

**EFFECT OF INSECURITY ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF
AGRIBUSINESS AND FOOD MARKETING IN ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA**

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ABSTRACT

The sustainable development of agribusiness and food marketing in Nigeria particularly in Anambra State is increasingly threatened by widespread insecurity challenges. Agriculture remains a major driver of Nigeria's economy by providing employment, food security and income for rural households. The problem that prompted this study is due to persistent decline in agricultural activities and productivity, food market disruption, transport and movement restriction, high prices of food and other agricultural produce in the market due to recurrent security challenges in Anambra State and other parts of Nigeria. Therefore, this study examined the effect of insecurity on the sustainable development of agribusiness and food marketing in Anambra State, Nigeria. The study specifically investigated the effects of herders'/farmers' clash; banditry; transport disruption and market closure on sustainable development of agribusiness and food marketing in Anambra State, Nigeria. The study was anchored on Frustration-aggression theory. The study adopted a descriptive research design using a survey method. PLS-SEM statistical technique was used to test the hypotheses. The findings showed that herders/farmers conflict, banditry, transport disruption and market closure had significant but negative effects on economic, social and environmental sustainable development of agribusiness and food marketing in Anambra State of Nigeria. The study recommended that there should be an improved security network, market and transport infrastructures and the use of peacebuilding mechanisms so as to enhance inclusive sustainable development.

Key words: Insecurity, Sustainable Development, Agribusiness, Food Marketing, Anambra State, Nigeria.

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INTRODUCTION

The importance of agribusiness and food marketing in Nigeria cannot be over emphasized. Agriculture remains the major enabler of sustainable development of any economy. According to the Food and Agricultural Organization (2021), agriculture employs more than

60% of the rural population and also remains the backbone of many economies. In Nigeria, notwithstanding that agribusiness and food marketing provide employment, food security and revenue to the populace and the nation but the incessant and alarming rate of insecurity challenges has put Nigeria in deplorable conditions (Anetoh et al., 2025). Interestingly, insecurity has threatened the sustainable development of agribusiness and food marketing in Nigeria. In Anambra State in particular, the incessant rise of insecurity has caused untold hardship which has resulted in disruption of farming activities, bad economy, high cost of agricultural produce. The incidents of unknown gunmen and kidnappers have led to deplorable decline in agricultural productivity, food market stability as well as weakened supply chain and economic resilience. Unfortunately, the sustainability of agribusiness has been threatened due to rising insecurity in Anambra State of Nigeria manifested in the form of sit-at-home, market closure, business shutdown, banditry, conflicts, unknown gunmen and kidnapping issues (Anetoh et al., 2025; Nwafor & Ugwoke, 2023; Anetoh et al., 2024).

Many Nigerian scholars have examined insecurity challenges in their studies such as (Okoli & Nnaemeka, 2021; Ojo & Adebayo, 2021; Nwafor & Ugwoke, 2023; Ezeaku, 2022) nevertheless, lamentably; the lasting solutions are still not achieved. In Anambra State specifically, Nwafor and Ugwoke, 2023) reported that insecurity in form of repeated incidents of herders-farmers' clashes, the issue of unknown gunmen, and transport disruption have led to massive food losses and reduced market activities. Disappointingly, the insecurity challenges in Anambra State has increased production costs, reduce productivity, limit income generation and weaken the economic, social and environmental sustainability of agribusiness and food marketing. Regrettably, the motivation for this study emanated from the growing concern that persistent insecurity manifested through herders'/farmers clashes, banditry, transport disruption, and market closure have interrupted food supply chains, displaced farmers, and weakened economic resilience in Nigeria. The problem that prompted this study is due to persistent decline in agricultural activities and productivity, food market disruption, transport and movement restriction, high prices of food and other agricultural produce in the market due to recurrent security challenges in Anambra State and other parts of Nigeria.

The impact of insecurity on food and agricultural sector in Nigeria is complex and devastating especially with the current trends ranging from banditry, Fulani-pastoralist clash, insurgency, militancy and terrorism which have resulted in devastating, unpredictable and alarming challenges (Anetoh et al., 2025). In Nigeria's agricultural sector, the subtle encroachment of insecurity has emerged as a formidable impediment, casting a very big challenge on the

sector's vitality and potential. The activities and actions of Fulani herdsmen, kidnappers, bandits, unknown gunmen and Boko Haram have led to the displacement of farming communities, destruction of markets, and a significant increase in agricultural food losses. Some farmers have abandoned their farm lands and relocated to safer areas which have resulted in limited access to markets and high cost of agricultural produce. It has increased the difficulty in farming because of fear of abduction by unknown gunmen or violence by pastoralists. Therefore, this study is an attempt to investigate the effect of insecurity on the sustainable development of agribusiness and food marketing in Anambra State of Nigeria so as to bridge the research gaps and to offer lasting solutions to insecurity issues.

Objectives

The main objective of the study is to investigate the effect of insecurity on sustainable development of agribusiness and food marketing in Anambra State, Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study are to:

1. Ascertain the effect of herders/farmers clash on sustainable development of agribusiness and food marketing in Anambra State of Nigeria.
2. Determine the effect of banditry on sustainable development of agribusiness and food marketing in Anambra State of Nigeria.
3. Assess the effect of transport disruption on sustainable development of agribusiness and food marketing in Anambra State of Nigeria.
4. Establish the effect of market closure on sustainable development of agribusiness and food marketing in Anambra State of Nigeria.

Research Questions

Based on the objectives of the study, the following research questions were raised. The main question is “how does insecurity affect sustainable development of agribusiness and food marketing in Anambra State of Nigeria?” Specifically;

1. How does herders/farmers clash affect the sustainable development of agribusiness and food marketing in Anambra State of Nigeria?
2. What is the effect of banditry on sustainable development of agribusiness and food marketing in Anambra State of Nigeria?
3. How does transport disruption affect the sustainable development of agribusiness and food marketing in Anambra State of Nigeria?

4. To what extent does market closure affect the sustainable development of agribusiness and food marketing in Anambra State of Nigeria?

Hypotheses Postulation

Based on the objectives of the study and the research questions; the following hypotheses are formulated in their null structure to guide the study;

- H₀₁: Herders/Farmers clash has no significant effect on sustainable development of agribusiness and food marketing in Anambra State of Nigeria.
- H₀₂: Banditry has no significant effect on sustainable development of agribusiness and food marketing in Anambra State of Nigeria.
- H₀₃: Transport disruption has no significant effect on sustainable development of agribusiness and food marketing in Anambra State of Nigeria.
- H₀₄: Market closure has no significant effect on sustainable development of agribusiness and food marketing in Anambra State of Nigeria.

Significance and Scope of the Study

This study is a path-breaking one with great benefits that has many policy relevance. It is expected that this study is of immense important and have many implications to our leaders. It will help by providing insights which will assist government to make formidable policies that will help to reduce insecurity challenges in Nigeria and beyond. Furthermore, agribusiness owners, farmers, food marketers as well as other major stakeholders are expected to benefit from this study. They will understand more on the nature, challenges of insecurity as well as measures to mitigate it. This study is equally expected to be of great benefit to academia, students and future researchers by providing relevant secondary data, reference materials and repository database that will help them especially when conducting studies on insecurity or related issues. The study is expected to provide valuable insights and contribute significantly to the body of knowledge for informed policies formulations and implementations. Finally, it is expected that the relevancy and vibrancy of this study are expected to benefit the government, policy makers as well as the general public.

This study concentrated on insecurity and its effect on agribusiness and food marketing in Anambra State of Nigeria. Anambra State was chosen as a reference point while Dunukofia and Oyi geographical areas were sampled and surveyed. Insecurity manifested through herders/farmers clash, banditry, transport disruption and market closure formed the independent variables of this study. Sustainable development serves as the dependent variable

of the study measured using economic, social and environmental sustainability. The unit scope for the study comprises the following: agribusiness owners, food marketers, registered farmers and consumers.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Insecurity

The concept of insecurity is a multi-dimensional notion which is viewed differently by various researchers. The idea of insecurity is better conceived by understanding firstly the meaning of security. Security refers to the state of having absolute protection for persons, information and property against hostile persons, influences and actions. It entails the state by which people in a society can go about their normal daily businesses and other activities without any threats to their lives or properties. Insecurity therefore refers to state of fear, restlessness, pandemonium, uncertainty, bitterness and rancor (Ndubuisi-Okoro & Anigbuogu, 2019). Insecurity is the state of fear and anxiety due to lack of protection from danger. Insecurity is a state of fear and restlessness (Asiagwu, Okoro & Ejiofor, 2021). The principle of insecurity embraces the following: lacking stability; troubled; want of safety; danger; hazard; uncertainty; want of confidence; doubtful; inadequately guarded or protected; lack of protection and unsafe. In addition, insecurity is the state of being open or subject to danger or threat of danger, where danger is the condition of being susceptible to harm or injury. Regrettably, the insecurity anarchy, mayhem, disorder, general unrest, uproar, episodic disruptions, pandemonium as well as upheavals.

Herdsmen/Farmers Clash

The rising rate of attacks by herdsmen, pastoralists, bandits, unknown gunmen and terrorists on our farmlands has caused a lot of damages to food and agricultural marketing in Nigeria. Unfortunately, many farmers especially in south-east of Nigeria are afraid of going to their farms for agricultural activities. This has led to low productivity as well as high cost of products in the markets. Although, food security is very essential for economic growth and development of any economy but it has been marred by cases on insecurity, killing and state of fear (Chima, 2023). However, the displacement of farming activities due to insecurity has led to high incidence of famine, starvation, rise in the prices of food and essential commodity in the market. Food and agricultural insecurity have demonstrated and exacerbated to food crisis especially in the rural communities where most of the conflicts are localized. Therefore, the effect of insecurity especially on food and agricultural marketing activities has a

reverberating repercussion to the global economy. Agricultural and marketing activities have been in jeopardy due to the activities of Boko Haram, bandits and even herdsmen versus farmers' crisis (Ajayi, Ojo, Jimoh & Chinansa, 2022). However, the displacement of farming activities due to insecurity has led to high incidence of starvation, rise in the prices of food and essential commodity in the market.

Banditry

The effect of insecurity especially the case of the banditry such as kidnappers and armed robbers on are very alarming and devastating. This study is very important following the increasing food and agricultural marketing activities in Nigeria high level of insecurity in virtually all parts of the country and even globally. In Nigeria, the alarming rate of insecurity has affected many food and agricultural marketing activities in Nigeria especially in the south east. The effect of insecurity especially the activities of the banditry such as kidnappers and armed robbers in Nigeria are very alarming and devastating. The increasing rate of insecurity in virtually all parts of the country has affected many agribusiness and food marketing activities. In Northern Nigeria, many lives have lost while many properties were destroyed due to the activities of banditry and these have greatly affected agribusiness and food marketing unfavorably.

The unprecedented cases of insurgency, unknown gunmen activities, kidnapping, destruction and vandalization have affected agribusiness and food marketing negatively. Unfortunately, the incidence of unknown gunmen, armed robbery, communal crises and other insurgency activities have hampered sustainable development of Nigeria (Asiagwu, Okoro & Ejiofor, 2021). The transportation system (Nwodo et al., 2020) and market closure (Anetoh et al., 2024) are not left out from insecurity challenges.

Transport Disruption

Agribusiness and food marketing activities are confronted with the problem of poor transportation and distribution of agricultural products due to insecurity challenges. The problem of movement restrictions, road blocks and other related issues have affected the sustainable development of food marketing and agricultural businesses in Nigeria. Regrettably, disruption of transportation network as well as poor distribution network have significantly affected food marketing, agribusinesses, economies, and consumers by resulting in inefficiencies, delays, and increased costs. ensuring the smooth flow of goods and services. Poor road conditions, lack of transportation facilities, and outdated logistics systems hinder

efficient distribution. Regrettably, businesses incur higher expenses due to inefficiencies in transportation and storage. Poor transportation and distribution networks can slow economic growth by reducing trade efficiency. Transport disruption and movement restriction lead to hoarding of goods which results in excessive accumulation of goods beyond what is necessary for immediate use. Profiteering, excessive stockpiling can also lead to supply chain inefficiencies and increased prices due to transport disruption due to insecurity issues.

Market Closure/Shutdown

Market closure led to economic meltdown due to insecurity challenges (Olufolarin, 2020). People stayed at home, popular brands in many industries went bankrupt as businesses experienced shutdowns during insecurity (Abdulkazeem et al., 2021). Enesi and Ibrahim (2021) reported that panic and lots of volatility were recorded in several markets in Anambra State as a result of insecurity. Due to insecurity challenges, sales and profit dwindled which culminate in supply chain disruptions, production shutdowns, and economic disaster (Emenyi & Udo, 2021). In Anambra State precisely, markets were closed on Mondays due to insecurity and sit-at-home problem. Market closure resulted in paralysis in business activities concerning production, distribution, and sale of goods and services, which in turn culminated in economic shocks (Bui et al., 2023), such as the increase in transport fares, price of petroleum and hike in prices of food items.

Also, the availability and accessibility of food items were compromised as smallholder farmers suffered the losses of their unsold fresh produce that they could not transport to the local markets (Obayelu et al., 2021). Consequently, these farmers and their families were thrown into untoward hardship. Balana et al., (2020) found that insecurity has caused disruptions in agricultural activities and supply chains due to market shutdown. Unfortunately, artificial price inflation or price racketeering disrupts supply and demand dynamics. Business disruption erodes consumer confidence and trust in businesses especially in food and agricultural marketing sector. In addition, the menace of insecurity has led to poor storage facilities. Market closure can cause spoilage, particularly for perishable goods. Furthermore, movement restriction and market closure can delay distribution and affect markets.

Sustainable Development of Agribusiness and Food Marketing

The notion of sustainability implies the ability to continue over a period of time (Orjinta & Anetoh, 2025). Sustainable development is an approach to development which uses resources

in a way that allows them (the resources) to continue to exist for others (Mohieldin, 2017). Contributing, Evers (2017) further relates the concept of sustainable development as the act of organizing principle for meeting human development goals while at the same time sustaining the ability of natural systems to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services upon which the economy and society depend. Sustainability concentrates on social, economic and environmental development by using resources in a way that both present and future generation would be sustained (Anetoh, Anetoh Ajakpo, Nwatu & Eboh, 2025). Contributing, Nwankwo and Chendo (2024) maintained that the four pillars of sustainability are economic, environmental, social and human sustainability. Specifically, agribusiness and food marketing are fundamental for sustainable development of Nigerian economy.

Economic sustainability guarantees viable and steady income generation, steady employment, investment, absorbs shocks and enhance the growth of agribusiness and food marketing without degrading them. Economic sustainability in agribusiness and food marketing is achieved by paying special attention to efficient use of resources, high productivity, long term profitability, food security, value chains, access to market and resilience to risks (Anetoh et al., 2025). Social sustainability is the ability of a community or business to maintain stable, equitable and inclusive social relations so as to support long-term trust, wellbeing and participation. In the context of this study, it entails ensuring full participation of farmers, marketers, traders, transporters, processors and consumers in promoting and maintaining the network of trust, cooperation and safety across the value chain. Unfortunately, in Anambra State; social cohesion, safe working conditions, stability, market interactions and livelihood are threatened by sporadic violence, bandits' attacks and movement restriction which have social consequences (Anetoh et al., 2025). Environmental sustainability entails the responsible use and management of natural resources to address current needs without compromising that of future generation. The growing insecurity in Anambra State is a major challenge to environmental sustainability. The issue of herders/farmers' conflict, armed banditry and destruction of farmlands have caused exploitation of natural resources. Regrettably, the insecurity challenges seriously undermine environmental sustainability by disrupting environmental resources which weakens the ability of agribusiness and food marketing to achieve sustainable development (Anetoh et al., 2025).

Theoretical Groundings

This study is anchored on the following relevant theories;

a. Frustration-aggression Theory by Dollard, Doob, Miller, Mowrer and Sears (1939)

The frustration-aggression theory was propounded by Dollard et al. (1939). It is the notion that proposes that when people are frustrated they act out aggressively. The theory posits that insecurity and violence as a result of frustration due to unmet needs lead to conflict, displacement and aggression. The relevance of the theory on the present study is that the major construct of this study which is insecurity originated from this theory and anchors on it.

b. Human Needs Theory by Burton (1990)

This theory was propounded by Burton in 1990 which states that unmet basic needs trigger social unrest thereby affecting economic activities. The theory posits that conflict arises when groups or individuals are deprived of some fundamental needs like security, livelihood or identity. The relevance of this theory to the present study is that the major construct of this study which is insecurity originated from this theory and also anchors on it.

c. Triple Bottom Line Theory by John Elkington (1997)

The triple bottom line theory as coined by Elkington (1997) states that true business success is achieved when profitability aligns with environmental stewardship and social welfare. In this study, the Triple Bottom Line philosophy proposes on the analysis of how insecurity should be curbed so that sustainability could be restored in order to enhance profitability, community outreach and environmental practices. The three theories thus established a strong grounding for investigating how the issue of herders/farmers conflict, banditry attacks, transport disruption and market closure affect the dimensions of sustainable development manifested through economic, social and environmental sustainability in the agribusiness and food marketing sector in Nigeria.

d. Sustainable Livelihood Theory by Chambers & Conway (1992)

This theory was coined by Chambers and Conway in 1992. This theory states that livelihoods are sustainable especially when they can withstand shocks especially insecurity and maintain assets so as to provide continuous food security and continual income for a long period of time. This theory posits and emphasizes on the importance of secure livelihood systems in sustaining economic and social well-being. The relevance of this theory to the present study is that the dependent construct of this study which is sustainable development originated from this theory and also anchors on it. Accordingly, the theories used in this study provide

comprehensive theoretical lens for the investigation of insecurity and its effect on sustainable development of agribusiness and food marketing in Anambra State of Nigeria.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted a positivistic oncology approach and used a descriptive research design using a survey method. The use of this approach is to get the needed data for the study. Insecurity in agribusiness and food marketing was measured by herders/farmers' clash, bandit attack, transport disruption and market closure while sustainable development was proxied by its dimensions namely; economic, social and environmental sustainability. The population of this study comprised the registered farmers, agribusiness owners, food marketers and food consumers. Accordingly, 384 respondents were surveyed using a convenience sampling strategy. Data for the study were sourced through the questionnaire. Thus, Oyi and Dunukofia geographical areas of Anambra State were sampled and surveyed. Likert scale was adopted and also modified to suit the present study. The validity and reliability of the research instrument were done and internal consistency of the measuring instrument established.

The reliability value of 0.732 established the internal consistency of the measuring instrument. Four field research assistant were used during field survey exercise. The formulated hypotheses were tested using structural equation modeling statistical technique at 5% level of significance. The decision rule is to accept HO and reject the HA if the p-value is greater than 0.05; otherwise, reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis (based on 5% or 0.05 stipulated level of significance for this study).

Operational Measurement Model for the Study

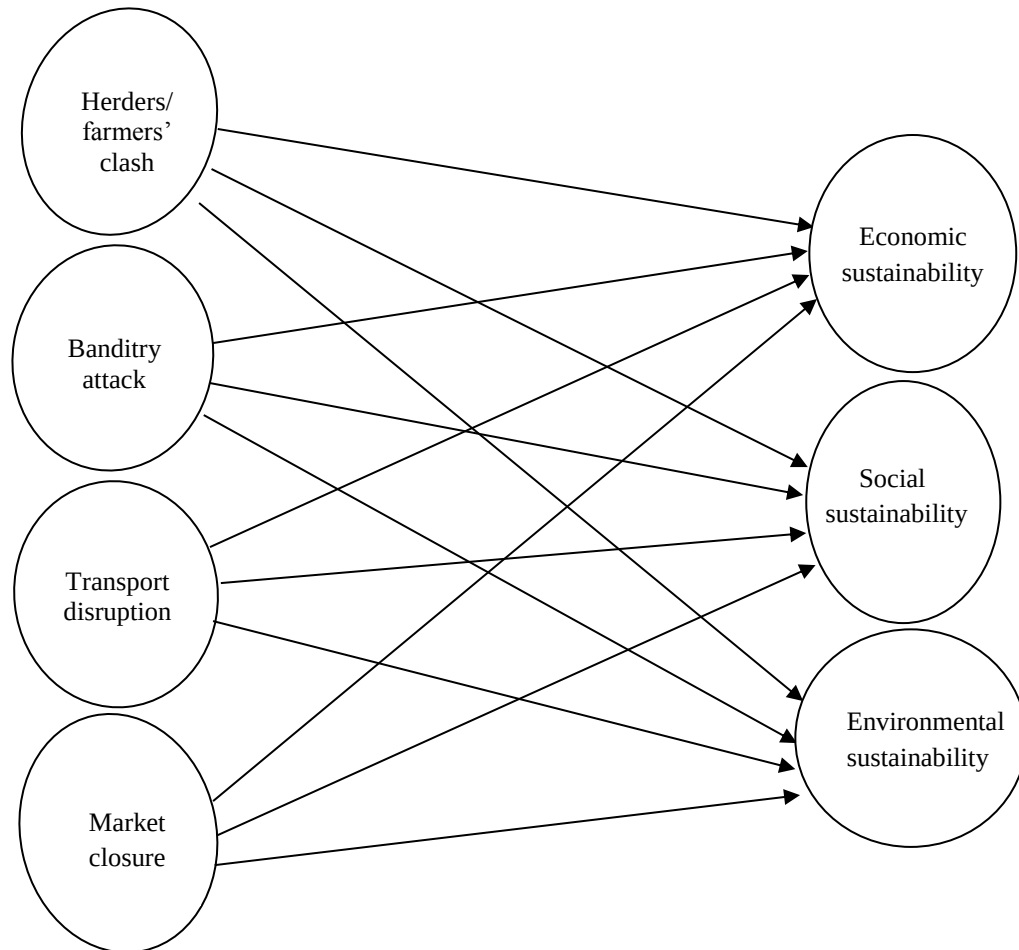


Figure 1: Model for Agribusiness and Food Marketing Insecurity and Sustainable Development.

Source: Anetoh, J.C., Anetoh Ajakpo, V.C., Ezeanolue, E.T. and Chendo, N.A. (2025).

The measurement model depicts the independent constructs used as surrogates for insecurity which the study conceptually posited and empirically investigated their effects on sustainable development which served as the dependent variable of the study proxied by economic, social and environmental sustainability of agribusiness and food marketing in Anambra State of Nigeria.

Model Specification

$$ECS = f(\beta_1HFC + \beta_2BAN + \beta_3TRD + \beta_4MCL + \epsilon)$$

$$SOS = f(\beta_1HFC + \beta_2BAN + \beta_3TRD + \beta_4MCL + \epsilon)$$

$$EVS = f(\beta_1HFC + \beta_2BAN + \beta_3TRD + \beta_4MCL + \varepsilon)$$

HFC = herders/farmers clash; BAN = banditry attack; TRD = transport disruption; MCL = market closure; ECS = economic; SOS = social; EVS = environmental sustainability;
 ε = error term.

RESULTS

The researchers distributed 384 copies of the research instrument but only 366 usable copies were used for the analysis of this study. The partial least square structural equation modeling statistical technique was used to test the significance of the model using bootstrapping procedure. The choice of PLS-SEM is because it is used to estimate complex model involving multiple independent variables and multiple dependent variables simultaneously. Using the tenet of a two-tailed t-test approach with 5% level of significance as the benchmark for acceptance or rejection of hypothesis. On the standpoint that the t-value should be 1.96 for it to be significant (Wong, 2013) or the p-value should be less than or equal to 0.05 for it to be significant as proposed by (Hair et al., 2017).

Table 1: The Partial Least Square Structural Equation Model Result

Hypotheses	Hypotheses paths	Coefficients	T-values	P-values	Remark
H1a	HFC -> ECS	-0.827	7.603	0.000	Significant
H1b	HFC -> SOS	-0.700	6.739	0.003	Significant
H1c	HFC -> EVS	-0.714	6.878	0.002	Significant
H2a	BAN -> ECS	-0.878	8.749	0.000	Significant
H2b	BAN -> SOS	-0.621	5.946	0.006	Significant
H2c	BAN -> EVS	-0.638	5.845	0.008	Significant
H3a	TRD -> ECS	-0.684	6.579	0.005	Significant
H3b	TRD -> SOS	-0.505	5.584	0.009	Significant
H3c	TRD -> EVS	-0.434	4.561	0.012	Significant
H4a	MCL -> ECS	-0.808	7.183	0.000	Significant
H4b	MCL -> SOS	-0.675	6.679	0.004	Significant
H4c	MCL -> EVS	-0.727	6.961	0.001	Significant

Path coeff. is significant at 5% level of significance; if the t-value is ≥ 1.96 , or p-value ≤ 0.05 .

NB: HFA = herders/farmers clash; BAN = banditry attack; TRD = transport disruption; MCL = market closure. ECS = economic; SOS = social; EVS = environmental sustainability.

Source: PLS-SEM Output, 2025.

The result shows that all the independent variables significantly but negatively affect the sustainable development of agribusiness and food marketing in Anambra State, Nigeria. The t-values with corresponding p-values as well as β -values indicated that the null hypotheses were rejected while alternative hypotheses supported. Therefore, the decision is that insecurity has a significant but negative effect on sustainable development of agribusiness and food marketing in Anambra State of Nigeria. The findings align with the findings of the following researchers (Chima, 2023; Nwafor & Ugwoke, 2023; Ezeaku, 2022; Anetoh et al., 2025)

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study has provided an empirical evidence-based finding that insecurity has a significant negative effect on sustainable development of agribusiness and food marketing in Anambra State of Nigeria. The study therefore concludes that insecurity significantly undermines the sustainability of agribusiness and food marketing. Banditry has the strongest negative effect, followed by herders/farmers' clash and market closure while transport disruption has the least negative effect on economic, social and environmental sustainability. Based on the findings and conclusion drawn from findings, the researchers made the following policy and path-breaking recommendations;

1. Government and other stakeholders in agribusiness and food marketing should invest more on security and strengthen security networks so as to leverage on the sustainable development of agribusiness and food security in Anambra State and beyond.
2. Government and other stakeholders in agribusiness and food marketing should improve on the use of security personnel and special armed forces so as to wade off banditry and other related vices for improved security and sustainable development.
3. Government and other stakeholders in agribusiness and food marketing should invest more on physical security measures; improve on the use of security agencies and local authorities so as to reduce the issue of road blocks as well as transport disruptions.
4. Government, agribusiness owners, food marketers and so on in agribusiness and food marketing sector should use peace-building mechanisms, shun bad governance, marginalization, victimization etc.; so as to end market closure and embrace peace.

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