

A place once called home

Film screening and discussion with Dr. Olayinka Ajala (Leeds Beckett University)

June 19th 2024, 10:00 to 11:30 CEST screening of the documentary & discussion via Zoom

a.r.t.e.s. · Bauwens-Gebäude · Aachener Straße 217 · Room "Skyfall"

The Research Project

Agriculture and, more recently, sustainable agriculture in Nigeria, is an industry that employs most of the country's population. Over 60 percent of Nigerians engage in the agricultural sector (directly or indirectly), albeit mainly at a subsistence level. Most recently, anecdotal reports reveal that effects of climate change and increase in banditry, terrorism and conflicts between farmers and pastoralists have added to the list of challenges hampering agricultural sustainability in the country. Research carried out by Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution reveals that over 300,000 people (mostly from farming communities) have been displaced in four states (Benue, Plateau, Nasarawa and Taraba) because of conflicts between farmers and pastoralists in the last five years.

Furthermore, as at February 2023, there were about 2.4 million internally displaced persons in Nigeria (IOM, 2023). Thousands of these displaced communities have resettled in several parts of the country.

To date, no academic research has been carried out to understand the nature, scope and intensity of farmers' displacement, the resulting livelihood transformation as well as the impact of forced displacement on sustainable agriculture. The aim of this project is to investigate the extent to which the highlighted factors – climate change, terrorism and farmer/pastoralist conflict have contributed to forced displacements and understand how farming communities are transforming their livelihoods.

The documentary

The documentary titled 'A place once called home' is one of our research outputs which highlights the lived experiences of farmers, reasons for forced migration and displacement and resulting livelihood transformation in Nigeria.

Preview of the documentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FRX5nzDufvQ>

Project Partners

Dr Olayinka Ajala (Leeds Beckett University)

Prof Taibat Lawanson (University of Lagos)

Dr Joseph Ochogwu (Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Nigeria)

Mr Nathaniel Awuapila (Centre for Innovation and Research in Nigeria)

Film maker

Mr Deji Akinpelu