

# AREWA Report

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## ① A woman's miraculous escape from Fulani onslaught

From **Rose Ejembi**, Makurdi

**PERHAPS**, if she had followed her instincts and heeded the warning as revealed to her in a dream, Mrs. Lucy Akaayam and nine others, all members of the same cooperatives society would have been saved from the calamity that befell them few hours later.

Akaayam, a staff of the University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Benue State, is among 10 members of a cooperative society who were attacked by Fulani herdsmen at Mbasombo, Ugbabe community of Gwer West Local Government while they were trying to inspect some hectares of land.

Mbasombo community is very

close to Ayar-Mbalom Community where the two Catholic priests and other lay faithful were last month murdered by rampaging Fulani herdsmen. Unfortunately, while six of them were able to return alive, the other four were not so lucky as corpses of three were later recovered. The fourth person had not been found dead or alive

since the incident happened on May 16.

Narrating their ordeal to *Daily Sun* at her Makurdi residence, Akaayam who is the chairperson of the cooperative society, said the journey which later turned out to be a dangerous one had started after members of the society got wind of a fertile land in the area

and decided to acquire 11 hectares to engage in rice farming:

"On Wednesday after the close of work, the cooperative that I belong to in town known as Gbenda Family and Friends decided to go check out a land we were leasing for rice farming. You know, normally, IFAD encourages people to