

Research Report no. 89

Jerome O. Gefu

Pastoralist Perspectives in Nigeria

The Fulbe of Udubo Grazing Reserve

Nordiska Afrikainstitutet
(The Scandinavian Institute of African Studies)
Uppsala 1992

Indexing terms

Pastoralism

State

Nigeria

Fulbe

Nature reserves

Grazing

ISSN 0080-6714

ISBN 91-7106-324-2

Editing: Madi Gray

© The author and Nordiska Afrikainstitutet, 1992

Printed in Sweden by Motala Grafiska, Motala 1992

Contents

Acknowledgements

Acronyms and Expressions

Foreword

1. Pastoralism in Transition	11
Pastoralists and Pastoralism	15
A Multidisciplinary Study	16
The Survey	17
2. Perspectives on Pastoralism in Nigeria	20
Pastoralists and the State	23
<i>Pastoralists and the Colonial State</i>	24
<i>Private Sector Involvement</i>	28
<i>Pastoralists and the Nation State</i>	30
The Philosophical and Political Basis for Intervention	34
<i>Modernizing Pastoral Production</i>	35
<i>Perspectives on the State</i>	40
<i>Why does the State Intervene?</i>	41
3. The Sedentary Fulbe of Udubo Grazing Reserve	50
Sedentary and Nomadic Pastoralists	50
<i>The Resource Base</i>	52
<i>Herd Size and Patterns of Ownership</i>	54
<i>Stock Management Systems</i>	57
<i>Systems of Land Tenure</i>	59
Perceived Needs	61
<i>The Wish to be Resettled</i>	61
Grazing	63
Water	63
<i>Veterinary Care</i>	64
Marketing	65
<i>Social Services</i>	66
Attitudes toward Development Proposals	67

4. The Garkayi and the Grazing Reserves	69
Nomadic Pastoralists	69
<i>Herd Size and Patterns of Ownership</i>	74
Perceived Needs	75
<i>The Wish to Settle</i>	75
Grazing	77
Water	78
Veterinary Care	78
Marketing	79
Social Services	80
5. Consultation not Imposition	83
Bibliography	93
Tables	
1. Human/livestock ratio in Nigeria	12
2. Livestock density among the settled Fulbe	56
3. Livestock density among the nomadic Garkayi	74
Maps	
1. Major livestock holdings during the wet season	70
2. The extent of southerly pastoral dry season migration before the 1970s	72
3. The extent of southerly pastoral dry season migration in the 1980s	73

Foreword

Nigeria has over seventy per cent of its people engaged in crop and/or animal agriculture, deriving their livelihood from agricultural production either directly or indirectly. Crops and livestock production are, therefore, a strategic socioeconomic activity in Nigeria, especially in the rural areas. Abundant natural resources exist to support a sustainable agricultural sector. Yet Nigeria continues to experience acute food shortages, especially animal source protein both in qualitative and quantitative terms. The situation has been further exacerbated by the unfavourable terms of trade and a drastic devaluation of Nigerian currency.

The worsening food supply—especially protein—has prompted a variety of programmes mounted by the different Nigerian governments to correct the situation through research and development.

For many years a number of agricultural policies and programmes (livestock inclusive) have been embarked upon by various administrations. Such Programmes as settlement of nomadic pastoralists and the establishment of grazing reserves as attempts to enhance livestock production have achieved little, either because they were based on concepts that are alien to the producers and the production system or because of unavailability of other support inputs such as water, animal health services, etc. Many livestock and pastoral programmes run into logistic problems and so the level of livestock productivity continues to be low even in the face of the high annual population growth rate (estimated at 3.5 per cent). This is an obvious indication that past agricultural thrust had not produced the desired results to meet the food requirements of an ever growing population.

It is in the face of these and other difficulties that it has become necessary to take a hard look at livestock development

policies in an attempt to map out alternative and viable strategies for enhancing production especially at the producer's level. This is in the belief that Nigeria's livestock requirements can best be met by enhancing the productivity of millions of pastoralists who contribute about 80 per cent of the country's livestock needs. It is to this group, therefore, that aggressive and favourable livestock policies should be directed in order to boost local production of livestock.

In this book the author attempts to unveil the fundamentals of pastoral production so as to pave the way for meaningful state intervention in the present production systems. A meticulous and synthesized account of important aspects of pastoral producers, including aspects of their production organization is given against a backdrop of externally induced change among pastoralists. A vivid account of the household economy is undertaken to bring to light the complementarity and interdependence of crop and animal agriculture. The book draws from field research among nomadic and agro-pastoral producers in Bauchi state, Nigeria, as well as on the wealth of experience of the author. Gaps and lapses in Nigeria's pastoral development efforts are highlighted. Options for effective and sustainable pastoral development agenda are proffered.

This study is most timely, especially at a period when animal agriculture is being re-awakened. It is sincerely hoped that this study will prove to be most valuable to students of agriculture, rural development, government and non-governmental organizations concerned with livestock and pastoral development, agricultural policy makers in governments, manufacturers and others with a serious interest in effecting positive and sustained development in Nigeria's livestock industry.

March 1992

E.O. Oyedipe

Professor and Director

National Animal Production Research Institute

Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria

1. Pastoralism in Transition

The importance and role of livestock in the Nigerian economy can be demonstrated by the large numbers and diverse species found. They are well adapted to the ecological conditions prevailing in different parts of the country. Livestock production forms the basis of the socio-cultural, economic and socio-political organization of over 9 million pastoralists. This group of livestock producers control the bulk of the nation's livestock population. Notable among them are the pastoral Fulbe who maintain over 85 per cent of Nigeria's livestock population. For these people, livestock breeding is the core of their socio-economic, cultural and political organization. Other non-pastoralists who raise small ruminants (grazing animals) and fatten limited numbers of cattle also derive a substantial portion of their income from keeping livestock.

Livestock production contributes significantly to Nigeria's national income. The livestock sub-sector provides employment opportunities for several million people in rural and urban areas either by their direct involvement in animal and/or crop production or through their employment in the various agro-allied industries. Livestock production is the source of about 40 per cent of that part of the national income which is derived from agricultural production. It provides about 58.5 per cent of the nation's meat consumption and contributed 7.4 million USD to the country's gross national product (GNP) in 1983 alone.

Despite the size of the Nigerian livestock population, serious deficiencies in local supplies of meat and meat products have been recognized (Federal Government of Nigeria, 1981; Olayide, 1976). A wide gap exists between the level of local production and national needs and demand. For instance, the total demand for meat in 1980 was estimated to be 388,990 tonnes, whereas the supply was 275,340 tonnes for the same period, a deficit of 113,650 tonnes. Similarly in 1981, there was an estimated deficit of 110,600 tonnes (Federal Government of Nigeria, 1981:104). It

should, however, be noted that these figures only reflect the estimated demand for meat in comparison to local supplies. If the nutritional need—as against effective demand—is weighed against the supply, the deficit would be more alarming. The human/livestock ratio has steadily declined from 1:0.23 in 1960 to 1:0.17 in 1987 (Table 1). This deficit has continued to increase during the late 1980s and in the early 1990s.

The daily per capita protein intake of the average Nigerian falls “far short of officially estimated minimum requirements of 70 grams of total protein and 35 grams of animal protein per person per day” (Olayide and Olayemi, 1975:252). Only 8.4 grams of the total 53.8 grams of protein consumed by Nigerians is derived from animal sources. This suggests that the contribution of animal products to protein consumption is less than 16 per cent. The country is, therefore, not only a net importer of livestock and livestock products but also suffers from a daily per capita protein intake deficit. Similarly, the daily calorie supply per capita, estimated at 2146, (World Bank, 1989:218) is well below world average figures.

Table 1. *Human/livestock ratio in Nigeria (1960-1987)*

Year	Human population ^a (million)	Cattle ^b	Sheep ^b	Goats ^b	TLU ^c	Human/livestock ratio
1960	42.4	6.5	2.7	13.3	9.7	1:0.23
1970	54.3	8.0	4.7	16.3	12.2	1:0.22
1972	59.8	8.2	5.4	17.1	12.7	1:0.21
1976	67.8	9.0	6.9	18.6	14.1	1:0.21
1980	77.1	10.0	8.9	20.3	15.8	1:0.20
1985	91.2	11.1	12.2	22.7	18.1	1:0.20
1987	116.2	12.0	13.8	23.7	19.5	1:0.17

^a Based on figures from U.S. Department of Commerce, 1983, and estimates from Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU), 1990. Nigeria: Country Profile (1990-91) Annual Survey of Political and Economic Background, London.

^b Estimated livestock population, FLD, 1987.

^c TLU = Tropical Livestock Unit = 250 kg = 1 head of cattle, 5 sheep or 5 goats.