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ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY AND NATION-BUILDING

Proceedings of the 13th Annual Conference of The Academy of Management Nigeria

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Federal University, Otuoke

Edited by Prof. Ofuan James Ilaboya



The Academy of Management Nigeria (TAMN)

ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY AND NATION-BUILDING

Edited by Prof. Ofuan James Ilaboya

The 13th Annual Conference of the Academy of Management Nigeria, 2019

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Contents

Chapter 9:	ICT and Transparency in the Rivers State-Owned Public Institutions of Nigeria Dr. (Mrs.) Bestman Anthonia Enefaa & Okwu Hanachor Ezebunwo
Chapter 8:	Accountability and Public Sector Performance in Imo State Board of Internal Revenue N.H Akpanabia PhD
Chapter 7:	Accountability and Nation Building: A Review of The Literature <i>Adjaino</i> , Omote Victor PhD & Agbonifoh, Christopher Ihionkhan PhD
Chapter 5: Chapter 6:	Accountability and Transparency: Prerequisite For Nation Building F. K. Akanbi & H. A. Adele Avid Commitment to Organizational Objectives and Integrity: Veritable Tools for Nation Building Dr. Cletus I. Emeti¹ & Dr. (Mrs) Gift J. Eke¹
Chapter 3: Chapter 4:	Transparency and Accountability: The New Model For Nation Building Impact of Accountability and Transparency In National Development In The Nigerian Economy
Chapter 2:	The Role of Accountability and Transparency In Building Public Institutions For Nation-Building In Nigeria
Chapter 1:	Evaluating Issues of Accountability, Transparency and Nation-Building Professor Don M. Baridam

Chapter 10: National Transparency And Citizenship Behaviour Of Public Secondary School Teachers In Rivers State

Chapter 11: Leadership Accountability: Key To Civil Servant Satisfaction For Nation Building **Doris Ademe-Godwin (PhD)**¹ & **Owonte, Lucy Horace**²

Chapter 12: Accountability in Agricultural Governance in Nigeria: Rethinking Strategies for Food Security Romanus Osabohien¹, Chinonye Love Moses² & Daniel Ufua³

Chapter 13: Accountability, Transparency and the Rule of Law in Nation Building Joseph Paul Essien

- Chapter 14: Managing Nigeria's Diversity Accountably And Transparently For Nation Building Umukoro Stirruph (PhD) and Umoru Agbomire Victor (PhD)
- Chapter 15: Systemic Corruption and Decadent Value System as Challenges to Nation Building Umana, Etebong Attah¹ Okafor, L. C PhD²
- Chapter 16: Good Governance: Accountability And Transparency For Nation- Building Mangai Josiah Mallo, PhD
- Chapter 17: Public Procurement, Transparency And Accountability In Nigeria: Dissecting The Benefits And Challenges To Nation-Building
 Nicholas Ngozi Igwe¹, FIPMD, MNIM, MTAMN, MIMC, MTRCN, Dr. Anthony Oniora² Ude, MCPN, MTRCN, AMNIM & Christian Uchenna Chukwu³
- Chapter 18: Facilitating Nation-Building Through Accountability and Transparency Chiedozie Daniel Opara, Hope N.Nzewi, Ebele M. Onwuka & Chinedu Osita
- **Chapter 19:** Transparency And Its Fallout; Is Nigeria In The Trunk Of Nation Building? **Igwe, P.** ¹ **Amadi, L.**² **and Akahome, J. E**³
- **Chapter 20:** Ethics And Financial Accountability in Nigerian Public Sector Organizations: A Forgotten Son and The Birth of Moral Slave

Ukpata, Ijuo Sunday PhD¹, Ejika Sambo PhD², Hassan, Mary Binta³, and Unung Paul, Oyiza⁴

Chapter 21: Influence of Political Will on Corruption Control: Does Whistleblowing Intention Mediate?

^{*1} Hassan Barau Singhry & Jamila Hassan Barau

- Chapter 22: Budgeting Process: An Antidote to Corruption for Nation Building Bessong, Peter K. (PH.D)
- **Chapter 23:** Corruption and Ease of Doing Business: Evidence from ECOWAS **Prof. Umar Gunu** ²**Dr. Nageri Kamaldeen Ibraheem**
- Chapter 24: Accountability, Transparency & Nation Building: The Antitheses of Corporate Theft & Regulatory Agency Graft Sunny, Ekakitie-Emonena, Ph.D)
- Chapter 25: Application of Social Control Tools in Management of Corruption in Nigeria DR Charles E. Obeta & DR. Edwin C. doko
- Chapter 26: Corruption: Financial and Economic Performance in The Nigerian Environment Omiete Victoria Olulu-Briggs

 Chapter 27: Assessment of The Relationship Between Employees' Performance and Discrimination in Kaduna Polytechnic, Nigeria
 Hassan, Umar Umar¹ Gandu, Zakka Casimir² ALI Abubakar³

Chapter 28: Systemic Corruption and Decadent Value System as Challenges to Nation Building

Umana, Etebong Attah¹ Okafor, L. C PhD²

Chapter 29: Accountability and Transparency in Entrepreneurial Leadership For Nation Building

Ogbor, John O. & Orishede, Felix

- Chapter 30: Corruption Control and Economic Development in Nigeria: An Empirical Analysis (1997 -2018) Ugherughe Joseph Ediri PhD
- Chapter 31: Impact of Corruption On Poverty Spurred By Poor Accountability, Transparency and Nation Building in Nigeria Victor Amadin Idehen & Angela Obose Oriazowanlan

Chapter 32: Corruption in the Nigerian Society: Motivating Factors and Way Out
 Osibanjo Oba Olumuyiwa PhD,FCE, FNIDM, MTAMN; Adekunle Simon Ayo
 PhD² & Okotie Williams PhD³

- Chapter 33: Transparent Stakeholder Involvement and Corporate Credibility of Oil Firms in Nigeria Haniel O. Eke¹ Chinedu N. Ogbuji. PhD²
- Chapter 34: Role of Nigeria Insurance Industry Data Base (NIID) in Promoting Transparency and Accountability in Motor Insurance
 Ehiogu Chizoba Perpetua, PhD, ACIIN & J. N. Mojekwu
- Chapter 35: Corporate Governance, Risk Management, Accountability and Tranparency: A Study of the Nigerian Banking System Ogbor, John Oghenechuko¹ & Ugherughe, Joseph Ediri²
- Chapter 36: Corporate Governance, Risk Management, Accountability and Tranparency: A Study of the Nigerian Banking System Ogbor, John Oghenechuko¹ & Ugherughe, Joseph Ediri² Mercy Ejovwokeoghene Ogbari, Maxwell Ayodele Olokundun, Ayomide Elizabeth Badru, Stephen Ikechukwu Ukenna & Chinonye Love Moses
- Chapter 37: Effect of Firm Age and Audit Firm Size on Voluntary Corporate Social Disclosure among Selected Listed Manufacturing Firms in Nigeria
 Adeniyi, Segun Idowu PhD¹, Nwoye, Ugochukwu John Ph.D² & Prof. Emma. I. Okoye³
- Chapter 38: Corporate Governance and Economic Development PROF. Emmanuel I. Akpan BSc, MBA, PHD, MTAMN, FBDFM, FIMC, CMC, Morgan, Morgan Obong BSc, M.SC, Emmanuel Ekpenyong Okon BSc, M.SC

Chapter 39: Social Networking and Students' Academic Creativity: Implication On Youth Employability In South West, Nigeria Oyefesobi, Oluwakemi O. (PhD)¹; Adetunji Olawale Lola (PhD)² & Oladunjoye Olawale Taofik (PhD)³

- Chapter 40: Gender Equity and National Development: A Study of Female Staff in Tertiary Institutions ¹Envia, Charles Daniel & ²Owonte, Lucy H.
- Chapter 41: Time Management and Students' Academic Performance of School Of Business Studies, Delta State Polytechnic, Ogwashi-Uku, Delta State ¹Igweh, Florence konye; ²Egbule Solomon & ³Agbor Stephen
- Chapter 42: Engendering Development in Nigeria Though Accountability and Transparency Ogheneochuko Emmanuel Isito¹& Orji Uche Okoro²
- Chapter 43: Agricultural Sustainability and Economic Growth in Nigeria: The Post-Colonial Perspective Okocha Belemenanya Friday¹, Ojiabo Ukoha²

Chapter 43: Economic Restructuring And Its Implications On National Development In Nigeria Eleanya, Eberechukwu Edith¹, Kekeocha, Mary Ezinne PhD², Ogbonna, Kelechukwu Stanley PhD³ & Jeff-Anyeneh, Sarah Elechi PhD⁴

- Chapter 44: Influence of Entrepreneurial Culture on Information and Communication Technology Firms' Performance in Minna ¹Adeyeye, M.M. (PhD), ²Wale-Oshinowo B. (PhD) & ³Ndibe L
- Chapter 45: Influence of Entrepreneurial Culture on Information and Communication Technology Firms' Performance in Minna ¹Adeyeye, M.M. (PhD), ²Wale-Oshinowo B. (PhD) & ³Ndibe L
- Chapter 46: Influence of Entrepreneurial Culture On Information and Communication Technology Firms' Performance In Minna
 ¹Adeyeye, M.M. (PhD), ²Wale-Oshinowo B. (PhD) & ³Ndibe L
- **Chapter 47:** Embedding Entrepreneurship into Educational Curriculum: Covenant University Model as a Strategy for National Building
- Chapter 48: Entrepreneurship Engagement: A Strategic Tool For Nation Building Owonte, Lucy. H¹ & Igwe, Peace²

Chinonye Love Moses PhD¹<u>Daniel E. Ufua</u>² Dada, Joseph Adegboye³ Adesanya, Oluwatoyin Deborah⁴<u>Romanus Osabohien⁵ Maxwell Olokundun</u>⁶

Chapter 49: Succession Planning and Organizational Survival of Family Business for Nation Building: Evidence from Private Primary Schools in Rivers State Lolo Adias¹& Lucy Cletus Akenbor²

Chapter 50: Innovation of Born Global Firms and Growth Performance for Nation Building in

Nigeria O.W. Odiwo, PhD¹, Sadiq Oshioke Akhor, ² Azike, Nduka³

- Chapter 51: Cloud Computing and Performance Of Small Scale Enterprises Jacob, Madighi¹ & Odu, Seth²
- Chapter 52: A Comparative Analysis of Inflation Dynamics Models In Nigeria Ibrahim Shaibu, Ph.D¹ Prof. Ifuero Osad Osamwonyi, Ph.D²
- Chapter 53: Empirical Analysis of Interest Rate Determination and its Effect on Economic Growth in Nigeria (1990-2018).
 Andabai, Priye Werigbelegha, PhD¹, Tonye Ogiriki, PhD², MaryAnn, Nwamaka Igbodika, PhD ³ and Bina Percy Avery⁴

Chapter 54: Tax Fraud and National Development of Democratic Societies: Evidence from Nigeria Cletus O. Akenbor¹ & Johnson I. Okoh²

- Chapter 55: Nigeria and Chinese Currency Swap Deal: The Role and Benefits of SMES Okocha, Belemenanya Friday¹ & Prof. B. Chima Onuoha²
- **Chapter 56:** Interaction between Monetary Policy and Stock Market Performance: Evidence from Selected Developing African Economies (1986- 2016)
- **Chapter 57:** Effect of Stock Market Capitalization on the Economic Growth of Nigeria and South Africa (1981 2015)

Osakwe, Charity Ifunanya (Ph.D)¹ & Ogbonna, Kelechukwu Stanley (PhD)²,

- Chapter 58: Empirical Analysis of Interest Rate Determination and its Effect on Economic Growth in Nigeria (1990-2018).
 Andabai, Priye Werigbelegha, PhD¹, Tonye Ogiriki, PhD², MaryAnn, Nwamaka Igbodika, PhD ³ and Bina Percy Avery⁴
- Chapter 59: The Impact of Tax Shield on Capital Structure: Empirical Evidence from Nigeria. Obi, Bridget Chika (Ph.D)¹(Correspondence) Amadi, Emeka, (Mba)² Okafor, Chukwunyeaka Linus (M.Sc)³ Unuabonah, Eromon (M.Sc)⁴
- Chapter 60: Exchange Rate and Foreign Direct Investment in Nigeria 1981-2018 Okonkwo, jisike jude PhD, Azolibe, Chukwuebuka Bernard, Osakwe, Charity Ifunanya PhD, Nwadibe, Emelda Chidimma & Okonkwo, Jisike Jude Phd

Chapter 61: Bond Market Development and Economic growth in Nigeria

Chidi-Okeke, Chioma Nnenna PhD¹, Ogbonna, Kelechukwu Stanley PhD², Chris-Ejiogu, Uzoamaka Gloria PhD³ & Okeke, Ijeoma Chinwe PhD⁴

Chapter 62: Secure of Reasonable Transparency In Ifrs Financial Reporting In Nigeria and Ghana: The B & B Model Effect
 Nwoye, Ugochukwu J., Ph.D¹ Adeniyi, Segun I., Ph.D² Okoye, Emma I.³

Chapter 63: International Capital Inflows And Human Capital Development In Nigeria (1987-2017)

Mbanefo Patrick, Obi-Nwosu Victoria PhD & Okonkwo, Jisike Jude PhD

- Chapter 64: Implementation of Treasury Single Account in Nigeria: has the Federal Government Fared Better? Dr. Amaefule, Leonard Ifeanyi
- Chapter 65: Effect Of Budget Padding On Accountability And Transparency In Nigeria: A Review Of Extant Literature
 E.O. Oladutire, Ph.D¹, W.H. Agbaje, Ph.D² & O.D. Olatunji, Ph.D³
- CHAPTER 66: A proposed Journal; Treasury Single Account Practice and Organizational Performance in Federal Medical Center Jalingo Taraba State Dr. Eiika Sambo¹ & Ruth Samson Ande²

CHAPTER 67: Auditor Independence and Audit Quality: A Survey of the Nigerian Banking Sector Ifeanyi Madumere *PhD* & John Chika Onwuchekwa

Chapter 68: Effect of Discretionary Accruals on the Going Concern Status of Manufacturing Companies Dr. Sunday A. Effiong & Ejabu Fidelis Enya

- Chapter 69: Corporate Governance and Organizational Performance of Selected Oil Palm Producing Firms In Southern Nigeria
 Dr. Nwoka Iude
- **Chapter 70**: Aphorisms Of Meningitis In Leadership Accountability Ir
- Chapter 70: Aphorisms Of Meningitis In Leadership Accountability In Nigerian Public Service Eketu, Continue Anddison Ph.D¹ & Edeh, Friday Ogbu²
- Chapter 71: Leadership Transparency and Nation Building in Nigeria Chukwuma, N. N. Ph.D
- CHAPTER 72: Leadership and Nation Building: The Nigerian Perspective ¹Enyia, Charles Daniel & ²Emelah, Gentle E.
- Chapter 73: Green Human Resource Management and Sustainability in the Hospitality and Tourism Sector: An Inquiry
 Dr. Edwinah, Amah¹ & Dr. Joy Adanma Mekuri-Ndimele²
- CHAPTER 74: The Concept of "OGA" and Paternalistic Leadership Styles: The Challenges of Accountability and Transparency Ogbor, John O
- CHAPTER 75: Leadership and Accountability in Nigerian Universities: A Critical Factor for the Nation's Sustainable Development Odia. J.O. PhD & Otuya Sunday

Chapter 76: Relational Leadership and Organizational Trustworthiness of Nigerian Public

Agencies

Ndimele-Mekuri, Joy Adanma¹, Hart, Josephine Ahornwor² & Wahua, Vincent Ichela³

Chapter 77: Organizational Reforms and Leadership Accountability in Nigerian Public Agencies Dr. Mrs. Chukuigwe Nwakaego

Chapter 78: Resource Management Accountability and Organizational Sustainable Competitive Advantage: Evidence From Nigerian Research Institutes **Omoregbe**

Omorodion, PhD & Irabor, Uyimwen Kurtis

CHAPTER 79: Leadership Accountability and Transparency in Nation Building: A Focus on Anambra State

Ojiagu, Nkechi Cordelia¹ & Nzewi, Hope Ngozi²

Chapter 80: Work Environment And Employee Performance In Selected Private Business Organizations In Rivers State

Dappa, Kalapapa Benjamin & Prof. B.C. Onuoha

Chapter 81: Work Environment and Employee Performance of Selected Hospitality Firms in Port Harcourt, Rivers State

Onyokoko, Innocent Okpako & Prof. B.C. Onuoha

- Chapter 82: Collective Bargaining and Industrial Harmony In Public Sector: A Study Of Ebonyi State University (Ebsu).
 Nwosu Hyginus Emeka, Phd¹, Amadi Goodluck²
- **Chapter 83:** The Influence Of Normative Factors On Retirement Planning Behavior Of The Nigerian Workers **Sani Dauda PhD.**
- CHAPTER 84: Accountability Imperatives and Nation Building: The Nigeria's Experience John e. Chikwe, PhD & Sam Chris Biriowu, PhD
- Chapter 85: Accountability and Nation Building: A Survey of Public Enterprises in Rivers State, Nigeria
 ¹Omesi, Israel Ph.D, ²Ordu, Promise Akor. And ³Chukwu, Gospel J. Ph.D
- Chapter 86: Political Instability And Organizational Competitiveness Sustainability In Nigeria Obuba Obinna Kalu and B. Chima Onuoha Ph.d
- Chapter 87: Staff Infidelity and Stakeholders' Conspiracy: The Case of Emperor Nigeria Limited
 Dr. Livinus Okpara Onu & Dr. Ama Aka Udu
- CHAPTER 88: Food Security in Cross River State: A Marketing Approach Kajang, joshua lane¹, Dr. Ezekiel m. Sunday² & Mrs. Joy akpan³

- Chapter 89: Green Product Innovation and Environmental Sustainability of Manufacturing Firms in Rivers State Opara, Bright Chidugam¹ & Harry, Amieibi-ibama Harcourt²
- Chapter 90: Contributing To Nation Building Through Transparency In Offering Nigerian Home-Made Goods D. Ngirika¹, V.C. Anucha² & L. Amadi³
- Chapter 91: Sustainability Marketing and Nation Building: A Nigerian Experience Benson-Eluwa, V. PhD, Njoku, Princewill O. & Ofondu, Magnus M. PhD

Chapter 92: Accountability and Nation Building: Nigerian Perspective Dr. Sunny R. Igwe & Nwachukwu, Darlington

Chapter 93: Supply Chain Transparency and Nation Building: An Empirical Investigation of Oil and Gas Industry in Nigeria
 Jekey, Lekue, Ezirim, Aloy Chinedu & Amue, John Gonewa

- Chapter 94: Risk Perceptions and Online Shopping Intention among Internet Users In Nigeria. Otika, Udoka Stephen¹, Ejiofor, Uloma Happiness² & Olise, Chigbata Moses³
- CHAPTER 95: The Impact of Trade Promotion on Sales Volume in the Beer Industry: A Study of Guinness Nigeria Plc.
 Ndem, Samuel Etim & Ezekiel Maurice Sunday

Chapter 96: Corporate Social Responsibility Practice and Customer Loyalty: A Study of Zenith Bank Plc. Yola Market Branch, Adamawa State
 Dr. E. Sambo¹, Ukpata Ijuo Sunday²& Hassan Mary Binta³

- Chapter 97: Adoption of Branding as an Event Marketing Tool for Nation Building Stephen Ikechukwu Ukenna, Mercy Ejovwokeoghene Ogbari & Chinonye Love Moses
- Chapter 98: Using the DART Model of Value Co-Creation to Predict Customer Loyalty
- Chapter 99: Customer Relationship Management as a Tool for Improving Bank Performance and Nation Building Samuel Jesuorobo Osifo, PhD & Waliyu Oladosu Adebayo
- Chapter 100: Eliciting Green Purchase Intention Through Green Advertising Strategies In South-South, Nigeria Akekue-Alex, Nennaaton and G. J. Amue, PhD
- Chapter 101: Marketing Ethics and Nation Building: A Systematic Approach to Accountability and Transparency in Nigeria Governance
 Ogah Arome Victor¹ Sunday Alewo Omale² Alidu, Hussaini Callistus³
- Chapter 102: Organisational Culture and Quality Service Delivery of Telecommunication Firms In Nigeria Igbokwe, Anthony C.¹ Elikwu, Michael Ikechukwu²

- Chapter 103: Consumers' Attitude towards Organically Grown Vegetables Product in Calabar Municipality DR.KAJANG, JOSHUA LANE¹ & DR. Ezekiel, Maurice Sunday²
- **Chapter 104:** Perceived Promo Transparency and Customer Intention To Participate: Insight From Student Bank Customers

Agu, Godswill Agu¹, Onuoha, Ama Onuoha², Agu, Paul Chinedu³ & Gazie, S.

Okpara⁴

- Chapter 105: Adoption of Marketing Proactiveness and Business Performance in Selected Manufacturing Firms in Nigeria
 P. C. Chikere, PhD¹ & O. A. Olotu, PhD²
- Chapter 106: Transparency as key Indicator for Improving Sales Performance in the Telecommunication Sector (A Study of MTN Nigeria)
 Dr. Godswill Chinedu Chukwu, Igani Dukoye C & Doris Ngirika
- Chapter 107: Strategic Agility: A Panacea For Organizational Sustainability Management Development Institutions (Mdis) In Nigeria Perspective Otsupius, Anthonia. I. (PhD)
- Chapter 108: Corporate Governance And The Extent Of Environmental Reporting In Nigeria
- CHAPTER 109:Stakeholders Relationship Management and Organizational Health of Hotels in Rivers State Obiora, Judipat Nkiruka¹& Ifegbo, Lawrencia Ifeoma²
- Chapter 110: Management Innovation and the Federal Nigerian University System: The Mediating Role of Leadership Dr. Edwin S. Echu¹ & Professor Sam A. Ocholi²
- Chapter 111: Environmental Turbulence and Organisational Performance of Food and Beverages Firms in Rivers State Nigeria Emmanuel Aziegbe Akhigbe¹ & B. Chima Onuoha²
- Chapter 112 Exemplary Leadership and National Development: A Focus in Rivers State, Nigeria Ozuru, H.N. (Ph.D)¹ & ²Prof. Sam Otamiri
- Chapter 113: Diversity Management and Employee Morale in the Brewing Industry in Southwestern, Nigeria Julius Paul Eyanuku
- Chapter 114: Transparency, National Elections and Nation-Building: The Contemporary Nigeria Fakidouma Ayatari Gilbert, Hope N. Nzewi, Cordelia N. Ojiagu & Obianuju M. Chiekezie

- Chapter 115: Employee Voice and Organizational Innovativeness of Telecommunications Firms in Port Harcourt ¹Oshi, Joseph E. O. Ph.D; ² Christine Adaobi Nwuche Ph.D; & ³Hettey, Hubert D
- Chapter 116: Social Dialogue, Workplace Harmony and Nation Building *Adekunle Simon Ayo PhD*¹ & *Ahonkhai Franklin Evbomien PhD* BSc, MBA, PGD [Computer Science], FCA²
- Chapter 117: Transparent Leadership: Antidote for Counter-Productive Behaviour in Nigerian Public Institutions Okhakhu Clement Osigwe PhD & Ogedengbe Frank Alaba PhD
- Chapter 118: Exploring the Influence of Time Pressure Perception and Social Ties on Supplier Selection Decisions in a Typically Polychromic Culture Essien, Eyo Emmanuel (PhD)
- Chapter 119: Drivers of Fashion Consumption among Undergraduate Students Agu, Godswill Agu, PhD¹; Onuoha, Ama Onuoha, PhD²; Okeke, Angela Nneka³ & Chiana, Cyril Anamelechi⁴
- Chapter 120: Social Media Marketing Techniques: A Conceptual Review On Transparency and Nation Building In Nigeria
 Atuo, Eucharia Chinasa¹, Ezirim, Aloy Chinedu² & Amue, John Gonewa³
- Chapter 121: Social Media Marketing Techniques: A Conceptual Review on Transparency and Nation Building In Nigeria
 Atuo, Eucharia Chinasa¹, Ezirim, Aloy Chinedu² & Amue, John Gonewa³
 Nkamnebe Anayo Dominic PhD¹ & Igwenazo Osita Nchekwube²
- Chapter 122: The Changing Face of E-Commerce in Nigeria; Prospects and Challenges Robinson A. Bananda
- Chapter 123: Microfinance Interventions and Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs In Sabon – Gari Lga, Kaduna State. Fidelis Freda Ijanada and *Auwalu Inusa, PhD*
- Chapter 124: Corporate Governance In A Recessed Economy Dr. A. P. Olannye & Mercy Ogbeta
- **Chapter** 125: Ethical Behaviour and Performance of Selected Small and Medium Scale Enterprises In Calabar Municipality

Sunday Isaac Eneh, Ph.D¹ & Mrs. Grace Jamie Pepple, M.SC²

Chapter 126: The Effect Of Small And Medium Businesses On Growth Performance For Nation Building In Nigeria

O.W. Odiwo, PhD¹, A.A. Kifordu, PhD², Money Udih, PhD³, Sadiq Oshioke Akhor⁴

Chapter	127: Effect Of Small Denomination Currency Notes On Sales And Customer Patronage
	Of Small And Micro Business Product In Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria
	Idrisa Umar Manga, Prof. Walter C. Ndubuisi & Bulus Jonah Saidu
Chapter	128: Unethical Business Practices Among Automobile Repairmen Donald
	O. Ewanlen PhD
Chapter	129: Entrepreneurial Capability and Survival of SMEs in Rivers State
<u>-</u>	¹ Oshi, Joseph. E. O. Ph.D; ² Hettey, Hubert. D. & ³ Akaibe, Moses. V
Chanter	130: Relationship Marketing Communication And Business Innovativeness Of Quoted
Chapter	Money Deposit Banks In Nigeria
	Simeon Baratuaipere ¹ Opara. Bright chidugam ²
	Sincon burutuupere opuru bright eintugun
Chapter	131: Policies versus Politics: Which is the more important Determinant of Public
	Sector supplier Selection Decisions in Nigeria?
	Dr. Eyo Emmanuel Essien* & Prof. Ezekiel T. Ebitu
Chapter	I32: Innovation in Family Firms: An Eagle-Eye View of Hospitality Industry
T	in Nigeria
	*Dauda, Abdulwaheed ¹ ; Adeyeye, M.M (Ph.D) ² ; Yakubu, M.M ^{3;} Ndibe, L ⁴ .
Chapter	
	133: Sustainable Public Procurement in Nigeria: A Conceptual Framework
	Udochukwu U. Alo¹; Obiamaka Nwobu²; Stephen I. Ukenna³& Edwin C.
Ι	doko4

Chapter	134: Organization Transparency and Nation Building of Fast Moving Made
	in Nigeria
	Goods Firms in Aba, Abia State
Chapter	Atuo, Eucharia Chinasa & Amue, John Gonewa
	135: The Impact Of Product Recovery On Delivery Performance Of Manufacturing
	Firms Towards Nation Building
	Nnananya Akunne Doris ¹ , Amue John ² , Igwe Sunny ³
Chapter	I36: Audit Fee Determinants: Evidence From Nigerian Insurance Firm Dr. Tonye Ogiriki¹ & Odogu Terry Keme²
Chapter 1	37: Effect of Monetary Policy on Manufacturing Sector Performance in Nigeria Peter Ego Ayunku
Chapter	I 38: Education Financing and Economic Development In Nigeria E. J Okereke <i>PhD</i> ¹ , L. N. Abraham <i>PhD</i> ² & E. U. Ofierohor ³

- 139: Assessing The Influence Of Information Justice On Employee Commitment In Manufacturing Firms In Port Harcourt
 Prof. Sam Otamiri¹, Dr. (Mrs.) Dumo Nkesi Opara² & Odu, Seth³
- Chapter 140: Government Regulation and Survival of Local Industries: A Study of Selected Breweries in Rivers State Johnson Aliji Okuwa¹ & Prof. B.C. Onuoha
- Chapter 141: Small and Medium Enterprise Financing and Economic Growth In Rivers State, Nigeria Obichere, Stanley Chijioke & B. Chima onuoha
- Chapter 142: Leader-Member Exchange and Employee Performance: A Study of Manufacturing Firms in Port Harcourt Hart Josephine¹ Dr. (Mrs.) Dumo Nkesi Opara
- Chapter 143: Leader Transparency and Positive Work Climate in Nigeria **Basuo Bio Kuroakegha and Dr. (Mrs.) Gift J. Eke**
- Chapter 144: Mentoring and Employee Performance of Some Selected Government Owned Medical Centres in Edo State. Osagie, Godwin Nosakhare, PhD
- Chapter 145: Mentoring and Employees' Commitment in Manufacturing Firms In Port Harcourt Dr. (Mrs.) Dumo Nkesi Opara¹ & Odu, seth²
- Chapter 146: The Mediating Role of Attitude towards Entrepreneurship on the Relationship between Subjective Norms And Entrepreneurial Intention Of A.B.U Students. **Muhammed Yazeed**
- Chapter 147:Workplace Social Support and Organizational Productivity in Deposit Money
Banks in Port HarcourtKenneth. C. Adiele PhD, Didia, J.U.D. Phd & Priscilla .O. Omunakwe
- Chapter 148: Isomorphic Pressures and Organisational Transparency for Nation Building in Nigeria: A Theoretical Account Gabriel, Justin M.O., PhD, FCIPDM & Chizi Ernuchi Obara
- Chapter 149: Relational Justice and Organizational Productivity in Deposit Money Banks in Port Harcourt Kenneth. C. Adiele PhD & Lawrence I. Nwaeke PhD

Chapter 12

ACCOUNTABILITY IN AGRICULTURAL GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIA: RETHINKING STRATEGIES FOR FOOD SECURITY

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Abstract

This study explores the nexus between agricultural governance and food security in Nigeria. It employs two main approaches in achieving its objective: descriptive and econometric. The econometric approach engages Autoregressive Distribution Lag (ARDL) in examining the long-run relationship between the indicators of food security and agricultural governance for the period 1985 to 2016. The results show that in the long-run, agricultural performance contribute to food security in Nigeria. The findings from descriptive analysis unveils that Nigeria has the highest number of people who are undernourished, which increased by 22% between 2000 and 2001 while between 2000 and 2015, population grew by 30.60% with the rate of violence increasing by 55%. The study concludes by recommending, among others, that accountability in addressing the challenges in the implementation of food security programmes and ensuring timely distribution of food resources is germane.

Key words: Accountability, Agriculture, Food Security, Governance, Food Waste, Institutions JEL Codes: G38; H1, O43

1. Introduction

The challenge of effective food security has remained a critical issue for consideration by various government admirations in Nigeria (Ejikeme Ojiako and Ezeh, 2017; Ibe, Alozie and, Iwueke, 2017) while food security stands as an important factor for human survival (Babatunde, Omotesho and Sholotan, 2007; Omonona and Agoi, 2007; Dias, Juliana, Giller, and Ittersum, 2017; Waldron 2017). Extant studies have presented the subject of food security from a number of perspectives: government's involvement, climate change and the need for availability of food and related resources for human consumption (Abubaka and Ahmend, 2017; Ike, Jacpbs and Kelly, 2017).

Despite the effort of successive government administrations in Nigeria, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and the international agencies, the challenge of achieving food security has remained a herculean task (Ufua, 2015; Abdulrahman Mani, Oladimeji, Abdulazeez, and Ibrahim, 2017; Osabohien, Osabuohien, and Urhie, 2018). However, while the government has made frantic efforts through various budgetary allocations, supports from international agencies, and so on (Androsova et al. 2016; Lynam, Beintema, Roseboom and Badiane; Osabohien, Matthew, Aderounmu and Olawande, 2019), the instrumentality of accountability, equitable distribution and preservation of food resources, which could lend relevant support in ensuring food security tend to have been inadvertently neglected in the literature. This forms one of the motivations for this study, which draws the attention of academia and practitioners to the need for accountability in the area of food distribution, in line with appropriate government policies.

While there are a number of studies on food waste (e.g. Ayotamuno and Gobo, 2004; Thi, Kumar and Lin, 2015), the study addresses the subject of waste from the perspective of the involved and affected stakeholders. This study recognises the contextual meaning of waste rather than the universal meaning (Womack and Jones, 2003). The study, therefore, underlines the subject of waste as an ongoing debate, which only the affected stakeholders should be involved in defining (Matete and Trois, 2008; Ufua 2015; Ufua et al. 2018).

Evidence from the Living Standards Measurement Study-Integrated Survey on Agriculture (LSMS-ISA, 2016 Wave 3) showed that in 2015, about 26.4% of households reported food reduction in Nigeria. This reduction in food depicts 2.3% point increase from 2015. This number is significantly higher in some of the geo-political zones in Nigeria. In the South-South and North-East of Nigeria, the share of households with a reduced number of meals increased by 14.1% and 6.3% points, respectively (LSMS-ISA, 2016 Wave 3). Moreover, in the urban area, households (29.8%) reported the incidence of food reduction than rural households, which was 24.1%. Overall, about 19.6% of households reported food inadequacy in in 2016. The percentage is considerably higher in the South East with the value of 34.3%.

However, from LSMS-ISA (2016), the share of households' food inadequacy is considerably high across the Nigerian regions. In the South-West and North-East, 22% and 20.3% of Nigeria's households reported to be food insufficient, respectively. More urban households (23.5%) reported food inadequacy than rural households (16.9%). The highest proportion of households reported shortages in January (50.3%) and February (32.8%). This pattern is the same for the three southern zones. However, there are some important differences in the northern zones. The month where food shortages were most common is July in North Central (49.4%), August for North East (58.2%) and February for North West (30.7%). Food prices increased due to ineffective price control through governance is the major cause of greater concern among rural (15.3%) than urban households (8.3%).

The above is essential as the challenge of distribution along the relevant value chain has resulted in the scarcity of certain food resources. Hence, the poor and lower class of the society are usually excluded through hiked prices occasioned by increased cost along the value chain. This points out the need for strong value chain and distribution of food resources in terms of food management in the interest of citizenry (Ufua et al. 2018). Accountability in the context of this study, promotes the use of records and data for planning food security issues, with due attention given to all stakeholders who are either involved or affected in the planning and implementation of food security programs (Haddad, Hawkes, Achadi, Ahuja, Bendech, Bhatia and Fanzo 2015; Olurankinse and Oloruntoba, 2017). This could be achieved through the practice of meaningful engagement with the stakeholders at each stage of the implementation of food security programs (Ufua et al. 2018). This would result in mutual understanding between the stakeholders and the interveners that may undertake the task of designing the right food distribution strategy and facilitate a conflict free platform to execute the task of accountable food distribution (Womack and Jones, 2003; Ufua et al. 2015; Osabohien, Afolabi and Godwin, 2018).

The study is structured as follows: the next session presents the literature review, followed by the adopted methodology, next is discussion and the last session is conclusion, which includes managerial implications, and suggestions for further research.

2. Key Issues from the Literature

In rethinking the strategies for sustainable development in ensuring food security in Nigeria, the potentials of agriculture can be enhanced through institutional frameworks, governance and accountability. From the empirical study of Osabohien, Osabuohien, and Urhie (2018) employing the Auto-regressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) technique in examining the role of institutional framework on food security, pointed out that institutional framework in Nigeria exerts a negative effect on food security, due to weak institutional quality in Nigeria. According to Osabohien et al. (2018), the Nigerian agricultural sector remains an important sector of the economy, owning to the fact that the sector employs approximately 75% of the total work force, especially in the rural communities where most of the farmers earn their livelihood.

Following the study of Munene, Swartling and Thomalla (2018) that employed the adaptive governance approach noted that indeed strategies to achieve sustainable development needs to be redirected. This would be more effective through the implementation of the framework requiring non-traditional management and governance approaches for substantial reduction of food waste. It was noted that Adaptive governance (AG) has been known to be the medium to drastically change the link between development and disaster risk, with potentially far-reaching implications for policy and practice to ensure food security. Osabuohien, Okorie and Osabohien (2018) that used qualitative method with focus group discussion to examine how local institutions contribute to food (rice) production in Ogun State, Nigeria where they pointed out that local institutions play a key role in food production. In the study by Herbel, Crowley and Ourabah (2012), it was shown that achieving food security and the enhancement of dietary level is at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In line with that, Sidibé, Totin, Thompson-Hall, Traoré, Traoré, and Olabisi (2018) noted that achieving food security can be done through the enforcement of rules and laws designed at the national level which remains one of the central institutional mechanisms for efficient multi-scale governance in most countries.

According to Termeera, Drimieb, Ingram, Pereirad, Whitting (2018), policymakers are increasingly enlightened on the food security perspective, which has over the years reflected poorly in institutional terms. This study fills this gap by addressing the question as to what forms of accountability and governance is more appropriate to govern food systems in a more holistic way to achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs) by year 2030. In Africa, food security in relatively is high on the policy agenda of governmental authorities all over the globe (Candel, 2014). Food and Agricultural Organization-FAO (2011) report, 'Food security governance' relates to the 'formal and informal' rules and processes through which interests are expressed, and decisions

which are germane to food security in a country are prepared, implemented and enforced on behalf of members of society.

From the studies of Rodrik (2010); Osabuohien et al. (2018) and Osabohien et al. (2018) to achieve food security, there is the need for equal opportunity in resource allocation and the delivery of services; coherent and coordinated policies, institutions, and actions. This means that the challenge for policymakers interested in addressing the key policy issues are to redesign strategies that allow countries to have a stable and affordable food supply that is equitably distributed as household food insecurity continues to be widespread with strong inequities across and within countries governance and strategies. Given the pathetic economic situation in some critical parts of the country, for example; the north east (Scribner, 2017; Ajayi and Adenegan, 2018), where starvation has been prevalent due to insurgency, the use of the right approach to addressing the national challenge of food insecurity, based on a platform of accountability, have remained a maximum requirement for achieving the right results of this subject area. Thus, from the fallouts in the literature, this study addresses the gaps in knowledge and takes up the debate to a new level with respect to the issues of food security and accountability in Nigeria.

3. Methodology

3.1 Empirical Model

The food system concept is poorly reflected in institutional terms at local, national, and international levels (Fresco, 2009; Kennedy and Liljeblad, 2016; Hospes and Brons, 2016). Approaching food insecurity issues from systems perspective reveal and in turn enhance important governance challenges and opportunities, because, it requires more holistic approach to fully address. By its nature, food governance institutions are fragmented and cut across the usual boundaries between sectors, administrative jurisdictions, public and private domains, temporal and spatial scales and diverse normative frameworks.

The study applied econometric and descriptive approaches to achieve its objective. The study engaged time series data from 1985 to 2016 sourced from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) statistical bulletin, World Governance Indicators (WGI), World Development Indicators (WDI) and Food and agricultural Organization (FAO). The descriptive approach engaged tables in examining the state of food security in Nigeria in relation to Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) sub-region threshold, while the econometric method employed the Autoregressive Distribution Lag (ARDL) to examine the long-run relation between governance and food security. The study adopted the Malthusian theory of population growth model (Malthus, 1798) and states the implicit function of the model thus:

$$Y_t = f(A_t, X_t, Z_t)$$
(1)

Where $A_t = AGRICPRO_t$, $AGCSF_t$; $X_t = POP_t$; $S_t = CC_t$, VA_t , $RLAW_t$, $PSAV_t$ (2)

Where Y represents food security proxied by number of people undernourished, A represents agricultural production and agricultural credit guarantee scheme fund; X represents population growth; Z represents the four governance components used in this study which are: control of corruption, voice and accountability, rule of law, and political stability and absence of violence. Insight of the ARDL model is drawn from the study of Osabohien et al (2018). The reason for the use of ARDL approach to

cointegration is built on the premise that time series variables trend in difference order of stationarity, hence the traditional approach to cointegration becomes inefficient.

$$\Delta npu_{t} = \beta_{0} + \sum_{t=1}^{n} \beta_{1} \Delta agricpro_{t-1} + \sum_{t=0}^{n} \beta_{2} \Delta acgsf_{t-1} + \sum_{t=0}^{n} \beta_{3} \Delta pop_{t-1} + \sum_{t=0}^{n} \beta_{4} \Delta cc_{t-1} + \sum_{t=0}^{n} \beta_{5} \Delta va_{t-1} + \sum_{t=0}^{n} \beta_{6} \Delta rlaw_{t-1} + \sum_{t=0}^{n} \beta_{7} \Delta psav_{t-1} + \gamma ECM_{t-1} + e_{t} - \dots - \dots - \dots - (3)$$

Where: Δ is the change in operator and the ECM_{t-1} denotes error correction term. γ represents the speed of adjustment from the short-run to the long-run equilibrium (Osabohien et al., 2018). Given the above, the ARDL model is represented in equation (4)

H₀:
$$\beta_0 = \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = \beta_4 = \beta_5 = \beta_6 = \beta_7$$
 (No long run relationship exist)

H₁:
$$\beta_0 \neq \beta_1 \neq \beta_2 \neq \beta_3 \neq \beta_4 \neq \beta_5 \neq \beta_6 \neq \beta_{67}$$
 (Long run relationship exist)

The dependent variable, food security is proxied by the number of people who are undernourished (npu). Agriculture is proxied by agricultural production and Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund, population as the number of people. The study builds on Malthusian theory of population. This is because according to Malthus theory, population grows exponentially while food production grows arithmetically doubling with each cycle; in this wise, while food production is likely to increase in a series of twenty-five year intervals in the arithmetic progression; population is capable of increasing in the geometric progression. This situation of arithmetic food growth with simultaneous geometric human population growth predicted a future when people would have no resources to survive with. This means many people tends to chase few available food in turn leads to food insecurity. The data, sources and measurement of the variables for the study are presented in Table 1:

T <u>able 1. Data s</u> Data	<u>Source and N</u> Identifier	<u>leasureme</u> Data Source	ent Measurement
Food security	npu	FAO, 2016	number of people undernourished (% of total population)
Agriculture	agricprod Acgsf	CBN, 2016	Total volume of agriculture production Credit to agricultural sector in Nigerian naira (N '000)

Governance	Сс		
	Rlaw	WGI,	Institutions
	Psav	2016	
	Va		
Population	population	WDI, 2016	Total number of people

Note: FAO means food and agriculture organization; CBN means Central Bank of Nigeria; WGI means World governance indicators; WDI means World Development Indicators

4. Results and Discussion

This section presents the results as obtained from the two methods of analysis: the descriptive and econometric methods engaged in the study presented in sub-sections (4.1) and (4.2)

4.1 Descriptive Results

Irrespective of the overall progress in reducing food insecurity across the world, West Africa remains the region with the highest number of people who are under or malnourished (FAO, 201). Some countries have shown progress in terms of food security in recent years, this progress occurred in most countries in Europe, Eastern and South Eastern Asia, as well as in Latin America, while Nigeria showed no progress as the country lags behind among West African countries. Food security can be referred to the state where all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to adequate, safe and nourishing food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (FAO, 2015).

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aims to transform the world economies by year 2030 with 17 specific goals of which the second goal that is, achieving food security and improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture is specifically focused on food and nutrition. It aims at achieving sustainable food security, end of all forms of malnutrition, double the agricultural production and income of small scale food producers, and ensure sustainable food security (FAO, 2015)

In this study, we have considered some necessary indicators of food security which are: Number of people who are undernourished, Political stability and Absence of Violence/ Terrorism; per capita food supply variability, Per capita food production variability and Total population. As presented in Figure 1

Figure 1: State of Food Security Indicators



Source: Authors'

Addressing the food security issue in Nigeria demands prompt accountability which could help demarcate the current situation in its entirety, highlighting the key areas affected, and encourage advancement of relevant methods that can resolve the issue. This would create a platform of food supply resilience aimed at keeping the developed approach on a rapid response to emerging food security challenges. Accountability, among other factors points to the fact that food security would pose the challenge of low per capita productivity, especially in food production, which is relevant to food security.

From Figure 1, food production level measured as food production variability in West African countries. Nigeria ranked third among the countries that with the lowest figure (ranging between 2.4 -14.5). It showed the inadequacy of the current food security systems, insufficient resource availability and accountability on the use of resources during the period under review. These challenges therefore call for improvement on the current investment profiles on food production and security. It is widely believed in literature that increase in production generates more food capable of reducing food shortage and the exclusion of the poor as a result of hunger as experienced in France and England (Fogel, 2004). The improving supply of food in both countries showed efficient production of food systems. In terms of food production, Nigeria as the most populated country in Africa with over 180 million people lags behind other West African countries as its food production, food preservation and distribution, which could form a notable base for projecting the entire economy to better performance in the future. Collaboration with supportive agencies could be helpful.

In line with the above, it has been noted in Mali that, food production (especially food crops) has conventionally formed the bedrock for the pursuit of food security agenda (Sidibe et al. 2018). This idea has been a long position of giving main concern of successive governments since Mali's gained independence, in 1960. Structural responses to food insecurity in Mali have mainly consisted of strategic reforms to enable the nation enhance agricultural production for the attainment of food security (Bélières et al. 2008).

Per capital food supply variability is another main indicator for measuring food security. Food supply variability results from a combination of instability and responses in production, trade, consumption and storage, in addition to changes in government policies such as trade restrictions, taxes and subsidies, stockholding and public distribution (Osabohien, et al. 2018). In Nigeria, unevenly distribution of food probably reflects in price instability, which effects vulnerable households' ability to make long-term adjustments to their resource constraints (Lele et al. 2016). It is necessary to understand the nature of fluctuations in a food system which can aid scholars and policy makers on the strategies to be employed in enhancing the food systems in Nigeria.

It has been predicted that food demand will increase in the coming years in all countries, especially Nigeria with high population and to off-set this food demand, strategies for efficient and effective supply of food to all households in Nigeria needs to be put in place to avert food shortage, and this can be done is through innovation (like warehouse and other storage facilities, Osabohien et al. 2018). Populations spread of countries in West African sub-region during the period under review. Nigeria, which is the focus of this study has high population growth rate. This has not been reflected on food production and security practice in Nigeria. Instead, the growth in national population has resulted in a further complexity in terms of availability of food that meets the demands of the population density, especially in urban areas where food production is minimal and the demand is high (Ojo, 2004; Echebiri and Edaba, 2008; Jhingan, 2003)

Based on the fact that food security involves different aspects which are made up of: availability, access to food and food utilization, its strategies has to be essentially engaged by government, non-government organisations (Kropff et al. 2013). Food security governance can be said to have two main interactions: the formal and informal interactions' which cut across balance among public and private individuals with the goal of achieving food security (Candel, 2014). experience of agriculture and food governance in Brazil and South Africa have confirmed that food security situation can be considerably enhanced by adopting three essential procedures such as: creating a new social policy programmes, formulation of an agency exclusively to manage the effort of other ministries in quest for food security objectives and together with stakeholders in the decision-making procedure (Haddad, 2011; Pereira and Ruysenaar, 2012).

Effective food security governance requires a broad, systems think, problem-solving strategy which tackle the difficulty of food security, cut across national, regional, and local levels, and is adjustable across time. When governments fail to tackle the crisis situations in nation and structural factors, they invariably fail to address food security and its affect (Shamah-Levy et al. 2017; Candel, 2014). Ironically, results obtained showed that Nigeria food security governance has taken on post-political uniqueness which hampers rather than enhancing growth of ending food shortage and achieving the right to food for all. Quantitative details about the absence of terrorism in West African sub-region. The data describes the level of security of life and property among West African countries.

Compared to other West African countries, Nigeria ranks as a high risk country on this record as its political stability and absence of violence continues to be negative and higher than other regional countries [-5.2 in 2001; -2.7 in 2015] (FAO, 2017). This could be traceable to the inherent crises herdsmen in both the northern and southern

parts of the country as the violence between the Fulani herdsmen and farmers have become one of Nigeria's most constant security challenges and have left thousands of people displaced and dead in recent years (Vanguard, January 11, 2018). Crisis in these locations have adversely affected food production and supply, because when there is crisis in these locations, there would be further challenge on food security which would in turn result to the challenge of food shortage in supply to the various parts of the country where demands are high, leading to higher prices and scarcity. There could also be wastage of scarce food resources due to emergence of crisis that could prevent distribution.

4.2 Results from Econometric Analysis

This sub-section of the study presents the econometric method. The starting point of presenting the econometric result is by presenting the summary statistics of the variables as shown in Table 2. The results shows the summary statistics of the selected variables that were engaged in this study, the variables are as aforementioned. The mean, standard deviation, minimum and maximum are as presented, to bring to bear the real information required for the study (Osabohien et al., 2018).

Variable	Mean	Standard	Minimum	Maximum
		Deviation		
Number of people undernourished	10.81	1.48	8.80	14.30
Agricultural production	3707.31	4405.70	38.24	14709.10
Agricultural credit guarantee scheme	3827678	4325308	80845.80	1.30
fund				
Population	1.28	3.07	8.36	1.86
Voice and accountability	-0.77	0.30	-1.55	-0.46
Political stability and absence of	-1.92	0.20	-2.19	-1.52
violence				
control of corruption	17.10	10.13	0.70	28.00
Rule of law	1.14	0.19	0.72	1.43

Table 2: Summary Statistics of Variables

Source: Authors' using STATA software

Unit Root Test for Stationarity

To conduct the ARDL effectively, the unit root test for stationarity was conducted to determine the integrating order of the selected variables. This is considered as a necessary step in order to validate the assumption that none of the variables should be stationary at second differenced (that is, I [2]). This assumption is aimed at preventing the issue of 'spurious result. Insight of the ARDL methodology was drawn from the empirical work of Osabohien et al. (2018) and Ouattara et al. (2006). Ouattara et al. (2006) has it that F-statistic that Pesaran (2007) presented seems ineffective when differentiated at order two [I (2)], since the method is based on the premise that variables either co-integrated at order zero [I (0)] or co-integrated at order one [I(1)]. Therefore, engaging a unit root tests in the ARDL approach to cointegration is to ensure that none of the variables is integrated of order 2 as presented in table 3

Table 3. Unit Root Test for Stationarity

Variables	DF	Critical	Integration	Remark
	tstatistic	Value 5%	Order	
Number of people undernourished	-2.75	-1.96	<i>I</i> (1)	Stationary

Agricultural production	17.10	-1.95	<i>I</i> (0)	Stationary
Agricultural credit guaranteed scheme	-4.67	-3.69	<i>I</i> (1)	Stationary
fund				
Population	4.83	-1.95	<i>I</i> (1)	Stationary
Voice and accountability	-2.18	-1.95	<i>I</i> (0)	Stationary
Political stability/Absence of Violence	-5.31	-3.82	<i>I</i> (1)	Stationary
Control of corruption	-4.41	-3.67	<i>I</i> (1)	Stationary
Rule of law	-3.91	-3.71	<i>I</i> (0)	Stationary

Source: Authors' using

STATA 13

Table 4. Estimates from ARDL Method: Dependent Variable: Number of People undernourished

Long-run relationship													
Agricul g Agricultural production		Agricu credit	ılture	Populatio n				Political stability		Control of Corrupti on		Rule of law	
-0.02 (0.00) [0.01**] [0.01**]	(0.00) (0.10) [0.01**] (0.09**)		0.74 (0.19 [0.08			-0.69 0.63 (0.40) (0.03 [0.00*] [0.40]		3)	-0.29 (0.05) [0.05***]				
Short Run Relationship													
Agricultur Productio		Agricu l credi		Populatio n		Voice and Accounta bility		Political Situation		Control of corrupti on		Rule of law	
L1D	L2D	jjj L2D	L2 D	L1D	L2 D	L1 D	L2 D	L1D	L2D	L1 D	L2 D	L1D	L2 D
-0.05 (0.00) [0.00*] [0.00*]	-0.030 (0.17) [0.01**]	-1.06 (0.3 5) [0.0 2**] [0.0 2**]	2.2 0 (0.8 0) [0.0 0*]	0.1 1 (0.4 9) [0.1 91]	0.2 00 (0. 63) [0. 19]	0.0 7 (0. 33) [0. 55]	0.0 6 (0. 14) [0. 13]	- 0.21 (0.4 0) [0.0 4**]	- 0.09 (0.4 2) [0.0 2**]	0.0 3 (0. 02) [0. 11]	0.0 3 (0. 02) [0. 00 *]	- 1.58 (0.5 6) [0.0 1**]	1.6 7 (0. 81) [0. 32]

Note: The standard error and the probability values are in parenthesis () and [] respectively.

*,**, ** * means that variables are statically significant at 1%, 5% and 10% respectively, while LD shows that variables are lagged and differenced

Source: Authors' using STATA 12

The econometric method for this study using the ARDL cointegration approach focuses on the long run relationship as presented in Table 5. The ARDL results show that there exists a long run relationship food security indicator (number of people undernourished), agriculture indicators (agricultural production and agricultural guarantee scheme fund), indicators of governance and accountability (voice and accountability, political stability and absence of violence, control of corruption and rule of law) and population. The result shows that in the long-run increase in agricultural production reduces the number of undernourishment by 2.89%, agricultural credit guarantee scheme fund to farmers enhance food production base thereby reducing undernourishment by 18.6%. Akin to Malthusian population theory, increase in population increases undernourishment by 74.8%, the reason for this high increase is because of low food production and many people chase little available food produced. On the basis of governance and accountability, increase in corruption rate affects undernourishment by 3.94%, political stability and absence of violence contribute to the attainment of food security. It is confirmed in this study that corruption weakens the system and as result increases undernourishment by 0.74 and 21.06% respectively.

Table	5. Estimates from	Error Correc	ction Mechanis	m	
	D_npu D_ D_				D_rlaw Regressors
ECterm	-0.0245* -0.3137*	* -0.0351* -0)51087** -0.09	51* -0.0038 0.5	5561 0.0481 * *
		(0.035)	(0.545)	(0.142)	(0.000) (0.000)
npu(LD)	-586.9926)	0.115	77	
	0.9216* -0.3541*	-21282.73 (0.1709 3 9.5024	4 -0.599*	*
	(0.000) (0.179) (0.000) 0.) (0.315	5) (0.538	3) (0.441)
agricpro(LD)			-9.1983	0.0202** 0.00	- 17** -
	0.00048 1117.83	** * 0.0116	0.003**		*
acgsf (LD)	(0.034) (0.856) (0 0.01216** 4.0809* * 4.0	· -0.0551	0.0031 -2.150		0.032) 2.208 *
population(LD)	(0.000) (0.020) (0 -2.8007* 0.0924* 4.7607				14
Va(LD)	(0.0000) (0.000) - 0.06387 36.72333 0.6685 * (0.000) (0.000) (0.0244)	-9665. 2* 293060.8 *	715 -0.046 * (0.867) * *	64 4.756	8

psav (LD)	- 231.2085* 32.8656** 25765.93* -0.1919 -0.6713* 0.4408 0.2047 0.5867* (0.000) (0.023) * (0.576) (0.004) 4 (0.365)									
	* (0.	0427)	(0.841)						
	(0.097)									
Cc (LD)	-0.0027* -	45.1274* 24	783.82	1397.0	85				.012	268
	(0.000) (0	.002)	(0.350)	(0.386)		.01560	9 .01	7392	
	.02837 5									
						6	8	2		0.258
					0.4	59	0.128	0.26		
rlaw (LD)	- 70	9.4312*	-6163.	00418	0111 0.02	00	6.7578	1.10	67	
	0.7855**	1571.8	819* (0.8	365)	(0.705)		(0.938)	*	*
	* (0.031) (0.000) (0.00	0.0) (0.0	00)						
(0.000) (0.002	2) (0.004)									
	(0.047)								
Adj. R-sq	0.9808826	062 0.7480	0.831	0.9095	0.7973 0.	695				
AIC: 57.97	317 HQ	2IC: 59.2147	6	SBIC: (62.14865					

Note: *,**, ** * means that variables are statically significant at 1%, 5% and 10% respectively, while LD shows that variables were lagged and differenced based on Akaike information criterion (AIC), Hannan-Quinn information criterion (HQIC) and Schwarz's Bayesian information criterion (SBIC) **Source**: The Authors'

Conclusion

Accountability in ensuring food security is a multifaceted assignment, as it is subjective by collective factors operating at diverse tiers of the social-ecological model. These factors comprise the accessibility of a sufficient food supply and access to food from the federal to the state and local government levels. Access to the food supply is in turn mainly influenced by agricultural production; this means that; the higher the production, the more people gain access to food. At Macro-level, food access is driven by factors such as food prices, job opportunities, minimum wages, and social protection policies or programmes. The relationship among central, state and local systems of food are characterized by boundaries drifting and high level of insecurity, which makes attempts at steering even more complicated. This is the reason why food security governance, which considers all the drivers, governing activities, and policy outputs and outcomes involved in feeding the population, has gained so much interest as a field of study in recent years

This study explores the importance of food security in Nigeria, considering accountability and governance as key variables. The study found that it is a worthwhile practice for Nigeria to pursue stability as this can form a background to channel the national economy to address food shortage challenges. This could be done through an aggressive support initiative and other pragmatic actions to engage stakeholders to embark on effective food production and distribution that meet household demands. In order to meet households food demand, agricultural incentives should be granted to farmers to increase food production, this is evident from the result obtained in the study which shows that in the long-run increase in agricultural production reduces the number of undernourishment by 2.89%, agricultural credit guarantee scheme fund to

farmers enhance food production base thereby reducing undernourishment by 18.6%. Also, the focus on preservation logistics would also be needed to augment current effort to solve identified problems.

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