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# ADDRESSING FOOD SECURITY IN NIGERIA THROUGH CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION: INSIGHTS FROM NIGERIAN NEWSPAPER RECORDS

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**ABSTRACT:** *One of the most important worldwide concerns of our day is climate change, which has significant ramifications for the agriculture industry. The public's awareness and comprehension of climate change are greatly influenced by the media, especially in developing nations like Nigeria. This paper, therefore, seeks to explore the role of newspapers in addressing food security in Nigeria through climate change mitigation. Content analysis technique was used to analyse three national newspapers–Daily Sun, The Guardian, and The Nation for a period of one year. A code sheet was used as an instrument of data collection, and Environmental security theory was used to explain the study. Findings from the research revealed that the volume of coverage on climate change as it affects food security in Nigeria is 119. The prominence given to the coverage of climate change as it affects food security in Nigeria was low. More so, news was found to be the story genre that received the most attention. Based on the findings, it is recommended among other things that Newspapers should endeavour to place essence on the interpretation and analysis of news reports on climate change as it affects food security in Nigeria.*

**KEYWORDS:** Food Security, Climate Change, Newspapers, Nigeria.



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## INTRODUCTION

A long-term shift in the statistical distribution of weather patterns over timescales from decades to millions of years is referred to as climate change. In addition to natural climate variability, climate change is defined by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as a change in the climate that is directly or indirectly caused by human activity and that modifies the composition of the global atmosphere over a comparable period of time (Ibrahim, 2014). Climate change is "any change in climate over time, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity," according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 2007). Nigeria is a country with a land size of 923,768 square kilometers, a diversified climate, and abundant natural resources (World Atlas, 2017).

Sahel savannah, Guinea savannah, Sudan savannah, derived savannah, lowlands, mountain savannah, freshwater marsh, mangrove vegetation, and coastal vegetation are among its roughly nine ecological zones. Climate change is currently affecting these ecological systems through deforestation, soil degradation, drought, erosion, flooding, and desertification. Food security has been compromised, and the nation's overall agricultural potential has been threatened as a result of these difficulties.

Progress toward a future free of hunger may be halted by climate change. There is a clear and consistent worldwide trend in how climate change affects crop productivity, which may have an effect on the supply of food. Short-term supply variability brought on by climate change may jeopardize the stability of entire food systems. At the regional level, the possible effects are less evident, but it is probable that climate change and variability will make food insecurity worse in places where hunger and undernutrition are already problems.

Food consumption may be hampered by health problems and loss of access to drinking water, and it is also expected that food access and utilization may be indirectly impacted by collateral impacts on household incomes. In order to create a "climate-smart food system" that is more resilient to the effects of climate change on food security, significant investment in adaptation and mitigation measures is required, according to the data. Similar to climate change, food security is a complex problem. In addition to the well-known factors like climate and weather, it is also impacted by factors like population growth, global politics, trade and social policies, oil and commodity prices, and more.

The term ‘climate change’ refers to the significant alteration of the atmospheric environment's natural components and the negative consequences that follow, such as changes in weather patterns or variations. These changes can be general and unprecedented, and they may include unusual precipitation, temperature, density, cloud appearance, or rain yield. Oceanic processes (including oceanic circulation), biotic processes, variations in the amount of solar radiation that the planet receives, plate tectonics, volcanic eruptions, and human-induced changes to the natural environment are some of the causes that contribute to climate change. In addition to "climate change," which is frequently and mostly driven by human-specific consequences, these latter effects are currently contributing to global warming, which is forcing the ice in the Arctic and Antarctic regions to melt.


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The general public has also been held accountable for their role in climate change, which has an impact on Nigeria's food security. Nigerians rely too heavily on fossil fuels to meet their energy needs, which causes harmful pollutants like greenhouse gases (GHGs), mostly carbon dioxide (CO2) and methane, to be released into the atmosphere. Our farms utilize fertilizers to increase agricultural yields, but these products are also petrochemicals and have an adverse effect on the atmosphere. Fields release excess fertilizer into the environment as gases. The rise of nitrous oxide over the past few decades has been hastened by the use of synthetic nitrogen fertilizer.

Tree cutting and bush burning are examples of other farming and lumbering practices that contribute to deforestation and the subsequent release of $CO_2$, which fills the atmosphere and causes denser cloud layers, all of which have a negative impact on the climate and weather. When all of these things happen, the temperature and rainfall fluctuate more, which causes drought and desertification in some areas and flooding in others. All of these have been endangering Nigeria's food security and require immediate response from the country's people and government. Of the 18.6 million people facing food insecurity today, 3.3 million reside in the Northeastern States of Bauchi, Adamawa, and Yobe, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (2023). If prompt action is not taken, this number might increase to 26.5 million nationwide by the peak of the 2026 lean season (and to 4.4 million in the states of Bauchi, Adamawa, and Yobe). One of the nations most at risk from climate change is Nigeria, where millions of people are impacted by the fast changes in weather patterns that reduce the productivity of local food and water systems and have unexpected effects on sustainable development (African Development Bank, 2022). Extreme temperatures, droughts, and floods are a few of the climatic effects of climate change. Over time, these circumstances have resulted in crop losses, endangered farmers' livelihoods, and presented problems for food security in certain states, particularly in emerging nations (Ani, Anyika & Mutambara, 2022).

Food security and agricultural productivity have continued to suffer as a result of climate change. To reverse the trend of food insecurity brought on by the climate change catastrophe, immediate action is required. As the fourth estate of the realm, the mass media is tasked with raising public awareness of specific social issues. The media is in charge of establishing the agenda and influencing how the general public views issues such as science, politics, effects, and the urgency of climate change. The core of the mass media's influence on the public's knowledge, attitudes, and behavior, according to Mustapha (2012), is its significance to the understanding of social events. Some people read newspapers, magazines, or both to get a sense of what's going on in society or to satisfy their psychic needs, while others watch and listen to the radio and television, respectively.

It is anticipated that the Nigerian media should disseminate information on events occurring in the nation, including climate change, weather fluctuations, anomalies related to inadequate land management and upkeep, and other changes that have crippling consequences. People's actions assume that they are not sufficiently aware. In light of farmers' unpleasant experiences with agriculture and food insecurity brought on by a lack of knowledge, I want to look at how the media reports and informs the public about how climate change is affecting Nigerian agriculture. Through the mitigation of climate change, this study aims to comprehend the responsibilities that newspapers play in addressing food security in Nigeria.


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### Statement of Problem

The amount of information about agriculture in Nigerian newspapers has been the focus of several studies on newspaper coverage of the subject (Oyekunle, Abdulsalam-Saghir, and Bolarinwa, 2013; Fawole and Otajide, 2012; Ifeanyi-Obi and Agumagu, 2008). However, while climate change impacts agriculture in a way that makes the public more aware of the problems farmers face, it is not covered in general publications. Through their coverage of events in areas like politics, crime, corruption, the judiciary, etc., Nigeria's mass media—particularly its print newspapers and magazines—have demonstrated in the past that they can contribute to the development of a vibrant polity. Nevertheless, despite its enormous potential to revolutionize the country's economy, agriculture is thought to have gotten little attention in national newspaper coverage. In light of this, this study aims to comprehend how Nigerian newspapers contribute to addressing food security in Nigeria by mitigating the effects of climate change.

### Research Questions

1. What are the selected newspapers' volume of coverage of issues of climate change as it affects food security in Nigeria?
2. What are the selected newspapers' sources of news stories about climate change as it affects food security in Nigeria?
3. What is the level of prominence given to news stories about climate change as it affects food security in Nigeria by the selected newspapers?
4. What are the frames that the selected newspapers used in the coverage of climate change as it affects food security in Nigeria?

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Climate Change

The term ‘climate change’ basically describes modifications to the average variable characteristics of the climate that last for a long time, usually decades or more. Since climate change always alters the climatic conditions necessary for optimal food production, the relationship between climate and food security is undeniable. The long-term accumulation of atmospheric components, including solar radiation, temperature, relative humidity, and precipitation, as well as their long-term fluctuations, is what Ani et al. (2022) define as the climatic condition. Over time, climate conditions have caused crop losses, endangered farmers' livelihoods, and created problems for food security.

Food security will therefore be greatly impacted by a favorable climate, and vice versa. The United Nations Nigeria (2022) reports that poor nations have been the most severely affected and are more susceptible to the effects of climate change. This is mostly due to their diminished ability to handle these activities and their susceptibility to the negative consequences of a danger brought on by


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climate change. According to the report, human-caused climate change is already causing weather and climatic extremes in every part of the world. Heat waves, drought, tropical cyclones, and significant rainfall are a few indicators of the changes.

The economy, health, and agriculture, as well as food and human security, are all impacted by the myriad environmental problems that climate change presents. Crop production and fishing, which together make up more than 80% of the value of Nigeria's agricultural industry, are two of the subsectors most impacted by flooding brought on by the climate change catastrophe. The flooding in 2022 is predicted to impact 108,392 hectares of farmland. Farmers found it challenging to make or keep farming investments due to the flooding crisis brought on by climate change, since crops were washed away and their fish did not survive the surge that took over ponds (Oyedeji, 2022).

**Food Security**

In addition to the supply (ensuring availability at stable prices) and demand (access and affordability) sides, food security today includes individual dietary preferences (choice) and nutritional (health) components. In order to account for the reality that the need for food does not equate to the means to purchase it, the concept of food security has been expanded to include the issue of vulnerability. In its 1986 "Poverty and Hunger" report, the World Bank distinguished between transitory food insecurity, which is a reality in Nigeria, and chronic food insecurity, which is linked to structural poverty and low incomes. In general, however, food insecurity is defined as the state in which people lack sufficient physical, social, or financial access to food (Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning).

Therefore, the stability of the food supply, as well as the availability and accessibility of food, are reflected in food security. Conflict, natural catastrophes, economic downturns, and climate shocks can all contribute to food insecurity (Idoko, 2016). Furthermore, poverty, climate change, conflict, insecurity, population growth, ineffective policy implementation, inefficient agricultural practices, post-harvest losses, and low budgetary allocation to agriculture are some of the main factors that have been found to be contributing to food insecurity in Nigeria (Mojeed, 2023). Inflation, climate change, and regional instability are additional causes of food insecurity in Nigeria (www.voanews.com).

In the same vein, the Nigeria Economic Summit Group (NESG, 2023) enumerated below the reasons for food insecurity in Nigeria: incentives to encourage low-cost local food production; lack of access to commercial agricultural finance; and lack of affordable agricultural financing. According to FAO (2015), as quoted in Ake, Owoeye, Ajakaiye, Ayantunji, Apalowo, Popoola, and Ayantunde (2023), food security depends on all the conditions necessary to determine how much food is enough and nourishing for a healthy and functional life. Furthermore, ensuring that each person has access to enough food at all times and uses it to support bodily growth and development is the main goal of food security. Additionally, four elements of food security were identified. These consist of stability, utilization, accessibility, and availability. To achieve its goals, these elements must be met at the same time.

According to Ogundipe, Obi, and Ogundipe (2020), environmental deterioration has a significant effect on food security. These include decreased agricultural output and farmland depletion.


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Nigeria's food security is seriously threatened by climate change, which has an impact on both commercial and subsistence farming. Diseases and pests are on the rise due to climate change, which lowers agricultural output. Desertification is getting worse in some areas of the country due to declining rainfall. Additionally, the extreme weather conditions brought on by climate change reduce agricultural productivity and encourage crime and warfare. Food quality, accessibility, and availability can all be impacted by climate change. Thus, crops may not be able to grow due to severe temperatures and precipitation.

Crops can be hampered and yields decreased by extreme events, particularly droughts and floods. Crop yields may be significantly impacted by changes in temperature, atmospheric carbon dioxide, and the frequency and severity of extreme weather events (United States Environmental Protection Agency, n.d.). More than 80 percent of jobs in Nigeria are in the informal sector, which contributes more than half of the country's GDP (Adams and Razmara, 2013). Since agriculture accounts for almost 25% of the GDP, it is widely exposed to the effects of climate change. Livelihoods are still seriously threatened by the high frequency of floods, desertification, and deforestation (World Food Programme, 2023).

Additionally, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (n.d.) supports the argument made by Ajetomobi, Ajakaiye, and Gbadegesin (2015) that crop yields have fallen as a result of climate change's impact on agricultural productivity. The yields of main commodity crops (including corn, rice, and oats) are predicted to be lower than they would be in a future without climate change, despite the fact that increased temperatures and carbon dioxide concentrations may boost some crop yields.

**The Foreseen Challenges of Climate Change in Nigeria**

According to O'Brien and Leichenko (2000), one of the biggest issues confronting humanity in the twenty-first century is the changing climate. According to Thornton et al. (2008), the rates of change are unparalleled in human history. According to AR4 (2007), there will be severe consequences and numerous ramifications for humanity if greenhouse gas emissions are not controlled (Shardul Agrawala & Crick, 2009). Furthermore, in a World Food Programme report titled "Fighting Hunger Worldwide," Parry et al. (2009) projected that by 2050, the number of people at risk of hunger due to climate change would rise by 10 to 20 percent more than would be expected in the absence of climate change, and the number of malnourished children would rise by 24 million, increasing by 21 percent.

Food production, food yields, and food security—food availability, food accessibility, food utilization, etc.—are impacted by a variety of factors, including changes in the average temperature, constant rainfall, overflowing rivers, floods, the spread of airborne diseases, decreased crop yields, heat waves, and extreme weather conditions. In several regions of Africa, this has been connected to longer-lasting and more severe droughts. The ability of Africa to expand and develop is further hampered by unfavorable weather patterns and climate extremes, which continue to endanger agricultural production, food security, health, and water and energy security (Lisk, 2009). Nigeria's main economic sectors—agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, and construction—are all highly susceptible to the country's weather and climate.


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In Nigeria, the government owns a large portion of the media, while a smaller number are privately owned organizations whose main function is to spread knowledge to everyone. Government-owned media outlets convey messages based on the government's aims, while commercial media outlets must work within the constraints set by the ruling class. Numerous academics have observed an increase in media coverage of climate change situations on all continents. However, the degree of media coverage in developing nations is still quite low because a sizable portion of the population is unaware of climate change and, as a result, is unable to react appropriately when it comes to food production and other agricultural activities. It has also been noted that the media educates the public in a variety of methods in response to climate change.

As Wilson (1995) emphasized, the activity of the mass media demonstrates that a significant percentage of the population obtains scientific knowledge and information from a variety of media, including daily newspapers, radio, and television. Therefore, it is thought that media initiatives might be relied upon to respond to the growing public and policymaker pressures of climate change repercussions. Climate change has a negative influence on agricultural production and other economic sectors; thus, raising knowledge of the situation is crucial to empowering farmers and others to act quickly. According to Kakade et al. (2013), the consequences of changing national public awareness of a global environmental concern make the dissemination of climate change information by stakeholders to the public through the mass media an intriguing topic. Information spreads quickly through all forms of media, including newspapers, radio, television, and news outlets. In reality, the media in Nigeria typically plays a big part in distributing messages about a variety of topics, including climate change, but the country's power outage has typically slowed down the dissemination of these messages. Preventing disasters, particularly natural ones, is preferable to managing them. Deaths and property damage could be avoided with prevention. It is regrettable that despite the enormous sums of money squandered on alleged flood protection, roadways in our states have been converted into lakes and ponds.

In the overall design and implementation of agricultural development programs and policies, the media's participation in this work of agricultural transformation and development must be acknowledged and given its proper place. The foundation of any significant human progress is communication. The fundamental and dynamic process of communication, according to Sambe (2005, p. 7), "involves a constant change of ideas and interaction among people for problem solution." Agriculture's evolution is growing more and more information-sensitive.

According to Akpabio, Makanjuola, and Udoma (2004), information access is now a necessary and important resource for agricultural development. They also emphasized that in order to find better chances and sustainable solutions, information is necessary to take advantage of possibilities early, increase awareness of the possible drawbacks of existing decisions, and learn about other farmers' opportunities. Extension services had to be introduced in order to close the knowledge gap between farmers and research institutions. According to Obinne and Okwu (2006), there has been a pattern of agricultural expertise throughout history and the world, with certain individuals frequently holding specialized advising positions.



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## Theoretical Framework

Environmental security theory serves as the foundation for this work. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 1994) proposed the idea of human security, which gave rise to the theory. Degradation of the global environment impacts every facet of our lives and means of subsistence. Food security is apparently hampered by environmental degradation. Food production declines in proportion to environmental degradation brought on by a variety of natural or human-caused reasons.

The ability of an ecosystem to sustain the healthy pursuit of livelihoods by its inhabitants is known as environmental security (OECD, 1996). Environmental security, according to Josef (1994), is also concerned with safeguarding the natural environment and the vital interests of people, society, and the state against negative processes and trends in development that endanger human health, biodiversity, the sustainable functioning of ecosystems, and the survival of humankind. According to Whyte (2001), the theory investigates the connections between environmental factors and food security, specifically the ways in which environmental occurrences like climate change, water, air, and land degradation impact food security.

According to the thesis, food security and environmental conditions are intrinsically intertwined. In order to examine climate change, food security, and the achievement of sustainable development goals in Nigeria, the environmental security theory was chosen since it is appropriate and pertinent. Environmental variables affect food security because both sustainable food production and food security require a favorable climate. Additionally, the climate and environment may have an impact on food security and/or agricultural productivity. Food security is also impacted by environmental issues as water, air, pollution, land degradation, deforestation, desertification, drought, flood, erosion, biodiversity loss, and extreme occurrences, as explained by the environmental security theory. It also sheds light on how risks associated with the environment and climate change, particularly the fundamental causes of risk vulnerabilities, may affect food security.

## METHODOLOGY

The study adopted content analysis as the research design. According to Ohaja (2003), topics pertaining to press coverage of various issues require content analysis. The issues published by the three selected newspapers: *Daily Sun, The Guardian,* and *The Nation,* from January 2024 to December 2024. The total population will be obtained by multiplying 365 by three. This will amount to 1,098 editions of the three newspapers under study. The three newspapers were selected due to the basis of their national reach, circulation strength, wide coverage of issues, popularity, and on the assumption that national papers have a higher readership.

In arriving at the sample size, one week was randomly selected in each month under study. This amounted to 84 editions in each of the selected newspapers- *Daily Sun, The Guardian, and The Nation.* Thus, to get the actual sample size, 84 was multiplied by 3-which is the number of selected newspapers, 252 editions. The composite week approach was used to determine the sample size.


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According to Riffe, Aust, and Lacy (1993) as cited in Wimmer and Dominick (2011) composite week sampling technique is superior to both random and consecutive day sampling when analysing newspaper or magazine contents. The composite week method was also employed in ascertaining the editions of newspapers to be studied. A week was selected randomly in each month of the year studied. The instrument of data collection was the code sheet. It is a suitable instrument for analysing the manifest contents of information.

**Data Presentation**

Research question one: What is the selected newspapers' volume of coverage of issues of climate change as it affects food security in Nigeria?

| Newspapers | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| *Daily Sun* | 49 | 41% |
| *The Guardian* | 29 | 24% |
| *The Nation* | 41 | 35% |
| Total | 119 | 100% |

Research question two: What is the selected newspaper's source of news stories about climate change as it affects food security in Nigeria?

| Sources | *Daily Sun* | *The Guardian* | *The Nation* | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Government official | 28 | 13 | 17 | 58 | 49% |
| Professional bodies | 7 | - | 5 | 12 | 10% |
| Research/Findings | - | 7 | 3 | 10 | 8% |
| News Agency | 14 | 5 | 10 | 29 | 25% |
| Anonymous | - | 4 | 6 | 10 | 8% |
| Total | 49 | 29 | 41 | 119 | 100% |

Research question three: What is the level of prominence given to news stories about climate change as it affects food security in Nigeria by the selected newspapers?

| Placement | *Daily Sun* | *The Guardian* | *The Nation* | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Front Page | 3 | 5 | 2 | 10 | 8% |
| Inside Page | 36 | 21 | 27 | 84 | 71% |
| Centre Spread | 3 | - | 5 | 8 | 7% |
| Back Page | 7 | 3 | 7 | 17 | 14% |
| Total | 49 | 29 | 41 | 119 | 100% |


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| Illustration | *Daily Sun* | *The Guardian* | *The Nation* | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Photographs | 4 | 7 | 5 | 16 | 13% |
| Cartoons | | | | | |
| Graphs | | | | | |
| Charts | | | | | |
| Not Illustrated | 45 | 22 | 36 | 103 | 87% |
| Total | 49 | 29 | 41 | 119 | 100% |

| Story Genre | *Daily Sun* | *The Guardian* | *The Nation* | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| News | 34 | 24 | 30 | 88 | 74% |
| Features | 6 | 5 | 7 | 18 | 15% |
| Editorials | 5 | | 4 | 9 | 8 |
| Letters to the Editor | - | - | - | - | - |
| Opinion Articles | 4 | - | - | 4 | 3% |
| Total | 49 | 29 | 41 | 119 | 100% |

Research question four: What are the frames the selected newspapers used in the coverage of climate change as it affects food security in Nigeria?

| Issues | *Daily Sun* | *The Guardian* | *The Nation* | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Poor harvest | 13 | 6 | 8 | 27 | 23% |
| Flooding | 5 | 5 | 4 | 14 | 12% |
| Food shortage | 17 | 11 | 14 | 42 | 35% |
| Multiple year droughts | 7 | 3 | 9 | 19 | 16% |
| Farmland damage by Heavy rain | 7 | 4 | 6 | 17 | 14% |
| Total | 49 | 29 | 41 | 119 | 100% |


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## DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This study examined the roles of Nigerian newspapers in addressing food security in Nigeria through climate change mitigation. Research question one sought to determine the selected newspapers' volume of coverage of issues of climate change as it affects food security in Nigeria. This question is answered by the content analysis provided in Table 1. The result from the table shows that there are 119 stories on issues of climate change as it affects food security in Nigeria within the period of the study.

In the period under study, *Daily Sun* had 49 stories on issues of climate change as it affects food security in Nigeria, *The Guardian* had 29 stories, while *The Nation* had 33 stories. This made the number of stories studied under one one-year period to be 119. It equally shows that *the Daily Sun* had more stories on issues of climate change as it affects food security in Nigeria than the *Guardian* and *The Nation* during the period under study. This indicates that the volume of coverage is low. This finding supports the assertion by Tagbo (2010) that the coverage of climate change issues in Nigerian media is disproportionate to the level of threat it poses to the country and the continent as a whole. Weather information that can help farmers plan their cropping season properly was underreported; this is a call for collaboration between journalists on the agricultural beat and professionals.

The implication of this finding is that newspapers have failed in giving much coverage to the issues of climate change as it affects food security in Nigeria. People and even the government stand a great chance of not attaching relevance to the issues bordering on climate change as it impacts agriculture. This is corroborated by the agenda-setting theory, which states that "audience not only learn about public issues through the media, they also learn how much importance to attach to an issue or topic from the emphasis the mass media place upon it" (McCombs and Shaw, 1972, as cited in Ojobor, 2002, p. 21).

Research question two sought to discover the selected newspapers' source of news stories about climate change as it affects food security in Nigeria. Result shows that most of the sources of the news stories are from government officials which have 58, news agencies have 29, professional bodies, 12, while research and Anonymous have 10 each as their sources. The heavy reliance on this category of news sources means that little emphasis is given to the publication of articles of agricultural Research/findings, which received 10 stories. Agriculture institutions usually release research findings that are relevant in the sector. Newspapers can help disseminate such findings by giving prominence to them rather than relying on government officials' comments and statements as news of food security.

Research question three sought to discover the level of prominence given to news stories about climate change as it affects food security in Nigeria by the selected newspapers. In order to answer this research question, the placement of stories, the illustration attached to them by the newspapers, andthe news genre were looked into. In the placement of stories, it was found that almost all the stories were placed on the inside pages. This portrays that the prominence attached to the placement of the stories on climate change as it affects food security in Nigeria is very low. Front pages are very strategic in attracting the attention of readers. People easily buy newspapers and read them due to the stories they see on the front page. On the illustration of stories, it is noteworthy


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to acknowledge the fact that the number of stories that were not illustrated is approximately more than half of the number of stories that were illustrated. This finding is corroborated by Agbana and Usman (2014), who found that the newspapers did not give prominence to polio issues in Nigeria in 2012.

The story genre that received the most attention out of the 119 stories studied is news 88 (74%). This finding is supported by Agbana and Usman (2014), who discovered that the majority of the stories published on the health issue were in news form ,which means the newspapers did not give in-depth analysis on polio. The coverage of climate change as it affects food security in Nigeria was merely on news reports, which only informs people on the happenings in the sector without educating them on the significance, effects, expectations, implications, lessons, consequences, among others, inherent in the reports.

The implication of these findings is that the possibility of people being lured into reading stories on climate change as it affects food security in Nigeria will be very low, as not everyone flips through the newspaper to read stories that did not appear on the front page. Bearing in mind that people hold stories which were given a front-page treatment in high regard and believe that they are very crucial to society, they may not ascribe such essence to stories on climate change as it affects food security in Nigeria, as most of them appear on the inside pages.

Research question four: What are the frames the selected newspapers used in the coverage of climate change as it affects food security in Nigeria?

Most of the stories were reported using themes of Poor harvest, Flooding, Food shortage, multiple-year droughts, and Farmland damage by Heavy rain. Climate change poses a threat to agriculture and also to contemporary farming practices and contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, thereby worsening climate change. Africa is known as the food crisis epicenter of the world, and projected change during the first half of the 21st Century will make the situation worse (Scholes & Biggs, 2004).

## CONCLUSION

One of the major issues of our day is climate change, which presents grave risks to the entire world. It raises the likelihood that the globe, and particularly its most vulnerable citizens, will experience hunger, food insecurity, and other hardships. Climate change is a threat to 21st-century agriculture and food security in the majority of Nigeria's impoverished and agriculturally oriented regions. Causes, among other things, include unemployment, youth unrest, starvation, and decreased export revenue.

In general, the study assessed the media's functions and contributions to supporting food security. This paper's specific objective is to examine how Nigerian newspapers contribute to better food security and the reduction of the negative effects of climate change on agriculture.


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## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Newspapers should endeavour to place the essence in the interpretation and analysis of news reports on climate change as it affects food security in Nigeria.
2. Newspapers should use more pictures in their coverage of climate change, as it affects food security in Nigeria.
3. Newspaper editors should expedite efforts in placing climate change as it affects food security in Nigeria stories on the front page of their newspapers.

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