



ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECT OF FARMERS – FULANI HERDSMEN CONFLICTS ON AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT IN MAIHA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF ADAMAWA STATE

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Abstract

This study analysed the conflict between farmers and Fulani herdsmen in Maiha LGA of Adamawa State with particular emphases on its effects on Agricultural output in the study area, the study adopted the theory of dialectical materialism which insist on interpreting mass consciousness and activities in society based on the competitive balance and satisfaction of economic factors among different groups. The study adopted a survey design techniques via purposive and random sampling in which five wards were selected. A questionnaire method was adopted and distributed to a sample of 96 Farmers and herders from the chosen population. The study used descriptive methods of analysis of percentage and chi-square to examine the effects of the attacks on farmers and herders output in the Local Government. The study found that, famers and herders conflicts has negative effects on agricultural output. The result of the X^2 test has proved that ($X^2_{comp} > X^2_{tab}$) which resulted to the rejection of the null hypothesis which states there is no significant relationship between farmers-herders conflicts and agricultural output. The study also found that the following are the major causes of famers-herders conflicts, Cattle rustling and banditry, Proliferation of small arms, Water scarcity, Desertification, Population expansion, Increasing unemployment, Destruction of farm land, Fake news and media propaganda and reprisal attack. The study therefore recommended that, element of compromise and arbitration should be devised to resolve conflict. The study suggests that, the farmers need to be educated on the need for peaceful coexistence between them and the farmers; there is a need also for the farmers to evacuate their farm products immediately after harvest and also avoid farming on cattle ways. There is a need also for the government to empower the traditional in handling and

punishing whoever is causing trouble within their area and also serves as mediators between both farmers and herdsmen. The Local Government should create reserves areas and transits path for herder's activities in the study area and also

Keywords: *Famers, Herdsmen, conflict, Chi-square, Agricultural output.*

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Competition for common, limited and declining natural resources often trigger violent conflict across the world which is counter-productive (Adekunle and Adisa,2010;Moore,2005). Thus, the clashes between herders and farmers can be traced to time immemorial. However, the volatility and intensity of resources based conflict are usually heightened when conflicting groups or users of the resources belong to different ethnic nationalities with different faiths and socio-cultural values as in the case with cattle herders and crop farmers in Nigeria, and vice versa.. These conflicts are mainly attributed to resources control and divergent, value system in the country. (Olabode and Ajibade ,2010). Alubo (2005), provides us with some examples of ethno-religious and communal conflict thus; the Ife-Modakeke communal conflict of Oyo/Osun state in 1999, Hausa/Fulani and Kataf of Zangon kataf in Kaduna state 2000, Ijaw and Istekiris of Warri in Delta state, 1999: Hausa/Fulani and Yoruba ethnic clashes in Oyo and Lagos respectively in 1999/2000; Jukun/Chamba and Kuteb, Jukun and Tiv in Taraba state, 1998/1999. More so, Nigeria in recent times has been faced with other insecurity problems among which include; Niger Delta militants in the Southern part of the country and Boko Haram insurgency in the North-Eastern part of the country. Adamawa state on the other hand has been faced with a lot of security challenges and of recent the herdsmen-farmers conflict in the Southern parts of the state.

Several factors that cause incessant herders-farmers conflict in Nigeria are water scarcity, desertification ,unchecked population expansion, increasing unemployment rate, porous national borders, encroachment into grazing routes and reserves, nomadism, ignorance about the grazing routes and laws, soil compartment and loss of soil fertility, crop damage by cattle, indiscriminate bush burning ,fake news an media propaganda, politicization, rural banditry and cattle rustling, insecurity in the sahel region, proliferation

of small arms, reprisals attacks ,deficient government responses, and phobia and hate speeches (Blench and Dendo,2003; Fasona and Omojola,2005; Adekunle and Adisa,2010;International Crisis Group,2017;Umoh,2017; and Chukwuemeka, Aloysius and Enah,2018).

Nigeria has experienced the highest number of farmers –herder fatalities in West Africa over the past decade .This trend has been largely upward with 2,000 deaths recorded in 2018 (Leif, 2021).Violent events between pastoralists and farming communities in Nigeria have been concentrated in the North Western, Middle Belt and recently Southern States(Leif, 2021).

The study of major sources of conflict in Adamawa state revealed that land matters accounted for the highest percentage of conflict followed by political and the chieftaincy matters respectively. A high percentage of conflicts arising from the dispute have to do with land matters and conflicts between Fulani Herdsmen over grazing/farming land. The Government of the state played a key role in the conflict of the land in the three critical levels, viz; (1) the state inability to address the indigene and settlers phenomenon in Nigeria constitution. (2) Unresolved issue on grazing /farming land and water spots that control to the economic survival of both the herdsman and farming communities. (3) The Nigerian land tenure system which has had serious implication for land acquisition by peasants and the lower class of citizen.

Farmers-herdsmen conflict has increases tremendously in recent time in Nigeria especially in Adamawa state. The causes of the conflict have been traceable to the policy gaps and under development of grazing lands, land ownership and utilization, increase in production due to the increase in population, climate change, induced competition for resources, and environmental factors. These causes by implication result into internal displacement, loss of lives, and properties, hunger and insecurity, destruction of farm crops, cattle rustling and killing of cows. However, the Nigerian government has made several attempts to solve this problem from the root in several parts of the country but with little success. Whenever there such crisis, the government responds to the violence through the use of military forces and mediation by eminent persons during the crises and later investigation or judicial panels of which their findings and recommendations are not usually implemented. Neither the military nor mediation panel has been able to address the conflicts. In most cases where military forces are deployed to curtail the violence, it aggravates the incidence especially in the

treatment of the civil population which is self has become a critical political and security challenges. The duo efforts have fail as clashes have been a continues activities within and among various communities over the years. This study therefore is to analyse the effects of Farmers-Herdsmen conflict on Agricultural output in Maiha Local Government area of Adamawa state study. Specifically the identification of causes, effect and solution of the famers-herders conflict in the Local Government.

Literature Review

The conflict between herders and farmers has been in existence since the beginning of the practice of agriculture. This conflict is as a result of scarce resources, i.e., Land. In recent times the conflict has assumed a different form of insecurity with an increase in large numbers of casualties and displaced people across the affected states. If the conflict is allowed to escalate further, the impacts will be on food and animal products because of the grave loss of animals, crops and valuable properties (Ikezue and Ezeah 2017:152). Regardless of the disagreement between the herders and farmers over the scarce resources of land, the incidents of conflicts that lead to fatalities between the two groups were not as alarming as it is in the present day. Available statistics show that between the 1997 and 2011 the conflict between herdsman and farmers are pronounced in specific geographical locations in the middle belt (Plateau, Nassarawa and Benue states) while isolated incidences were recorded in few other states. Although in Plateau State, there have been historical conflicts of who owns the land between the Fulani and Berom people of Jos. This explains while more than 500 people were brutally murdered and many wounded in three villages in Jos South and Barakin Ladi local government areas of Plateau State in the north-central geopolitical zone of Nigeria by persons suspected to be Fulani herdsman on 7th March 2010 (Higazi, 2016) The herders famers conflict has affected the country socio-political and economic stability. While there is no recent map available to represent the escalation in conflicts and fatalities in the conflict between 2016 and 2018, there are few documented reports that describe the continuous escalation of the conflict.

The farmers-herders conflict has increased over the years (Olayoku 2014) and according to the Global Terrorism Index of 2015, the death toll of 63 associated to Fulani herdsman killings skyrocketed to 1,229 by the end of 2014 (GTI, 2015:22). The killings continue without any sign of slowing

down with more than 350 death recorded in February and March 2016 (Mikailu, 2016), and 80 fatalities in July 2016 (Akinwotu, 2016). Most villages in Benue state have experience attacks from herders, villages like Logo, Katsina-Ala, Gwer West, Gunna, Makurdi, and Agatu. In the Shengev community, 200 people were killed by the Fulani herdsmen (Omoleye and Segun, 2018). The Agatu people in Benue state in north-central zone of Nigeria were not left out from the continuous attacks, killing and destruction of properties in 2017 that left more than a hundred people killed by the herdsmen (Rasaq *et al*; 2018). No fewer than ten persons were killed in an attack on the 5th of March 2018 in Omosu Village in Ojigo ward Edumoga of Okpokwu local government of BenueState; when armed herdsmen opened fire on civilians (Omoleye and Segun, 2018). In Ogun State, on the 5th of February suspected herdsmen attacked some local communities in Ketu Local Council Development Area destroying their farmlands and resulted in 30 primary schools being shutdown (Oladele, 2018). On the 28 of February 2018, 20 people were killed in Adamawa states by armed Fulani herdsmen in Fulani herdsmen clashes in Gwamba village in Demsa Local government area of Adamawa state (This Day, 2018). The magnitude of farmer-herder conflict has claimed lives and properties, and this has made many people describe the Fulani herdsmen more dangerous than the Boko-Haram terrorist group terrorizing the northern part of Nigeria for years (GTI, 2015; Sulaiman and Ja'afar-Furo, 2010). Unfortunately, the compelling account of Fulani herdsmen killings and attacks on farming community as discussed above did not in totality represent the true nature of the farmers-herders conflict in Nigeria. The statistics about the killings of Fulani and their cattle are hardly reported by the Nigeria media (Abubakar and Dano, 2018). For example, the media coverage of the December 2017 massacre where more than 800 Fulani herdsmen and their families were massacred with the destruction of their abodes in Taraba in comparison with the total media outburst on the killings of 73 non-Fulani in Benue state. This is a reflection that the media have been criminally biased in their coverage of the farmers-herders conflict in Nigeria (Abubakar, 2018). Also, on January 31, 2018, there was breaking news all over the media with a mass killing in Benue state with the headline "Bandits kill, burn seven travelers to ashes." It will take on a whole effort to read the full story to discover that the victims were Fulani and the native Tiv militia that carried out the killings were represented as Bandits (Higazi, 2016). Besides, the predominant pattern of

reporting attacks on Fulani herdsmen and their cattle have always hide the identity of the perpetrators and classified them as bandits. While the bias reporting against Fulani herdsmen did not in any way insulate the Fulani herdsmen from blame of escalating the conflicts, however, the repeated representation of killer herdsmen as ‘Fulani’ by the vast majority of media outlets in Nigeria was implicitly suggesting that the Fulani people are nothing but criminals (Premium Times, 2018). Apparently, “the frequent use of the term Fulani by the media to describe killer herdsmen is not only a stereotype” (Premium Times, 2018), the unbalanced reporting of the conflict between the Fulani herdsmen and farmers can also escalate the conflict (Mogekwu, 2011; Adisa and Adekunle, 2010). The media shaped public opinion, as suggested by many scholars (Abdulbaqi and Ariemu, 2017;) that the moment the media allocate blame by identifying a perpetrator without proper investigation, the public start to build the image of an enemy. Be it as it may, there are from various commentators that the new prevalent phenomenon of hired herders might be responsible for the increase in conflict; as a result, the next section of this chapter will look into the hired herders and herds owner’s relationship as a premise for the increase in the conflict situation between farmers and Fulani herdsmen.

Displacement, displacement, death, and food stability

The farmers-herdsmen conflict in Nigeria has become so pervasive and has led to the loss of lives and properties. This conflict according to Adams, Atelhe, Emmanuel (2017) are considered as a negative phenomenon which often led to the loss of many lives and properties. Adebayo and Olaniyi, (2008) noted that the impute of incessant farmer-herdsmen conflict in Nigeria have claimed many lives and properties (Adeoye, 2017). In spite of the efforts of the federal government to curb incessant conflicts between the farmers and the herdsmen, the conflict remains unabated (Al-chkuma and Atelhe, 2014). The farmer’s herdsmen conflicts in Nigeria have demonstrated a high potential to exacerbate insecurity and food crisis. That bloody clashes between the herdsmen and farmers continue to occur in several parts of the country. A number of works have been done on the prevalence of farmers-Herdsmen conflict in Nigeria, such as (Alubo, 2008,). This study therefore is to analyse the effects of Farmers-Herdsmen conflict on Agricultural output in Maiha Local Government area of Adamawa state study, specifically on relationship between insecurity and food security, loss

of lives and properties and food security as these are some of the effects of farmers-Herdsmen conflicts. Of the farmers-herdsmen conflict had been observed to lead to the displacement of the farmers from their place of origin, thus becomes externally/internally displaced person (IPDs) as the case may be with a far reaching impact on farmers' activities.

Theoretical and conceptual frame work

It is necessary to understand the basic concepts of the words 'conflict' before exploring the extensive areas of conflict between herders and farmers in Nigeria. Conflict is a reality. It does not exist in a vacuum or up there in the blues but among human beings. It is unavoidable in human interactions. However, violent or armed conflict can be avoided. Conflict is simply a disagreement. However, when the disagreement is not properly managed it degenerates into violent or armed conflict, which is physical war that involves the use of weapons, such, guns, daggers, spears, bows and arrows, as well as other sophisticated weapons. This normally occurred as a result of desire to undo or cheat a person, individuals, groups, states or nations that leads to conflict or violent conflict, as the case may be. The Fulani herdsmen attack on Nigerian citizens has taken on an alarming dimension this day. Hardly a week passes without one rumour of attack or another in one part of the country. In each of these attacks property worth millions of naira and lives are destroyed on a large scale. The huge human loss is the most worrisome of all. The objective of this study is to discuss the causes, as well as the socio-economic, political and religious implications of these attacks for sustainable development. The study adopted qualitative and phenomenological approaches in its investigation and analysis of data drawn from existing literature and oral interviews with selected individuals. The study discovered that many people have lost their property and lives; that many people have been displaced from their homes; and that the peace, security and unity of the country as a federation are being seriously threatened.

Fasona and Omojola (2005), studied showed that there appears to be a "very strong correlation between the patterns of the clashes and human security Blench (2006) attribute farmers leaders conflict to competition over natural resource and access to grazing and water resources and suggests that, because headers now farm and farmers have herds, competition for the some natural resources has increase Sulaiman and Ja'afar – Furo(2007) examine

the economic effects of farmers-herdsmen conflict in the fadama area of Bauchi state in Nigeria and empirical method was use and data were collected from fadama farmers experienced a reduction in farm production, increase poverty within and among the communities social insecurity inadequate food supply for the family interruption of education of children and reduction in health care provision of family represented relatively lower proportions. It was conducted with used of quantitative research methodology this research found out that state failure poor local government and in effective mechanisms for conflicts. Effect of the management among others are the primary course of the conflict as the researcher also found out include the loss of live and properties, as well as the growing cases of humanitarian crises, are part of the significant effect of the conflict.

Material Method

The research was conducted in Maiha local Government Area of Adamawa State, Nigeria. The main occupation of the people in the area is crop farming and animal rearing. Indisputably nomadic fulani represent a significant component of the economy in the study area. They constitute the major breeders of livestock, main source of meat, the most available and cheap source of animal proteins consumed by people in the local government area and the state.

Sampling Techniques and Sample Size

Five wards of the Local Government Area were purposely selected being the wards along that has all year round water and vegetation also with some *fadama* areas. It is also the area where conflicts occur between livestock pastoralists and crop farmers in the Local Government Area. The list of the 429 registered crop farmers was obtained from the Cooperative association. A total of 64 respondents were randomly selected from the list, while 32 herders were also selected for the study. This was done by randomly selecting four herders each from eight transit camps in wards selected. In all, 96 respondents were selected (64 crop farmers and 32 pastoralists) for the study. Relevant data were collected using questionnaire and scheduled interview were a respondent cannot read or write.

Method of Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics like frequencies, percentages, and Chi-Square were used for the data analysis.

Data presentation

This section was designed on the fact of data obtained from individual groups of farmers-herdsmen. A total of ninety six questionnaires were distributed in the study area and all were returned and use for the analysis. This is as a result of enlightenment campaign that was conducted before the study and it was achieved through the efforts of their society's leaders having understood the purpose of the study.

Results and Discussions

Result on Table 1 shows that 62.5% of the respondents are below the age of 50 years which indicated that both the groups (crop farmers and herders) are at their younger age and energetic and also Table 1 further revealed that 78.1% of the herders practiced extensive system of livestock management, moving over long distances in search of pasture and water. This may lead to indiscriminate grazing and over grazing of pasture and conflict with other resource users.

Table 1. Socio-economic characteristics of the respondents

Variable	Farmers n=64		Herders n=32	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Age				
20-29	22	34.4	9	28.1
30-39	18	28.1	11	34.4
40-49	8	12.5	8	25.0
Above 49	16	25.0	4	12.5
Production system				
Crop (Rain feed)	59	92.2	NA	NA
Live stock(Extensive)	NA	NA	25	78.1
Livestock (semi intensive)	NA	NA	3	9.4
Agro-pastoralist	5	7.87	4	9.5

Source: Field Survey,2021

Causes of famers-herders conflict Result on Table 2 revealed that according to herders (100%), increasing of unemployment, distortion of the livestock routes by crop farmers and inadequate grazing reserve were the major cause of conflict. Other major causes of conflict according to the herders are: encroachment of grazing routes (96.9%) as a result of human activities arising increased in population; desertification (93.8%) and reprisal attacks

after killing of family members by the farmers (81.3%). According to crop farmers, proliferation of light arms is also found to be the causes of crop farmer's livestock herders conflict are: grazing of crops and crops residue (100%); destruction of water scarcity (67.2%) and according to (64.1%) farmers attribute the conflict to increasing unemployment rate. This is in line with some of the opinion expressed by (Usman, and Girie, 2015) who asserted that in most states, stock route have been blocked by farmers' crops, individual building and government development projects is the major source of conflict between pastoralists and crop farmers. Inadequate watering Points for both human and animal consumption have also been found to be one of the sources of conflict in the area as reported 53.1 % and 43.8% of the crop farmers and herders respectively.

Table 2. Causes of Conflicts

Variable	farmers(n=64)	percentage	Herders (n= 32)	percentage
Cattle rustling and banditry	NA	NA	22	68.8
Proliferation of small arms	64	100	19	59.4
Water scarcity	45	67.2	18	56.3
Desertification	NA	NA	30	93.8
Population expansion	34	53.1	14	43.8
Increasing unemployment	41	64.1	32	100
Encroachment of grazing routes	NA	NA	31	96.9
Destruction of farm land	NA	NA	32	100
Fake news and media propaganda	9	14.1	17	53.1
Reprisal attack	2	3.1	26	81.3

Source: : Field Survey, 2021

Research Hypothesis

1. Ho: there is no significant effect of farmers-herdsmen conflict on agricultural output in Miaha Local Government area.
 H₁: there is significant effect of farmers-herdsmen conflict on agricultural output in Miaha Local Government area.

Hypothesis Test

The hypothesis was set to decide whether to accept or reject the outcome of the null hypothesis (H_0) and alternative (H_1) hypothesis. Therefore, if the critical value of chi square (X^2) is greater than the value of chi square (X^2) computed then we accept the null hypothesis (H_0) and if the X^2 computed are greater than the X^2 tabulated, accept the alternative hypothesis (H_i) and reject the null hypothesis (H_0).

Questions 6,7,8,9 and 10 from the questionnaire were chosen to explain the variable whether farmers/herdsmen conflicts have effects on agricultural output in Maiha LGA

Table 3

Variable	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Total
Yes	84	77	81	89	35	366
No	12	19	15	7	61	114
Total	96	96	96	96	96	480

Source: field survey, 2021

Table 3 above shows that degree of freedom is been determine by the columns and rows

$$\text{Degree of freedom} = (R-1) (C-1) = (2-1) (5-1) = 1*4 = 4$$

The degree of freedom is equal to 4, the total level of significance is 5%

$$\text{Expected frequency} = RT*CT/GT$$

Where: R=Row C=Column O=Observation

Competition of expected frequency using table above EF for yes

$$E = \frac{96 \times 366}{480} = 73.2$$

EF for No

$$EF = \frac{96 \times 114}{480} = 22.8$$

$$\text{Using chi-square } (X^2) = \sum \frac{(O-E)^2}{E}$$

Table 5 For yes

O	E	O-E	(O-E) ²	$\frac{(O-E)^2}{E}$
84	73.2	10.8	116.64	1.59
77	73.2	3.8	14.44	0.20
81	73.2	7.8	60.84	0.83
89	73.2	15.8	249.64	3.41

35	73.2	-38.2	1459.24	19.94
Total				25.97

Source: Field survey, 2021

Table5 Shows that the computed value of ‘yes’ $X^2 = 25.97$

Computation of X^2 for No

Table 6 computation of X^2 for No

O	E	O-E	(O-E)²	<u>(O-E)²</u> E
12	28.8	16.8	282.24	9.8
19	28.8	9.8	96.04	3.33
15	28.8	13.8	190.44	6.61
7	28.8	21.8	475.24	16.50
61	28.8	16.50	272.25	9.45
Total				45.69

Source: Field survey, 2021

Table 6 shows that computed value of X^2 for No. is equal to 45.69

Therefore, X^2 for yes and No are sum together as $X^2 = (25.97 + 45.69) = 105.5$ that is $X^2 = 71.66$ the critical value of X^2 at 5% level of significant is 11.070 and the computed X^2 value is greater than critical X^2 value ($105.5 > 11.070$), we reject the null hypothesis (H_0) which stated that there is no significant effect of farmers/herdsmen conflict on agricultural output in Miaha Local Government area and accepted the alternative hypothesis (H_1) which state that there is significant effect of farmers-herdsmen conflicts on agricultural output in Maiha Local Government area.

Conclusion and recommendations

Efforts of the federal and state governments towards finding a lasting solution to the herders-farmers conflict have not been generally accepted apparently for religious, ethnic and political differences. Thus, this study analysed the effect of farmers and herders conflicts on agricultural output in Maiha Local Government and also the causes of these conflicts. The study found that, famers and herders conflicts has negative effects on agricultural output. The result of the X^2 test has proved that ($X^2 \text{ comp} > X^2 \text{ tab}$) which resulted to the rejection of the null hypothesis which states there is no significant relationship between farmers-herders conflicts and agricultural

output. The study also found that the following are the major causes of famers-herders conflicts, Cattle rustling and banditry, Proliferation of small arms, Water scarcity, Desertification, Population expansion, Increasing unemployment, Destruction of farm land, Fake news and media propaganda and reprisal attack. The study therefore recommended that, element of compromise and arbitration should be devised to resolve conflict. The study found that, famers and herders conflicts have negative effects on agricultural output. The result of the X^2 test has proved that ($X^2 \text{ comp} > X^2 \text{ tab}$) which resulted to the rejection of the null hypothesis which states there is no significant relationship between farmers-herders conflicts and agricultural output. The study also found that the following are the major causes of famers-herders conflicts, Cattle rustling and banditry, Proliferation of small arms, Water scarcity, Desertification, Population expansion, Increasing unemployment, Destruction of farm land, Fake news and media propaganda and reprisal attack. It was discovered during the course of the research that many people have lost their lives and property, and an even greater number have been displaced from their homes. The displaced people have, therefore, become refugees in their own country. Their activity has hindered meaningful development in Nigeria and a threat to food security.

The paper recommends that:

- i. Both formal method (police/courts) and informal method (traditional leaders) of settling disputes between herders and farmers should be explored to restore normalcy in every crisis situation relating to herding and farming.
- ii. Mass orientation and education for herders and farmers on the existing no-open grazing laws in some state, grazing routes, and grazing reserves across the country should be strengthened to encourage obedience to the law and discourage the habit of trespassing by either party, which is often the cause of the feud.
- iii. Ranches should be created and leased to herders as a mark of non-ownership of land in order to address the fear of land usurpation in the long-run. In addition, the ranches proposed by the Federal Government of Nigeria should be piloted in some affected states to be able to appraise its real potentials rather than totally rejecting it without subjecting it to any form of experimentation.
- iv Government should deploy ways of disarming and blocking all ways of getting these small arms and punish whoever is found with any illegal arm

and there should be ordered by government to surrender the arms in their possession. Thereafter, they should be banned from carrying arms this will help to stop nefarious activities like highway robbery, kidnapping and indiscriminate. The government should be more proactive in their action rather than being reactive.

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