PROMOTING PEACE AND REDUCING CONFLICTS BETWEEN FARMERS AND HERDERS IN NIGERIA: CHALLENGES, OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Udemadu, Frank Chika, PhD; Chilokwu, Chioma G.; Nwafor, Grace Obiageli, PhD.
Department of Cooperative Economics and Management,
Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria

Abstract
The study is purely on promoting peace and reducing conflicts between farmers and herders in Nigeria. The objectives of this study are to assess the challenges, opportunities and solutions in promoting peace and reducing conflicts between farmers and herders in Nigeria; to analyze the root causes of conflicts between farmers and herders in Nigeria; and to determine the challenges faced in promoting peace and reducing conflicts between farmers and herders in Nigeria. This is a conceptualized study. The study is based on the theory of Environmental Economic Theory propounded by Thomas Malthus in 18th century. From Malthus to Neo-Malthusian theories have played a dominant role in the post-cold war conflict and security issues. Findings showed that farmer-herder conflict in Nigeria has its roots deeply embedded in history, dating back several centuries. In the pre-colonial era, Nigeria's diverse ethnic groups practiced different livelihoods, with farmers engaging in settled agriculture and herders leading nomadic lives, moving their livestock across vast territories in search of grazing lands and water sources. The paper concluded that the rifts between herders and farmers are such that can be eliminated to its nearest minimum. This can only happen when the stakeholders and actors build up structures and processes of mitigating such. The key and core root causes, challenges and peace resolution route has been laid out which are poor governance, cattle theft, security concerns, deep-rooted historical grievances, lack of trust and cultural and linguistic diversity. It is recommended that the government take a lead in resolving conflicts and crisis amongst herders and farmers by ensuring that both actors are not neglected in any aspect but carried along.
Keywords: *Promoting peace, reducing conflict, farmers, herders, Nigeria.*

Introduction

With over 190 million people, occupying a land mass of 923,773 square kilometers, Nigeria continues to benefit immensely from agricultural production activities. And with about 82 million hectares of arable land, out of which only 42% is so far cultivated, agriculture (crop and animal production) contributed between 31.2% and 39.2% of total GDP between 1986 and 1995, and over 40% 1999 and 2006 (National Economic Intelligence Unit, 2016). The necessity to provide food of crop and animal origin, as well as raw materials for industry and export in order to meet ever growing demands, has led to both “intensification and intensification” of land use (Nyong and Fiki, 2005).

In the light of the day, It is presumed that resource ownership and utilization have directly and indirectly defined the dimensions of most conflicts involving man since

time immemorial. Of all resources, however, land has remained an overwhelming source of conflicts among various user groups as well as individuals at varying thresholds. In particular, conflicts between farmers and herdsmen in the use of agricultural land are becoming fiercer and increasingly widespread in Nigeria, largely due to 'intensification and extensification' of production activities that are necessitated by increasing human population (Gefu and Kolawole, 2015; Fasona and Omojola in Abada etc Al (2018); Eastwood et al., 2017).

Herders- Farmers conflicts in Nigeria have lasting roots and date back to pre-colonial times (before the 1900s). However, these conflicts have become far more severe in recent times due to population pressures, climate change, and various other factors (Roger, 2010). During the British colonial era, herders and farmers would agree on a system called burti, in which specific migration routes were set up for herders, with mutual agreement from the farmers, herders, and local authorities. However, the burti system collapsed around the 1970s when farmers increasingly claimed ownership of lands along cattle migration paths, increasingly leading to conflicts (Roger, 2010).The past few decades have witnessed devastating resurgence of nomadic herders and rural farmers' violence in some parts of Nigeria. This stimulates a number of debates on strategies to mitigate rural vulnerability.

According to Ismail (1994), the Fulani Herdsmen are nomadic Herders whose history can be traced to the Futa Jalon Mountains of West Africa and whose primary occupation is raising live stocks. They are largely located in the Sahel and semiarid parts of West Africa but due to changes in climate patterns, many herdsmen have moved further south into the Savannah and Tropical Forest Belt of West Africa. Fulani Herdsmen are found in countries such as Nigeria, Senegal, Cameroon etc. They started migrating into northern Nigeria from Senegambia Region. After the Uthman Dan Fodio Jihad, the Fulani integrated into the Hausa ethnic group of Northern Nigeria. During unfavorable weather conditions, Fulani Herdsmen began to drive their cattle to the middle belts zone dominated by non-Hausa groups, returning to the north at the onset of the rainy season. But while managing the herds and driving cattle, cattle grazing on farmlands sometimes leads to the destruction of crops, becoming a source of conflict between the herdsmen and farmers in Nigeria. These series of disputes are over agrarian land resources across Nigeria between the Muslim Fulani herders and the Christian non-Fulani farmers. The conflicts have been especially prominent in the Middle Belt (North Central) since the return of democracy in 1999. Attacks have also taken place in Northwestern Nigeria (Salkida, 2020). According to (Genyi, 2017). Station farmers are an important party in this conflict. Because the effects of environmental and economic changes the farmers intensified their agricultural activities towards northern regions especially in the "free" areas that previously no cultivating activities used to take place. However,

some of those free areas were the grazing routes for the nomadic farmers from the north.

Fratkin, (2018) opined that farmer-herder conflicts have existed since early beginning of agriculture in Africa. But it's continued evolving violent nature against the backdrop of social differences, resource scarcity, increase in the population of resource users, lack of adequate grazing reserves and poor state of the existing ones, however there are various way put together to address this conflict.

The continuous conflict between the two parties is based on latent factor of aged-long strained social relations in term of language difference. Therefore, there is a dire need to manage these conflict situations to avoid the wanton destruction of lives and properties. Effective communication is no doubt, an effective way of managing conflict. But there cannot be any form of communication without the instrumentality of (verbal or nonverbal) language (Olagbaju, 2014). Therefore, the choice of languageto be used for mediation in conflict management is of paramount importance because a mastery of the channel of communication is essential in conflict management situations. Adegbite (2017) posited that language mastery requires the possession of essential language skills. Most times, effectiveness in conflict management is largely tied to the effectiveness in communication. Other forms of conflict management through communication include preventive measures, settlement, and resolution. Resolution as a mechanism in conflict management is aimed at proffering lasting solution to a conflict situation. It's a variety of approaches aimed at terminating conflict through constructive problem-solving means distinct from transformation of conflict (Miller 2018). Conflict resolution tend to address the deep rooted causes of conflict and ensure that behaviour of the parties involved (herdsmen and farmers) are no longer violent towards each other, while structure of the conflict are changed

Finding a lasting solution for the conflict between rural dwellers and farmer herders is paramount vital for the sustainability of socio-economic growth and development in agricultural productivity in areas affected. The conflict, which often revolves around resource competition and land disputes, has far-reaching consequences that go beyond immediate violence and displacement.

One of the primary reasons for addressing the conflict is to restore socio-economic stability in the affected areas. The clashes between communities and herders lead to the loss of lives, destruction of properties, and the disruption of normal life for local residents. Such violence creates an atmosphere of fear and insecurity, hampering economic activities and investment in the region. When stability is compromised, businesses hesitate to operate, and development initiatives become challenging to implement. By addressing the conflict, communities can regain a sense of safety and

security, which are fundamental pillars for sustainable socio-economic growth. Furthermore, the conflict affects food security, not just locally, but also on a larger scale. Nigeria, being a significant agricultural producer, plays a crucial role in feeding its population and contributing to regional food supplies.

Therefore, the conflicts begin when two parties encounter on the same land and try to protect their own benefits (Genyi, 2017). Nigerian Federal Government, State Governments, the Nigeria Police Force and the Nigerian Army are the secondary actors in the conflict. The security forces lack the ability to prevent the clashes most of the times. Some evidence and witness testimonies show that some officers are corrupt, and they cooperate with the attackers. Instead of being a trustworthy organ of the state and protect their citizens, the security forces in Nigeria disrupt the current situation (Amnesty International, 2018). In promoting peace and reducing conflicts between farmers and herders in Nigeria two recommendations that have been made are ranching and anti-open grazing bill, but the most recommended remedy for the resolution of the herders-farmers conflict is the dialogue and conflict resolution approaches at community levels. (Mohammed & Abdul, 2020). The objectives of this study are to assess the challenges, opportunities and solutions in promoting peace and reducing conflicts between farmers and herders in Nigeria; to analyze the root causes of conflicts between farmers and herders in Nigeria; and to determine the challenges faced in promoting peace and reducing conflicts between farmers and herders in Nigeria.

Review of Related Literature

Historical Background of Farmer-Herder Conflict in Nigeria

The farmer-herder conflict in Nigeria has its roots deeply embedded in history, dating back several centuries. In the pre-colonial era, Nigeria's diverse ethnic groups practiced different livelihoods, with farmers engaging in settled agriculture and herders leading nomadic lives, moving their livestock across vast territories in search of grazing lands and water sources (Ojo 2016). During this period, interactions between farmers and herders were generally peaceful, as they recognized the mutually beneficial relationship between agriculture and pastoralism (Monod 2013).

However, the arrival of European colonial powers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries brought significant changes to this harmony. Colonial administrators introduced policies that favored settled agriculture at the expense of nomadic pastoralism. Land demarcation and privatization restricted herders' traditional grazing routes, leading to resource competition and tensions with farmers. Even after Nigeria gained independence in 1960, the legacy of colonial policies persisted, exacerbating the conflict. Population growth and the expansion of agriculture further

intensified competition for land and resources, pitting farmers against herders in a struggle for survival and sustenance (Shettima and Tar,2018).

Moreover, climate change and environmental degradation added fuel to the fire. Changes in rainfall patterns and the desertification of the northern region forced herders to seek new grazing areas in the central and southern regions, sparking conflicts with farmers who depended on the same lands for their crops (Fratkin, 2018)

According to Awosika (2018) Socio-economic factors have also played a significant role. Poverty, lack of access to education and healthcare, and high levels of unemployment have made both farmers and herders vulnerable to the consequences of the conflict. Additionally, the involvement of armed groups and criminal elements seeking to exploit the situation for their own gains has further complicated matters. In some instances, the farmer-herder conflict has taken on ethnic and religious dimensions, as different groups are often associated with specific agricultural or herding practices. This has added complexity and emotional intensity to the disputes, making peaceful resolutions even more challenging. (Tonah, 2019).

Compounding the issue is weak governance and inadequate conflict resolution mechanisms. Corruption and a lack of clear land tenure policies have hindered efforts to address the conflict effectively. Disputes over land ownership and access have perpetuated the cycle of violence and animosity. To effectively address the farmer-herder conflict in Nigeria, comprehensive strategies are required that take into account the historical, environmental, socio-economic, and governance-related factors at play. Engaging all stakeholders and building sustainable and peaceful solutions are vital steps towards fostering coexistence and stability in the region (Franz, 2018; Tonah, 2019).

Farmer-herder conflicts in Nigeria

Farmer-herder conflict is defined as disagreement and clashes between nomadic herders and farming communities over limited land resources. In Nigeria, nomadic herders are comprised mainly of Fulani people, who own the majority of livestock (Ojo, 2020). The Fulani pastoralists traditionally live and graze their animals in the northern region of the country and usually migrate south during the dry season in search of pasture. With the increasing onset of drought and desertification (Adano et al., 2012; Buhaug et al., 2015), as well as terrorist insurgency (George et al., 2021, 2022), they migrate further south for longer periods in search of sufficient pasture to graze their animals. This increases their competition with farmers in the middle belt and southern parts of Nigeria for scarce agricultural land (Eke, 2020). Typically, FH conflicts arise because herders grazing their animals in areas growing crops cause damage, thereby reducing yields. In response, farmers chase herders from their community and injure their animals, leading to herders fighting back, and FH

conflict ensues (CDD, 2021). Of late, FH conflicts in Nigeria have increased significantly (ACLED, 2019).

Government Policies in Relations to Farmer-Herder Conflict

Grazing Area/Cattle Routes:

With the increasing intensity of the farmer-herders conflict, the necessity to enact laws that would guide the day-to-day interactions between these two classes was born. In a bid to ameliorate the unpleasant situation the federal lawmakers proposed to introduce a Grazing Commission Bill in 2008 to address the burning issue. The Bill empowered the commission to acquire land in any part of the country for the purpose of establishing grazing reserves and cattle routes but unfortunately the empowerment of the commission to do so is tantamount to violation of the subsisting Land Use Act and traditional means of landholding if enacted (Guilbert 2016). The International Crisis Group (2017) mentions for example that the Afenifere (a socio-political Pan-Yoruba movement) disagreed entirely with this proposed bill alleging that the bill was to favor the business of the Fulani herdsmen at the expense of the farmers whose farms were destroyed continuously by the Fulani cows. Furthermore, they believe this bill is an offensive one. What it attempts to do according to this group would be to rob citizens of their rightful possessions and award these possessions to those who do not own these properties; this, of course, negates the tenets of natural law.

Conflict Management:

Conflict management as defined by Best, (2016) is 'the process of reducing the negative and destructive capacities of conflict through a number of measures and by working with and through the parties involved in that conflict'. This term is used interchangeably as synonymous with "conflict regulation". This also involves conflict handling at various levels including those efforts to prevent conflict by being proactive. However, to some conflict's analysts, the term conflict management accorded narrower definition than it deserved. Azem, (2005:2) posits that, the literal meaning of management in social and management sciences discipline are broader than its ordinary definition in peace and conflict studies. Managing conflict entails a process that involves conflict handling at all ramifications and at all stages for purposes of bringing the situation under control. In this case, conflict management covers all decisions and actions taken by parties, individuals, or groups to handle conflict. However, this definition should be transcended to other disciplines to include how conflicts are initiated, how it escalates, how it is controlled, its final resolution among others things. Supporting this assertion, Otite, (2004:11) sees conflict management more broadly and a wide concept, which does not necessarily, involves only resolution as well as transformation of conflict. He looked at it as also involving long-term institutionalization of rules and regulation for purposes of control and dealing with conflict at formal level.

Group of scholars have envisaged conflict differently as a phenomenon, behavioural outcome, and activity or process. As a phenomenon, De Dreu and Gelfand in Mohammed & Abdul, (2020) defined conflict as a social phenomenon that occurs across species, time periods, and cultures. That is a fight or quarrel that occurs between or amongst individuals and ethnic-racial groups from time to time. This makes it a fact that conflict is ineliminable but manageable. In the same vein, Brauch and Scheffran (2012) admits conflict as a contest between two or more actors (individuals, societal groups, states, or groups of states) over scarce and sought-after material and immaterial goods, where the parties pursue contradictory aims or means.

In 2015, Adetoye and Omilusi explained conflict as a form of struggle and rivalry for material and non-material objects to which individuals and groups attach importance. Because it is a behavioural outcome, "conflict is manifested through adversarial social action, involving two or more actors with the expression of differences often accompanied by intense hostilities" (Jeong, 2010:3). According to Rahim (2010) in Mohammed and Abdul (2020), conflict is an interactive process manifested in incompatibility, disagreement or dissonance within or between social activities. In essence, conflict arises during human interactions in the workplaces, homes, occasions, and places of worship.

Causes of Conflicts between Farmers and Herders in Nigeria

The causes of conflict as elaborated in several theories by Lumumba -Kasongo, (2017) are: First, the state-centric state or classical theory of conflict states that the right of a state to preserve and protect its sovereignty and autonomous entity often lead to conflicts especially with external aggressors or internal secessionists. In addition, the concentration of political power and positions in the hands of one or a few ethnic groups in a multi-ethnic society can trigger conflict.

Second, classical liberalism theory of conflict maintains that countries that have institutionalized liberal democracy (where political powers are obtained through elections and popular votes) and capitalism (where ownership of means of production resides with private individuals) experience sustainable peace as against conflict if the reverse were to be the case. Thus, attempts to block participation in the political or economic process can degenerate into a conflict between the oppressor (government) and the oppressed (citizens).

Third, the social-conflict theory advanced by Karl Marx postulates that the excesses and limitations of capitalism (private property, wage labour, capital accumulation, competition, externalities, and unequal opportunities) create a class struggle between the capitalists and proletarians. It is typical of the capitalist to exploit workers through unfair remuneration and poor work environment thereby creating two social

classes: the rich and richer capitalist and the poor and poorer workers. On the other hand, it is typical of workers to unite and protest and demand salary raise and better work condition. This parallel stance can be a source of conflict.
Fourth, the feminist theory of conflict posits that gender inequality as empowered men over women in most societies of the world. It posits that women are supposed to enjoy equal rights.

The fifth theory of conflict is post-colonialism theory. Colonialism is about domination, oppression, and slavery of the weak group usually by a stronger group. In contrast, postcolonialism (political independence) is usually preceded by decolonization in the disobedience, resistance, treaties, protests and armed struggle against colonial authorities.

Root Causes of Conflicts Between Farmers and Herders in Nigeria
The statistics do not mean a lot without looking in the diffractions in the daily lives of people. In this part some of the root causes of today's herders-farmers conflict in Nigeria will be explained.

Infrastructure Construction:
Penrose, Jean-Paul, Bdliya, & Chettleborough, in Gulsah Gúsory, 2020 explained the economic growth led by oil industry in Nigeria encouraged huge enterprises especially in infrastructure. This meant, among others, building of dams and modernizing the irrigation tools. Dam projects got public support from the urbanizing areas because the existing water supplies were not enough for the rapid growing population. Politically active and effective Kano region in the north was among the focuses of federal government. The government tried to gain more support from Kano by investing more in infrastructure in this region.

The private sector which was working with the government in constructions were among the ones who profited most from the new projects that were funded with the oil income. The construction wave was too fast and not good planned. By the 1980s, the effect that the dams created in nature were just terrifying. The amount of lands flooded during rainy season decreased fifty percent compared to 1960s' numbers. This is one of the core reasons why the farmers have lost vast arable lands and would cause them looking for new lands for agriculture in the future (International Crisis Group, 2017). Also, the growing business sector built so many buildings over the pathways that herders used to walk their animals (Shehu, 2018).

Climate Change:
On top of the results of poorly planned infrastructure building in Nigeria, the climate change is one of the root causes of this conflict. Nigeria's northern regions face desertification problem which effects the livelihoods of many people (Okeke, 2014). The amount of rain decreases every year. In the last 3 decades, the rain season

decreased from 150 days per year to 120 days. The effects of drought and desertification are vital for the people who earn their lives from the soil itself. Water resources and grazing lands decreased in northern parts of the country, which drifted the grazing routes of herders into more southern areas. Similarly, the farmers look for new lands to cultivate as they lost some of theirs because of climate change. Expanding the farming lands in the areas that used to be suitable for grazing means less space for herders' animals (Genyi, 2017).

Poor Governance:

The Grazing Reserves Act was enacted in 1964 by Nigerian federal government, in order to determine certain areas to herders to use in grazing. This law was the first official step to encourage sedentarization among pastoralist herders. According to the Act, the government designated 415 specific areas for grazing purposes. However, they were not able to realize what was planned. Only 114 of those were given the grazing land status officially. Even those which were given the status were not properly protected as grazing areas. The ones without an official status mostly ended up as new construction areas, either for business or housing (International Crisis Group, 2017). The Land Use Act which was accepted in 1978 gave the decision-making power about land leasing and renting (Oladotun & Emmanuel, 2019). This law made it easier for the sedentary farmers to get "certificate" for the usage of the lands because they had higher literacy levels than farmers and they could reach state offices more often. Therefore, pastoralist herders were gradually excluded more from the land use. Also the culture of Fulani herders about land ownership prevented them to be enthusiastic about buying the land that they have been naturally "owning" for all their lives (Okello, 2014).

Cattle Theft:

One of the issues that negatively affect herders-farmers conflict is the cattle theft (or cattle rustling) in the region. In more recent years there has been an tremendous increase in the numbers of rustling incidents (Shehu, 2018). Circulation of arms amongst non-state groups, the government's inefficiency to control remote areas and forests, and the secret collaborations between some security officers and rustlers are the major causes of the thefts. The so-called "ungoverned places" are the most risky areas for such thefts because the security officers are either impotent or corrupt in these regions (Olaniyan & Yahaya, 2016). Cattle rustling is causing herders big economic losses, which pushes them to try to increase their number of animals to make up for the losses. Therefore, they need to find more grazing areas so their animals can reproduce more (Olaniyan & Yahaya, 2016).

Potential Opportunities and challenges of Promoting Peace and Reducing Conflicts Between Farmers and Herders by different organizations in Nigeria.
Implementing peaceful resolution by different organizations in Nigeria offers several opportunities, just as it comes with unexpected challenges. Understanding these challenges is vital for designing effective and efficient strategies (Mark 2016).

Opportunities that May Spring Up from Promoting Peace and Reducing Conflicts Between Farmers and Herders in Nigeria:
Conflict Resolution: Peace cooperatives can facilitate dialogue and mediation, leading to the resolution of conflicts between farmers and herders. By promoting understanding and trust-building, these platforms help find common ground and identify mutually acceptable solutions.

Reconciliation and Social Cohesion: Through peace cooperatives, conflicting parties can engage in processes of reconciliation and healing, fostering social cohesion and promoting long-term peace in communities.

Sustainable Peacebuilding: By addressing the root causes of conflicts and involving diverse stakeholders, peace cooperatives contribute to sustainable peacebuilding efforts, reducing the likelihood of future conflicts.

Inclusive Participation: Peace cooperatives offer an inclusive platform where all relevant stakeholders, including marginalized communities, can participate, ensuring that diverse perspectives and interests are considered in the peacebuilding process.

Community Empowerment: Engaging local communities in peace cooperatives empowers them to actively contribute to conflict resolution and development initiatives, promoting ownership and long-term sustainability.

Development and Livelihood Opportunities: Peace cooperatives often engage in economic and development projects, providing livelihood opportunities and fostering economic stability in conflict-affected areas.

Challenges faced in Promoting Peace and Reducing Conflicts Between Farmers and Herders by different organizations in Nigeria.
Security Concerns: Conflict-prone areas in Nigeria may face security challenges, making it difficult for peace cooperatives and other organizations to operate effectively. Ongoing violence and insecurity can hinder dialogue and trust-building efforts.

Deep Rooted Historical Grievances: The farmer-herder conflict in Nigeria has deep historical roots, and addressing long-standing grievances is a complex process that requires time and sustained efforts.

Political Interference: Political interests and power dynamics can influence peace cooperatives and other organizations operations, potentially undermining their effectiveness and impartiality.

Limited Resources: Funding and resources may be limited, hindering the scale and scope of peace cooperative and other organizations initiatives. Sustaining long-term engagement and activities can be challenging without adequate financial support.
Lack of Trust: Building trust between conflicting parties may be a slow and delicate process, especially when there is a history of violence and animosity.

Cultural and Linguistic Diversity: Nigeria is a diverse country with multiple ethnic and linguistic groups. Effective communication and coordination among these diverse communities can be challenging.

Sustainability and Follow-Up: Ensuring the sustainability of peace cooperative initiatives and implementing agreed-upon solutions may be difficult without continuous follow-up and commitment from all stakeholders. Government Support and Commitment: The success of peace cooperatives relies on government support and commitment to address underlying structural issues. Without strong political will, the impact may be limited.

Despite these challenges, the opportunities of Promoting peace and reducing conflict through peace cooperatives and other organisations in Nigeria are significant. By carefully eliminating the challenges and leveraging the strengths of these initiatives, they will play a vital role in mitigating the farmer-herder conflict and enhance continuous peace and stability for the betterment of Nigeria.

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on Environmental Economic Theory propounded by Thomas Malthus 18th century. From Malthus to Neo-Malthusian and the recent moderate neo-Malthusian theories have played a dominant role in the post-cold war conflict and security issues. Thomas Malthus 18th century English demographer has earlier propounded and developed the theory and principles of population. In his early literatures, he warned that the exponential increase in human population would soon outstrip the resources of the planet, leading to famine and other socio-economic complications in the 19th century. While population is expanding geometrically, subsistence [resources] increases arithmetically on the other hand. He believes that people's ability to increase their supply was constrained in three ways.

a) Land scarcity
b) limited production capacity of cultivated land
c) the law of diminishing returns. Under this circumstance, Malthus argued that private ownership of land, became the means of provision or subsistence for humans.

Application of the theory to the Study

Farmers and Herders conflicts in Nigeria have been a major hindrance to agricultural growth and economy stability due to the continuous clash between them over land scarcity and poor government policies. Therefore, this study is based on environmental economic theory. And it's backed by the study carried out Dimelu and Salifu (2021) by revealed that conflicts between pastoralists and crop farmers were caused by socio-economic, security, production practices and institution related factors. Consequently, pastoralists had the problems of insecurity of human and animal lives, displacement and economic losses leading to poor productivity.

Empirical Review

Rashid (2011) assessed Land use conflict between farmers and herdsmen Implications for Agricultural and Rural Development in Nigeria. The study was conducted in Kwara State, Nigeria. Four-stage cluster random sampling procedure was used to select 360 respondents (300 farmers and 60 herdsmen) for the research. In all, 360 respondents were selected for the quantitative data collection. Relevant data were collected with the aid structured questionnaire. The Test-retest method was used to determine the reliability of the instrument. This was carried out among 20 respondents that would not be included in the research sample. The value of coefficient of correlation "r" was found to be 0.89, which implied that the instrument was reliable. Coping strategies of respondents were measured with 20 items on a 4-point Likert-type scale. Findings revealed that the conflicts had far reaching economic, production and socio-psychological effects on the households of most respondents, and farmers generally tended to use problem-oriented strategies, herdsmen basically used emotion-oriented strategies. The study is related to the present study in that both studies laid emphasis on farmers and herders' conflicts.

Ibrahim et al., (2015) examined the argument of land use conflict as the major cause of farmer -pastoralist conflict in Nigeria. Pastoralism in Nigeria faces challenges and these hampers the productivity that consequentially affect the Nation's economy. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics in form of percentages, frequencies of counts and charts. Crop raiding and animal depredation at different levels were sources of conflict in GGNP. Maize was the most affected crop while poultry was the most affected livestock. Cultivation of Cassava has become seriously reduced due to the impact of Baboon. The study is related to the present study in that both studies discussed the same challenges.

Amao, Adeagbo, Olojede, Ogunleye and Ogundoyin (2018) examined the effects of Fulani herdsmen conflict on productivity of arable crop farmers in Ibarapa areas of

Oyo state, Nigeria. Interview schedule was used to extract information on socio-economic characteristics of affected and non-affected arable crop farmers, productivity differentials and effects of Fulani herdsmen conflict on productivity of arable crop farmers from 315 respondents using a multi-stage sampling technique. Data obtained were analyzed using frequency counts, percentages, mean, standard deviation, t-statistics and Tobit regression. Findings revealed that Fulani Herdsmen conflict has a negative significant influence on farmers' productivity. The study is related to the present study in that both studies layed emphasis on farmers and herders conflicts, insecurity and food damage.

Kayode (2020) examined the coping strategies of crop farmers to pastoralist activities in Odo-Otin Local Government Area of Osun State, Nigeria. A multistage sampling technique was used to select 120 farmers. The data were collected using a well-structured questionnaire and interview and were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistical tools. The result revealed various levels of damage caused to food security by the pastoralist as follows: compaction of soil (84%), damage and eating of the crops on the field (79%), indiscriminate bush burning leading to fire outbreak on farms (73%), stealing of farm produce by herders (73%), pollution of water points (54%), killing of farmers (13%)and others. The study is related to the present study in that both studies laid emphasis on farmers and herders' conflicts, insecurity and food damage

Emmanuel (2020) carried out a study on Resolving the Farmers Herders Conflict in Nigeria: A Way Forward for Sustainable National Development. The data was analyzed using regression analyses. The results of Chi-square analysis showed that there is a significant relationship between the educational status (X 2 =13.06, P=0.01) and coping strategies used against pastoralist activities The study is related to the present study in that both studies laid emphasis on farmers and herders conflicts.

Dimelu and Salifu (2021) examined the Challenges of herdsmen-farmers' conflict in livestock production in Nigeria: Experience of pastoralists in Kogi State, Nigeria. Data were collected by use of structured interview schedule, focus group discussion and personal observation and analyzed using descriptive statistics and factor analysis. The majority (95.8%) of pastoralists were male, married (80%) with mean age of 39 years and average household size of 11 persons. Herding was mainly for prestige and commercial purposes with average farm size of 240 cattle. Conflicts between pastoralists and crop farmers were caused by socio-economic, security, production practices and institution related factors. Consequently, pastoralists had the problems of insecurity of human and animal lives, displacement and economic losses leading to poor productivity. The study is related to the present study in that both studies laid emphasis on farmers and herders' conflicts.

Conclusion

The rifts between herders and farmers are such that can be eliminated to its nearest minimum. This can only happen when the stake holders and actors build up structures and processes of mitigating such. From the highlights of this work, the key and core root causes, challenges and peace resolution route has been laid out which needs to be attended to. These root causes which are (1) Infrastructure Construction (2) Climate Change (3) Poor Governance (4) Cattle Theft; challenges which are (1) Security Concerns (2) Deep-Rooted Historical Grievances (3) Limited Resources (4) Political Interference (5) Lack of Trust (6) Cultural and Linguistic Diversity; Peace Resolution Route – (1) Reconciliation and Social Cohesion (2) Inclusive Participation (3) Community Empowerment and (4) Development and Livelihood Opportunities – are the pros and cons by which it can be mitigated. From cases of studies reviewed, the discussion on environmental and climatic scarcity tends to be gaining more momentum but fail to lay more emphasis on the corresponding effects it has.

Recommendations

According to Lumumba-Kasongo, 2017, he listed out four theories that causes conflicts; by studying his theories, and antagonize the outcomes, it can and will serve as an ample measure to resolve the long issues between herders and farmers. It is recommended that the government take a lead in resolving conflicts and crisis amongst herders and farmers by ensuring that both actors are not neglected in any aspect but carried along.

References

Abada, I. M., Okafor, N. I. & Ofobuike, C. L. (2018). Political economy of cattle Colony: between Herders-Farmers conflicts and sustainable development in Nigeria. PEOPLE: International Journal of Social Sciences, 4(2), 1710-1726.270

Adegbite, T. (2017). Conflict and resolution: the roles of language, culture, gender and literature. Retrieved online 23rd February, 2019 form www.researchgate.net/ publication/317661533

Amnesty International. (2018). Harvest of Death: Three Years of Bloody Clashes Between Farmers and Herders. Abuja: Amnesty International Ltd.

Awokuse, T. and Vaughn, O. (2021). 'Terrorist attacks, land resource competition and violent farmer-herder conflicts' Land Use Policy 102 (105241).

George, J., & Adelaja, A., (2018). Center for Democracy and Development 'Farmer-herder conflict in Northern Nigeria: Trends, dynamics and gender perspectives. Abuja.

Fratkin E. (2014). Ethiopia's pastoralist policies: Development and resettlement. Nomadic Peoples 18(1)94-114CDD-

Genyi, G. A. (2017). Ethnic and religious Identities shaping contestation for land based resources: The Tiv-Farmers and pastoralists conflicts in central Nigeria until 2014. *Journal of Living Together - Volume 4-5, Issue 1, 136-151.*

Jeong, H. (2010). Conflict management and resolution: An introduction. London: Routledge.

Lumumba-Kasongo, T. (2017). Contemporary theories of conflict and their social and political implications, in Gahama, J. and Lumumba-Kasongo, T. (eds.), Peace, security and post-conflict reconstruction in the Great Lakes Region of Africa, Baltimore, Maryland: Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa.

International Crisis Group. (2017). Herders against farmers: Nigeria's expanding deadly conflict, Africa Report, 252.

Nyong J.I. & Charles N.O. (2005). Drought-Related conflicts, management and resolution in the West African Sahel: Human security and climate change international workshop, Oslo GECHS, CICERO

Okeke, O. E. (2014). Conflicts between Fulani herders and farmers in central and southern Nigeria: Discourse on proposed establishment of grazing routes and reserves. *International Journal of Arts and Humanities AFRREV IJAH, 3 (1), 66-84.*

Okello, A. L. (2014). Identifying motivators for state-pastoralist dialogue: Exploring the relationships between livestock services, self-organization and conflict in Nigeria's pastoralist Fulani. Pastoralism: A Springer Open Journal.

Oladotun, O. O., & Emmanuel, A. O. (2019). Herders-Farmers' Communal Conflict in Nigeria: An Indigenized Language as an alternative resolution mechanism. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary and Current Research, 7(3), 23-31*.

Olaniyan, A., & Yahaya, A. (2016). Cows, bandits, and violent conflicts: Understanding cattle rustling in Northern Nigeria. *Africa Spectrum*, 93-105.

Rahim, M. A. (2010). Managing conflict in organizations, New Delhi: Transaction Publishers.

Gefu, J. O. & Kolawole, A. (2019). Conflict in common property resource use: experiences from an irrigation project, 9th Conference of the International Association for the Study of Common Property.

Shehu, H. (2018). The causes and consequences of Fulani pastoralist-farmers conflict in Nigeria. *International Journal of Innovation and Research in Educational Sciences, 5(3), 357-361*

Shettima A.G, & Tar U.A. (2008) Farmer-pastoralist conflict in West Africa: exploring the causes and consequences. *Inform Social Justice* 1(2):163–184. https://doi.org/10.3734/isj.2008.1205

Tonah, S. (2002). Migrant Fulani herdsmen, indigenous farmers and the contest for land in Northern Ghana. Paper submitted to the Biennial conference of the African Studies Association in Germany (VAD), held in Hamburg, May 23 –26, 2002.

Wario N. Adano. (2012). Links between climate change, conflict and governance in Africa.Monod Nicolas (2013). Groups of piecewise projective homeomorphisms. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1218426110