



Report on Joint Mission for Food Security and Market Assessment in Gombe State, Nigeria.

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Introduction:

The joint CILSS/WFP/FAO/FEWS NET/RESIMAO/ FMA&RD regional market assessment and monitoring is an annual activity aimed at assessing both the current and the expected market situation in the Sahelian part of the West African nations. The assessment covers all major market performance indicators such as: general information, supplies, stocks, transport systems, product flow, price analysis, demands and perspectives into the coming marketing calendar year.

Assessment objectives: The objective of this activity is to undertake market assessments and monitoring in order to detect and prevent possible market disruptions which could cause food and nutritional insecurity in the region.

The joint mission seeks to monitor:

- The level of prices and their trend at the end of the season;
- The level of stocks at the market, institutional stocks and the direction of the main cross border influx according to the dynamics of supply and demand;
- The impact of institutional purchases on the functioning of markets;
- The provision of reliable data and information to the government structures of countries for the management of food and information to insure populations and agri-food market analyst in national and regional early warning systems in order to:
 - Alert decision makers in good time on appropriate measures to be taken before the deterioration of the situation and before the next wedding,
 - Provide a framework to guide food security interventions at national and regional level.

Assessment timeline and approach in Gombe State: This assessment for the year 2017 was conducted in Gombe State from 8th to 9th of February 2017. The team covered Gombe main market in Gombe metropolis. The market is a township multipurpose market that serves for internal domestic food needs.

Main Report

General information on markets: The market visited in the state was functioning at a relatively normal level with all market actors: consisting of sellers, buyers and transporters (locals/non-locals) in full participation. The level of trade was satisfactory.

The main agricultural (food crops/lives stock) products dominant in the markets were Cereals (Maize, rice, sorghum, millet etc) and cash crops (Groundnut, Cowpea and soyabean). Yam was the major tuber and the common livestock in the markets were cattle, sheep and goat.

- A. Supplies in the markets:** During the assessment both food items and livestock area were visited. The summary of each food group are as follow:

Cereals: The supply of major cereal crops in the market was on the increase in the current period and when compare to last year of the same period, it shows a normal positive high variation. The current supplies as compared to normal situation were very good. This was as a result of improvement in

security situation the state enjoys, increase in farming activities in the state and good harvest experience in the last production season.

Other commodities: The supply of yam to the market remains stable when compare to last year.

Cash crops: The supplies of cash crops like cowpea and groundnut were high compared to last year were high. Soya bean and palm oil record moderate supply to the market.

Livestock: The supplies of both small and large ruminants to market were low in the current period. This could be attributed to restriction of trade in livestock by the military across the borders of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states whom are major supplier to the state.

B. Stocks: The stock levels in market the remains stable as observed last year where staple food still dominates. The break down by food groups is as follows:

Cereals: The stock of cereals continues to increase and even when compare to last year remains stable. The stock of local rice was observed to be higher (35%) while that of imported rice was declining. This could be related to the ban on importation of foreign rice and the high exchange rate of naira to dollar and franc CFA.

Other commodities: In the market visited, the stock of yam was normal however traders are not in the habit of storing for too long due to their low shelf life.

Cash crops: The stock levels of cowpea and oil palm remain stable however, soybean and groundnut has decline.

C. Transport: The major means of transportation remains the same as it was last year. Trailers and pickup with capacity ranging from 15 to 120 bags (100kg) dominate.

D. Product flow (Sources): The major sources of products to the market were constant; mainly locally and nationally depending on each food groups:

Cereals: The major (95%) source of supply to the market is local (mainly, Kumo,Cham, Kashere,Dukku and Funakaye) and National (Borno and Bauchi States).

Other Commodities: The main staple product in this group was yam, sourced completely from other parts of the country mainly Benue and Taraba states

Cash Crops: The sources of cash crops in market were mainly local (90) which comprises; Billiri, Mallam Sidi, Talasse and Dadin Kowa while National (10%) mainly from Bauchi state.

Livestock: The supply of livestock to the market was sixty percent (60%) national from Borno,Yobe and Bauchi states. The local (40%) was sourced mainly from lafiya, leggal, Maikalo/Kuri communities in the state.

E. Destination/Demand analysis:

Cereals: Most of the cereals like maize, sorghum, millet and local rice goes for local (45%) and national (55%) demand.

Other products: The destination of Yam was 100% local.

Cash crops: The destination of most cash crops was a fair share between local and national. However supply to kano may end up in neighboring country like Niger.

Livestock: The destination of small ruminant from the market was mainly local (70%) and national (30%) while that of cattle local (60%) and national (40%). However, local consumption/demand was decreasing.

F. Demand analysis: In the markets visited, it was observed that the aggregate demand for maize, imported rice, soybean and livestock are generally low in the market. This can be traced to high price and low purchasing power among the consumers.

G. Labour distribution: The labour distribution and usage in the market shows that local labour constitutes 100 percent of the work force.

H. Price analysis: The general price analysis shows a decrease in prices of cereals and legumes when compared to last year of the same period. This would be attributed to good harvest experience in most production areas of the state in the last farming season hence increase supply to the market. However, when compare to the usual price there is a sharp increase in prices across all items in the markets. The trend of prices shows higher prices than last year and also higher than the usual long term prices. This could be attributed to increase in cost of production, livestock feeds, transportation cost and currency exchange rate of the Nigerian naira and other foreign currencies.

I. Perspectives: The perspectives is an expert/stakeholders outlook/opinion on supply, demand and prices into the coming months of July/Aug 2017 and the summary is as presented below:

Supply: The supply of cereals, tubers, cash crops and livestock will decrease in the markets by July/Aug 2017 ranging between 15 to 30 percent.

Demand: During the lean season demand for cereals will increase because most consumers have exhausted their stocks and the farms are not ready for harvest. Demand for other items like tubers, cash crops and livestock's will be moderately low across markets.

Prices: There will be a general increase in prices for all items in the markets during the lean season ranging from 15 to 30%.

Prices of Commodities in the Markets visited

Gombe

Currency: Nigerian Naira (N)

NB: These are Average Prices

Product	Wholesale Price (bag 100kg, Gallon 20litres)			Retail Price (Kg, litre, head)		
	Current prices	Last year prices	Usual Price, Same period	Current prices	Last year prices	Usual Price, Same period
Millet	13,500	17,000	4000	66.67	60.00	23.33
Maize	13,500	19,000	4,500	67.86	64.29	25.00
Sorghum	13,000	19,000	3,800	68.97	62.07	27.57
Local rice	26,000	30,000	12,000	133.33	100.00	66.67
Imported rice (50kg)	18,000	18,800	8,500	200.00	150.00	150.00
Wheat flour (50kg)						
Cowpea	21,000	27,000	10,500	100.00	90.00	73.33
Groundnut	27,000	30,000	12,000	137.93	75.86	68.97
Sesames						
Palm oil	15,500	8,000	6,000	450	200	150
Plantain						
Sheep				20,000	15,000	12,000
Goat				15,000	10,000	8,000
Cattle				170,000	100,000	80,00
Camel						

Challenges

Some challenges faced by the traders in the market visited include;

- High transportation cost,
- Road Harassment and multiple taxation,

- Despite the improvement in security, the fear of being attack is an issue. Safety of traders cannot be guaranteed as some pockets of violence and terror attacks still occur.
- Bad road conditions,
- Limited purchasing power of the households,
- Lack of standard measure for measurement,
- Poor record keeping by traders

Recommendations

For the markets to function to its optimal capacity there is need to;

- Construct/rehabilitate major roads,
- Make policy that will curb road harassment and extortion in the guise of taxes,
- Apply a better strategy of managing the security situation where restrictions of livestock and other items to neighboring countries will be allowed.
- Introduce policies that will improve the naira exchange rate to order currencies, thereby increasing the purchasing power of household.
- Increase awareness of citizens on the importance and use of locally made products

Conclusion

The markets are not operating to their full capacity due to the challenges mentioned above but if those recommendations are put in place, there will be great improvement in the market operations.