

A Synthesis Of Livelihood Opportunities From The Periodic Markets In Niger-East Senatorial District, Niger State, Nigeria

MBAUKAAN Eric Iormba

SANUSI Yekeen Adeeyo

Department of Urban and Regional Planning Federal University of Technology,
Minna, Nigeria

Abstract: Livelihood has remained a subject of utmost importance due to its inevitable role to human existence. It is seen as activities that allow people to secure basic necessities of life while market is a physical place where sellers and buyers meet to exchange goods and services. The study examined livelihood opportunities on agricultural produce from eight periodic markets in Niger East Senatorial district with main objectives on spatial characteristics and livelihood opportunities from the markets. Using non-probabilistic sampling approach, a purposive sampling technique was applied to randomly distribute two sets of questionnaires to sellers and buyers. A total number of 671 questionnaires were administered and the data was analysed descriptively. The study revealed that agricultural trade account for 44% of the livelihoods opportunities from the periodic markets, while livestock trade account 27%. Other livelihood opportunities from the periodic markets include; off-loading, loading, wheelbarrow pushers and others. The study concluded that, there are numerous livelihood opportunities from the periodic markets in Niger State especially on agro and livestock which serves as a major source of income for the populace, both within and outside the host communities of the markets. The study therefore recommended that, improved and developed market facilities conditions will enhance the socio economic conditions of the people within and outside the host communities and also contribute to poverty alleviation in all forms.

Keywords: Livelihood, Periodic Rural Markets, and Agricultural produce.

I. INTRODUCTION

Livelihood has remained a subject of utmost importance due to its inevitable role to human existence and it is salient to all as it is the functions the people engaged in so as to make ends meet. This argument is supported by UNHCR (2014) that, livelihoods are “activities that allow people to secure the basic necessities of life, such as food, water, shelter and clothing”. They further stressed that, “engaging in livelihoods activities means acquiring the knowledge, skills, social network, raw materials, and other resources to meet individual or collective needs on a sustainable basis with dignity”. These activities according to UNHCR are usually carried out in a number of times within an income stream such as agriculture, pastoralism, fishing and employment within a market sector. On the other hand, the study of periodic market is salient to the daily livelihood of the people of Niger State as Hodder

(1965) opined as documented in Mulimani and Belgaum (2012) that, the study of markets and the communities they are located is important because, market structure and mechanism majorly defined the people’s way of life, culture, tradition and socioeconomic lifestyle.

Generally, the term market has been defined by different researchers based on their precepts and ideologies. However, this study focused on periodic markets also called traditional markets by some researchers. Market is traditionally a physical place where buyers and sellers gather to exchange goods and services (Kotler, 2002). According to Belgaum and Mulimani (2012), periodic markets are “an authorised public gathering of buyers and sellers of different commodities, goods and services in rural areas”. Similarly, Obateru (2003) stated that, periodic market takes place at a particular time and day within specified intervals at a strategically located place bringing buyers and sellers together for trading activities.

Livelihoods as defined by Chambers and Conway (1991) includes capabilities, assets (physical, human, natural resources, financial, social and political assets) and activities required for a means of living. According to UNDP (2006) as cited in Sati(2014) , livelihoods includes also creativities, new opportunities, people's attempts, willingness and capabilities to cope with shocks, risks, and stress like natural disasters, epidemic like deadly diseases (HIV/AIDS, EBOLA), conflicts or financial crisis and competition at both national and international levels. Ellis (2000) viewed livelihoods as access to resources, materials and services. Ellis further stated that, the concept of livelihood has been widely used to also cover poverty and rural development approaches.

Collectively, the concept of market focuses on trader (buyer and seller), place, goods and services (Belgaum and Mulimani, 2012; Obateru, 2003; Belgaum, 2014; Detonjo, John and Chikagbum, 2015). On the other hand, the concept of livelihood as defined by Chambers and Conway (1991) concentrated on People, capabilities, assets (tangible and intangible) and activities.

Nigeria Poverty profile (2010) as reported by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) put Niger state at 43.6% relatively poor, 33.8% absolutely poor and 33.9% lived on less than a dollar per day (NBS, 2010). These statistics are worrisome because, despite all the efforts by Nigerian government and multinationals to end poverty in all forms, the prevalence rate is still high. However, majority of the populace in the State, about 85% are farmers while others constituting 15% are involved in vocations such as white collar jobs, business, craft and arts (Niger State Bureau of Statistics, 2012). The climate nature and availability of a wide variety of agricultural products and mineral resources also attest to the economic potentials of the State.

The study of Niger state traditional (periodic) markets is necessary as it will bring to limelight the livelihood opportunities targeted at the economic viability of the rural people in the study area for effective poverty eradication.

II. PERIODIC MARKET AND RURAL ECONOMY

Periodic market development enhances rural economic growth, it improves economic recovery and stabilises rural livelihoods (World Development Report, 2008; UNDP, 2013). According to UNDP (2013), economic recovery includes market development, job creation (both public and private), reinforcement of existing agribusinesses and encouraging new ones. Also included are policy formulation, legal institution and the economic process changes and infrastructure development that will encourage and boost rural trade and commerce and economy of the region. Similarly, Komarovskiy and Bondaruk (2013) noted that, ensuring local economic development is key to livelihoods stabilization and regional growth. They stressed that, this is underpinned by the 'growth pole' model which could determine rural economic programs and regional planning for practical 'growth pole' theory application that sees the region as a territory with several certain integral and mutual characteristics that make it different from others.

Mulimani and Belgaum (2012) observed that, periodic markets are the immediate and the first contact point for farmers and it is linked with the modern world, thereby providing commercial services and transportation nodes for services and growth in the region located. Mulimani and Belgaum further stressed that, rural economy and development are almost solely dependent on agricultural produce that are disposed in their periodic markets.

A. MARKET DEVELOPMENT

Mulimani and Belgaum (2012) asserted that, market is a geographical area with clearly defined limits with services rendered to customers from different areas. They noted that, markets cannot exist or function in isolation, there must be a networking with the community and the surrounding settlement where the market is located, and that, the economic prosperity of the settlements, villages and towns the periodic markets are located also represent regional development pattern. Clark (1968) cited in Mulimani and Belgaum (2012) viewed that, periodic markets open up opportunities and outlets for the rural produce, local supplies and other periodic and fixed services are hinged on.

Detonjo, *et al* (2015) stressed that, periodic markets are central places for growth and development of the rural communities; they serve as nodal places to service the population of those communities. It provides a platform for agricultural exports, meeting rural people's need in exchange for what their communities are not advantaged to have. According to Mulimani and Belgaum (2012), without the market, the settlement will not grow to a certain level, creating a spatial gap between rural settlements and the market. Allen (2012) in his study of characteristics of periodic markets in Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State concluded that, the economic status of the people and the nature of goods around the market coverage determined the turn-out. Similarly, Wankhede (2014) identified that, periodic markets have a special role and function in rural life. He further observed that, periodic markets are the lifeline of the rural people of Umred in Nagpur district of India. He concluded that, the growth of periodic markets is followed by agriculture and transport development. More so, Belgaum and Mulimani (2012) also concluded that, periodic markets are the centre of attraction that open up for spatial mobility and channel for distribution of agricultural produce, periodic market development will not only spark development of the hinterlands but will build up integrated rural communities and services to a substantial nucleated settlement.

III. RURAL LIVELIHOODS

Basically, rural activities are predominantly agricultural. According to World Development Report (WDR, 2008) agriculture include crops, livestock, agro-forestry and aquaculture. This excludes forestry and commercial fisheries because it is totally a different analysis. Agriculture is the highest source of livelihood for the global rural populace, it is estimated that, about 86% of the rural people lived on agriculture as their livelihood sources and it's provide jobs for

about 1.3 billion people without access to land and smallholder workers (WDR, 2008; FOA, 2014). Following Ellis (1999) argument that, increased agricultural produce would produce more income and livelihood opportunities to non-farmers is not tenable anymore because, poor rural households are not living on farming alone in regions with peculiar challenges resulting to diversified portfolios especially with the mechanised farming and advanced technology. Sati (2014) assertion that, rural household demand for food in respects their multiple functions, income and family size justified rural livelihood

A. SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

Sustainable livelihood (SL) means a livelihood that can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base (Hussein and Nelson, 1998; Moser, 1998, 2008; DFID, 1999). However, sustainable livelihood concept is seen more than the general agreed approaches and definitions to poverty extirpation, that job and employment are necessary not just to secure, but also to protect and sustained livelihoods of individuals (UN-HABITAT, 2015).

B. LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES

Livelihoods are a combination of multiple activities like livestock production, formal sector employment, informal trading, exchange and sale of labour, crops cultivation, migration, borrowing, natural resources use, begging are livelihoods diverse activities (Adato and Meinzen-Dick, 2007). Following UNHCR (2014), it is observed that these activities frequently take place in an income stream like market zone, agriculture and/or entrepreneur providing goods and services to the market economy on cash exchange or trade sale. Adato and Meinzen-Dick (2007) noted that, poverty eradication programme and analyses need to have requisite knowledge of these multiplicity natures as it affects negatively or positively on the poor's vulnerability and their way of life.

IV. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES

Agricultural development is fundamental to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals come 2030 with specific relation to goals: to end poverty in all forms everywhere; and end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture and yet, compare to that of Latin America and Asia, agriculture produce in Africa still remains small leaving farmers to live and remain in poverty (UNDP, 2015a; UNDP, 2015b; African Development Bank, 2016). In Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), there is no alternative for motivating rural growth, eradicating poverty and enhancing sustainable food security, it is possible through agriculture as other economic spheres are hinged on its productivity. In the words of Zoelick Robert, former World Bank president, 2008, rural job creation cannot be done

without thorough labour diversification, active rural connection to the technologically advanced agricultural system with other non Agric sectors. He said, three out of four poor people in developing countries of the world are in rural areas depending on agriculture as direct livelihood or indirect livelihood (WDR, 2008).

According to UNDP (2013), the intensity of poverty in Africa is in rural areas. This is so because it is in SSA that most of the agricultural based countries are and agriculture still remains as self employed in rural areas of the SSA. In Africa, millions of farmers go through difficult times in order to survive on agriculture as the only available resources (AfDB, 2016).

Today, according to WDR (2008), AfDB (2016) and Steel and Lindert (2017), agriculture is providing supportive livelihood means to millions of rural poor through traditional farming, emerging rural jobs, animal husbandry, smallholder farmers, new agricultural employment, entrepreneur, and nonfarm economy get out of poverty and thereby making rural areas attractive for investment. An estimated population of about 86 per cent of the world rural people lived on agriculture as their livelihood sources (WDR, 2008). It is clear that for agricultural to support sustainable growth and eradicate poverty require a fair socio-political atmosphere, better macroeconomics fundamentals and good governance.

V. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Majority of the people in Niger State, Nigeria, is predominantly farmers (NSBS, 2010); this study is based on the periodic markets in the Niger East Senatorial District. The study focused on agricultural produce in the periodic markets in the state. The study area has Twenty Two major periodic markets. Eight (8) periodic markets out of the Twenty-Two were considered under this study (Table 1).

S/N	Market Name	Local Govt	Market days
1	Beji Market	Bosso	Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday
2	Diko	Gurara	Saturday
3	Garatu	Bosso	Mondays
4	Kagara	Rafi	Tuesday
5	Kuta	Shiroro	Friday
6	Lambata	Gurara	After 4days
7	Paiko	Paikoro	Friday
8	Sarkin Pawa	Munya	Tuesday

Source: Authors' Fieldwork, 2017

Table 1: Periodic Markets under Study

This study designed and used Non-probability sampling technique; purposive sampling technique was employed for the administration of the questionnaires. Primary and secondary data were the data sources used. Primary data were acquired from the geographical locations of the eight selected periodic markets from the study area. The study sourced secondary data from books, journals, articles, maps, seminars, working papers, and other related literatures that were useful to the study.

The population for this study was estimated with the use of quadrat method. Two sets of questionnaires were designed and administered to sellers and buyers. A set of about 375 questionnaires were administered to sellers and another set of 373 questionnaires was administered to buyers. A total number of 748 questionnaires were administered in the eight

periodic markets on each market’s day using Open Data toolKit(ODK). A total of 341 questionnaires to sellers returned and 330 questionnaires to buyers returned. A total of 671 questionnaires representing 90% returned.

The descriptive statistical approach was used for data analysis and interpretation. Results were presented in tables, charts and maps.

VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. SIZE, POPULATION AND POPULATION DENSITY BY MARKETS

The study examined the size, population and the population density of the markets. However, measurement of these markets shows their hierarchy in terms of area coverage with Beji having the largest coverage of about 24.6hectares (245,994 square meters), Paiko is 18.4 (183,817), Lambatta is 12.6 (126,201), Dikko is 7.6 (76,139), Kuta is 5.1 (51,336), Garatu is 4.2 (41,538), Sarkin Pawa is 4.1 (40,996) and Kagara is 3.1 (30,997) hectares (square meters) respectively (Table 2). Similarly, Beji has the highest population of about 4,652 sellers and buyers while Dikko has the lowest population of about 2,241 sellers and buyers respectively. The population was assessed using the quadrant method from the markets using a sample plot of 10m x 10m during the market day. On the other hand, the result represented that, population density was determined considering the area coverage and the estimated population. Kagara has the highest population density of 1,223 persons per hectare while Sarkin Pawa has 1,084 persons per hectare, Garatu has 928 persons per hectare, Kuta has 817 persons per hectare, Dikko has 295 persons per hectare. Paiko, Beji, and Lambatta have the lowest population density of 159, 189, and 202 persons per hectare respectively.

Name of Market	Market Size Area (Hectares)	Population	Population Density (Hectare)	Location Coordinates	
				Longitude	Latitude
Beji	24.6ha	4,652	189	9°37'26.74" N	6°19'52.11"E
Dikko	7.6ha	2,241	295	9°16'17.69" N	7°12'59.10"E
Garatu	4.2ha	3,898	928	9°28'59.11" N	6°26'24.99"E
Kagara	3.1ha	3,791	1,223	10°12'1.04" N	6°15'34.57"E
Kuta	5.1ha	4,164	817	9°52'9.18"N	6°42'23.14"E
Lambatta	12.6ha	2,540	202	9°16'47.98" N	6°59'47.95"E
Paiko	18.4ha	2,930	159	9°26'41.67" N	6°37'58.14"E
Sarkin Pawa	4.1ha	4,445	1,084	10° 1'9.59"N	7° 7'16.56"E

Source: Authors’ Fieldwork, 2017

Table 2: Market Size, Population and the Population Density

B. PRODUCT VARIETIES BY MARKETS

Generally, analysis of the markets shows that, common types of available crops in all the market include Maize, Rice, Mellon, Millet, Beans, Soya beans, Guinea Corn, Groundnuts,

Yam tubers and Cassava while livestock types include Cattle, Goat, Sheep and Chicken. Yam tubers were the dominant crop type in seven markets representing about 88 per cent, only in Kagara market that, Yam tubers were moderate in availability status. This result implies that, Yam tubers are the most staple crops in the study area that provide the most livelihood opportunities. This confirmed Detonjo *et al* (2015) report on the development of rural periodic markets in Rivers State that, one of the characteristics of rural periodic markets is dominant products which displays the economic geography of the people as every periodic market has dominant product or commodity and the cheaper price determined its dominance and geographical area advantage over such product as it moves to other geographical areas of higher demand.

Name of Market	Products Varieties			Total Varieties	Rank
	Grain Crops	Tuber Crops	Animals/Livestock		
Beji	7	2	4	13	1
Dikko	6	2	3	11	6
Garatu	0	1	1	2	8
Kagara	8	1	4	13	1
Kuta	7	1	4	12	3
Lambatta	7	2	3	12	3
Paiko	7	1	2	10	7
Sarkin Pawa	7	1	4	12	3

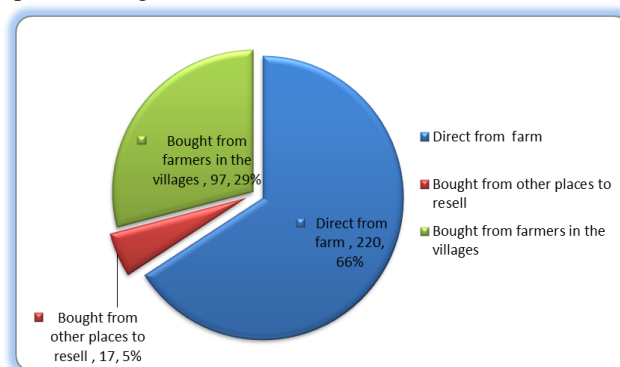
Source: Author’s Fieldwork, 2017

Table 3: Products Varieties by Markets.

Table 3 show the summary of products varieties available in all the markets with Beji and Kagara having majority of the products with a total number of 13 products varieties each while Garatu have the lowest products varieties with a total number of 2 of the products types in all. This implies that, most of the markets have diversity of products except Garatu market is with extreme specialty in Yam sale.

C. SOURCES OF COMMODITIES

The study pictured as represented in Figure 1 revealed that, the sources of sellers’ commodities are from three basic sources namely: directly from their farms, bought from the farmers in the villages and, bought from other places to come and sell. The results depicted that, 66 per cent of the sellers commodities are directly from the farm, 29 per cent bought from farmers in the villages and only 5 per cent of the sellers’ commodities were bought from other places to come and resell in places of higher demand.



Source: Authors’ Fieldwork, 2017

Figure 1: Distribution of Sellers Sources of Commodities

This study result implies that, generally, 95 per cent of the sources of sellers' commodities originated from the immediate settlements within Niger State, that is the sources from farm and those bought from farmers; only 5 per cent are from other places or outside the state, the sources of commodities/products are directly from the farm. This represented a picture that, the periodic markets are spatially distributed because of the rural farmers and their dominant agricultural produce availability. This further confirms Mulimani and Belgaum (2012) assertion that, rural people lived to wholly depend to a level on the periodic markets within their proximity to sell their produce in exchange for money so as to improve their wellbeing and livelihoods.

D. VOLUME OF TRADE IN THE MARKETS

The mean volume of trade by market is presented in Table 4 with Yam tubers available in larger volume in all the markets under study. The overall mean result demonstrated that, on average Yam has a volume of about 1,439 tubers per seller in each market. Garatu has the greater volume of about 2,800 tubers per seller while Kagara has the lowest volume of about 380 tubers per seller. Maize has an average of 18 bags per seller in all with Kagara having the highest volume of about 31 bags per seller while Paiko has the lowest volume of about 13 bags per seller.

The overall mean volume on other crops indicated that, Rice is 13 bags, Millet is 12 bags, Beans is 10 bags, Guinea corn is 9 bags and Groundnuts is 8 bags per seller respectively. On the other hand, Beji has the highest mean volume of livestock, about 10 cattle and 9 sheep per seller, Sakin Pawa has 10 sheep and 6 Goat per seller.

Name of Market	Beji	Dikko	Garatu	Kagara	Kuta	Lambatta	Paiko	Sarkin Pawa	Over all
Quantity of Commodity per Seller	Mean								
Yam (Tubers)	808.1	533.3	2800	380	2260	1480	1333.3	1920	1439
Maize (bags)	15	17.5	-	31	14	22.5	13	16	18.4
Rice (Bags)	-	15	-	25	0	34	11.3	9	13.1
Millet (Bags)	7.6	15	-	17	8	20	11.8	8.2	11.7
Beans (Bags)	8.0	5	-	18	6	10.8	11	6.8	9.9
Soya beans (Bags)	10	-	-	20	5	7.5	-	6.4	9.9
Guinea corn (Bags)	9	-	-	18	7	5.6	20.1	5.8	10.9
Groundnut(Bags)	5.4	5	-	12	6.6	11.7	-	10.6	8.6
Mellon(Bags)	6.6	-	-	-	5.2	-	7.2	-	6.3
Cattle (Number)	10.2	-	-	2	5.4	-	-	14.8	8.1
Goat (Number)	5.2	2.7	-	18.4	6.7	3	5	20.2	8.7
Ram/Sheep(Number)	9.4	9.3	-	10	6.3	4	12.1	13.7	9.3
Chickens(Number)	-	21.7	-	12	9.8	8.2	-	-	12.9

Source: Author's Fieldwork, 2017

Table 4: Volume of Trade by Market

E. AVERAGE VOLUME OF PRODUCE BY MARKET

The study examined the volume of produce in all the markets by Tubers, Grains and Livestock. The results as represented in Table 5 showed that, Garatu has 81,200 tubers representing the greater volume of tubers in all the markets, followed by Paiko with 11,977 tubers and Kuta with 11,300 tubers. Kagara, Dikko and Sarkin Pawa have the lowest volume of 1,140 tubers, 1,559 tubers and 4,900 tubers respectively.

Market	Volume of Produce						Com positive Rank	Re-Rank
	Tuber (No.)	Rank	Grains(Bags)	Rank	Livestock (No.)	Rank		
Beji	5656	3	288	4	134	7	4.7	5
Dikko	1599	2	135	2	164	8	4	2
Garatu	81200	8	0	1	0	1	3.3	1

Kagara	1,140	1	735	8	98	5	4.7	
Kuta	11300	6	260	3	74	4	4.3	3
Lambatta	7400	4	476	7	15	2	4.3	3
Paiko	11977	7	349	6	51	3	5.3	6
Sarkin Pawa	9600	5	304	5	117	6	5.3	6

Source: Author's Fieldwork, 2017

Table 5: Average Volume of Produce by Market

F. JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Table 6 of the markets and people's wellbeing analysis revealed that, the markets created and provided job opportunities that enhance better livelihoods and wellbeing of the people. Probing the situation in providing job opportunities by market, greater percentage of the traders agreed that, job opportunities in the markets changed their living conditions to better or much better as they were engaged. In Kuta market, 71 per cent of the traders said job opportunities in the market makes a better living condition, 28 per cent said it was much better, Kagara, 69 per cent better and 31 much better, Beji, 67 per cent better and 30 per cent much better, Garatu, 64 per cent better and 32 much better and Lambatta, 62 per cent better and 33 per cent much better. This result demonstrated that, the prevailing job opportunities from the markets have greatly impacted the traders' condition positively and also improved their wellbeing as majority of the traders attested they lived better on it.

Name of Market	Much Worse	Worse	About the same	Better	Much Better	Total
Beji	0	0	3%	67%	30%	100%
Dikko	0	0	0	53%	47%	100%
Garatu	0	0	4%	64%	32%	100%
Kagara	0	0	0	69%	31%	100%
Kuta	0	0	1%	71%	28%	100%
Lambatta	0	0	5%	62%	33%	100%
Paiko	0	0	7%	56%	37%	100%
Sarkin Pawa	0	0	3%	61%	36%	100%

Source: Authors' Fieldwork, 2017

Table 6: Job Opportunities by Market

G. GENERAL WELLBEING

The study examined the contribution of the markets to the general wellbeing of the traders and results of the analysis as shown in Table 7 demonstrated that, the contribution was positive as all the traders confirmed that, the markets contribution to their general wellbeing was better or much better. In Kuta market, 73 per cent of the traders said their general wellbeing was better representing the highest proportion, 27 per cent said it was much better. Others with greater proportion are Garatu (66 and 34 per cent) better and much better, Kagara(62 and 38 per cent) better and much better, and Sarkin Pawa (61 and 39 per cent) better and much better condition of general wellbeing while Dikko have 43 per cent of better and 57 per cent much better making it the only market with higher proportion of traders with much better general wellbeing condition above 50 per cent. However, greater proportions of traders on average have a better general wellbeing contributed by the markets.

Name of Market	Much Worse	Worse	About the same	Better	Much Better	Total
Beji	0	0	0	51%	49%	100%
Dikko	0	0	0	43%	57%	100%
Garatu	0	0	0	66%	34%	100%
Kagara	0	0	0	62%	38%	100%
Kuta	0	0	0	73%	27%	100%
Lambatta	0	0	0	52%	48%	100%
Paiko	0	0	0	56%	44%	100%
Sarkin Pawa	0	0	0	61%	39%	100%

Source: Author's Fieldwork, 2017

Table 7: General Wellbeing by Market

VII. CONCLUSION

Rural people lived and depend on agriculture for their food, businesses and jobs so identifying a livelihood opportunity around you and keying into such opportunities for wellbeing is important. From the findings and the results obtained, this study revealed diverse livelihoods opportunities from selected periodic markets in Niger East Senatorial District with trading activities on agricultural produce as dominant factor for making a living, self reliance from these opportunities. This study results concluded that, there are numerous livelihood opportunities from the periodic markets in Niger State with income generation opportunities that people from Niger State, Nigeria and beyond lived to survived and earned their living on. The agricultural products such as Yam, Millet, Melon, Maize, Rice, Groundnut, Beans, Cattle, Goat, Sheep, and other ancillary jobs through the market value chain are ensuring that, most of the people are making safe and sustainable livelihoods, improved socio-economic life style and better wellbeing. This conclusion is in support of UNCHR's livelihood strategies for all, that livelihood opportunities should enable one make a living so as to meets their basic needs, contributes to their dignity and provides for the full enjoyment of human rights (UNHCR, 2014). The study therefore recommended that, Population density and area coverage of the markets are proportional to the markets' hierarchy and choice of patronage by sellers and buyers. Therefore, provision of adequate space for rural periodic markets should be a priority to all stakeholders for proper and standard planning and development of these markets so as to improve the socioeconomic conditions of the people within the host communities and beyond. Also, more efforts should be done to translate these livelihood outcomes generated on agricultural produce in the area to assets building, sustainable market value chain, and community development, among others. These could be through programmes on livelihoods and markets for adequate education and information to the people, especially on Tubers/Grains crops and livestock towards economic diversification and stabilising the socioeconomic life style of the local people and contributing to program of poverty alleviation both in Niger State and Nation at large.

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