structured questionnaire complimented with interview schedule. The data obtained from objective I was analyzed using descriptive statistics such as (frequency distribution, percentage mean) objective II was achieved using multiple regression model, while, objective III was achieved using livelihoods status index and Kendall's coefficient of concordance was used to achieved objective IV.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Socio-economic Characteristics of Respondents

Table 2 revealed that 59.4% of the respondents was males while 40.6% was females. This shows that male dominate yam marketers in the study area. This was due to the fact that male control decision in term of income in yam marketing than the female counterpart in the study area, which allows males respondents to have total control on the income. This finding agreed with Adewumi and Fabiyi (2019) who reported that male are dominance in yam marketing in Northern part of Nigeria. Table 2 also indicated that 62.4% of the

respondents had age range of between 31- 40, while, 17.3% of the respondents had age range of between 41-50 years. The mean age of the respondents was 42 years, implying an active and productive age in yam marketing. Adewumi and Fabiyi (2019). Table 2 further revealed that majority (66.5%) of the respondents were married while 24.9% were single. This implies that since majority were married, it therefore suggests higher engagement and commitment to yam marketing towards their sustainable livelihood. They also tend to have access to more family labour in yam marketing. Table 2 also revealed that 42.1% of the respondents had non formal education while 9.1% had tertiary education. This result revealed a lower preponderance of the educated respondents have negative effects on marketing strategies on yam. The implication of this is that education provides a platform for adoption of new marketing strategies in agricultural enterprises and easy access to information. This agreed with Mohammed (2019) who observed that literacy had its own merits and contribution towards the process of modernization of agricultural revolution. Further to Table 2, 79.7% of the respondents had household size of between 6- 8 persons while 9.6% had household size of between 9-11 persons. This implies that the availability of family labour reduce labour cost, they by improved livelihoods of the respondents in the study area.

Table 2: Socio-economic Characteristic of the Respondents (n=197)

Variables	Frequency	Percentages
<b>Sex</b>		
<b>Male</b>	117	59.4
<b>Female</b>	80	40.6
<b>Age</b>		
<b>21-30</b>	21	10.7
<b>31-40</b>	123	62.4
<b>41-50</b>	34	17.3
<b>51- 60</b>	19	9.6
<b>Mean</b>	42,5	
<b>Marital status</b>		
<b>Married</b>	131	66.5
<b>Single</b>	49	24.9
<b>Widow</b>	17	8.6
<b>Educational attainment</b>		
<b>Non formal education</b>	83	42.1
<b>Quranic education</b>	41	20.8
<b>Adult education</b>	26	13.2

<b>Secondary</b>	29	14.7
<b>Tertiary</b>	18	9.1
<b>Household size</b>		
<b>3-5</b>	17	8.6
<b>6-8</b>	157	79.7
<b>9-11</b>	19	9.6
<b>&gt;11</b>	4	2.1
<b>Year of experience</b>		
<b>1-10</b>	149	75.6
<b>11-20</b>	194	98.5
<b>21-30</b>	45	22.9

Sources: Field survey, 2020

### Effect of Bandits on Income of Yam Marketers

The result of the regression model showing the effect of banditry on Income of yam marketers in the study area is presented in Table 3. The result of the multiple regression analysis showed  $R^2$  value of 0.51 which implies that 51% variation of effects of bandits on Income of yam marketers in the study area was explained by the independent variables included in the model. Four functional forms (linear, exponential, double log and semi log) were tried. Linear function gave the best fit. The coefficient of blocking of local trade routes (51231.01) was negatively significant at 5% level of probability, implying that lack of access to markets routes due to banditry is expected to reduce the income of yam marketers thereby affecting the means of their livelihoods in the study area. This finding agree with (Ahmad, 2020) who reported that blocking of local trade routes due to banditry activities should be given topmost priority to improve the income and better up their livelihoods. The coefficient of Low participation on weekly contribution (Adashi) (1.9823.93) was negatively significant at 10% level of probability, implying that lack of access to weekly contributions possess a negative threat to livelihood of yam marketers in the study area, and this is expected to have negative effects on their income. This results is in consonance with (Adewale, 2019). Who agreed that lack of access to contribution in any agricultural enterprise will affects farmer's productivity and income. The coefficient of high risk of theft on yam tubers (-34400.83) was negatively significant at 5% level of probability, implying that increased in theft is expected to have negative effects on yam marketers income due to banditry activities. Also, the coefficient of killing and kidnapping of the yam marketers (36420.89) was positively significant at 5% level of probability, implying that increase in killing and kidnapping of yam marketers is expected to reduce the patronage of yam consumers both within and outside thereby reduce the yam

marketers income. The coefficient of Burning and raiding of the yam tubers silos (-85776.81) was negatively significant at 5% probability level, implying that increase activities of bandits through burning of the yam tuber silos gives a negative perception on seasonal scarcity. This study concurs with (Mohammed, 2019) who reported that seasonal scarcity of agricultural products without alternative to other means of agricultural enterprises possess a threat to food security

**Table 3: Effect of Bandits on Income of Yam Marketers**

	Linear	Semi-log	Double log	Exponential
	Coefficient t- value	Coefficient t- value	Coefficient t-value	Coefficient t- value
<b>Blocking of local trade routes</b>	51231.01 - 2.50**	-112213.2-2.21**	-.2362132 1.64	-.1223616 -1.75**
<b>High cost of yam tubers</b>	-83665.65- 2.52**	-152551 - 3.23***	-.3112464 - 2.42***	-.2324432-2.13**
<b>Restrictions on market places</b>	-17628.06 -0.88	-16928.49 -0.39	-.0964897 -0.67	-.0667307 -1.01
<b>Low participation on weekly contribution (Adashi)</b>	-19823.93 -1.53	-52604.33 -1.37	-.1699358 -1.37	-.0703097 -1.70*
<b>Restriction on inter-market squares</b>	-23107.29 -1.08	-27470.4 -0.63	-4275623 -0.19	-.0890915 -1.63*
<b>High risk of theft on yam tubers</b>	34400.83 1.14	85432.6 1.59	.4331648 2.50**	.1870492 1.95**
<b>Chasing of the yam marketers out of their market square</b>	-25729.68 -0.68	-56332.08 -0.89	-.2190963 -1.03	-.1014241 -0.82
<b>Killing and kidnapping of the yam marketers</b>	36420.89 - 2.81**	-61443.21 1.68	-5281461 2.76**	-.2361461 - 2.33**
<b>Burning and raiding of the yam tubers ban</b>	-85776.81 - 2.98**	-73210.79 1.57	-6783622 - 2.57	-.0888443 - 2.41**
<b>Constant</b>	456115.2 4.13***	552756.3 1.55*	11.12364 11.55***	24.41624 23.54*
<b>F-value</b>	0.0000	0.0000	0.0001	0.0021
<b>R-square</b>	0.3452	0.2954	0.3114	0.4321
<b>Adjusted R-square</b>	0.5115	0.3634	0.3960	0.4143

Sources: Field survey, 2020

### Livelihood Status of Yam Marketers during Banditry activities

Table4: shows the distribution of respondents according to livelihood status of yam marketers during banditry activities in the study area, where 84.8% of the



respondents are of very low livelihood status, while 22.8% of respondents were also of high livelihood status. This finding implies that majority of the respondents in the study area were of very low livelihood status. This may be due to banditry activities which restricts yam marketers from utilizing the period for showcasing and marketing of their yam products which at the same time affect their income. This result is in consonance with the findings of Ajayi and Taiwo (2019) who revealed that majorities of agricultural enterprises in North East of Nigeria had low livelihood due to restriction during banditry activities.

**Table 4: Distribution of respondents according to livelihood status of Yam Marketers during Banditry activities**

Livelihood status	(n=197) Freq (%)
<b>Very low livelihood (<math>\leq 0.25</math>)</b>	167 (84.8)
<b>Low livelihood (0.26-0.49)</b>	118 (59.9)
<b>Moderate livelihood (0.50-0.75)</b>	59 (29.9)
<b>High livelihood (<math>&gt;0.75</math>)</b>	45 (22.8)

Sources: Field survey, 2019

#### **Livelihood derived by Yam Marketers during Banditry activities**

Table 5. Shows that 16.8% and 17.7% of women's ground nut processors respectively had decreased improvement in procurement of food items and Improved expenditure for non-food item following banditry activities. Also, the result indicates 6.3% of yam marketers had reduction in the households asset. Similarly, 9.3% and 7.0% of yam marketers had decreased in the improved expenditure for off -farm activities and Improve livelihood expenditure. The result validates reduction in Improve procurement of yam tuber and Improve settlement on hospital bills with 7.1% responses rate. Furthermore, the results revealed that there was decreased in Increase household assets and Ease of sponsoring wards to home lessons in the study area with 6.3% and 3.9% respectively. These results shows that yam marketers in the study area had decreased from marketing of yam tuber due to banditry activities, they by reduced their income and affect their livelihood status. In a related study Rhett, (2019) stressed that the well- being of rural farmers improved if there is full access and no restriction to agricultural activities.

**Table 5: Livelihood derived by Yam Marketers during Banditry activities**

Livelihood	(n=197) Frequency (%)
<b>Increase procurement of food items</b>	33 (16.8)

<b>Improved expenditure for non-food item</b>	35 (17.7)
<b>Increase household assets</b>	17 (6.3)
<b>Improve procurement of yam tuber</b>	23 (8.4)
<b>Improved expenditure for non-processing activities</b>	30 (15.2)
<b>Improved expenditure for off -farm activities</b>	27 (9.2)
<b>Increase livestock assets</b>	10 (4.3)
<b>Improve livelihood expenditure</b>	19 (7.0)
<b>Improve expenditure on cultural/ceremonies</b>	11 (4.4)
<b>Improve settlement on hospital bills</b>	19 (7.1)
<b>Ease of sponsoring wards to home lessons</b>	14 (3.9)

**Multiple Responses**

**Sources: Field survey, 2020**

**Figures in parenthesis are percentages**

**Constraints faced by yam marketers during banditry activities**

The Table 6 showed that the respondents in the study area admit that Displacement of yam marketers from their native markets was severe with mean value of ( $\bar{x}$ =2.42) and Rising of the price of yam steed ( $\bar{x}$ =2.20) was also severe with mean value ( $\bar{x}$ =2.44) implying that Displacement of yam marketers from their native markets was the major constraints faced during the banditry activities by yam marketers. This findings was in line with Isah (2019) who reported that displacement of farmers from their native markets during banditry activities in the north east of Nigeria affect the income and livelihood of rural dwellers. This was followed by Burning of resident houses, schools, financial and health institutions with mean value ( $\bar{x}$ =2.19) and decrease in the income of yam marketers with mean value of ( $\bar{x}$ =2.13) respectively. The result implies that effects of banditry has direct impact on the decrease of income of respondents in the study area. This result concord with the findings of Aremu and John (2020) who reported that banditry activities has negative impact on the income and livelihood of the rural farmers in Nigeria.

**Table 6: Constraints faced by yam marketers during banditry activities**

	(n=197) Mean ( $\bar{x}$ )	R	D
<b>Displacement of yam marketers from their native markets</b>	2.42	1 <sup>st</sup>	S
<b>Burning of their yam barns</b>	2.11	5 <sup>th</sup>	S
<b>Rising of the price of yam steed</b>	2.20	2 <sup>nd</sup>	S
<b>Burning of resident houses, schools, financial and health institutions</b>	2.19	3 <sup>rd</sup>	S
<b>Decrease in the income of the yam marketers</b>	2.13	4 <sup>th</sup>	S
<b>Seasonal scarcity of yam steed</b>	2.06	6 <sup>th</sup>	S
<b>Loss of life of yam marketers during banditry activities</b>	2.02	7 <sup>th</sup>	S

Sources: Field survey, 2020

Note: R=Ranks, D=Decision, S=Severe.

### **Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation**

Majority of respondents were male in their active productive ages. Also, majority of the yam marketers in the study area were married with long years of experience in yam marketing. Also, majority of the respondents in the study area had no formal education. Major effects of banditry on income of respondents has shown from the finding in the study area ranging from Blocking of local trade routes, High cost of yam tubers, low weekly contribution (Adashi), Restriction on inter market square and killing and kidnaping of yam marketers.. Most of the respondents has very low livelihoods status due to banditry activities and livelihoods derived by the respondents during the banditry activities also decreases. Three major constraints encounter during the banditry activities were Displacement of yam marketers from their native markets, rising of the price of yam steed and Burning of resident houses, schools, financial and health institutions. The study concluded that the results of Multiple regression indicate a coefficient of Low participation on weekly contribution (Adashi) (1.9823.93) was negatively significant at 10% level of probability, implying that lack of access to weekly contributions due to constant occurrence of banditry activities possess a negative threat to livelihood of yam marketers. It was also recommended that Establishment of sustainable yam market in different parts of the State and strengthening of State cooperation and fighting cross border movement of illicit arms and trafficking of drugs.

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