

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECT OF FARMER-HERDER CONFLICT IN
NIGERIA: A STUDY OF NUMAN AREA OF ADAMAWA STATE
NIGERIA**

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Abstract

Increase in competition for limited resources has often times led to violent conflicts between herdsman and farmers in many parts of Nigeria. The conflict has in recent years taken more dangerous dimension as the herdsman now carry sophisticated ammunitions with which they kill and maim perceived opponents at will. This study is therefore examining the socio-economic effect of farmer-herder conflict in Nigeria. A study of Numan area of Adamawa state Nigeria. The study is anchored on frustration aggression theory. The research adopts qualitative approach to data analysis which relies on secondary sources like journals, textbooks, newspapers and online publications. Results show that the conflicts have resulted to physical destruction and robbery of crops, livestock, harvest, and food stores. Apart from that, it discourages young people from engaging in farming operations. Furthermore, human relocation causes acute food shortages in the receiving areas where they seek sanctuary. The study concluded that the Herdsmen-farmers conflict created food shortages, distrust and unemployment. The study recommended that government should establish the cattle grazing field in various communities across the federation for herdsman, Government should setup the school field system for those internally displaced. Establishment of the grazing policy of some plots of land for herdsman, Farmers should be licensed to hold arms and weapons for self-defense. The herdsman and farmers' association should meet to resolve the conflict.

Introduction

Farmers and herders have traditionally had a mutually beneficial and occasionally conflictual connection over the years. Cattle raising and animal husbandry is a type of agriculture that necessitates particular understanding of grassland and watering holes. Herders offer milk, meat, dung, and other bovine products to farmers, while farmers provide grain and pasture to herders. Farmers and herders both work with a lot of land, therefore conflict has always been a possibility. Nigeria is an agricultural country, with over 70% of the people engaged in some form of agricultural activity. As a result, over half of the country's population relies on agriculture for a living in one way or another. However, as a result of farmer-herder confrontations, an increasing number of farmers fleeing their farmlands, while herders are constantly restricted in their movements. As the situation escalates, it is vital to emphasize that both sides have launched and counter-launched strikes (Bright 2017).

Farmers and cattle herders have had a partnership since the Neolithic period, which marked the beginning of agriculture and animal domestication. There are disputes that often emerge as a result of cattle trampling over fields and disrupting water spots, as well as cow rustling, but long-term causes are ascribed to resource shortages, climate change, and changes in pastoralism and agricultural practices. Typically, such disputes are managed and resolved using peace-building talks and procedures (ICG 2017).

However, such confrontations have escalated in the past, resulting in the loss of lives and property, as well as the cessation of agricultural and nomadic operations. This is due to a shift in the character and dynamics of the farmer-herder conflict in recent years, as new sophisticated weaponry and combat tactics are brought into the conflict. This unique issue, together with the politicization and religiousization of the conflict, as well as the rising scarcity of natural resources, has rendered former relationship partners and conflict resolution procedures between farmers and herders outdated in certain aspects (Bright 2017).

According to the Global Terrorism Index (2015), it is nearly hard to estimate how many people have died or been injured since these hostilities began. Nonetheless, it is believed that over sixty thousand lives have been lost since 2001, with the economic cost of the violence in Benue, Nassarawa, Kaduna, and Plateau alone estimated to be approximately fourteen billion per year; current statistics are likely to be higher. All of this, along with the dexterity and savagery with which the strikes are carried out, makes it lethal. Although this struggle manifests in numerous dimensions and scopes, the consequences are harsh and far-reaching.

The condition of farmer-herder violence in Numan LGA in Adamawa State is quite similar to that of the Middle Belt, although with fewer deaths. Farmer-herder interactions have become increasingly strained and tense in recent years, which is a departure from the prior type of connection that existed between farmers and herders in Numan LGA. Prior to the development of

farmer-herder conflict, Numan LGA was regarded as one of the state's most tranquil local governments due to its non-violent attitude. Prior to 2000, the farmer-herder dispute in Numan LGA was more traditional and direct. Mediation and dispute resolution between farmers and Fulani herders were efficient and successful, with disagreements readily addressed and damages reduced (Bright, 2017).

However, the violence took a new turn in the years that followed, and the previously calm Numan LGA became a new fertile ground for quickly spreading violent conflict between farmers and fulani nomads. Since 2010, the situation has deteriorated. The number of disputes resulting in death and property destruction nearly quadrupled overnight. Farmers grew hesitant to visit farms, and when they did, they went armed and/or in groups, while Fulani herders began to lose cattle and were denied pasturage. All of these events have resulted in a decrease in agricultural productivity and a drop in the production of bovine (Cattle) goods, which has had a severe impact on Numan's politics, economics, and living standards.

Conceptual Framework

Farmers

According to Abubakar (2018), farmers are a group of individuals that cultivate land and produce food crops for personal use as well as industrial purposes (raw material). He also believes that big scale farmers cultivate enormous hectares of land with sophisticated equipment and make commodities in commercial quantities, whilst small scale farmers cultivate with primitive tools and generate goods in little quantities (subsistence farming). Farmers in this category are generally the latter, who rely heavily on the items they farm for subsistence. These small-scale farmers may be found in every nook and cranny of Nigeria and Africa as a whole. Adamawa is not an industrial state, nor does it have any big commercial centres. But is primarily an agricultural state, with many people in rural regions relying on farming as their primary source of income (Abubakar, 2018). In this study, farmers are defined as a group of individuals who participate in farming for the aim of producing food crops. They are also indigenous people who span the whole length and width of the state.

A farmer cultivates the soil or raises livestock for food and raw materials (Wikipedia, 2017). Crop farmers, poultry farmers, animal breeders, and other sorts of farmers exist. Although crop farmers and Fulani herders both work in agriculture, crop farmers can also be referred to as stock breeders. According to Idowu (2016), among Fulani herders, there are individuals that practice mixed farming. This demonstrates the connections between farming and herding as a vocation in agriculture. Farmers in Nigeria are primarily concentrated in the North Central and Southern regions. Farmers grow yams, rice, maize, guinea-corn, millet, soya beans, Irish potatoes, cassava, sweet potatoes, cotton, tomatoes, carrots, onions, and cabbage (IPCR, 2012).

Herders

Fulani herders are a West and Central African ethnic group. They are mostly nomadic breeders or pastoralists who make their living by rearing livestock (cattle, goats, and sheep) (Tenuche & Ifatimehin, 2009). Because they do not have a regular habitation, the Fulani usually migrate their animals at random through towns and across borders.

According to Bello (2013), they (Fulani) travel from place to place, and their migration is heavily influenced by the season and pastoral situation. Furthermore, the availability of water, severe winds, and high temperatures affected their choice of location. However, changes in climatic patterns have altered their travel in recent years (Higazi, 2016). Fulani herdsmen can be found in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Mauritania, Mali, Nigeria, and Niger (Bello, 2013).

The Fulani ethnic group arrived in Northern Nigeria with the Hausas and other ethnic groups. These ethnic groups intermarried and coexisted long before Nigeria existed. The bulk of Fulani herders have a primitive mindset and worship pagan gods, with relatively few being Muslims (Bello, 2013). Today, the Fulani and other significant ethnic groups dominate Nigeria's northern states, which have a population of over 30 million people (IEP, 2017). Furthermore, because of the nature of their employment, they may also be found in other parts of Nigeria. They transport their livestock from the north to the south, west and east of Nigeria, which are controlled by other ethnic groups (Ubelejiti, 2016).

Furthermore, Fulani ranchers go across the country and to neighbouring countries to graze their animals openly. They usually drive or graze their animals in the forest, distant from cities and towns; nonetheless, there are some shanty settlements in these places whose principal profession is farming.

While handling or driving cattle, an ordinary Fulani herder typically carries a stick and small weapons such as an arrow and knife, as well as swords, to protect himself and the livestock from wild animals and cattle hustlers (Higazi, 2016). The Fulani herdsmen's contributions to the provision of meat for Nigerians and the country's economic prosperity cannot be overstated. Nigerian Fulani herders provide the majority (about 95 percent) of the country's cattle (beef). They make significant contributions to the country's economic growth and development by producing and selling livestock (Ofuoku & Isife, 2009). Chief Audu Ogebeh, Nigeria's agricultural minister, reportedly revealed that 80,000 to 90,000 million cows are devoured every day in the country. This demonstrates the importance of Fulani herders in Nigeria (Al-Hamlin, 2017). The Fulani guardsmen, together with other organizations in the nation, created the Miyatti-Allah Association of Nigeria (MACBAN), which is the governing authority for all Fulani livestock in Nigeria. MACBAN also has branches in each of the country's states and municipal governments. MACBAN is an officially established organisation that handles the issues of all Nigerian herders. It should be emphasized, however, that MACBAN is not just an association of

Fulani guardsmen; it also includes non-Fulani cattle rears, who are mostly private investors who employ cattle fields or ranches (Ofem & Inyang, 2014).

Conflict

Dissension and differences of opinion, battles and grapples among people, organizations, or states are all examples of conflict. Conflict is an inherent and unavoidable aspect of the social fabric. As a result, social contexts are only full and meaningful when conflict exists, because it has both advantages and downsides (Fisher, 2000). Conflict, when it occurs, may lead to constructive improvements in governance and socioeconomic aspects of a society, but violent conflicts are harmful to community development. Africa has not been free of wars since the Cold War, which has been a key contributor to the continent's underdevelopment. Conflicts such as the Great Lakes, the Angolan war, and the South Sudan conflict are just a few examples. Such conflicts include the struggle against colonialism, coups, ethnic conflicts, natural resource disputes, civil wars, and many others.

Conflict has diverse meanings for different researchers/scholars due to the continual dynamics of conflict. Because it is difficult to foresee human behaviour, whenever new settlements are founded, there is social interaction and continued growth of disputes. Conflict, according to Hocker Wimot (1985), is the "interaction of autonomous persons who see opposing aims and hindrance from each other in reaching goals."

Like Wilmot, Ron Fisher (1990) defined conflict as "a mismatch of aims or values between two or more participants in a relationship mixed with an attempt to dominate each other" (Fisher 2000). Incompatibility or difference might be a hallucination with competing interests as the backdrop. Furthermore, while the goals may be the same, the manner to achieving the goals may differ, encouraging parties to struggle and impose their methods of controlling events. Makita and Maundi (2002) defined conflict as the presence or absence of agreement between two or more opposing groups within an organization or community. Conflict happens when two or more actors are involved and unable to achieve an agreement on something or any problem. As a result, it is impossible for conflict to occur in a vacuum. Conflicts emerge as a result of several circumstances rather than a single cause, yet one of the reasons may stand out as the dominant causative component. "Conflicts can have fundamental causes that take precedence over secondary reasons," write Ginty and Williams (2009), "but the varied character of human in politics, economics, and society implies that a single source cannot create conflict in a vacuum."

It is important noting that conflict is not inherently violent; nonetheless, if it is not managed and resolved properly, it has the potential to become violent. According to Fetherston (2000), the basis of and conflict is interest, and such conflicts require the application or use of violence to be fulfilled. Arguably, violence is sometimes required to reconcile conflicting situations since

competing interests are always a major stumbling barrier that may necessitate the use of force to remove. Violent involves direct physical abuse, which frequently ends in catastrophic injuries, lost lives, improper treatment, and community breakdown. According to Jonah (2006), violent conflict entails mayhem, damage, and the slaughter of people and cattle as a result of a dispute. Nowadays, most resource conflicts, particularly herder-herder and farmer-herder conflicts, devolve into physical confrontations and bloodshed. One example is the Konkomba-Fulani pastoralists in Numan, which led in the deaths of 13 herders, numerous injuries, livestock rusted, and Fulani residences and assets damaged (Olaniyan 2015).

Furthermore, researchers have suggested that multiple sources of conflict exist, and while investigating the origins of conflict, Daniel Katz (1965), as mentioned in Fisher (2000), identified three types: economic conflict, value conflict, and power conflicts. Economic conflict, he claims, arises or occurs as a result of competition for limited or scarce resources. A group or an individual get involved in such a dispute with the primary goal of gaining control over limited resources using fair or foul methods.

According to Ron Fisher (2000), "each side tries to acquire as much as it can." As a result, each party's conduct and emotions are geared toward maximizing its profits." Land, minerals, water, forests, pastures, and oil are just a few examples of scarce resources that can lead to economic conflict. Scarcity may cause economic conflict as a result of increased population, unequal resource distribution, insufficient resource supply, and other factors (Percival and Homer - Dixon 1998).

Furthermore, value conflict is concerned with people's varied choices, principles, and ideologies. Conflicts fueled by this aspect may be seen in conflicts where distinct parties have a set of beliefs that they strongly defend. The Cold War was waged indirectly between the United States and the Soviet Union owing of economic and political conflicts. Value conflicts include the Muslim-Christian conflict in Nigeria, ethnic conflict, and religious conflict.

Finally, power conflict develops when the people concerned decide to use their power, they increase their influence or authority in social situations. This may happen among people, groups, or even nations. Power pervades most, if not all, confrontations because parties in conflict are continuously fighting for control over one another. In a power struggle, the actors' battle results in triumph, loss, or a "stand-off" in which the tension between the parties persists (Fisher 2000). Based on the preceding explanations, it might be claimed that disputes are caused by a combination of factors, and that it is uncommon to have a conflict caused by a single factor. For example, farmer-herder conflict involves both economic and power conflict components. The reason for this is because farmer-herder conflict entails a dispute over arable land for farming or grazing, and each party seeks to control and define how the few lands are used.

Food Security

According to Stamoulisk and Zessa (2003), "food is mankind's basic necessity, and it has defined the paths of man's endeavor throughout history." One of man's most essential goals throughout history has been to find a way to feed his whole family, communities, nations, and, yes, the entire planet." However, during the 1996 World Food Summit, a new definition evolved. The World Food Summit (1996) defined food security as "access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food at all times to live a healthy and active life." Originally, food security was considered to apply at the national level, with a state being food secure when there was enough food to maintain a steady growth of food consumption while offsetting variations in its production and costs.

In relation to the foregoing, the World Bank (2010) recognized three critical components of food security:

- i. Food availability (enough supply of food items): enough food is available for the members of the household.
- ii. Food accessibility (sufficient buying power): This also signifies poverty reduction; what it means here is that one must be able to acquire food.
- iii. Food usage (human-safe food): This requires assuring a decent nutritional output. Nutrition must be supplemented with other resources such as health care, potable water, and improved sanitation. Food safety. Food security is a measure of resilience to potential interruptions in crucial food supply owing to a variety of risk factors such as drought, shipping disruptions, fuel shortages, economic instability, and conflicts.

Nigeria continues to be heavily reliant on food imports. According to Akinyele (2009), "Malnutrition is pervasive across the country, and rural communities are more prone to chronic food shortages, malnutrition, imbalanced nutrition, unpredictable food supply, poor quality foods, and high food expenses." He claims that this phenomenon is "more widespread in rural regions and among youngsters." According to Akinyele (2009), there is a significant prevalence of malnutrition among children in rural Nigeria: the percentages vary by geopolitical zone, with 56 percent recorded in rural parts of the South West and 84.3 percent reported in three rural towns in Northern Nigeria. The total prevalence of stunting and underweight in the United States is 42.0 percent and 25 percent, respectively.

Some studies have found a positive relationship between violent conflict and food insecurity, while others have found a negative relationship (Brinkman and Hendix 2011). It has been emphasized that violent conflicts, particularly resource use conflicts, can have a negative impact on crop and livestock production. The reason for this is that when violent conflict develops, it undermines farmers' capacity to produce and market their surpluses, consequently affecting individuals' access to food (UN 1993; in Jeanty and Hitzhusen 2006). According to FOA (2000), internal or communal disputes

have a detrimental impact on agricultural productivity and investment in a variety of ways. For example, violent disputes between farmers and herders may affect the supply and distribution of farm inputs such as fertilizers because the government devotes more resources to keeping peace by reducing spending on livestock vaccinations, fertilizers, and other agrochemicals for crop producers. As a result of low yields or no output in war zones, food insecurity prevails, leading to higher food costs.

Castagnini and Deininger (2004) found that rural families in Uganda suffer small-scale land conflicts with relatives, neighbours, or local governments, and that these little conflicts have a detrimental impact on agricultural production. They calculated that land dispute in Uganda will reduce agricultural production by 5 to 11%. Furthermore, Messer et al. (1998) estimate that agricultural productivity fell by an average of 12% each year during periods of violence.

According to a recent study conducted in Northern Uganda, land dispute reduces agricultural output, resulting in food insecurity among small-holder farmers who cultivate for subsistence (Auma 2016). When this happens, food supply and access suffer, and women, children, and the elderly suffer the most in developing countries such as Uganda, Ghana, and Kenya (USAID 2011, quoted in Simmons) (2013).

According to Brinkman and Hekdrink (2011), when there is violent conflict over resource usage, such as in the Darfur crisis, refugees and internally displaced persons are disproportionately affected by acute food insecurity. They further said that when land conflicts between farmers and herders turn violent, there are deaths (both human and livestock), injuries, and damage to farm output. Furthermore, such violence causes internal displacement, as farm employees flee from rural villages to metropolitan areas for other possibilities, only to return once the planting season is through, significantly impacting farm activity. The upshot is a loss in agricultural labor force, which leads to food insecurity.

Adisa (2012) also investigates the effect of farmer-herder conflict on agricultural and rural development in Kwara State, Nigeria. His findings demonstrate that farmers and herders participating in such conflicts incur reduced income, output mortality, and member harm. Farmers reported revenue losses of 19 percent, yield losses of 85 percent, and stored product losses of 23 percent, while herders reported income, yield, and stored product losses of 14.3 percent, respectively (Adisa, 2012). According to the research, while both parties engaged in the incurred losses, losses were higher for farmers and lower for herders. As a result, crop supply may be scarce, making physical availability and access problematic, particularly for the underprivileged, resulting in short/long-term food insecurity.

To summarize, land conflict or resource use conflict has a direct or indirect impact on the lives and livelihoods of the parties. They have a tendency to

disrupt and jeopardize the viability of agriculture and pastoral output across West Africa, especially Nigeria (Moritz 2010), resulting in food insecurity.

Theoretical Framework

A theoretical framework is a tool that researchers can use to better understand and explain a phenomenon. In this paper, Frustration Aggression Theory will be used to explain and analyze the conflict in this study.

Theory of Frustration and Aggression

The frustration aggression theory is a psychological theory that asserts that blocking causes aggression. Alternatively, a person's efforts to achieve a goal can be frustrating. Dollar, Doob, Miller, Mower, and Sears proposed and studied the theory in 1939.

According to the frustration aggression theory, frustration increased the likelihood of aggression. According to Appalachian State University, the theory's original proponents defined frustration is "the state that emerges when circumstances interfere with a goal response." According to subsequent research, frustration is more likely to lead to aggression when the frustrated individual believes that aggressive behaviour will alleviate his frustration (Damba, 2007).

Subjects were asked to create a specific origami pattern with instructions that were only to be repeated once in the 1939 experiment that serves as the foundation for frustration aggression theory. A confederate interrupted the instructions during the experiment. Requesting that the experimenter slow down. The experimenter in the unjustified frustration group refused to slow down because he or she had a date with a boyfriend or girlfriend. The experiments in the justified group also refused to slow down, but attributed their refusal to the experiment's limited availability of space. The experimenters assessed the subjects' level of aggression by having them complete a questionnaire that supposedly determined whether the experimenter would be rewarded or punished. The unjustified group was more aggressive than the justified and control groups, which supported the frustration aggression hypothesis. This may apply to this study because farmers who have been soiled all day may arrive at their farm to find that their food products and farms have been subjected to cattle grazing by Fulani herdsmen. Aggression is common in this situation because farmer frustration can lead to conflicts between farmers and Fulani herdsmen (Kassam, 2015).

Frustration Aggression Theory Principles

The three-way reciprocal interaction of personal, behavioural, and environmental factors, as well as what he believes about himself and experiences from others, is a fundamental principle of frustration aggression theory. While acknowledging the significance of environmental factors, the

theory contends that individuals can plan, direct, and self-regulate their own learning and behavioural outcomes. It states that people learn by observing others, but this does not necessarily demonstrate that the learning unit is personally motivated to do so (Damba, 2007).

Individuals learn according to the goals they set for themselves and their belief in their ability to succeed, both of which help them manage their learning, according to the theory. It implies that an individual's perception of his or her ability to succeed is influenced by his or her own observations, feedback from others, and personal psychological state.

Types of Frustration

Environmental frustration, personal frustration, conflict-produced frustration, and motivational conflict are the four types of frustration. Frustration is an individual's reaction to a hindrance or hardship that prevents them from achieving a goal. Farmers are usually frustrated because Fulani herdsmen consistently destroy their farm crops.

Environmental frustration refers to dissatisfaction caused by an individual's surroundings, such as his workplace or family. It can also take the physical form of untimely rain, famine, flood, or earthquakes.

Personal frustration occurs when an individual attempt to achieve an unrealistic or impractical goal. Personal frustration occurs when an individual is frustrated as a result of his limitations as a person. For example, a student with average intelligence who wants to compete in a race against fit people will most likely experience personal frustration (Kassam, 2015).

Conflict-produced frustration: When a person is not on good terms with the people he has to deal with on a regular basis, he is said to be experiencing conflict-produced frustration. It can be caused by his hostility toward others or by others' hostility toward him. Such conflicting frustration is common among co-workers or between an employee and his or her employer.

Motivational conflict occurs when a person has opposing ideologies. An individual who values independence and requires strong relationships with others, for example, may experience motivational frustration.

Anger, loss of confidence, stress, and depression are all reactions to frustration. Meditation and a positive outlook on life can help you deal with frustration.

The theory's relevance is relevant to this work because it clearly explains the nature, causes, and effects of aggression on individuals. Farmers who have had Fulani herdsmen graze on their land tend to be aggressive and enraged. This is because aggressive behaviour is more common in people who have been psychologically depressed. This is the case for the majority of Nigerian farmers, who rely heavily on farm produce for a living.

Effect of the Farmers-Herders Conflict on Numan Food Security

Farmer-herdsmen conflict is a major threat to food security in Africa, particularly in West Africa. According to Nyong and Fiki (2015), resource-related conflicts are responsible for a more than 12% decline in per capita food production in Sub-Saharan Africa. Herdsmen have had a symbiotic relationship with local farmers for many years, but the relationship has recently soured, resulting in killings and property destruction (Alhassan, 2013).

Farmers and herdsmen are competing for land resources in every region of Nigeria. The conflict in the Middle Belt region has spread to the rest of the country (Idowu 2016). In the South-West, there have been attacks in Rivers, Enugu, Ekiti, Oyo, Ogun, Edo, and Ondo States (Adetula, & Amaza, 2016). Fulani herdsmen and farmers have coexisted in Numan LGA since time immemorial, but recently, there has been a problem with cattle destroying farm crops.

In conclusion, the reviewed literature reveals that the cordial and peaceful relationship has devolved into a conflict relationship characterized by land competition, cattle rustling, crop destruction, robbery, rape, and property destruction, among other things.

Farmer-Herder Conflict Control in Nigeria

To be fair to the Buhari administration, there appears to be an intention to prevent future attacks (Ogbete, 2018). The grazing bill is currently being debated in the National Assembly. The bill proposes establishing grazing reserves in each state to improve livestock production while also preventing herdsmen-farmers' conflicts. However, given the charged nature of the issue, it appears that the bill has little support in many southern states. Many people regard the bill as unjust, claiming that their lands will be taken over to serve Fulani commercial interests. Others see it as giving the Fulanis a chance to dominate the south. Even more concerning is the fact that some Fulanis are opposed to the bill, claiming that it violates their freedom of movement. So far, it appears that the federal government has neither launched a systematic enlightenment campaign to alleviate these real or imagined concerns, nor proposed an alternative viable solution (Nwosu, 2017).

According to Murtalla Abdullahi, an environmental educationist cited in Lanre (2019), "solutions that have been proposed are mostly kinetic in nature and will not solve the crisis but will only help in tackling the symptoms, and the grazing bill that focuses on appropriating grazing land and stock reserves will lead to an intensification of the conflict." Politicians have turned the herdsmen/farmers crisis into an easy to sell and buy commodity for campaign, there have been numerous commissioned reports and recommendations on how to deal with the crises.

However, what is now required is a workable solution, which is advocacy. The radio is the simplest way to reach the entire herdsmen

population; despite being nomads, the Fulani herdsmen are always moving around with radio sets, whereas farmers can be reached through community leaders (Zayyad, 2018).

According to Mathias, as cited by Ogbette (2018), "the old order rested on mutual respect, access to grazing land through mutually agreed terms with traditional authority and locals." Peace was more important than AK47 rifles" (Zayyad, 2018).

According to a Nigerian working group (a coalition of public policy experts) suggested ways to address the lingering violence in Nigeria's livestock farming business in peace building and governance in a paper released on January 7, 2018. The paper dissected the historical context of the crisis and recommended solutions ranging from the creation of new grazing reserves and the development of modern technology such as an electric chip to track animals (tracking of animals could help address the problem) (Premium times, 2018).

The federal government should ensure that states that are ready to provide ranching in their respective states replicate what former Jigawa State governor Sule Lamido did in terms of a bone of contention. For herdsmen to freely move their herds, the then-government established demarcated grazing reserves, cattle routes, and water pumping windmills in most parts of Jigawa state.

Conclusion

This paper examined how farmer-herder conflict affects food production and security in both direct and indirect ways. It has been discovered to have caused food shortages, increased food prices, and limited people's access to food through the destruction of infrastructure required for food product production, ultimately ending in famine. Conflict between farmers and herdsmen also results in the physical destruction and robbery of crops, livestock, harvest, and food stores. Apart from that, it discourages young people from engaging in farming operations. Furthermore, human relocation causes acute food shortages in the receiving areas where they seek sanctuary.

Recommendations

The study recommends the following;

- i. The government should establish the cattle grazing field in various communities across the federation for herdsmen.
- ii. Government should setup the school field system for those internally displaced.
- iii. Establishment of the grazing policy of some plots of land for herdsmen.
- iv. Farmers should be licensed to hold arms and weapons for self-defense. The herdsmen and farmers' association should meet to resolve the conflict.
- v. The government should play a key role in handling this issue through some conflict resolution mechanism.

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